



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Care For Life - a Winning Solution



Captain gets a new family!

From time to time, we hear from potential adopters (or from existing foster homes!) that they would love to adopt a special needs or senior dog, but they are concerned that the dog will require medical care in the future that they may not be able to afford. This has been a dilemma for GREAT since our inception... what do we do to encourage people to adopt dogs that have a health condition or a limited number of years left?

Over the last couple of years, we have formulated an incentive program called "Care for Life" which we have put into place in order to make it easier for families to adopt dogs with issues... in some cases, the medication may be expensive, or the potential for expensive vet work in the future is probable, or the dog is a senior with limited time left but still needs to be able to call someplace home! Basically it's an adoption agreement with an extra adden-

dum that stipulates certain items that will be covered by GREAT for the life of the contract or the dog... and it's tailored to each situation. For example, Captain, our most recent Care for Life adoption, has diabetes insipidus which requires daily medication. This medication is not as expensive as it once was, but it's not cheap either, and the amount that the dog needs could fluctuate. In addition, while dogs with this condition have normal lives as long as they are well-managed, there may be the potential for periodic lab tests, etc. These things, quite understandably, were an obstacle preventing us finding a permanent home for Captain, so he became eligible for the Care for Life program.

His adoption agreement states that GREAT will cover the cost of his medication as well as any further testing or medical needs related to his condition, but all other medical needs, including heartworm prevention, dentals, annual wellness exam, etc. will be the responsibility of his adopter. It's a win-win situation... GREAT no longer has the full financial responsibility for his care as we would if he remained a foster dog indefinitely, and his adoptive family has gained a sweet, wonderful companion who will bring them years of joy, without the extra financial burden that adopting a special needs dog can bring.

So as you can see, this is a great program that makes it possible for these sweet dogs to find a home without breaking the bank for their families!

There are a couple of things to remember. GREAT reserves the right to decide which dogs are eligible for the Care for Life program. In addition, ONLY dogs that are currently in foster care may be considered... if a dog develops a special need after adop-

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Special points of interest:

- Care for Life
- Community Outreach
- Adoptions
- Good Leash Manners
- In Memory...
- Tips to keep your dog safe

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Care For Life... *Continued*

tion, we cannot assume responsibility for that condition. Each contract is written to apply to that specific dog... so the Care for Life agreement for a 14 year old greyhound may be quite different from the agreement for a dog with a degenerative spinal condition.

This program has already made it possible for us to place dogs that might otherwise have remained in foster care for years and years!

If you'd like to know more about our Care for Life program and which dogs are currently eligible, please contact us at (813) 971-4732 or you can email GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org. If you are unable to consider a special needs or senior adoption but would like to support this

program, please consider sending a donation to the following address:

GREAT, Inc.
Attn: Care for Life Program
P.O. Box 152407
Tampa, FL 33684-2407

Or if you prefer to donate through PayPal with a credit card, debit card or direct debit from your account, you can go to our website at www.great-greyhound.org and on the left side of the page, click on "How You Can Help." Click on "Sponsorship Form" and you will be able to fill out the form, designate what type of donation you are making, add comments, and then go to PayPal to finish the transaction. Thank you for your support!

GREAT Goes to School *by Leslie Hardy*

Tony & Bobbie Kovach and their greyhound Cassie, joined Apple the foster dog and me for a presentation to Barbie Monty's fifth grade class at Carrollwood Day School during the first week of March. It was a delightful experience. The students were extremely interested in the dogs and the care they received before, while, and after racing. The class was small, only 15 students, therefore, we were able to sit down and talk—not just "lecture."

It is a truly uplifting experience to see the enthusiasm and interest that these students exhibited. We were all very happy that we had an opportunity to work with these children.

A second opportunity presented itself to us on April first—yes it was April Fools Day, but this pair of presentations touched approximately 100 students at St Anthony's Interparochial Catholic School in San Antonio. Due to size of our audiences, this was a completely different experience. Laurel and Abby and Burke and Barnaby joined me for this event.

We met with the students and teachers on the basketball court in the park across the street from the school. It was a gorgeous day with shade for the dogs and a lovely breeze. We met with the younger children first and even though the oldest were only in third grade they interacted with terrific questions and answers.

