

## SOUTHEASTERN GREYHOUND ADOPTION THIRTY REASONS TO ADOPT A SENIOR GREYHOUND

Southeastern Greyhound Adoption (SEGA) has a Yahoo Group for members to post questions, tell stories, or update other members about current events involving the greyhound world.

Each day in November 2006, different members volunteered to post a reason to adopt a senior greyhound. The response was overwhelming from the members of the group. The reasons were poignant, funny and heartfelt. Most importantly, the posts kept the seniors forefront throughout the month among our over 200 members.

Along with the posts, one of SEGA's Screening and Placement co-chairs kept the members updated on the progress of the senior adoptions. Each time another senior was placed in their forever home, the entire group felt a sense of accomplishment.

Attached is the list compiled from the Yahoo Group of *Thirty Reasons to Adopt a Senior Greyhound*, along with the progress posts.

# SOUTHEASTERN GREYHOUND ADOPTION

## THIRTY REASONS TO ADOPT A SENIOR GREYHOUND

### Reason #1

It will bring you joy every day that you get to look into those intelligent, soulful and wise eyes. Adopt a senior, make a difference in their life.

– Suzanne, proud owner of a senior

### Reason #2

A senior will come to you with an open heart filled with love and gratitude and settle in like he/she has been waiting for you forever—which they have.

– Patty

### Reason #3

Senior hounds have it all over the young ones. They've "been there and done that." The young ones think they know so much about life but they know "nutting." The seniors have been through marriage, divorce, child bearing, child rearing, job success, job failure, and life threatening illness. Move over you young whipper snappers, and make room for your elders.

– Bill, proud owner of Charcoal, 11 years old

### Reason #4

Another reason to adopt a senior greyhound: Adopt one, and there's no room for your mother-in-law to move in with you.

– Betty Jean

### Reason #5

Lisa the greyhound was old.  
Half-blind and thin, truth be told.  
But she stole my heart.  
Right from the start.  
A gift far more precious than gold!

– Helen, with loving memories of Andie, adopted at age 10, Spud, adopted at age 11, and Lisa, adopted at age 13. Still loving the seniors with Gracie, age 10, and two youngsters: Janice Joplin (JJ) age 8 and Zeke age 7.

### Reason #6

With such glowing eyes and wise souls, it's no wonder that our senior adoptable are "flying off the shelves" this month. Hooray for Huggie and Echo! Seniors can provide the love like no other hound. They are comforting, compassionate and warm. They just look into your eyes and melt your heart with their appreciation, confidence and tenderness.

Seniors greet you every morning and every afternoon with love, affection and calmness. You will feel so loved and so appreciated, and will return those feelings with your devotion to the senior hound who brings tranquility, serenity, and a peaceful spirit into your home and your life.

Let their love open your heart this holiday season!

– Keri

### **Reason #7**

Your senior, a quiet, loving, peaceful and steady as he goes fellow. All the rough edges are softened. His demands no more than a whisper. Look deep into his eyes, and on into his soul, and there you will find the serenity and unconditionally love of your best friend.

- Tara

### **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

It is only November 7 and two of our current seniors, Sher's Hugger and Sher's Echo, have been adopted and will have a wonderful Thanksgiving Day!!

Looking for forever homes for:

BOO

SMITTY

SADIE

KITTY KITTY

Look around -isn't there room for one more??

- Patty

### **Reason #8**

Blessed is the person who has earned the love of an old dog." - Sydney Jeanne Seward

- Gerry

### **Reason #9**

First, we have a 2 year old grey we've had 9 months. We also have a senior we've had for only 3 months. This is our reason that you should enjoy the life of a senior.

The only thing they want is a soft place to lay their sweet head and their tired, old bones. I remember the first time our senior laid down on one of our dog beds. The look in his eyes asked "Are you sure this is okay?" He warms all our hearts and souls in this house with that look in his eyes. There is nothing but depth, wisdom, and love in his big, brown eyes. I don't think you can find the end in those beautiful, thoughtful eyes. With only a glance at your senior, there's a chill that runs down your spine. This chill comes from your own happiness and fulfillment of allowing this thankful soul in your home. Never mind, what it feels to pet them, hug them and kiss them. A nice, soft, warm loving place for them to lay their tired souls....if only for the last few years of their lives. How very thankful they are. Trust us....it's MORE than worth it.

