



The GREAT vine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Bob Varnberg, 8/7/44 - 3/23/2007

On Friday, March 23, 2007, Bob Varnberg, who co-founded Greyhound Adoptions of Florida with his wife Marilyn, passed away quietly in his sleep. A true greyhound advocate who saved hundreds and hundreds of greyhounds, he was a devoted husband and a wonderful friend. The world is a better place for having had Bob in it, and he will be deeply missed.



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*Bob, it seems that you knew they needed you,
So you slipped off quietly to see your crew,
You were greeted by needle nose gooses and wagging tails,
All the boys were there, and of course the gals,
They met you then they danced, there were lots of roos,
They knew you came to take care of all the broods
All the ones at the Bridge that never knew a home,
Saw your eyes and thought, no we're not alone,
This is Bob, the one they told us of,
The gentle man, so full of love,
Play gently with our angels, my friend
Take care of our babies till we all meet again.*

Pat Tarditi

Special points of interest:

- Onyx's Story
- How to use a Kong to alleviate anxiety
- Saving money on the things you need
- 1st Annual Parade of Greys - what's a little rain, anyway?

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Onyx, a Special Greyhound with Special Needs *by Janet Skinner*

Most ex-racing greyhounds make the transition from track to couch fairly effortlessly. For some, however, there may be a few behavioral and/or health problems that make the adjustment a little more difficult. Such has been the case with a beautiful 3-year-old black male greyhound named Onyx.

Onyx was picked up by GREAT on October 22, 2006 and underwent the standard veterinary procedures (vaccines, neutering and teeth cleaning) on October 23. From there he went to foster care.

On January 30, 2007, I received an e-mail from Carol Chilton asking me if I could foster Onyx for a week or two and evaluate him. During his time in foster care, Onyx had exhibited some housetraining issues (including eliminating in his crate), fearfulness (fear of the crate, men, children), and anxiety (possible Separation Anxiety.) I agreed to foster Onyx and he was delivered to my home the following night.

One of the first things I noticed was that Onyx was extremely thin for a dog who had been in foster care since October. I realized that he had recently had surgery to remove a hard rubber object from his stomach that he had ingested, but still made a mental note to myself that there might be other physical ailments that were contributing to Onyx's behavioral problems.

Onyx was already being treated for his anxiety with the drug, Elavil, which was changed to Clomipramine shortly after he came to my home. I believe that the medication made my job easier as it allowed Onyx to relax and to benefit from the training program that I implemented for him.

I immediately initiated some behavioral modification techniques to address Onyx's more obvious issues. First, I needed to communicate to Onyx my leadership status in the household. Since this is something that I already do each and every day with my own dogs, this did not require any change in my routine. Second, I needed to teach him that he really did not need to be glued to my hip every minute of the day. Third, I needed to teach Onyx some simple, basic behaviors that would allow him to gain some self-confidence and realize that he can make good things happen to him. Lastly, I needed to determine to what extent, if any, Onyx's physical problems might be causing his behavior, particularly the housetraining difficulties.

Leadership 101

Dogs are social animals and need to have the skills to learn how to get along with others. A respected, capable leader is essential to any group, be it canine or human. All dogs, particularly shy, unconfident dogs, need structure and need to know who the leader of their group is.

It is important to remember that leadership is not about force – it is about communication with your dog. By calmly conveying to your greyhound that you control all of the good things that he/she wants and needs, and that you are happy to provide those things in exchange for polite behavior, you are demonstrating leadership to your dog.

I was able to establish my leadership with Onyx very easily by controlling his access to all of the things he values: meals, treats, the backyard, walks, car rides, toys, and attention. This allowed me to communicate better with Onyx because he quickly learned that it is always in his best interest to pay attention to me. Why? Because I've got all the good stuff! With the lines of communication clearly established, Onyx was now ready to learn all the things he needed to know in order to function happily in my home.