Following the first presentation we had a long break in a nice cool classroom in the school. The dogs had a nice

rest and the adults had a very good lunch and rest. Then we went back to the park and met with the middle-school grades. Even though it was midday and getting warmer the students were very attentive and interacted very well with both adults and dogs.

These presentations allow us to reach an entire new generation who will hopefully let the voices and their hearts be heard. It is through these little steps that big changes can be made. I would love to have more people involved in the school program. That way we could carry a message even further. If you are interested in joining us in our school and community outreach, please contact me at daveles@mindspring.com.



Leslie, Tony, Bobbie & Cassie lead a group discussion



Adoptions

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

Chris Ales
 Tracie Barrett & John Palli
 Sheri & Larry Burgroff
 Sheri & Larry Burgroff
 Rachel & Joshua Choate
 Janet & Mark DuBois
 Betty & Fred Freshcorn
 Shelley Meguiar
 Mary & James Noe
 Susan & Joe O'Hara
 Peggy & Peter Smith
 Alan Solowitz
 Pam & Joe Thomas
 Kimberly Wolverton

PG's Captain
 Altered Wind
 Goodbye Sheila
 Kaias Player
 My Hunch
 Altered Wind
 Kiowa Baby Yokel
 Atascocita Yentl
 GLO's King Elvis
 Lil Claribel
 CNC Gold Glitz
 Hot Foot Akeem
 Silver Bongo
 M's Pretty Nancy

Captain
 Midnight
 Sheila
 Player
 Lex
 Midnight
 Yokel
 Yentl
 Elvis
 Clare
 Chloe
 Rom
 Zoey
 Nancy



Cruise Reminder

Just a quick reminder on the important dates for the cruise:

- ◆ \$25 due at the time of your reservation, up until June 18, 2008.
- ◆ \$225 due on June 19, 2008.
- ◆ Remaining balance due on September 2, 2008.

Remember, you can always make partial payments between these dates as well, and in fact, many of us plan to do exactly that! Also, if you haven't made your reservation yet, the daily fuel surcharge will go up to \$7 on April 21, 2008. Reservations that were made before April 21 will be locked in at the daily fuel surcharge of \$5.

Check out www.great-greyhound.org for more information!

Monthly Meet & Greets

DOG LOVERS - TAMPA

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

MUVICO – NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772 (Friday Nights)

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825 (Saturday Nights)

PETCO - BRANDON

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

BJ Vosburgh 813.920.6477

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Cindy Wiehrs 813.289.4386

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETSMART - CLEARWATER

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286

Please see online Event Calendar for other appearances!



Pawsitively Speaking *by Janet Skinner, CPDT*

While many greyhounds seem to instinctively know how to walk politely on leash, there are those who need a little extra tutoring in that department. The good news is that through the use of positive training techniques and the proper equipment, any greyhound can learn to be a joy to take for a walk.

One of the most frequent complaints that I hear as a dog trainer is, "My dog pulls on the leash – he's dragging me all over the place!" This is a common frustration with all dog breeds, not just greyhounds. Understanding what motivates dogs to pull on the leash is critical to solving the problem.

For starters, dogs have four legs to our two. They naturally move at a much faster pace than we do, and no doubt find our sluggish pace quite annoying. They also have a much greater sense of smell than we humans do and are exposed to an incredible array of exciting scents every time they step outside. As sighthounds, our greyhounds have an additional heightened visual sense that can also create the urge to bound ahead of us to check things out. The world is a fascinating place, especially for a greyhound who may have spent all or most of his life at the dog track or breeding farm. With all of that in mind, can you really blame your greyhound for being overly enthusiastic about going for a walk?

Knowing that your greyhound is strongly motivated to move forward and get to all that exciting stuff, you are now going to use that to your advantage. You will teach your greyhound that in order to move forward, he must walk on a loose leash, which means that there can be absolutely no tension on the leash. He can get to where he wants to go, but *only* if he does not pull.

