



GREATvine



A newsletter for Greyhounds and the people who love them

Volume 10, Issue 2

April 2005



Finding Your Lost Greyhound

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by Michael McCann, permission to reprint

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Okay, you've lost him. He slipped his collar, or ran out of the open gate. He was spooked by lightning and jumped the back fence. You dropped the leash, or you let him run off lead, he saw a squirrel and suddenly he was gone. It all doesn't really matter now. What matters are the steps you have to take to get him back. He's out there and he's depending on you to find him. He's lost and can't find his way home. It's been a couple of hours now. You've scoured the neighborhood, and you are hoping to see him in every yard and around every corner. But you are beginning to realize that you can't find him. Here's what you have to do:

Change your mindset: This is most important and most difficult step. You have to stop checking every street and back yard yourself, and start recruiting an army to do it for you. Most greyhounds are found within a mile or two of where they were lost, but a two mile radius is nearly 13 square miles, an impossible area to search adequately alone. You have to stop looking for your dog and start looking for people. Everything that follows depends on it. With every hour that goes by, your chances of finding your dog on your own diminish. You now have to find someone who has seen your dog. You need a sighting and in order to get a sighting, you need help! Ask everyone you know, including your friends, co-workers, adoption group and son's Cub Scout pack to help you. Don't wait until tomorrow, do it now.

Get the word out: Whether you have help or not, you've got to get the word out about your lost dog. You and your volunteers are going to search, but while you're searching, you're going to post flyers on every available telephone pole, in every supermarket, drug store, school, church, police station, vet's office or any other public place surrounding the area. Ninety percent of lost dogs who are found, are found because someone saw a flyer.

The flyers don't have to be fancy, but get them printed on the loudest, gaudiest paper available. Write in big letters:

LOST GREYHOUND
If sighted please call (555) 555-5555

A silhouette of a running greyhound works great as an attention grabber. 500 flyers is a good start, but you may need more. The area should be so saturated with flyers that you can't turn around without seeing one. Don't expand your search area until you've totally covered the area where he was last seen.

- ◆ Knock on doors and talk to everyone you see; the mail person, the UPS driver, the local landscaper. Any of these people may see your dog and if they do, now they won't just think it's some dog on his way home, they'll know he's lost. Give everyone you talk to a flyer.
- ◆ Schools are a great resource for search help. Ask the principal to make announcements about the lost dog and leave flyers to pass out and post on bulletin boards.. Kids see everything in the neighborhood but will ignore dogs running around unless asked to look. If you hand one kid a flyer, five more will have seen it by the end of the day. Don't ignore the little kids ei-

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**Greyhound
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Finding Your Lost Greyhound *Continued*

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ther. They tell their folks everything.

- ◆ Call every veterinarian's office, animal control officer and police department within two or three miles from where he was last seen. In rural areas, expand your calls to every nearby town. Follow up with a flyer or several. Faxing them will save you some time but it is important that they see you, rather than just a piece of paper. If you show people how concerned you are, they'll want to help you. Don't just call them once, call them every few days and in the case of the police, during every shift, to make sure everyone knows about your dog.
- ◆ Run newspaper ads in the local papers, and while you're at it, talk to a reporter and see if she'll run a local interest story on the lost greyhound. Local cable access stations often will run your lost dog ad for free and local radio stations and TV stations will often run the story on a slow news night.
- ◆ Check your local animal shelters every few days, in person. It is amazing how many folks who work in these places don't know dog breeds. Your greyhound could be hanging out at a local shelter, up for adoption, because they think he's a Whippet or a Doberman mix.
- ◆ Get in touch with your local Department of Public Works, or Highway Department. Sadly, they often will pick up an animal's body from the road and if there is no identification, the owner will never know. Collars often fall off when a dog is loose or struck by a car.

