

**UPDATE: 10/01/2021:** GPAH is officially in non-adoption support mode! What does this mean for the organization and its members? GPAH's mission in this support role will include, but not be limited to:

**Continued financial and medical support of the hounds in the permanent foster program.**

GPAH made a commitment long ago that, if a greyhound was deemed unadoptable, a home would be found for that pup to live out its life, happy and loved. The Greyt Wellness Fund was established to provide funds for the care of all hounds in GPAH's care. In support mode, these funds will be used to cover all costs for the permanent foster hounds. Currently, we have nine hounds of different ages and health situations in the program. Some are in the twilight of their lives, while others have lived much longer than the experts thought possible. This program cannot exist without wonderful and loving foster homes.

**Transporting of greyhounds from area shelters or individual finders to approved foster homes, other greyhound adoption groups, or for medical treatment.**

As GPAH no longer has a kennel to house lost/found or returned greyhounds, we need reliable transporters. Often, shelters contact GPAH about a greyhound in need. We will need volunteers to drive to surrounding areas and pick up the greyhound. The dog may then need to be transported to a vet or foster home. The GPAH support committee will provide the details, but situations can arise quickly, requiring immediate action.

Transporters may be called upon to assist other greyhound adoption groups. Often, greyhounds are moving through our area on their way to forever homes or adoption groups. This is lovingly called "the underground railroad" for the hounds! GPAH has worked with several other groups to get hounds where they needed to go safely. Please let GPAH know if you wish to become a Greyhound Chauffeur!

**Continuing emotional support and guidance to GPAH members regarding the medical, behavioral, and overall well-being of their greyhounds.**

GPAH will need social media savvy volunteers, willing to spend time on its FB and Discussion Forum pages, in order to maintain and ensure information is accurate and non-offensive. Important information is often posted, i.e., a lost greyhound, information that needs to be passed on to the GPAH support committee promptly. These volunteers should be willing to mentor and provide support to our members if they are experiencing a challenging situation with their hound. Mentors will need computer and phone skills for communication.

**Providing temporary or permanent foster homes for surrendered GPAH hounds.**

If possible, the goal is to keep GPAH surrenders in this area with approved families. To accomplish this, we will need dedicated families willing to take on these surrenders. Potential foster families will be classified by requirement, i.e., needing small dog or cat friendly greyhounds, etc. If no local homes are available on either a temporary or long-term basis, surrenders will be transported to approved greyhound groups. As the future is unknown, there may be surrendered dogs that are candidates for the permanent foster program. Foster homes can be needed on very short notice, and we will be looking for volunteers to take these pups in. Fostering could be short-term, long-term, or permanent. Will you be available?

An owner's circumstances can change. Natural disasters may make a home unsafe for the hound. Changes in the family or a medical need could make having a hound in the home problematic. GPAH has always stood by any hound adopted through its program, and this commitment will continue. It may not happen often, but when it does, a home to shelter the hound will be needed until assessment is completed and permanent arrangements can be made.

**The 24/7 emergency number (713-866-4466) and database will remain active. The kennel office phone number will eventually be phased out, leaving the 24/7 number as our main phone contact.**

## **Our website will be revised and updated over the next few months.**

The website will continue to provide information including, but not limited to, greyhound health, area veterinarians, hurricane preparedness, and lost greyhounds. In lieu of the monthly newsletter, we will be transitioning to a quarterly newsletter in the coming months.

Featured links to current greyhound news and information will be posted on the home page of the GPAH website, its Facebook fan page, and its Facebook Member Discussion forum.

## **Assistance with lost and found greyhounds.**

Thankfully, it does not happen often as our members are diligent in keeping their hounds safe; but, on occasion greyhounds can go missing. When that happens, GPAH volunteers often help by assisting with posting flyers, notifying local vets and shelters, and tramping through the woods. Sometimes, hounds are found quickly; for others, it may take days, even weeks, to find a lost hound. We need volunteers interested in search and rescue. It's a wonderful feeling when a pet is returned safely to his/her family!

## **How can you help?**

You can help by volunteering for pick up/transport, temporary/long-term/permanent fostering, search team, social media, etc. In July, we coordinated and participated in the pick up and transport of three greyhounds from Hempstead, Brazoria County, and Chappell Hill. All three were safely transported to Dallas with the help of several GPAH volunteers. Three transports within a week is unusual, but we need to be ready if called.

Please understand that we do not always have advance notice on a pick up, transport, or foster situation. Often, it is an emergency, so we have to move quickly. We do understand that, when called, you might not be able to help in that specific situation. This is okay; we just need to have a list of people to call until the situation can be resolved. By having a large number of potential volunteers on the support list, GPAH will have many options to find the right person for the situation at hand.

Even though we are no longer in the "adoption" business, the work we still do for greyhounds is important and rewarding. Our priority is, as it always has been, the safety and well-being of retired racing greyhounds.

Long-time members may remember that GPAH came into existence over thirty three years ago, long before we had the gifts of kennel space at the Noble Center and Best Friends. We are now returning to our roots with dedicated folks pulling together to help the greyhounds. GPAH has come full circle. Will you be able to help? The work and the love for the hounds will not stop. GPAH will need you for years to come!

If you need more information about these volunteer opportunities, please contact **e-grey@gpahouston.org**, and Sherrie will answer any questions you may have. She can also get you added as a support volunteer. Or, if you know exactly where you want to help, you can email **info@gpahouston.org** and request that your name be added.

Ending adoptions does not mean an end to helping greyhounds. GPAH will continue to help greyhounds when occasions arise. To do that, we need your help!