Detaching the Velcro Dog

When Onyx first arrived at my home he was extremely unconfident and felt that he needed to be close beside me at



Onyx *continued*

all times. Dogs who exhibit this type of behavior are often referred to as "Velcro dogs." While some people may at first find this behavior to be kind of endearing, it is simply not practical or safe to have a large greyhound following you around that closely all of the time. In fact, on one of our very first leash walks in my neighborhood, Onyx nearly knocked me to the ground when his feet became entangled in mine. I knew that the reason he stayed so close to me was not because he loved me, but because he was scared. Encouraging that type of behavior would have been doing Onyx a real disservice.

My job as Onyx's foster mom is to teach him how to cope with life in his forever home. In order to do that, he needs to learn how to deal with temporary separation from his humans from time to time. So I began ignoring him completely when he followed me around the house; I did not look at him, speak to him, or touch him. As I went from room to room, I closed the door behind me so that Onyx could not follow me. I did not say anything, I just went. When I emerged from the room, I continued to ignore him and went about my business.



Onyx relishing an activity he couldn't enjoy before - munching on a duck stuffy!

The lesson that I was teaching Onyx was that I come and I go. I do it a lot and it is nothing for Onyx to worry about. The dozens and dozens of times a day that I left the room and returned served as "dress rehearsals" for those times when I would have to leave the house. By allowing Onyx to gradually get used to the idea of my being gone for a few seconds or minutes at a time, I was making it much easier for him to cope with longer separations as well. When I actually did leave the house or return, I utilized the same strategy, always keeping my arrivals and departures very low key. Because I did not make a big deal of my comings and goings, Onyx learned that he did not need to either.

This is not to say that I never paid any attention to Onyx. When I wanted to interact with Onyx, I initiated the exchange and rewarded him handsomely for paying attention to me on my terms, not his. Onyx did not lack for love and affection, but as the leader, I made the decision as to when and where it would be given.

Another tool that proved to be a tremendous aid to Onyx in coping with his anxiety was the Kong toy. His previous foster parents had introduced him to the Kong with good results. I continued "Kong therapy" by giving Onyx a frozen Kong stuffed with kibble and peanut butter each time I had to leave the house. Onyx is absolutely crazy about peanut butter and becomes so excited at the presentation of a peanut butter stuffed Kong that he really does not seem to care about anything else. In fact, Onyx has been in my home long enough to know the routine of my leaving for work - I think he cannot wait for me to leave now because it means he gets his Kong!

It was only a matter of weeks before I noticed a tremendous improvement in Onyx's ability to lie down and relax, whether I was moving about the house or leaving altogether. At the same time that I was working on the "Velcro dog" in the home, I also had to teach Onyx that the same thing applied while walking on leash outside. This was accomplished by my extending my arm out and holding the leash in such a manner that it was difficult for him to get too close to me. When he did veer in and touch my leg, I gently nudged him away and praised profusely when he was about 6 inches off my leg. I continued to praise him so long as he remained that short distance from me.

I also had one of my other dogs accompany us on all of our walks. Onyx is particularly fond of my 2-year-old Miniature



Onyx *continued*

Schnauzer, Joey, who does not suffer from a lack of confidence at all. Dogs are capable of "social learning" and I believe that our foster greyhounds benefit greatly from following the lead of the resident dogs in our homes. Simply observing that the resident dogs are not fearful of kids on bikes, balloons on realtor signs, and loud car noises can be a tremendous aid in convincing a fearful foster dog that there is no reason to be afraid.

When we did run into the inevitable "scary thing" while walking, I made sure that Onyx was able to stay far enough away from the perceived object of fear so as not to panic. Sometimes this meant crossing the street or allowing Onyx to move around to the other side of my body. All the while I would chatter on and on in a happy voice about whatever it was he was acting fearful of, saying "Oh, look at that silly trash truck! We just love those noisy old things, don't we, Onyx?" In utilizing this technique, I found that each time Onyx was exposed to the scary thing, he became less and less afraid. As his confidence grew and he realized that he did not have to be afraid, Onyx began to act more like a typical curious dog who wanted to investigate new and different things, rather than shy away from them.