Tools you'll need: Print some maps of your area to give to the volunteers. Make notations of areas that have been well posted. Set up grids and utilize them to cover all the locations in your search area. Send teams to each grid area. Get some heavy duty staple guns and use those for putting up your flyers on telephone poles and clear packing tape for other hard surfaces. (Don't use duct tape; it looks messy and some localities bristle at having these flyers posted. You want the locals helping you, not trying to shut your search down). Try to keep in touch with your teams with cell phones or walkie talkies so that when you get a sighting, you can have them go immediately to the site.

Make sure that there is always someone available at the phone number you posted. You don't want people to call with a sighting, then hang up because they got a message service.

Don't assume anything: Don't assume your dog has been picked up! It's the trap that everyone seems to fall into: "No sighting, someone must have picked up my dog!" Greyhounds are notorious for disappearing in the woodwork. A person can walk right by a brindle greyhound laying in a pile of leaves and never even see him. Some go for months or even years without being found, because people assume they have been picked up or are dead.

Don't assume that the call you got about a dog five miles away is yours. Follow it up, but when you start getting calls about dogs, ask questions:

What color was the dog you saw? How big? Which way was it heading? Have you ever seen him before?

You don't want to be running out of your search area just to find that someone called you about a beagle they saw running through the yard. These false leads are actually a positive sign, they mean your efforts are working; people are looking out for your dog. It's just that they don't know the difference between a greyhound and a Jack Russell terrorist.

Don't lose hope: A few days or a week of searching can be discouraging. A lack of sightings, or no word at all can be tough on a positive attitude. Just remember, your hound is still out there, and someone has seen him. All you have to do, is to find that person. It's only natural to start thinking the worst. But, as non-street savvy as greyhounds are, they are survivors. Keep looking. Don't give up! Your grey is counting on you.

A NOTE ABOUT REWARDS: Lost greyhounds, especially shy ones, are extremely difficult to catch. Your goal should be to en-

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Finding Your Lost Greyhound *Continued*

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courage people who see the dog call you with the sighting. Once the sightings have established where the dog is hanging out, then set up feeding stations for her. Then you can set up a humane trap for the capture.

In our experience, rewards often work against getting sightings. What happens is that you will increase the numbers of people looking for the dog, but the new people tend to be bounty hunters; teenagers, or "cowboys", who just think of the money, not the safety of the animal. Often, when they see the dog, the first thing they do is chase, and sometimes they chase the dog right out the safety of the territory the dog has felt comfortable in. These people rarely call in sightings, because they want to cash in.

We suggest that the wording of that flyer should be something like:

LOST GREYHOUND
IF SIGHTED, PLEASE CALL (555) 555-5555
PLEASE DO NOT CHASE HER

We never even mention a reward. We feel that if someone does catch the dog and asks for a reward, we can still pay it, but we don't ask for trouble by offering money in advance. Would you rather have a hundred sympathetic animal lovers helping you look for your dog, or a couple of hundred clueless bounty hunters trying to cash in on her? We'll go with the animal lovers, every time.

Finding Them Is Only the First Step

Finding a lost greyhound is difficult; catching a loose greyhound who doesn't want to be caught can be one of the most frustrating challenges one ever faces in greyhound rescue. Over the years we've heard dozens of stories about greyhounds running loose for months and even years and thought to be impossible to catch. The truth is that any grey can be caught with time, tools and patience.

The most common scenario is a new adopter with a shy or downright spooky grey. Any new experience can set off a run for freedom: a loud motorcycle, something blowing in the wind, or just a stranger moving to pet him. He panics, slips the collar and he's off. He hangs around the neighborhood, and sightings come in about him every day, almost always in the same general area. People hoping to catch him chase him, and of course he runs. As every day goes by he becomes more spooked. Soon the adopter gets frustrated with the search and gives up. What to do?

The first thing to do is to set up a feeding and watering station. It should be near where the dog has been sighted. He's going to be looking for food and if he finds a source, he'll keep coming back to it. To help him find it, put some stinky cat food in his bowl. Be consistent. Greyhounds are creatures of habit and if you are consistent, he'll keep coming back every day to the same place at the same time.