- Vicki, Larry, Drew and Baley

### **Reason #10**

The edges are all smoothed off. He's been around. He "gets" glass doors, mirrors, slippery floors, squeaky toys, mom leaving to go to work. And he understands the idea of "going out to potty."

He appreciates comfortable routine. He's had the "new boy" experience and is grateful now to just drop down onto that open, available bed and be the least trouble he knows how to be.

He knows that ear-scratches are vastly to be treasured. Kisses on the head are a prize nearly equal to "cookies." And cuddles on the couch are absolute heaven.

But he hasn't seen EVERYTHING. He's still curious about what's around the next corner on your walk. He's wondering if he's allowed to catch squirrels at your house. He wants to know what games you know

and what toys you have. He wants to meet your friends and coworkers.  
He wants to be YOUR DOG.

And he'll enrich your life far more than you'll be able to enrich his.

- Kathy

### **Reason #11**

Adopting a senior greyhound means a PROMISE to that hound that he or she will always:

...enjoy life's simple delights: an old fluffy down comforter, a peanut butter-stuffed Kong, a stroll around the neighborhood.

...have a safe roof over their head with lots of good food and treats.

...feel security, a sense of belonging, and a comforting routine.

...have someone to lovingly help them through their aches and pains as they get older.

...have the comfort of knowing that there are no more kennels, foster homes, or disruptions. This is their home, and this is where they belong forever.

And, in exchange for your loving care, your senior PROMISES you their heart, filled with love and gratitude!

- Beth

### **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

Sadie is scheduled to go to her forever home tomorrow with sparkly teeth as SEGA's send off present! Please remember Boo, Smitty, and Kitty Kitty who would also like to be in their forever home for the holidays and the long winter. Give yourself the gift of a senior - you will very glad you did.

- Patty

### **Reason #12**

No one should die in this world without KNOWING someone loves them.

-- Vicki

### **Reason #13**

#### **Through The Eyes of a Senior**

They call me a senior, but what is that?

I still love to run and play, but somehow not quite as fast as I once did.

Oh, and how I love to eat and get treats and attack my stuffies.

Am I called a senior because I've got some grey?

Come on! I'm a Greyhound! Of course I have some grey!

I've heard "them" talk about seniors, something about age.

But what is age?

Is age the reason I am where I am?

Is age the reason no one wants me?

Oh I hope not because I don't know what age is.

If I did, I would change it fast.

I do so hate to worry.

But I know deep in my heart that there is someone out there that will take me for what I am, a senior.

And in return, that someone will get the very best of me.

The very best of Greyhounddom!

The very, very best. A senior.

And now I'll take a nap and not worry.  
Because I know you are coming.

- In memory of Sugarfoot, our Beloved Senior, Jeff & Marylyn Barber

#### **Reason #14**

Every time you look into the eyes of an old dog you can't help but smile. They love you unconditionally, they ask for so little, they appreciate so much. They withhold nothing -- their joy is right out there for your viewing pleasure. An old Greyhound is elegance personified -- They are the Katherine Hepburns and the Cary Grants of the animal world.

- Catherine, for Lizbeth (now at the bridge) adopted as a senior, Skylar (11 years) adopted as a senior, Grace (9 years), Spencer (9-1/2 years), and little Sebastian (14 years) all teaching me how to go with the flow as we age together

#### **Reason #15**

Seniors make great bed buddies. They have learned not to hog the whole bed and will lie still with their back against yours and keep you warm on a cold night. When you wake in the morning and see that sweet little face and eyes that tell you how grateful they are for giving them a warm and loving home. When you rise from bed, they don't trample you as you walk to the kitchen to get their kibble ready. After their tummy is full, they are content to lie and watch you as you get ready for work. You will miss them while you are gone and they will miss you but they will be very happy to see you when you return. You know in your heart that they are very special and your love for them is like your love for no other pet.

Please reach out and share your heart and home with a senior today! You will never regret it.