Dog Training - The Key to Self Confidence

One of the most important concepts I needed to teach Onyx was that he could make good things happen to him by complying with my requests. In order to do this, I had to teach him a few basic behaviors and verbal cues.

I started with one of the simplest and easiest behaviors - target training. I presented the palm of my hand to Onyx (with a little peanut butter smeared on it) and waited for him to sniff my hand. When his nose touched my hand, I said, "Yes!" and gave him a treat. Once he caught on, I added the verbal cue, "Touch!" as I presented the palm of my hand.

Soon Onyx was tapping his nose on my hand quickly any time I held out my hand and said, "Touch!" Onyx was learning that he could get cookies out of me pretty easily by doing what I asked, and he apparently thought that was a pretty nice arrangement.

I am also working with Onyx on Come, Leave It, Give and Wait, all basic necessities for any dog. Onyx clearly enjoys the one-on-one attention and the fact that he gets lots of rewards when we play these games. At the same time, Onyx is building his confidence as he learns that the world is not so scary after all and actually offers lots of good stuff. The fact that he can make that good stuff happen by offering behaviors he knows that I like allows him to feel more in control of what happens to him. These training "games" have played a significant part in Onyx's continuing transformation into a confident, happy greyhound.

Training or Medical Problem?

Housetraining any dog or puppy is a relatively simple process. It is made much easier due to the fact that dogs naturally want to keep their sleeping and eating areas clean, and instinctively know not to eliminate there. That is why dog crates are so very useful in housetraining. However, since Onyx had eliminated in his crate at his previous foster home, I determined that in his case, crating wasn't going to solve the problem. I decided that a strict housetraining schedule, close supervision and management would be the best tools in Onyx's case. While Onyx did not have a crate to eliminate in, he did manage to urinate in my one carpeted room, as well as on a couple of my dog beds. On all occasions, just as in his other foster home, Onyx had just been outside and urinated.

I noticed very quickly that the volume of Onyx's urine was way beyond what I would consider to be normal. I was closely monitoring Onyx's water intake and it was nowhere near the amount of fluid that he was putting out. I was beginning to think that Onyx did not have a housetraining problem, but a medical problem instead.

On February 9, I brought Onyx and a urine specimen to Dr. Conrad's office. The tentative diagnosis was Diabetes In-



Onyx *continued*

insipidus (DI). Diabetes Insipidus is a disorder in which the kidney is insensitive to a hormone, called anti-diuretic hormone (ADH) or in which there is not sufficient quantity of this hormone available. The result is excessive drinking and urination. Dr. Conrad prescribed the hormone Desmopressin for Onyx, and advised that it could take up to three weeks to see any improvement.

Onyx responded remarkably well to the medication, which is easily administered as an eye drop, confirming Dr. Conrad's diagnosis of DI. Onyx is able to hold his urine all day while I am at work and has been accident-free for weeks now. While he does have a tendency to drink and urinate more frequently if he is stressed or engages in strenuous activity (like romping in the yard with Joey), Onyx's housetraining problems are now pretty much resolved.

Editor's Note: The reason we started to suspect Diabetes Insipidus is because Onyx's symptoms were remarkably like my own dog Clifford's symptoms, and Clifford was diagnosed by Dr. Conrad with Diabetes Insipidus in September 2006. At first, we couldn't believe it... Diabetes Insipidus is VERY rare, so the idea of having two non-related greyhounds in the same group with the same condition was hard to swallow! But sure enough, our suspicions were correct. Both Onyx and Clifford are doing well on their medications and have a normal lifetime ahead of them. For more information about this condition, please see <http://www.mirage-samoyeds.com/diabetes2.htm>. This excellent article explains the two types of DI and what causes each, and how to treat both types. By the way, at press time yet another GREAT member is treating his dog for the second type of DI (both Clifford & Onyx have the first type, the more common of the two) and she seems to be responding... so perhaps the condition isn't as rare as previously thought and in the past, could have been labeled a behavioral problem rather than a real medical condition.