Methods of Greyhound Capture

Finesse Capture : If you are trying to capture a shy spooky hound and don't have access to a live trap, a finesse capture may be your only option. Things to try:

- ◆ When you or your volunteers see the hound, do not to chase or follow him. Make him think you have no interest in him. Turn away, don't make eye contact, sit down on the ground, and if you have a hound with you, give some treats to him. There is nothing that will make a hungry dog more curious than watching another dog eat.
- ◆ If he approaches you, stay on the ground, avoid eye contact and toss treats in his direction; gain his trust through his food motivation. Have a looped leash handy in case he approaches you.
- ◆ If he won't approach anyone and is fond of his crate, bring the crate to the location and set it up. Put his food in the crate and feed him there. Get him used to eating like he did at home.

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In Loving Memory...

It is with deepest sympathy that we say goodbye to the following beloved pets, canine and feline:

Billie & Jeff Armstrong	Princess
Lisa & Tom Coy	Fred
Mimi & Gary DeFranco	Prima
Tina & Michael Eisbacher	Byron
Christine & Jay Fox	Ghost
Meg LaLonde & Tracy Pritchard	Carey
Anna Mattison	Stryder
Kathy Maxwell	Morgan
Barbara and Don Sheldon	Tazz
Debra Smith	Sonny
Cindy Wiehrs & Hank Orr	Psycho



Tribute to a Best Friend

*Sunlight streams through window pane
unto a spot on the floor....
then I remember,
it's where you used to lie,
but now you are no more.*

*Our feet walk down a hall of carpet,
and muted echoes sound....
then I remember,
It's where your paws would joyously abound.*

*A voice is heard along the road,
and up beyond the hill,
then I remember it can't be yours....
your golden voice is still.*

*But I'll take that vacant spot of floor
and empty muted hall
and lay them with the absent voice
and unused dish along the wall.*

*I'll wrap these treasured memorials
in a blanket of my love
and keep them for my best friend
until we meet above.*

Author Unknown



The Last Battle

*If it should be that I grow frail and weak
And pain should keep me from my sleep,
Then will you do what must be done,
For this - the last battle - can't be won.*

*You will be sad I understand,
But don't let grief then stay your hand,
For on this day, more than the rest,
Your love and friendship must stand the test.*

*We have had so many happy years,
You wouldn't want me to suffer so.
When the time comes,
please, let me go.*

*Take me to where to my needs they'll tend,
Only, stay with me till the end
And hold me firm and speak to me
Until my eyes no longer see.*

*I know in time you will agree
It is a kindness you do to me.
Although my tail its last has waved,
From pain and suffering I have been saved.*

*Don't grieve that it must be you
Who has to decide this thing to do;
We've been so close - we two - these years,
Don't let your heart hold any tears.*

Author Unknown



Finding Your Lost Greyhound continued

- ◆ If he likes riding in the car, leave the car door open overnight. You may have a surprise waiting for you in the morning. Leave his own bedding near a bowl of food in places where he's been sighted. He may connect the bedding and food with home and stay close to the area.
- ◆ If possible, set up his feeding station in a fenced area with a gate. Closing a gate behind a hound is a lot easier than trying to get him to come to you.
- ◆ A squawker or predator call is a device that trainers use to recall hounds at the track. It usually works well for confident dogs, or dogs in a pack situation, like at the racetrack. It is a good tool to have in your bag of tricks, but be aware that it is nearly always a failure with shy, spooky greyhounds. If the dog doesn't react to it or runs from the noise, don't use it again; he's not going to be any more attracted to it on the second try.

Live Trap Capture : Some animal control officers and SPCA chapters have animal traps large enough for a greyhound; however, it is often a lesson in frustration locating and borrowing them. A humane live trap should be required equipment for greyhound adoption agencies. They are not inexpensive, but they can save hundreds of volunteer hours by offering a method of capture that is safe and effective. The best type of trap we've used is the Tomahawk Live Trap for large dogs found at www.livetrapp.com, or the Midwest Live Trap found at www.midwestcapture.com. The trap ordered should be large enough for a greyhound: at least 72" long by 20" wide by 26" tall. If your group can't afford one, perhaps you can pool resources with other groups in your area. It may save you many days of trying to capture a loose spooky hound.

