

GROUPS



Kevin Friends and his best friend, Tex

Top dogs

Rescued greyhounds make affectionate pets—and really big lap dogs

BY ORIANA GREEN

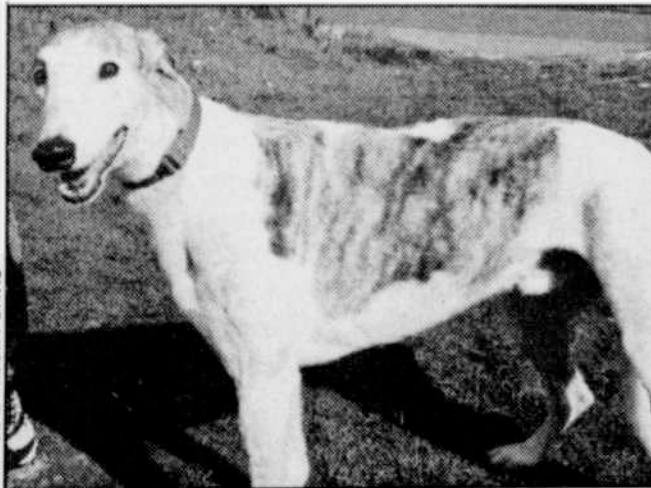
available for adoption. Some still live in the kennel out at the dog track, and the rest are in temporary foster care while they wait for permanent homes.

"I'm a failed foster parent, I kept five!" Landers explains, adding that they do well with other dogs and especially well with other greyhounds, since that's what they're used to.

They can cohabit with certain cats, too: "I have five greyhounds and a cat, and the cat has an attitude," Landers says with a hearty laugh.

In addition to providing a home for his own dog, Tex, Friends also fosters greyhounds and is currently caring for Okie (see photo), who is eagerly searching for a new home. Because he's an alpha male, Okie needs to be an only dog, and he would do best with a man who has a lot of room for running, since that's what he's accustomed to. Okie has been living on a ranch in central Oregon, but his previous owner died recently, so Okie's hoping to live out his years with another bighearted fella.

There is much to recommend about these sleek living sculptures—they aren't known as chewers or diggers, they're very playful and affectionate. And since they're carefully bred to be good racing dogs, they avoid a lot of the



PHOTOS BY MARTY DAVIS

Okie is looking for a man to love him

health problems, such as hip dysplasia, that affect many other breeds.

One thing they're not good at is guarding the premises.

"They'd be very happy to show a thief where the silver is," Landers says with a laugh, adding that they do have a big dog's bark and some can be quite chatty.

Though greyhounds are very good travelers, one great advantage for folks who can't take Fido along is that there's a dog-sitting cooperative among adoptive families so that these greyhounds never have to see the inside of a kennel again.

A good way to get to know the breed is to visit the kennel at Multnomah Greyhound Park, 944 N.E. 223rd Ave. in Wood Village. Every Saturday, volunteers bathe and walk the dogs from 9 to 10 a.m. Another option is to watch the informal gathering and dog-run every Sunday morning from 9 to 10 a.m. in the soccer field at 617 N.E. Marine Drive. Twenty or more dogs and their owners show up to exercise and socialize, and it's a fine opportunity to ask questions and watch these elegant animals at their fleet-footed best.

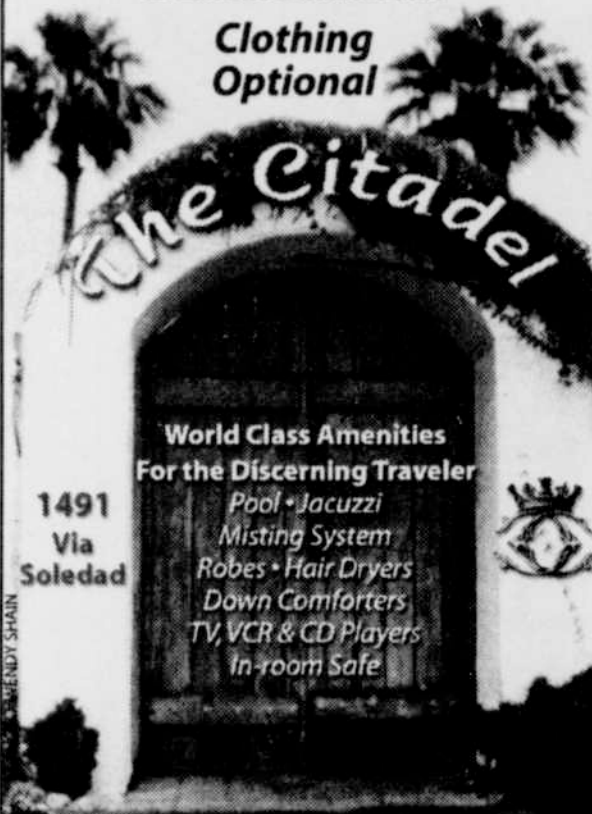
■ GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA also brings dogs ready for adoption to Portland-area pet stores most Saturdays. For more information or a schedule of store visits, call 1-800-366-1472 or visit GPA's Internet site at www.open.org/greyhnd.

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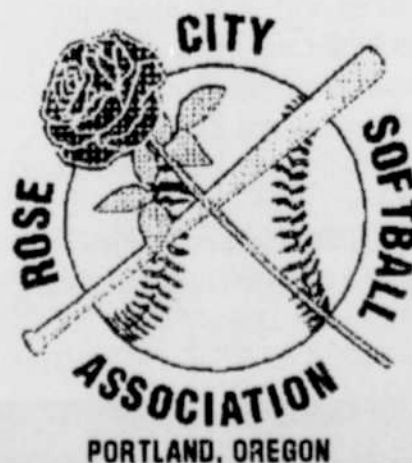
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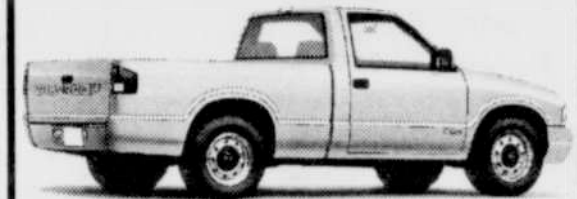
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