Ready for a Forever Home

It has been a few rough months for Onyx, but things are really beginning to look up for him. Onyx's weight has increased from 67 to 76.6 pounds. The combination of Clomipramine and behavioral modification has helped to turn a frightened, unconfident dog into one who is starting to investigate his environment with normal canine curiosity. When he does encounter something scary, his reactions are becoming much less dramatic and he is recovering much more quickly. Housetraining is under control and the Soloxine that was prescribed for Onyx's hypothyroidism is causing his tummy and thighs to sprout all new hair growth. He still follows me around the house at times, but more often than not, he is happy just to lie on one of the dog beds and watch me as I go about my business. On our daily walks, Onyx frequently stops to "smell the roses" and walks well off my hip, flashing a big happy greyhound smile as he explores the neighborhood.



Onyx is finally learning to relax and enjoy his new life off the track. All he needs now is that special home that will appreciate what an extraordinary boy he is and help him to continue to build on the tremendous progress he has already made. I can only hope that Onyx's new family has as much fun as I have had in watching this sweet boy as he continues to blossom into a happy, confident and healthy greyhound!

While this article is longer than most, we felt that it was important to share this information with all greyhound parents... especially those dealing with greyhounds who have multiple issues. Many thanks to Janet for her time and efforts in helping us get to the bottom of what was troubling Onyx... and we hope her experience will be of benefit to all our members!

Onyx basking in the sun - a happy, healthy boy!



Adoptions

GREAT congratulates the following adopters on their new four-legged family members!

Patty & Casey Anderton
 Catherine & Craig Barrett
 Liana Bray
 Winston Carlee
 Jennifer & Bill Cavaliere
 Kimberly Dean
 Michelle DeCandia
 Camille Dillard
 Jennifer Freeman
 Joanne Gormley & Rebekah Mead
 Lindsey Graham
 Rex Haskin & Cathy Coughaine
 Charlene & Steve Hasley
 Bobbie & Tony Kovach
 Terri & Tim Lawhead
 Corinne & Wayne Lawrence
 Heather Manning & Jon Rosenfeld
 Bobbie & Jim McIntosh
 Marge & Jerry Middaugh
 Jean Miller & Gary Cepen
 Jane Mullins
 Janet & Larry Osalkowski
 Mindy Rackner-Salper & Bill Salper
 Laura Riess & Eric Bravick
 Rhonda Salyer & Al Menchen
 Mary & Steve Schoeneck
 Myra & Pete Schwarz
 Susan Shanahan & Bill Sinnott
 Tom Smith & Mia Masgai
 Sheri & John Stickles
 Paul, Jacklyn & Brandon Sweeney
 Michael Tonelli

Skiddy Quicksand
 Hey Lou
 Susan's Bonus
 Lady Courageous
 Balantine Ale
 Kaias Cochise
 Duke Daddy
 Desert Cowboy
 Dewey Rocknkacy
 Winning Reason
 Bob's Hammer
 WW Explode
 Gamblin Stan
 Cf's Ohwhatalady
 Wild Smashinggrab
 Crystal Charger
 Glengar Peg
 Critique

 Petit Filet
 Bellwether Munch
 Kay V Abigail
 Dewey Heartthrob
 Tx's Forget It
 Atascocita Swan
 ICU Backdraft

 Tp's Shake Em Up
 Hotfoot Nike
 Atascocita Apple
 Pat C Restrained

Quicksand
 Lou
 Beau
 Debra
 Bella
 Kooper
 Dugan
 Cowboy
 Lucy
 Reason
 Hammer
 Marvin
 Stan
 Cassie
 Victor
 Charger
 Peg
 Tiki
 Rocco
 Fresca
 Bella
 Gabby
 Robbie
 Dib
 Suwannee Ray
 Gabby
 Quinn
 Dani
 Amber
 Nike
 Apple
 Rose



An Artist in Our Midst

Congratulations to artist & GREAT member Susan O'Hara, who was recently featured in an article in the St. Petersburg Times! An excerpt:

"Susan O'Hara considers herself equally an artist and greyhound lover. So much so that the Belgian-born potter and sculptor, whose family immigrated to America by way of Cuba, has created a Web site that combines her love of both canine and clay."