Set the trap up in the area you have been feeding the dog. Once set up, feed the dog only in the trap. If the dog refuses to enter at first, don't take the food out of the trap. You want to train him to eat in the trap, he'll want to train you to take the food out of it. Greyhounds have sensitive feet. Most of these cage type traps have wire floors, so when setting the trap, put some sort of cushioning on the floor. A blanket or straw will work well. It's not uncommon to catch other critters in these traps first. Just release them and hope for better luck tomorrow.

Staying the Course : When you are trying to catch one of these hounds, you will get frustrated, angry and just plain tired. Some take a long time to capture. When one method doesn't work, try another. When you start getting negative feedback from people who have already given up, ignore it. There is nothing more rewarding than bringing a hound home after a long time on the run, and watching him thrive.



This issue of the GREATvine is largely devoted to the best steps to take in the event that the unthinkable happens and your beloved greyhound is lost. Michael McCann is well-known in the greyhound universe for his excellent track record in helping lost dogs make it safely home. He currently moderates an "Amber Alert" thread on www.greytalk.com.

Additional tips gleaned from greyhound lovers everywhere:

Place a sign on your car that can be seen as you drive slowly through areas, looking for your dog. This will alleviate concerns that you are casing the neighborhood and may prompt someone to write down the posted phone number if they happen to spot the dog.

Check out the information available www.greyhoundwalkingclub.com. Click on Lost Dog Cooperative. If you would be interested in starting a similar program in this area, please give us a call at (813) 971-4732.

Most of all, please call GREAT IMMEDIATELY at (813) 971-4732 if your dog gets lost! We have a network of members and other area groups that will put the word out, help you search, and contact you immediately if someone spots your dog. If we all work together, hopefully we can help bring your beloved grey home to you.



Adoptions

Wishing much happiness to these new greyhound homes and their new 4-legged family members!

Jeff Almoney & Jeff McGuire
 Esther & Jonathan Armstrong
 Laura & Frank Calci
 Chris Chartier
 Jennifer & Jerome Chester
 Kristen Coccozza & Brent Thomas
 Robin & Robert DelGuidice
 Claudia Duckworth
 Jodi Frazier & Eric Ballard
 Leslie & David Hardy
 Linda & William Hovan
 Donna & Chris Monagle
 Jennifer Noyes & Tom Sheehan
 Lauren Siple & Ryan Holcomb
 Bryan Sykes
 BJ & Steve Vosburgh
 Anita & Mark Weaver
 Pat & Russ Williams

Kiowa Mini Mike
 Seymour May
 John's Lovin
 Odd Ammo
 Mad Season
 Atascocita Austin
 Flying Alien
 Lazy Lightning
 Dusty Dog
 B Mac's Back Bay
 Jersey Janice

 Sol Nightmare
 Brenda's Lynn
 P's Rosehill
 TAC's Swetpotato
 Sassy Dame
 Oshkosh Spock

Apollo
 Fran
 Casey
 Ammo
 Caesar
 Austin
 Sam
 Lightning
 Dusty
 BeBe
 Janice
 Coco
 Nike
 Bren
 Isis
 Amber
 Darma
 Spock



GREAT Store Coordinators

DOG LOVERS - TAMPA

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

PET SUPERMARKET - BRANDON

Peg Hanks 813.707.5585

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Fred Freshcorn 813.885.3925

PETSMART - CLEARWATER

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PETSMART - TAMPA

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Kelly English 813.805.6635 (2nd Saturday)

Cindy Wiehrs 813.289.4386 (4th Saturday)

MUVICO – NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772 (Friday Nights)

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825 (Saturday Nights)

RAYMOND JAMES – ST. PETERSBURG

Diane Scheidle 813.258.9887

If you wish to volunteer at any of the above meet & greets, please phone the Store Coordinator to offer your assistance. If you wish to attend a volunteer orientation, please call the GREATline 813.971.4732 and leave a message. Volunteers are always needed!



