



# Greyhound V·o·i·c·e

Volume XV · Summer 2009 Edition

Save the Greyhound Dogs!, Inc.

*Using Education and Legislation to Stop the  
Suffering of Greyhound Dogs Worldwide*

A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization Established In 1992

## A Few Words from the Founder

Whoever said that dreams coupled with hard work don't come true? We know the opposite is the case. On November 4, 2008, the people of Massachusetts spoke. They banned greyhound racing. This ban will take place in January 2010. Good-bye Wonderland and Raynham. In late 2007, Hinsdale Greyhound Park in Keene, New Hampshire, became a seasonal track, ending their year-round racing season. Then, in December 2008, the filed for bankruptcy and closed their doors. A farewell that is not fond. So, in New Hampshire, it is now "one down, with two to go" (read more elsewhere in the newsletter).

From my perspective, it seems that some years back "we" were a more closely knit group of people. We were powerful and deeply committed to the cause of ending greyhound racing and the endless suffering that these gentle dogs endure. However, the "pioneers" need successors. There are too many to name. Torches will have to be passed eventually to a younger group of individuals. Much work remains undone; more help is needed to pursue the demise of the greyhound racing industry. The Spanish Galgos still suffer terribly. Please consider the seriousness of our mission; we and other organizations need dedicated volunteers along with funding in order to continue our important work.

STGD! recently completed phase one of "Operation Save a Life", a program in which we have donated oxygen masks for animals to first responders (read more elsewhere in the newsletter).

We are indeed a changing society. From our vantage point, we look forward to a more knowledgeable and caring society. One in which our younger folks will have learned through efforts of organizations such as STGD!. We continue to tell the greyhound story and will *always* be their voice. Somebody has to !! Enjoy reading this newsletter, and then pass it on to a friend or neighbor. Help us to speak out for these greyhounds who have no voice of their own. Don't let the greyhounds down.

Yours for greyhounds everywhere,

*Scotti Devens*

## A Special Tribute to a Guardian Angel

It is with sincere gratitude that this newsletter be dedicated to Ray Weed, the Fire Chief of Essex Junction, VT. This man is responsible for saving my life. I was ill due to a misdiagnosed brain tumor. As such, he has influenced the legacy of my work and enabled me to establish STGD! Inc. In August of 1990, he prevented my car from causing catastrophic damage to myself and others. I suffered a grand mal seizure while driving my car. Ray was driving opposite me and saw me unconscious; he drove his car in front of mine to stop my vehicle. This put his life at great risk. In May of 1991, I adopted Gator, my first greyhound. The first meeting of STGD! was less than one year later. Thank you, Ray, for the catalyst that enabled me to found STGD! and end greyhound racing in Vermont. His efforts clearly have helped changed the world.



## Operation: "Save A Life"

With a desire to significantly impact the well-being of various animals, STGD! recently embarked on its program Operation: "Save A Life".

The goal is to reduce the number of animals who die from asphyxiation and respiratory failure. Sources say over 40,000 animals die in the US annually from these problems, in part to trauma in an accident, smoke inhalation and during birth.

We donated sets (3 sizes per set, small, medium and large) to first responders. These high quality oxygen masks have been used successfully in life-saving attempts. While we hope they are never needed, the recipients have peace of mind knowing this equipment is nearby.

## A Warning

A sad incident occurred recently. A woman who was walking three greyhounds on a retractable lead lost control of them and one of them attacked a small purebred dog. Two gentlemen fought the greyhounds off of the little dog, wrapped him in a towel and rushed him to Tufts University. His intestines were chewed and ripped and the surgeon had to remove 40% of them. The greyhounds' owner paid the substantial veterinary bill. We should have a responsibility to control our dogs and we have to remember the dan-

gers of the retractable lead. Trying to walk too many dogs with inappropriate control is asking for trouble. If someone drops a retractable lead and it bounces behind the dog and makes a noise, the dog thinks it is being pursued and panics and runs, sometimes into roads or walls, and is needlessly hurt or killed.

We humbly suggest that our readers use a traditional, good quality leash to keep their greyhounds safe and under control for the well being as that of other dogs.

## Who We Are: Our Mission Statement

Save the Greyhound Dogs! (STGD!) is a non-profit organization that embraces people of good conscience and responsibility, including non-canine co-owners, and it is dedicated to educate and inform the general public and the world community about the plight of the greyhound racing dogs. We will work with dedication to bring public attention to this situation.

In doing so, our major goal is to find an appropriate way to stop the suffering of these gentle animals. We also will help adoption services with necessary supplies to ease their task.

We are committed to furthering awareness of integrity, social responsibility, kindness, morality and humility. Ultimately, we will be proud of ourselves and inspire each other to speak for those who cannot.

We recognize that this is a serious issue, because it reflects our behavior as human beings.