To read the whole article, go to <http://www.sptimes.com/home.shtml> and search for "O'Hara". Several titles will come up - choose "Artist Shapes Love of Hounds in Clay." To see Susan's work, go to <http://www.greytgifts.com/>. In addition to Susan's artistic talents, she also coordinates our Brandon Petco meet & greet. Susan, we're proud of you!





Pawsitively Speaking by Janet Skinner, CPDT



Janet's beloved Annie, playing with "Squirrel Dude"

What did you do the last time that you were feeling a little stressed? Bite your nails? Light up a cigarette? Have a glass of wine? How about when you were a little bored? Maybe you turned on the TV or picked up the crossword puzzle from Sunday's paper?

Now, what do you suppose your greyhound would do if he/she were feeling a little stressed or bored?

If you said, "chew on something" you would be absolutely correct. Our greyhounds do not have the options for stress and boredom relief that we humans have at our disposal. But they do have teeth and jaws, as well as an innate need and desire to chew on stuff. For dogs, chewing is both a recreational activity and a major stress reliever. Dogs chew because it feels good and is just plain fun. When they are stressed for any reason, most dogs will resort to a good chew in order to feel better.

From the time that dogs are puppies, they use their teeth and mouths to explore their environment. Anything and everything is theirs to chew, unless they are taught otherwise. This means that until you specifically teach your greyhound that the remote control is not a chew toy, he/she may very well treat it like one. You can easily do this by interrupting your greyhound with an "Uh-oh" if you catch him/her chewing on an inappropriate object, then redirecting the dog to an appropriate chew toy and praising generously.

It is the responsibility of every dog parent to provide their canine friends with ample opportunities for chewing. It is also imperative that all dogs be provided with safe chew toys that are virtually indestructible and appealing

at the same time.

Fortunately for our greyhounds and us, there are many wonderful chew toys available for purchase these days, with new ones coming out on the market all the time. My favorites are hard rubber toys that can be stuffed with all kinds of goodies, such as freeze-dried liver, cream cheese, or peanut butter mixed with kibble.

The most popular and well-known stuffable chew toy is the Kong. Kongs come in a variety of sizes and shapes, the most common being the beehive-shaped cone. All of these products are designed to be stuffed with some type of food in order to make the toy more appealing to your dog. Once the food is eaten from the Kong, many dogs will continue to lick and chew on their Kong toy contentedly or bounce it around the room.

To get the most out of the Kong, I recommend that you first stuff it, and then freeze it overnight. When you present the frozen Kong to your greyhound, he/she will have to work that much harder and longer to clean it out. This provides your dog with plenty of exercise for his/her mouth and teeth, and precious quiet time for you!

I highly recommend that all greyhound parents invest in a Kong or two, or a similar product. Premier Pet Products makes a wonderful toy called the Squirrel Dude, a sturdy little purple squirrel that can be stuffed with dry or wet goodies. Squirrel Dude was my Annie's very favorite chew toy -- she would spend hours happily trying to get every last lick of peanut butter out of it!

By providing a safe and delicious chew toy for your greyhound, you will be giving him/her an outlet for the instinctive need to chew. Not only will access to chew toys help to alleviate your dog's stress or boredom, but it will also help you to keep your belongings safe from potentially destructive greyhound teeth. So go ahead and try it - and be creative with your stuffing. Your greyhound will be most appreciative!

