

Greyhound

Update



A Newsletter from the National Greyhound Adoption Program, Inc.

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1996 - YEAR IN REVIEW

1996 was a banner year in many respects for the National Greyhound Adoption Program. There were so many things we did, and so many things we accomplished, we need to categorize the highlights for you:

Adoptions: Adoptions in 1996 ultimately will be about the same as 1995-approximately 700 adoptions. Considering the fact there are now 200 greyhound adoption programs or greyhound program representatives throughout the United States. N.G.A.P. has an enormous singular share combining our adoption numbers with our strong advocacy position. There is no other program in the United States to compare favorably to us.

Pari-mutuel Appearance: In Mid-January, NGAP's director appeared before the Florida Pari-mutuel Division and was criticizing their inability to properly take the responsibilities for the care of Florida's racing greyhounds. This appearance was coupled with several TV and newspaper interviews.

The Death of "He's My Denny": During the time we were testifying before the Florida Pari-mutuel Division, a terrible abuse case was unfolding in Daytona, Florida. A greyhound by the name of He's My Denny ultimately died of gangrene poisoning. The trainer David Gibby was accused of felony animal abuse. We followed this case, publicized it, sent letters across the nation to other programs to pressure the state of Florida and attended the

trial in June 1996. A demonstration was held at the courthouse and several excellent TV interviews were given. David Gibby was found guilty by jury trial. The jury deliberated for only 38 minutes before they delivered their verdict. Judge James Foxman ultimately sentenced Mr. Gibby to 6 months in prison. We believe much of the success was due to our hard efforts to make this an important case that the prosecutor would take seriously.

Legislative Initiative: We used He's My Denny's unfortunate death as a rallying point for legislative initiative. Proposals were sent to every Florida legislator and ultimately with the help of Pam Fort (our Florida lobbyist) from the Commerce Group and a few other people in high places, one small piece of legislation was passed, which for the first time linked Florida's animal abuse laws to racing greyhounds.

Major Rescues Across The Nation: 1996 showed that coordinated transportation of greyhounds to many greyhound programs was the best way to distribute large numbers of greyhounds across the country to safe havens. Several greyhound tracks closed permanently in 1996, and with their closure massive rescue efforts were involved. The farthest was Juarez, Mexico where greyhounds were trucked to us in the middle of winter through a horrible snow storm in sub freezing temperatures. We literally had chicken soup waiting for the dogs when they arrived and Dr. Nina Beyer was here

standing by if we needed veterinary assistance. Fortunately it was not needed. Other rescue hauls were from Orlando, Florida; Ebro, Florida; Alabama and Kansas. Several hauls came from Florida during the course of the year. N.G.A.P. took large numbers of greyhounds to facilitate the rescues.

Surgical Unit Opens: In the spring of 1996, N.G.A.P. opened the first breed rescue surgical unit in the United States. The unit consists of 2 surgical suites with state-of-the-art equipment as well as holding cages and a prep area used for dentals. We are now currently doing surgeries twice weekly with 2 staff veterinarians - Dr. Sangita Patel and Dr. Bakul Patel, a husband and wife team performing surgeries. The surgical unit is an impressive sight to see.

New Utility Building In Use: An additional 12' x 60' office trailer has been converted for our ever increasing needs. It includes 4 separate sections: a reception area where we do our adoptions, a store area where we have most of the merchandise that is for sale, an x-ray room, and a post op area with 11 new cages in it. By spring time we should have this connecting directly into the surgical unit by ramps, and be in full operation. The new facility was made possible through generous donations from the estate of George Schierenbeck and the H. Folke Peterson Foundation. In the reception area we have plaques hanging in honor of Mr. Schierenbeck and Mr. Peterson.