You will need some basic tools to teach your greyhound to do this: a four – six foot nylon, cotton or leather leash; some soft bite-sized treats (such as Puppperoni, string cheese, sliced hot dogs); and a good supply of patience! Start off by giving your dog a verbal cue, such as "Let's go!" to signal that you are going for a walk. As you are walking, if your greyhound pulls and the leash is tight, **stop walking immediately**. Hold the leash close to your mid-section and slightly bend your knees to support yourself against the weight of your dog. You want the dog to feel as if he is tied to a dead weight and is going absolutely nowhere. While some dogs are more persistent than others, most will fairly quickly turn to look back at their handler as if to say, "Hey, what gives? Why did we stop?" When the dog does so, he will cause the leash to slacken, which is your cue to treat and praise, then continue on with the walk.

While it may sound pretty simple, you will probably find at first that after taking another step or two, your greyhound is pulling again. Terrific! You now have another opportunity to stop, treat and praise when the leash slackens, and then continue on with your walk. This is where that "good supply of patience" comes in handy, because it can be a little frustrating in the beginning to have to keep stopping. But it is crucial that you repeat this each and every time that your dog pulls so that he can get the message that the good thing (going forward for a walk) stops when he is pulling, and that it starts up again (along with a yummy treat) when he is not pulling. Dogs learn by making associations, and the association that you want your greyhound to make is ***that the "good stuff" happens when he is not pulling on the leash.***

You can speed up the process of teaching loose leash walking by using one of the new front-fastening harnesses that are on the market. Unlike most dog harnesses, these harnesses attach to the leash at the *front* of the dog's chest, rather than on his back. (Traditional harnesses can actually encourage pulling because you get the "mushing" effect – the pressure on the dog's back may make him think he needs to pull even harder.)



Janet's dog Alex modeling front-fastening harness

With the front fastening harness, if the dog attempts to pull ahead, he is instead turned back toward the handler. This can help to eliminate the step of stopping and waiting for the dog to look at you and slacken the leash because he will do it automatically while wearing the harness. You can quickly give a yummy treat, praise, and proceed on your walk, usually with a lot less pulling fairly quickly. Two



Pawsitively Speaking *Continued*

of the more popular front fastening harnesses are the Easy Walk Harness (available at PetSmart or petexpertise.com) and the SENSE-ation Harness (available at softouchconcepts.com).

Lastly, try and make yourself more interesting than everything else that is going on in the environment while out on your walks. Most people have a tendency to simply walk along, lost in their own thoughts while walking their dogs. Instead, try talking to your greyhound while you are out walking, praising him when he is walking nicely at your side. This will not only reinforce the polite leash-walking behavior that you want, but will also cause your dog to look at you more. Your greyhound is much less likely to be pulling ahead if he is looking at and listening to you, his exciting person! You can also try bringing your greyhound's favorite squeaky toy along on your walks and pull it out of your pocket as a surprise to redirect his attention toward you. This can be particularly helpful during those inevitable moments when a squirrel darts out in front of you, tempting your greyhound to lunge after it.

I am a firm believer that dogs who are walked regularly by their families are not only physically healthier, but are much better socialized and confident as a result. It is well worth the investment in time and effort to train your greyhound to walk politely on leash so that you can both enjoy years of pleasurable strolls together.

Editor's Note: GREAT also recommends, uses and sells on our website the "No-Pull" harness, patented by Wiggles, Wags & Whiskers. This harness has a "martingale loop" on the back which tightens in exactly the same way as the martingale or sighthound collars do, and also features velvet straps on the part of the harness that goes under the dogs front legs, minimizing irritation. We particularly recommend this harness if you have a spooky dog or a dog that is an expert at slipping his collar. Since every dog is different, you may have to experiment to find the solution that works best for your dog.

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, a 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. There is also information available on Janet's website at www.thinkpawsitive.net.

Parade of Greys!



The walk in progress!

The 2008 Parade of Greys walkathon was a tremendous success, raising more than \$9,000 net, almost double the funds that we raised in 2007! A special thanks to our sponsors (listed below), our wonderful vendors, the students of University of Tampa, and the volunteers from both groups who helped to make this event successful!

