

Rescuing Racers in the Pacific

Greyhound advocates sprint to save displaced dogs after a racetrack in Guam closes.

By Wendy Bedwell-Wilson

A retired racing Greyhound, Louie lives like a canine king, sharing a home with a loving family in central California. He sleeps on his own comfy bed, and occasionally the family's down-filled couch, cozy and warm with his own fleece blankets. His toy box overflows with plush squeaky toys, and he dines on the best food his owner, Susan Netboy of Penn Valley, can find.

But life wasn't always so easy for Louie.

Just over a year ago, this Greyhound lived in the dense jungles of Guam, an unincorporated 212-square-mile U.S. Territory in the western Pacific Ocean, where he scavenged for food, slept unsheltered on wet ground and suffered from wounds inflicted by stray dogs. The gentle, docile dog, along with hundreds of other Greyhounds, found himself homeless and lost after the dog racetrack, Guam Greyhound Inc. (GGH) closed.

Racing halted

The story of these Greyhounds began in 1977, when GGH opened for business. The facility served as a visitor attraction and entertainment venue in Tamuning, contributing millions of dollars to the island's government in taxes and fees.

Over time the track lost money, and on Nov. 26, 2008, GGH shut its doors, leaving hundreds of Greyhounds homeless.

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