*From a well-attended vigil that STGD!, Inc. conducted some years ago opposite the entrance to the Greyhound Race Track in Seabrook, NH:*



## Meditation

The dogs we hold dear are the sisters and brothers of the countless slaughtered. Look around you. Gaze into the eyes of the beloved companions in your midst. Look at the faces; stroke the soft fur. Feel the connection to all those dogs that have died without knowing this love. Feel the loss. Honor them.

*Reverend Michelle Leguex*

**STGD! Newsletter  
(Small but Dedicated)  
Staff:**



Nicole Chevrier  
Denise Pierosh  
Scotti Devens

**I'm Just a Greyhound,  
What Do I Know?**

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
I'm kept in a box all my life. Put out for  
15 to 20 minutes 4 times a day.

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
I'm fed very little and I am not allowed to  
drink before a race.

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
I'm abused, mistreated and nobody pays  
attention to me except a race time.

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
People say that I can't show love and af-  
fection, trust and loyalty.

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
I'm sorry I didn't get the chance to love  
someone and live longer.

I'm just a greyhound, what do I know?  
*Richard Bretzin*



**Cookbook**

STGD!'s cookbook, con-  
taining delicious recipes, is  
now in its second printing.  
This versatile cookbook  
contains about 150 recipes,  
including appetizers,  
soups, main dishes, veg-  
gies and desserts (one particular recipe is for  
Orange Julius...do you remember how tasty  
those were?) Also included are biscuit recipes  
for our dogs.

At \$12 each plus \$5 S/H, it's a deal. We've  
been told by quite a few that it has become  
their favorite cookbook for all around use.

No cash please....checks or money order only  
made payable to STGD!, PO Box 8981 Essex  
VT 05451, "STGD! Cookbook" in memo line.  
Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

**What They Are Saying**

"Thinking of you and the greyhounds and the  
great work you do. Thanks for all you do.  
I'll pass the newsletter on. Hopefully others  
will read it and become educated about this  
barbaric 'sport'."

*Marilyn Evenson*

"I enjoyed your last newsletter very much.  
Am sending dues and a donation Keep up the  
good work; someday there will be NO racing  
in America and you people can take pride in  
achieving this."

*Doris Blazejowski*

"In honor and memory of the world war II  
vets who fought bravely in Europe and the  
Pacific to keep the world free."

*Robert Aronson*

"My parents are now down to two grey-  
hounds. These dogs have given them such  
love and joy over the years. Keep saving  
them! They are wonderful creatures."

*Theresa Kamieniecki*

**Help Us Help You**

Is your mailing address correct?  
Please e-mail any corrections/  
modifications/updates or desire to  
be removed from the mailing list to  
[mpierosh@comcast.net](mailto:mpierosh@comcast.net).

Written correspondence should be  
mailed to:

STGD!  
PO Box 8981  
Essex, VT 04051.

Visit our website at  
[www.savethegreyhounddogs.org](http://www.savethegreyhounddogs.org)

**Become A Member  
of Our Organization**

Please help support STGD!, a non-profit  
organization, by becoming a member  
now! Be part of our nationwide network  
of compassionate people eager to stop the  
suffering of greyhound racing dogs. We  
are funded only by donations, so your  
contribution is much needed and tax de-  
ductible. Join now and receive a mem-  
bership card, along with a beautiful grey-  
hound decal for your car or home.

Name

Address

Telephone

Membership Type (Check One):

- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Senior \$15
- Lifetime \$500
- Corporate \$250

Mail this form with payment to:  
STGD!, Inc.  
P.O. Box 8981  
Essex, VT 04051

**Did You Know That ???**

1. When STGD! Was incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in 1992, there were about 61 greyhound tracks operation in the United States. Today there are 31.
2. Vermont was the *very first state* to end greyhound racing, simulcasting, and parimutual betting, where greyhound racing was legal. We followed Maine and Virginia in their legislation to end greyhound racing.
3. The greyhound dog kennels located at the site of the Old Green Mountain Racetrack in Pownal, Vermont, are gone. They have been demolished! The future use of the property is currently unresolved. Various possibilities have been discussed at Pownal town meetings. Among the suggestions are shops, a hotel, restaurants and light manufacturing. Jobs are needed in the area, and must be a part of the future plans. The town is against talking to and meeting with parties from Las Vegas who are very interested in building a casino on the site. We will keep readers informed. The betters can come as long as there will be no other type of gambling other than what is traditional to a Vegas-like casino with no dogs.

"I care not much for a  
man's  
religion whose dog or cat  
are not the better  
for it"



*Abraham Lincoln*

Deep thanks to all our generous  
donors for the continuing support.  
Your generosity enables STGD! to  
continue its important work. Our  
goal is to end the suffering of  
greyhound dogs worldwide.

**We work apart  
Knowing we work  
Together  
In our heart**

*Robert Frost*

**Had Hoped for a Greyhound in the White House**

STGD! contacted President Barack Obama's Transition Team with the intention of educating them on the joys of being a greyhound family. We also contacted Howard Dean, then the Chair of the DNC (Dean supported and signed into law the greyhound ban in Vermont). Hopes were high; no responses yet.