Lucy Turns Fifteen!! by Eric & Amy Scheffler

Dear Friends,

Just wanted to let you know how proud we are of our Lucy. Today, April 4, 2005, is her 15th birthday!

Not many greys make it this long. She has lived with us for 13 years and we attribute her longevity to being a very much-loved part of our family for so long.

She can't hear worth anything anymore, she's got cataracts, but can still see, and still loves to romp with her younger sisters, Angel (11) and Maggie (10).



We just wanted to share this happy and exciting event with all of our friends who are animal lovers. And maybe Lucy will get some birthday greetings in return.

Happy Birthday, Lucy!!!! We love you.

Mom & Dad (Amy & Eric)
MALUMADOG@aol.com



Sandy Paws 2005 by Kelly Faircloth

Sandy Paws was loads of fun! Sprinkling and gray on Thursday, but we didn't care - that was during the travel time anyway. By late Thursday afternoon, no more rain. Friday, Saturday and Sunday were glorious days - low to mid-seventies and not a cloud in the sky! It did start to rain Saturday evening during the memorial for departed greyhounds, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits - we were under a tent and it was like the heavens were sharing in the sadness. Very appropriate.

Jekyll Island is beautiful and the beach is simply spectacular - wide, open expanses of sea and sand. The event is held during the off-season so it is very easy to just relax and spend quality time with your hounds. It's also a chance to see some other breeds you just don't see everyday; for example, there was another Saluki in attendance in addition to mine, and there was the most adorable bloodhound puppy you have ever seen - all wrinkles and ears! But the highlight of the weekend was beautiful greyhounds, as far as the eye can see.

It was so hard to pack up and say goodbye! While Greyhounds Reach the Beach in Dewey Beach, Delaware (the granddaddy of greyhound gatherings) is wonderful, it's so big that it can be somewhat overwhelming, even to those of us who have done it several times. Sandy Paws is a smaller celebration (although a committee member told me that the tally was around 450 people) and you really feel like you get to know many of the people there! The facilities were good too - somewhat old, but you really don't want anything brand-spanking new when you are traveling with dogs, and with the different "apartments" it was like living in a community devoted entirely to greyhounds!



Liz Lynch, Bonnet & Blake, enjoying sea & sand

All in all, it was a wonderful, wonderful time. Negotiations are under way for next year's event, which will be the first weekend in March 2006. Stay tuned for more information, and take a look at www.sandypaws.org to see more photos from the weekend. If you look through all the photos, you'll see GREAT had what we believe is the largest single group's representation - 30 members! We've been asked to help staff the "Rootique" which is the booth where official Sandy Paws items are sold. By helping in this area, we will become eligible to receive some of the proceeds from the event. It's our hope to have enough members attending next year so that each person might only work one hour at the Rootique... what an easy way to help GREAT raise money for the greyhounds!

Stay tuned for more information on next year's event, and we hope you'll decide to join us on the beach!



Carrabba's Italian Grill



April 23, 2005
11 am- 2 pm
700 North Dale Mabry Highway
Tampa, FL 33609-1273
(South Tampa location)



Get your tickets now for this wonderful luncheon that benefits GREAT! Tickets are \$15 (includes gratuity) for salad, entrée, pasta side dish, bread, non-alcoholic beverage and a slice of cheesecake. Eat in or take out.

Tickets will be available starting 3/12/05 at select events, or on our website at www.great-greyhound.org. If you purchase them from our website, you can use credit or debit cards or have PayPal deduct the price from your checking account. Tickets purchased directly at events will require cash or check. Ordered tickets will be mailed to you until the week before the event, and afterward they will be held for you at the event.

Please also tell your friends, family and co-workers, as there will be tickets available at the door. There will be volunteers with their greyhounds and foster greyhounds on the large outside patio, to talk to people about what it is like to own a greyhound.

Come on out and have lunch with us. There will be greyhounds, food and fun - what could be better? Hope to see you all there!



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