Janet Skinner is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and the owner of Think Pawsitive! Dog Training LLC. She is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, member of GREAT, and a longtime Greyhound advocate. For more information about her positive training methods or to schedule training for your dog, contact her at 727-784-5529 or thinkpawsitive@att.net.





Buying Guide for Greyhound Stuff! *by Carol Chilton*

There are myriads of websites for greyhound collars, greyhound coats, greyhound jewelry, greyhound heartworm preventives, greyhound people stuff -- and the list goes on! Here are some that have been used by GREAT members that are recommended.

For a high quality ID tag that can be engraved on both sides, giving space for plenty of phone numbers, one can order and receive within days from:

www.boomerangtags.com

If quiet dog tags are preferred to jingling tags, see:

www.quietspot.com

www.longdogleatherworks.com

Heartworm preventatives by veterinary prescription can be ordered from several websites. Be sure to compare prices and shipping as they do fluctuate from time to time. Frontline Plus, Advantage, Advantix and Preventic collars (safe for greyhounds) can also be found on many of these websites, and also nutritional supplements and vitamins:

www.absolutelypets.com

www.entirelypets.com

www.bullwrinkle.com

www.1800petmeds.com

www.drsfostersmith.com

www.petpharmacopia.com

Looking for dog beds at a reasonable price? Check out:

www.drsfostersmith.com

www.llbean.com

www.orvis.com

And now for the spiffy items -- gorgeous, sturdy though decorative collars and leashes can be found in abundance. These collars and leashes, even made of velvet, can be kept fresh and new by laundering in a lingerie bag

right in your own clothes washer; then allowed to drip dry. Here is just a sampling of many vendors:

www.mrsbones.com

www.2houndsdesign.com

www.aroundthehounds.com

For dog coats:

www.kriskoats.com

www.k9apparel.com

www.cottagehoundsdesigns.com

For greyhound jewelry for people:

www.voyagersjewelrydesign.com

www.black-horse-design.com

www.goldenhound.com

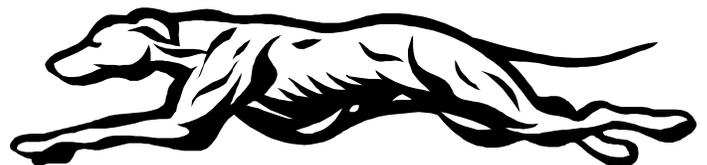
Clothes for people:

www.runwithitemb.com

www.fastjack.com

www.greytwear.com

Let your fingers do the shopping via these websites -- and have a good time!





Barnaby Saves a Life

Hi to you all good people! I received the following letter today (1/22/07) from Marianne Marks who "baby sat" Barnaby over the Thanksgiving Holiday and wanted to share it with you.

Barnaby's Proud Papa,

Burke

Good morning Barnaby and Burke!

I have a message to sweet Barnaby from my dear neighbor, Jeff, who fell in love with Barnaby and sat with him while I was out for 2 hours and enjoyed walking him with me everyday. Jeff was ignoring his health.....and, he noticed when we went for long walks he had to stop every few minutes because he couldn't breath well. It happened every day and when Barnaby went home Jeff stopped walking. For some strange reason, Barnaby sensed Jeff was not well and really took a liking to him.

WELL, HE'S IN NORTHSIDE HEART HOSPITAL and just had a double triple heart bypass and he says if it were not for Barnaby he wouldn't be alive today because he would have ignored the symptoms that got worse with exercise. He asked that I have a photo of Barnaby made for him (which I did and I framed it too). See you soon.....promise!

Auntie Marianne

Monthly Meet & Greets (Please see online Event Calendar for other appearances)

DOG LOVERS - TAMPA

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

PETCO - BRANDON

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETSMART - CLEARWATER

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Cindy Wiehrs 813.289.4386

MUVICO - NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772 (Friday Nights)

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825 (Saturday Nights)

Volunteers are always needed!!

If you have not yet been to volunteer orientation & wish to attend, please email Dave & Leslie Hardy at daveles@mindspring.com.