**Greyhounds Are Beautiful!**

Now you can wear one on your wrist. This handsome sport watch has a black leather band, is made of durable stainless steel, and comes to you with a battery and in a sturdy metal box. It is available for both men and women. It comes with a manufacturer's warranty of one (1) year. The face of both the men's and women's watch has a rich buttercup yellow background with the dog's face is sharp black. The cost is \$40.00 plus \$6.00 for S/H. Checks should be made payable to STGD! and mailed along with order form to: STGD! PO Box 8981, Essex, VT 04051. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Men's STGD! Sport Watch Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Women's STGD! Sport Watch Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks or Money Orders Only !!** + \$6.00 S/H = \$ 6.00

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Please excuse the graininess of the photo—we did our best !!**

**New Hampshire**  
There are currently two greyhound-related bills pending in the Granite State. At last report, legislative services had not yet assigned bill numbers. One bill pertains to a ban on greyhound racing. The other addresses the issue of required days of live racing in order to conduct simulcasting.

With the struggling economy, we fear that the dollar may supercede ethics. It will certainly at best, be an uphill fight. Sides are clashing over the possible expansion of gambling in New Hampshire (will the possible revenue generated hurt our cause?)

In the mid to late 1990s, STGD! brought the first two anti-greyhound racing bills before the New Hampshire legislature. Our work must continue—and it will! We are, at this time, waiting for the outcome of the two aforementioned bills. We will know then how we will more forward. Stay tuned!

New Hampshire is a very independent state with very strong opinions. Hopefully ongoing education and contact with voters will bring about the success of an anti-racing situation that was realized in both Vermont and Maine.

Word is that Hinsdale Greyhound Park is not going to pay betters their money that had been accumulating in their accounts at the track. Instead, we hear that management has used or is going to use these funds for salaries owed.

**NH Update**

According to our sources, we have learned that a House Bill that would have done away with the required number of racing dogs at greyhound tracks failed to obtain the required number of votes. This Bill which we supported incorporated the eventual end to greyhound racing while allowing simulcasting to continue. The Senate Bill that would have brought for the installation of slot machines at the dog and horse tracks is undecided and is on the table at this time. We of course are opposed to this Bill. ***In both cases, STGD! conducted massive telephone campaigns to educate New Hampshire voters and gain their support.***

**Vermont Update**



The Green Mountain Race Track in Pownal which ceased greyhound racing in the 1990's (our work and results with the Gator Bill s152 which ended greyhound racing in Vermont) has been sold to numerous parties in the past years. None of them developed the property. Happily, the filthy, obscene kennels are long gone. Hopes of the local citizenry are that this property will eventually be developed for business and/or commercial use. We will keep you advised as we garner more information.

According to one of the Town Fathers of Pownal, VT (one L in Pownal) the goal for the permanent development of the property is to have *green* businesses, industrial and commercial, develop there. *More importantly, he said that there will never be any animals there ever again.* Rest in peace all you animals who suffered there in years gone by.

**More History of Greyhounds**



In ancient Egypt, greyhounds were so highly regarded that the birth of a greyhound ranked second in importance to the birth of a son. When their greyhound died, family members mourned by shaving their heads, fasting and wailing.

STGD! Is very grateful to Will Keyworth of Keyworth Graphics for his kind and professional work on our website. He is great at what he does; he is indeed a good friend to STGD!

**Visit him at**  
[www.keyworthgraphics.com](http://www.keyworthgraphics.com)

**You never lose until you stop trying**

## Massachusetts Update

In November 2008, a ballot initiative (Question 3) was scrutinized by voters in the Bay State. If successful, the initiative would end greyhound racing. After other disappointments, success was achieved. As of January 2010, the greyhound tracks in Massachusetts will close.

While large organizations certainly impact a goal such as this, we remind our readers truly as Margaret Mead once said, "it is the small committed groups of people that bring about change". People such as Greta Marsh and Diane Shull from MA and others helped achieve this important success.



*Greta Marsh, MA*

As an "outsider" state organization, STGD! worked to help the cause from afar. Hundreds of telephone calls were made to random households asking voters to support this initiative. We fortified our telephone campaign with facts, reminding them of our success in Vermont with STGD!'s Gator Bill.

## Open Letter To Glenn Kelly of Falmouth, MA

You claim to have never heard about greyhound racing dog abuse in Massachusetts. If your statement weren't so incorrect and misguided, it would almost be funny.

Please send us your mailing address and we will forward to you documented information on the suffering of greyhound racing dogs at Massachusetts tracks.



**Save the Greyhound Dogs!, Inc.**  
**Two Lincoln Street**  
**P.O. Box 8981**  
**Essex, VT 05451**

**FIRST CLASS POSTAGE**