- Regina

#### **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

Just want to give everyone an update. So far three of our seniors are in their forever homes for the holidays: Echo, Hugger, and Sadie. Boo and Smitty are being looked at this weekend. If all goes well this weekend, only Kitty Kitty will not have found her forever home. We have updated her pictures on the website so go take a look at her and see if you feel that familiar twinge of wanting to adopt another Greyhound. Open your heart and let her in- she will make you very happy. Thanks.

- Patty

#### **Reason #16**

If you ever believe anything anyone says, believe this...THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING LIKE SHARING YOUR LIFE WITH A SENIOR!!! I PROMISE WITH ALL MY HEART, THE JOY THEY BRING EVERYDAY WILL BRING THEHAPPIEST, HEARTFELT TEARS TO YOUR EYES.

- Vicky

#### **Reason #17**

There is nothing like the love and gratitude of a senior, I wish more people would experience it.

- Marty, Divine, Bo and Luke (all seniors!)

#### **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

Ten year old Walter will be coming to stay with a foster home tomorrow. Poor Walter had to leave the only home he has ever known because a cat was coming to stay. Due to a death in the family, a relative is moving in with her cats and the difficult decision was made to return Walter to SEGA. As you would expect, Walter is a sweet older gentlemen with character and good manners. He truly needs to be in his

new home for the holidays so he can start to settle in and never worry about having to be bounced again. He will have the benefit of the Senior Adoption month if he is adopted soon. Pictures will be up on the website soon or I would be happy to send to you privately if you are interested. Thank you.

- Patty

### **Reason #18**

You will be so enamored by your senior that you'll never be able to do enough to repay their love and devotion. There is nothing like looking into their eyes and plainly seeing their appreciation for a warm bed, gently touch and promise of a forever home. They are mellow, strong, wise and loving. You are their best friend and they will never let you forget that. My old girls have been all this and more. I could never even try to describe the joy that Herme, Poppy and Seven have brought me. Won't you please consider adopting a senior? Everyone should experience this joy at least once.

- Michelle

### **Reason #19**

"Acquiring a dog may be the only opportunity a human ever has to choose a relative." -- Mordecai Siegal

- Gerry

### **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

What an amazing month - five of the six seniors have been adopted - only sweet Boo is left and he has people interested in meeting him - actually more than one applicant. But we have more seniors coming in - two as soon as fosters are found and another one in a couple of weeks. They are all 10 years old and are being bounced totally for people reasons - the dogs are all good healthy dogs. Thanks for all the generous donations and help with this special senior month. Keep up the wonderful work and momentum - we are not through yet!!

- Patty

### **Reason #20**

Adopting a senior makes you realize you should live in the moment, and not dwell on the past or the future. Your time with your senior greyhound may be short, but the rewards are many, and the memories of the good life you provided him or her will bring you much comfort and joy.

- Helen

### **Reason #21**

They show us humans that age is just a number.

- Wanda

### **Reason #22**

Senior greyhounds have much to teach us about growing old with dignity. They warm our hearts with their appreciation of the good things we humans can offer them. They lend a calming influence to our lives. I'm shopping tonight for "jammies"... our old guy, Isaac, just let us know he is cold. He was restless and unhappy. We put a light coat on him and he snuggled up, happy as a pig in you-know-what! I love giving him comfort.

- Pam

### **Reason #23**

On this day of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of the gratitude that a senior Greyhound shows, in so many ways, when you take him into your home and hearth. Far too often, the senior Greyhounds we take in are no longer wanted by adopters who once pledged to take good care of them for the rest of their lives. What was once a lifetime commitment is now inconvenient to a lifestyle choice. As the old Greyhound became more and more unwanted, it seems he also became unloved and minimally cared for, so that he may come to us in rough condition. When you take him in and give him the love and care that he once had, he blossoms anew, physically and mentally, and his eyes shine with appreciation to you for giving him a place to live out his "golden years." Sometimes, more rarely, our seniors are brood bitches or studs. I am thankful to them for playing a role in the perpetuation of our wonderful breed. They have served their masters and their breed, twice, and have earned a little pampering as pets after their working dog careers. These are the Greyhounds with the wisdom of their years – they have likely been stars in their time, and have traveled miles and miles in their "jobs." They now treasure the new life of a big "kennel" and the more unstructured routine of home life.