Parade of Greys! by Kelly Faircloth

We knew Parade of Greys was going to be a big undertaking, but boy, is that an understatement! On the day of the event, a nor'easter raged across the Eastern half of the country, and while we in Florida didn't have to deal with the snow and ice that our northern neighbors got to experience, it felt like the beginning of hurricane season! But the forecast said the storms would be brief and thankfully, it was right... the storm did indeed blow over and we were able to enjoy the rest of the morning. And enjoy it we did! There was free food, raffles, vendors including including EARS (the disaster response team, which we thought was pretty darn appropriate!), WAG (with the cutest temporary tattoos for greyhounds), The Barkery with yummy dog treats, Coats & Collars, J & J All Natural Pet Supplies (and they had our cruise info with them too!), Neena's Greyt Collars (with new, CUTE patterns), Couch Potato Greyhound Supplies Pawsitively Dazzling with really pretty hand-beaded bracelets, and Joyce McCarthy & Stephenie Sasse selling plants, baked goods and jars of homemade muffin mix! We also had micro-chipping by Amanda Weigman and Liz Lynch of GREAT, and nail trimming by GPA. In addition, each group had their own merchandise for sale AND last but not least, we had the fabulous DJ Sonny from Platinum Productions as our Master of Ceremonies!



Ready for Mother Nature!



Oooh, I hear shopping in the rain... 🎵

There are so many others to thank: all the folks who donated and/or solicited wonderful items for the goodie bags, prizes and the raffles including Kelli Chickos, Cyndi Rennick, the Jeffs, Tony & Bobby Kovach, Liz Lynch, Neena Derf, Wiggles, Wags & Whiskers, Karen Powers, Laura Calci, GPA, GGF, Kelly Brummet, Pro Plan, Arline Isaacson, Fluffy Puppies, the volunteers who worked to make this crazy day fun despite the weather including Dave & Leslie Hardy, Beth Hood, Karen & Cliff Powers, Laura & Frank Calci, Judy & Carl Ilse, Del & Robin Del Guidice, Norma Rogers, Carol Chilton, JoAnn Copertino, BJ Vosburgh, Cyndi Rennick, Lindsey Graham, Raina Hamann, Pat LeMarr, Pam Thomas, Laura Riess & Eric Bravick, Brenda & John Robert Harrell, Jodi Frazier, and all the groups and their volunteers for being excited about the opportunity to get together and do something fun and good for greyhounds! If I've forgotten someone, please know that it's my own brain that is faulty and we GREATLY appreciate your help!

Lastly, I know you are all curious about how much we raised! We STILL have donations coming in, but so far we have raised over \$5,500! We'll have a final total for you soon, but in the meantime, each group has a supply of the shirts and mugs to sell if you'd like to get one or both... for more information, please let me know!

So, all in all, it was a wonderful day, and we're already talking about next year! If you would be interested in serving on a planning committee for next year's walk, please do let me know. Planning will begin by the end of May... so stay tuned for that!





Parade of Greys *continued*

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

Brindle Level (\$250-\$349)

Kanter Accounting Innovations, P.A.

Brad S. Kanter, E.A.

www.kanterpa.biz

(813) 849-5795

Platinum Productions

James "DJ Sonny" Hill

www.myspace.com/platinum_productions

(727) 479-3346

Fawn Level (\$100-\$249)

Think Pawsitive Dog Training

Janet Skinner, Certified Pet Dog Trainer

www.thinkpawsitive.net

(727) 784-5529

In loving memory of Annie

Neena's Greyt Collars

Neena Derf

(941) 723-1170

nderf@tampabay.rr.com



Can greyhounds swim?





Forever in Our Hearts...

