



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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Greyhounds Reach the Beach Press Relations

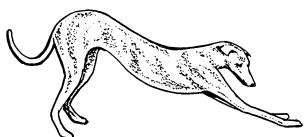
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Greyhounds Reach the Beach General Info

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We are volunteers and appreciate your patience



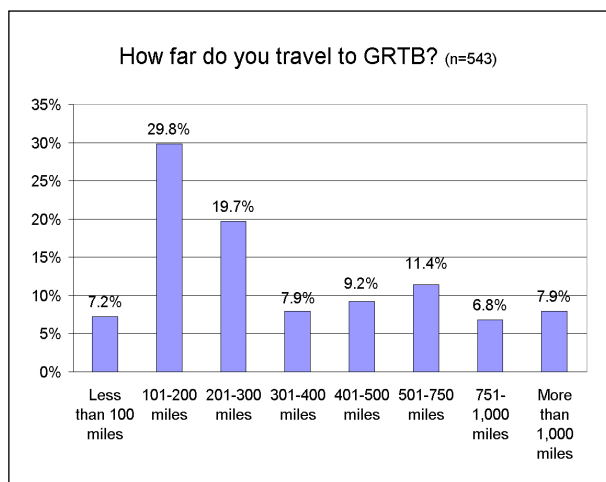
For immediate release

Thousands of retired racing greyhounds to visit Delaware Shore

14th Annual Greyhound Gathering Coming to Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach October 10-12

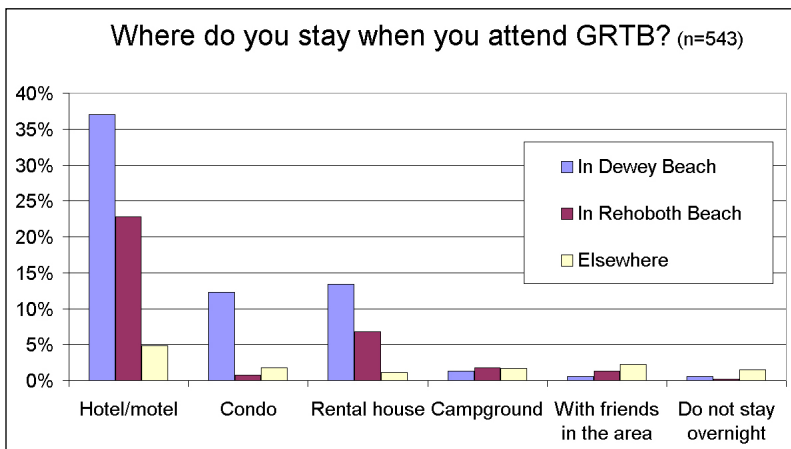
September 8, 2008 — This Columbus Day weekend, greyhound enthusiasts from across the nation will converge on the Delaware Shore to celebrate their love of this gentle and elegant breed.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach began as a gathering of a few friends in 1995 and grew to over 3,000 greyhounds in 2005. This year, about 1,200 people and 2,000 greyhounds are expected to attend. Since its founding, other gatherings have sprouted up around the country, making it easier for folks to get their greyhound fix closer to home. However, the Delaware gathering remains the largest of these events, and 25% of this year's attendees will travel more than 500 miles — many from as far away as California, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



Where do all those dogs stay?

The Dewey Beach and Rehoboth Beach communities have welcomed the dogs with open arms. A recent survey of event attendees showed that the majority stay in hotel rooms (65%), and most of those hotel rooms are in Dewey Beach (57%) and Rehoboth Beach (35%). Next most popular are rental houses (21%), primarily in Dewey (63%) and Rehoboth (32%). Fifteen percent stay in condos, and nearly all condo rentals are in Dewey. Less than 1% stay in condos in Rehoboth.



Several hardy souls (5%) camp in

Dewey Beach (Delaware Seashore State Park), Rehoboth Beach (Big Oaks Family Campground), and Lewes (Cape Henlopen State Park). Four percent stay with friends in the area, and 2% report living in the area. In fact, two attendees have purchased homes in the area as a direct result of the event.

Other major greyhound gatherings across the US

Although Greyhounds Reach the Beach remains the largest, today there are many events celebrating these hounds. Among the major ones:

Greyhounds in

Gettysburg. Founded in 1998, GiG attracted 800 people in 2008.

Greyhound Gathering

Kanab, Utah. Founded in 1999, Kanab attracted 300 people in 2008.

Solvang Greyhound Fest,

Solvang, California. Founded in 2004, Solvang attracted 300 people in 2008.

Sandy Paws, Jekyll Island, Georgia. Founded in 2004, Sandy Paws attracted 500 people in 2008.

This is not intended to be a complete list. Other events that span multiple days include Beach Bound Hounds in Myrtle Beach, FL, Grapehounds in Ithaca, NY, Greyhound Festival of the Bluegrass in Louisville, KY, the Greyhound Adoption Expo in Greater Boston, MA, Greyhound America in Abilene, KS, and Mountain Hounds in Gatlinburg, TN.

Another interesting finding from the study was that 39% of attendees are in town by the Wednesday preceding the weekend, and 80% are in town by Thursday. Three quarters of attendees won't depart until Monday morning or later.

What's new in 2008

Grotto Pizza in Dewey Beach, normally closed Columbus Day weekend, has elected to keep its bar and takeout areas open to the public.

This year Grotto Pizza welcomes the 7th Annual Greyhounds in Art Show, which lost its former home at the now-defunct Sunnyside Restaurant. Although wristbands are required for registered attendees to enter the Art Show, local residents will be admitted with their driver's license or other proof of residency. The Art Show is open from 5-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. The public is also invited to a reception with the artists from 6:30 to 9 on Saturday evening. More details and information on the eleven artists included in this year's show is at www.greyhoundsinart.com.

Also new at Grotto Pizza will be a Silent Auction to benefit canine healthcare research. Items will be on display during the Art Show, and winners will be selected at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Returning events

Sunday's brunch speaker will be dog trainer Kathy Helmke, owner of the greyhounds that appeared with Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts in the popular movie *Charlie Wilson's War*.

Among the weekend's other activities are morning walks on the beach, educational seminars, an ice cream social, a costume ball, a blessing of the hounds, and a memorial service to remember greyhounds that have passed. Canine Good Citizen testing is available and requires advance registration.

The full 2008 schedule of activities is available online at www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey.

Shopping galore

In previous years, several large vendor tents were stationed on McKinley Street. Due to a history of flooding in the tents — in fact a 2006 storm left the space too unstable to even set up the tents — all vendors will have indoor locations this year. Signs and banners will be located on storefronts, hotels, and condos along Route 1 in Dewey, and several vendors will be inside the Rehoboth Volunteer Fire Station.

For many of the non-profit groups at the event, the weekend is their largest annual fundraiser.

More information

Information on adopting a greyhound can be found at <http://adopt-a-greyhound.org> or by calling 800-366-1472 or 800-446-8637. Questions regarding the event should be directed to sarah@adopt-a-greyhound.org until October 5. After October 5 call 617-750-2111.

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