

Greyhound race dogs receive royal treatment

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MADISON (WKOW) -- From the race track to the tub, many greyhounds are getting all dolled up tonight to prepare for their adoption.

The Dairyland greyhound race track in Kenosha closed on New Year's Eve, citing financial troubles. Most of the dogs from Dairyland went to other race tracks around the country, replacing the dogs who were already there, which left those dogs without a job or a home.

Now local volunteers from the Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) are trying to find the retired dogs a new home, and they think giving them a good scrub-down might help.

These kings and queens of the track are getting the royal treatment at Animart on Madison's east side, after traveling from Florida to Madison.

"It's been an interesting transition," said Garland Zibrowski, a volunteer with the GPA who owns four greyhounds himself. "They're not used to being around things. Patio doors freak them out."

Greyhound lovers like Zibrowski are volunteering their time to give dogs like Princess, Titan, Abe and Flirt a proper bath. They say after the hard work these dogs have put in, they deserve a good scrubbing.

"They had a tough life as far as racing, and this might be their first bath. They probably got sprayed down before," said Zibrowski.

"They've worked really hard at the track, they've done their job, and now it's time for them to get pampered a little bit and meet their new families," said Kat Smith, another GPA volunteer who owns three greyhounds.

There are a lot of miles on these paws, but now they're ready to shake off the race track and learn what it's like to be a house dog.

"Mine spend most of their time holding the couch down," said Smith. "They take their retirement seriously."

All squeaky clean and bundled up, it's off to the races once more for these dogs; the race to find a new home.

"I relate them to giant cats. They sleep 18 to 20 hours a day, they're great for apartments, they're not barkers, they're low-shedders, and they're great with kids and other pets so they're good for people with allergies," says Smith. "What's not to love?"

Another group of dogs will arrive in town Saturday, many of whom used to race at the Dairyland track.

It's a constant cycling of dogs between tracks, and with so many tracks going out of business, that process speeds up and leaves a lot more dogs looking for a new home.

All of the greyhounds up for adoption are neutered or spayed, their teeth are cleaned, and they are up-to-date on all their vaccines. Many of the greyhounds will be shown to potential adoptive families on Sunday.

If you would like to find out more about adopting a retired greyhound, you can call GPA at (414) 299-9473 or visit the group's [website](#).

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