Adopt a senior Greyhound –it a great way to say "thanks," and to get thanked in return, tenfold.

– John

### **Reason #24**

Seniors have a certain grace about them that is hard to describe. Adopt one and you will see.

They have endured a lot during their short lives and repay a little love and attention ten times over. They are patient, wise, steady, and grateful companions.

We will be lucky to always have one or two in the family.

– Dan - In memory of Timber, Dakotah, Sadie, Faith and Merle—all seniors who we were honored to have as part of our family

### **Reason #25**

A few years ago, most of the greys in our family were seniors. Now, all of our greys are under seven years old. Boy, what a difference a few years makes! I sure miss our old girls. Having older greys makes your home much more peaceful. They're so settled, so grateful for a soft bed, so glad to spend quiet time with you. They're just wonderful and deserve to have a loving home.

When I asked Gary for a reason to adopt a senior, he simply said, "They're everything that Corky's not!"

Now, that's the best reason to adopt a senior.

– Tina and Gary (For those of you that don't know Corky, we adopted her at nine weeks old and she's not quite two yet. There's a HUGE difference in puppies and seniors!)

### **Reason #26**

Your hairdresser won't admit it, but . . . a touch of gray can be oh, so sophisticated!! A gray muzzle has been termed "kissed by moonlight," and once you've had a senior in your household, you'll understand how gentle and refreshing they can be, just like a soft, moonlit evening!

– Beth and Thunder Lane, age 12-1/2, so very loving and so very loved

### **Reason #27**

Adopting a SENIOR will make you the envy of the Prom! Not only will you walk leash and hand with the most beautiful/handsome, athletic, Prom date EVER, your date will also make you laugh endlessly and will move like you've never seen before.

– Lori

## **Reason #28**

You can catch them when they run away!

“To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer” – Mahatma Ghandi

You can make a difference in that one greyhound's life.

– Chris and Relay (13 1/2) and Echo (10) and Mouse (the whippet, 8 years old)

## **Update Posted By Screening and Placement**

Everyone has been wonderful to post daily about the joys of adopting a senior. This was a fabulous group effort and has also been fun. Only Boo is left from the original six and he has strong interest. However, sweet 10 year old Walter is now with us and Koko and Sharla are coming soon. Walter's website information was updated last night. KoKo and Sharla have always lived together and it would be so nice for them to go to the same home but does not have to be that way. They are both 10 and are being bounced through no fault of their own- another baby is coming and with the other child, there is no room for them in their home. Sad. The promotion will continue for a few days into December so we can get all these adopted. Thanks for your support and help with this. The response has been amazing!

– Patty

## **Reason #29**

S is for the Satisfaction of giving an older dog a new life.

E is for the Eagerness with which they greet you every time.

N is for Never a bother or nasty always sweet and gentle and loving.

I is for the Intensity with which they watch you and listen and learn.

O is for the Outstanding love and affection you get in return.

R is for the Running they do now for sheer joy.

S is for what else can it be but seniors the best of the best.

– Susan and Dan and Julie who is 2 weeks from 13 and Leelee who is only 3, but still a joy

## **Reason #30**

Ten more reasons to have a senior Greyhound around the house:

10. Seniors are so laid back, their younger cousins look nervous by comparison.
9. Seniors are so happy to find a home; they know when they have it good because it hasn't always been that way.
8. Seniors already know things, like steps, windows, mirrors and, most importantly, where NOT to relieve themselves
7. Cleaning teeth may be optional with some seniors...no teeth.
6. You don't have to worry about a senior counter surfing, it's too much work.
5. Seniors turn cockroaching into a fine art.
4. A Senior's eyes will light up with appreciation whenever you do anything with them.
3. A long walk for a senior usually doesn't take too much time.
2. Three Words...Nap, Anytime, Anywhere.
1. Adopting a senior will do as much or more for you, as it does for the senior greyhound.

– Chris