



Greyhounds Reach the Beach

c/o The Greyhound Project, Inc.
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The Greyhound Project, Inc., is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information about greyhounds and to promoting their adoption as pets through its publications and other activities including the adopt-a-greyhound site on the Internet at <http://adopt-a-greyhound.org>.

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We are volunteers and appreciate your patience



History

Judy Dillon, Martha Sherman, and Pat Tyson first met on the Internet and then in person at a greyhound picnic in May 1995. Shortly thereafter, they began discussing a trip to the beach with the dogs. They found a small motel in Ocean City, Maryland, that had eight rooms where they would allow dogs.

Then someone thought it would be fun to see if a few other local greyhound owners would like to go, and a message was posted to a greyhound discussion group on the Internet. It didn't take long to figure out that they needed to find a motel with more rooms. Pat started calling motels along Route 1 from Rehoboth, Delaware, to Ocean City, Maryland. She found the Atlantic Oceanside in Dewey Beach, Delaware, where dogs were allowed during the off-season.

The first Dewey get together in October 1995 occupied most rooms in the Atlantic Oceanside Motel. Eighty-five people attended with sixty-five greyhounds. Judy, Martha, and Pat were astonished.

After the success of the first Dewey gathering, they decided to plan Dewey '96. That year the attendee list grew even more. They filled the Atlantic Oceanside and had to find another motel. The Sea Esta I joined in and a few people stayed there. The figures for 1996 were somewhere around 116 dogs and 113 people.

In 1997, greyhounds filled the Atlantic Oceanside, the Sea Esta I, and the newly opened Sea Esta III. The Atlantic Oceanside opened their townhomes and suites to the greyhound people. Every available room was taken and more people wanted to come. To accommodate this growth, Joe Gannon, one of the original attendees, convinced the Southwinds to allow greyhounds for the first time. In 1997, around 260 people and their hounds Reached the Beach.

Despite concerns that the availability of accommodations would limit the growth of the event, it doubled again in 1998. People stayed at the Atlantic Oceanside Motel, Atlantic Oceanside Suites, Adams Oceanfront Motel, the Sea Estas I, II, and III, Southwinds, Sand Palace, Bellbouv Inn, Rehoboth Inn, Atlantic Sands, Atlantic View, Atlantic Budget Inn, private rentals, and the local campground. About 600 people and their greyhounds attended in 1998.

Through 1999, Greyhounds Reach the Beach doubled in size annually and became a national phenomenon. The Greyhound Project, Inc., agreed to take over coordination of the weekend. The reputation of the event convinced more local motels, bed and breakfasts, and private rentals to extend their hospitality to the dogs.

From 2000 to 2004, the growth continued but at a more moderate pace. Attendance leveled off in 2005 and is expected to remain around the same -- 2,000 hounds -- in 2008, the event's 14th anniversary. The event has attracted international supporters from Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, Spain, and Wales.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach Sunday Brunch speakers:

2008: Dog trainer Kathy Helmke, owner of the greyhounds that appeared with Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in this year's popular movie, *Charlie Wilson's War*.

2007: Patricia Roberts, president of GPA/EI Paso Lone Star Greyhounds, on her role in rescuing greyhounds from the failing Juarez, Mexico, track. Mary Ellen Carlow from the Morris Animal Foundation on Morris's Canine Cancer Campaign and advances in canine health.

2006: Luellen Leonard, a coastal Mississippi resident during Hurricane Katrina, on disaster preparedness. Dr. Patricia Olson from the Morris Animal Foundation on advances in treating canine cancer.

2005: Karen Keelan, former executive vice president of the recently closed Plainfield Greyhound Park in Connecticut

2004: Bridget Lichtinger, president of the Greyhound Walking Club of Central New York and the Greyhound Hope Connection

2003: In keeping with the theme "Celebrating 20 Years of Greyhound Adoption," Greyhound Project president Joan Belle Isle reviews the past 20 years and presents awards to 10 pioneers for making a difference in greyhound adoption

2002: Betty White, president emeritus of the Morris Animal Foundation

2001: Marion Fitzgibbon, president of the Irish SPCA

2000: Steven W. Dow, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, lead researcher on a canine cancer study at Colorado State University and member of the Morris Animal Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board

1999: Lynda Adame, moderator of the Greyhound Discussion List

1998: Cynthia Branigan, author of *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*

1997: Jacque Schultz, director of the Greyhound Rescue Fund at the ASPCA

1996: Joan Belle Isle, president of The Greyhound Project

1995: Paul Byther, greyhound breeder and trainer

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