

Kirsten Hays

8/3/2021

TGA Scholarship

### My Relationship with the TGA

I grew up completely immersed in and around the greyhound racing and breeding business. As a little girl, I remember that my chores were to clean the water buckets and fill them up. As I got older, my chores were to feed the dogs and help at the track with training. I know I wasn't the only one who would secretly hope that Paul Saunters would have donuts in the control tower when we came out to the track on training days. When I was 13 years old, I would shred the grass at the TGA in Lorena. Most of the memories I have from my childhood, in fact, involve greyhounds.

Between my father and my grandfather, my family has over 50 years of experience and involvement in the TGA. My grandfather is a former president of the TGA (David Hays). My family loves greyhounds so much that my grandmother (Barbara Hays) owned the largest dog museum in the world (Antiquibles). My favorite memories include going to the nationals and watching all the commotion involved with the different races. I know quite a bit about the TGA. I know everything from how to manage birth to how to vaccinate, tattoo, give wormer, and even how to train them. When I was 10 years old, I had my first "big win" with Deco Barracuda at the TGA in Lorena.

Although I really enjoy the racing side of the TGA, the adoption processes and finding good homes for greyhounds has always been one of the most satisfying aspects of the greyhound industry for me. I love seeing how happy dogs are after retirement when they transition to pets for people who genuinely appreciate the value of this breed. I could write a book on how I feel

and what I know about the TGA but I will end my thoughts with how grateful I feel to have been involved in such a great organization full of people who are able to treat greyhounds with the love, compassion and respect that these amazing animals deserve.