

GREYHOUND UPDATE



A NEWSLETTER FROM THE NATIONAL GREYHOUND ADOPTION PROGRAM
10901 Dutton Road - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154 - 215-331-7918 - 215-331-1947(fax) - ngap@ix.netcom.com - www.ngap.org

Winter 2005 Edition

Greyhound Pets of America VS. National Greyhound Adoption Program Really not a War but a Philosophy

Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) has been around a long time and many of its chapters are track affiliated. They have a position about morals and ethics of greyhound racing. That position is not to take a position. What they see and don't like they put aside and let it pass.

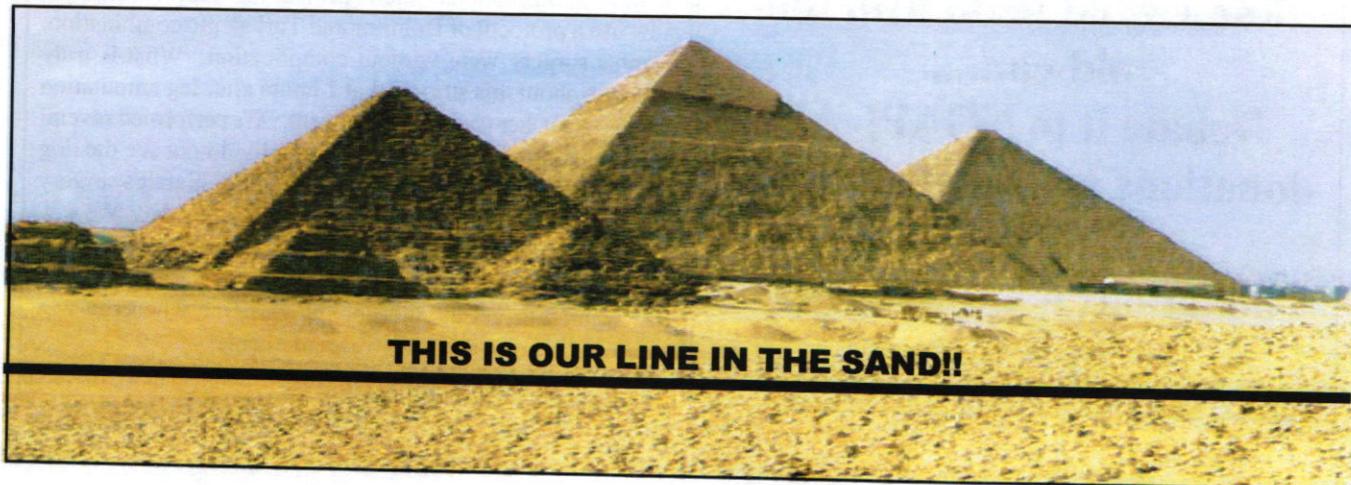
Perhaps I am getting more militant as I was in my first years of greyhound adoption in the early 90's. I really believe I am just tired of industry rhetoric about all of the effort they put forth to adopt greyhounds and what *wonderful shape* they are in when they are sent for adoption. To find homes for former racers, the truth be told thousands of volunteers across the nation make up the reality of greyhound adoption. Thousands will attend Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware truly a reunion of survivors. There will be more greyhounds there than people.

It is my firm belief that supporting a greyhound racing industry that does not take proper care of its athletes, still sends them out with internal and external parasites, still feeds them 4D meat and still sells them for research to foreign countries is not an industry that you should look the other way. You need only to visit some greyhound tracks and see the turnout areas, smell the stench coming off the Monticello Florida compound and see them muzzled in their cages because the kennel staff is too lazy to take them off except for feeding times. When I see this I know I in no way can support this industry. GPA is opening an adoption chapter in Juarez, Mexico. If you just take a moment to figure this out, the greyhounds will be born in the United States by American breeders. They will race here and fail. The breeders and owners will send them to Mexico for a few hundred dollars for their bodies to race. When they become losers in Mexico they will have 2 options: euthanasia or returning to the U.S. (not that the greyhound will get to choose which option it prefers). GPA is supporting this endeavor, in my view they should rather have been pressuring the National Greyhound Association (NGA) to not send greyhounds to Mexico. Together all of their chapters should have said to NGA 'If you want our volunteers to work their butts off for you and do what *you* should have been doing then don't send *our* (American) greyhounds to Mexico.' If someone else from a foreign country wishes to sell their soul..... So Be It!

As Americans, as greyhound breeders, as greyhound owners and as greyhound adopters we should be more humane. Keep American greyhounds in America! If you cannot find homes in the States then give them a gift even if that gift is euthanasia because that is a better gift than sending them to the harsh reality of Juarez or any other foreign country. I cannot support such an organization whether it be National Greyhound Association OR Greyhound Pets of America when they take the low road and here they are certainly taking the low road. At least NGAP has drawn a line in the sand. Others can draw that same line and other cannot be the whipping boy for the racing industry.

It angers me to see greyhound adoption organizations or their spokesmen accept the support of NGA and the B.S. of how good the condition of the dogs are now compared to ten years ago. Give me a break!

On October 19, 2005 the World Greyhound Racing Federation Conference will meet in Miami, Florida. This is a reunion of sorts. A reunion of all countries around the world that have greyhound racing, where almost ALL greyhounds will die. If we think it's bad in the U.S. take for example Australia where every large city has a greyhound race track and almost all of those greyhounds will die after racing. Places presumably as civilized as England and Ireland sell their losers at a weekly auction to places like Spain and elsewhere that will treat their dogs with no humility or respect and resort to things such as hanging them from trees when they are no longer of use. And of course, as we know, some countries eat dogs. Supporting a Juarez track that already closed several years ago in the dead of winter where greyhounds were shipped across the country in a blizzard, many to arrive at NGAP, is not my idea of something that is remotely good for OUR dogs. We will never forget that arrival; a vet standing by, chicken soup to warm their bodies and tender love. Some people may not have been around when Juarez closed last time but it should have remained closed forever. Is there anything good about racing for the greyhounds? In my view it is difficult to find an answer of *anything* good.



THIS IS OUR LINE IN THE SAND!!