With Greyt sadness, we say goodbye to the following beloved pets, canine & feline:

Becky & David Bortnick
 Susan, Gracie & Jimmy Doherty
 Tina & Michael Eisbacher
 Ann & Tom Eupizi
 Trish & Steve Farber
 Charlene & Steve Hasley
 Joanie & Rami Huff & Stu Dawson
 Arline Isaacson
 Kobie, Scott & Zeke Pierce
 Meg LaLonde & Tracy Pritchard
 Heather Manning & Jon Rosenfeld
 Amy & Eric Scheffler
 Janet Skinner
 Pam, Joe & Cat Thomas
 Judy & Wayne Ward
 Nikki & Russ West
 Kimberly Wolverton
 Gail & Joe Zeman

Prairie
 Melody
 Emma
 Kiwi
 Shadow
 Buffy
 Runner
 Beamer
 Racer
 Punkin
 BeBe
 Angel
 Annie
 Baby
 Kicks
 Sam
 Jakob
 Candy



Sammy by Nikki Smith



Sammy (Apache Rambler), 8/2/99 - 3/31/07

From the moment we met him, we knew that Sammy was our special guy. I always felt like he really had genuine love and thoughtfulness in his eyes when he would look at me. He loved to run in the back yard and could often be found stretched out on the grass basking in the sun.

He was a huge fan of the “walk” and had us all quite trained. If you were putting on your shoes or opening the back door the only reason had to be you were taking Sam for a walk.

He was an all around easy going, cheerful little man with the softest coat and the cutest teddy bear ears. We will miss him terribly. Words cannot express the loss we feel in our hearts.





Runner *by Joanie Huff*

Runner was a very gentle and regal guy. We called him Cary Grant because he was so handsome and charming. We adopted him about 9 years ago as a friend for Tess, our female greyhound, and we fell so in love with him from the start. He had an unusual way of looking at you and telling you how he felt.

Runner loved Stu. Runner was always sooo happy when Stu came home. They played “keep away” and “try to get my toy” on the bed every night. He was so smart he knew when you’d go after his feet, to try to trick him into dropping the toy.

He used to love to go to the park and lay in the water when he got too hot. I remember him hogging the swimming pool at the picnics too!!!!

He was a quiet boy that liked to hang out with Stu in the barn or in his office on the bed. We loved him and will miss him terribly. We are so lucky to have had him in our lives and family.



Runner (GoRun Otherbro), 11/14/94 - 3/26/07

Annie *by Janet Skinner*



Annie (Wicked Whisper), 4/23/95 - 2/18/07

Annie was one in a million.

For those of you who had the pleasure of meeting Annie, I am sure you will remember her spunky, happy demeanor. She was always so happy – she made me smile each and every day.

Annie was my agility partner, my Rally-O Dog, my Project PUP buddy, and my oldest and dearest friend.

Her passing has left a hole in my heart that will take a long, long time to heal.

May you run and play at the Rainbow Bridge, sweet girl, until we see each other again!



Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

P.O. Box 152407
Tampa, FL 33684-2407

Phone: 813-971-4732

www.great-greyhound.org

E-mail:
GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org

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Remembering Bill Heim *by Kelly Faircloth*

Bill Heim, a GREAT member for several years and one of our regular Santas for the PetSmart holiday photo event, passed away on 1/26/07. GREAT offers our deepest sympathy to his wife Cathy and his sons William and Nathan, and all of his family and friends.

Bill was an intelligent, nice man and a funny one too... he always reminded me every year that Cathy couldn't wait until Santa photos were over so he could go home and shave. Several of my own dogs had their holiday pictures taken with Bill over the years, and he loved doing it... if I was late calling the Heims for their shift, they called me. He'll be missed by all of us at GREAT and by his colleagues and students at USF as well.

The Tampa Tribune and St. Pete Times have each published a wonderful tribute to Bill. You can find these articles at

<http://www.tbo.com/news/metro/MGBASY8AVXE.html>

and

<http://tinyurl.com/34kkst>



Bill with my girls Bitsy (Italian Greyhound) and Cindy, one of the few photos in existence where Cindy isn't hiding from the camera lens.