- ◆ DeBartolo Holdings
- ◆ PETCO Foundation
- ◆ Think Pawsitive!
- ◆ Neena's Greyt Collars
- ◆ NorthCoast Greyhounds, Inc.
- ◆ V.I.E.W.S. Decals

We hope next year's event will be even bigger and better! The date is not determined yet due to the Super Bowl taking place in Tampa next year, but stay tuned for more information, coming soon!



Keeping up with greyhounds isn't easy!





Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Sheri & Larry Burgroff | Andre |
| Carol Chilton | Sir Guy |
| Kelly & Melinda Faircloth | Buster |
| Kathy & Greg Hoffman | Bowden |
| Arline Isaacson | Blue |
| Laurie, Richard & Rachel Kane | Holly, foster dog |
| Karen & Bob Lawrence | Ollie |
| Anna Mattison | Xuxa |
| Mary Jo Mohalski & Michael Mosley | Rambler |
| Cheryl & Tom Orr | Grace |
| Jessica & Justin Rice | Guinness |
| Norma Rogers | Benji |
| Norma Rogers, Robin & Del Del Guidice | Pepper, foster dog |
| Diane Scheidle & David Schaffer | Dino |
| Peggy & Peter Smith | Stormy |
| Norma Rogers & Pamela Wiseman | Nikki |
| Marilyn Varnberg | Buffy |
| B.J. & Steve Vosburg | Scooby, foster dog |



What a Dog Would Say *by Catherine Coulter*

When I was actively practicing law, I had occasion a number of times both for clients and for my own family to draft Directive to Physicians. These documents, together with a Power of Attorney for Health Care, instruct treating doctors and the family what to do if and when the person is not able because of illness and incapacity to make health care decisions.

I have often thought that it unfortunate that dogs are not able to hire a lawyer to draft similar documents for them.

If they could, I think this is what the documents would say.

"I do not understand treatment protocols, I do not understand many of things you talk to my veterinarian about. I do understand one thing--I understand pain. I am not like you. If you have a terminal disease, you can talk to your doctor and make the decision about your life. If your doctor tells you that you have a terminal disease that will end in pain and suffering, you can make the decision for yourself. You can say to your doctors, "I understand that I am dying and there will be pain at the end, but I am willing to put up with pain to see Paris one last time." I am not like you. I live in the moment and that is one of the things you love about me. My nature is not yours. I hide my pain because I am a pack animal and the pack is threatened if the members are weak. This is my nature. I may be in much more pain than you realize, but I cannot let anyone know. Because I love you and want to do what you ask, I will try to respond if you ask me to go for a walk or play with a toy. That does not mean I feel better or that I am trying to tell you it is not my time.

I do not understand why I ever have to be in pain, but if I must have pain for a while to get well and live a happy life again, I will trust you to make that decision for me. If I am in pain and I will not get well, I also trust you to make another kind of decision.

I know that making the decision to let me go will cause you great pain and sorrow. But if you delay that decision I am the one who will suffer because I cannot speak and I cannot tell you it is my time. I have no power, and I am completely at your mercy. If you love me, you must let me go while there is still a light in my eyes. Do not worry that you might make the decision to let me go too soon. If it is too soon, you will never know. If it is too late, you will live with the guilt for the rest of your life.





What a Dog Would Say... *Continued*

If you loved me, as I know you did, rejoice in the time we had, treasure the unique relationship we had. But also know that the greatest affirmation of the joy and love we shared is that your home and your life are not complete if you choose to live alone after I am gone. There is no greater compliment to me than for you to say that your life is not complete without another to share your life. You are not replacing me, because what we had is unique. But love is like a well that never runs dry. Because you loved me, you will be able to love another of my kind and your life will be richer and happier for it."

I would like to say that my opinion on this matter is theoretical, but I am sorry to say that it is the result of many years of waiting too long with too many dogs.

No No Nikki *by Norma Rogers & Pamela Wiseman*

Norma's Story: Nikki came into our lives at the age of 13 as a result of her original family moving to the cold weather of Wisconsin and deciding not to subject their senior greyhound girl to the snowy winter weather. In addition to the climate change, Nikki would have been required to climb stairs in the new multi-level home even though she never learned how to navigate stairs. Her former mom approached us at the Lakeland Meet & Greet in hopes of finding her a Florida home for her final years. She was originally adopted from Sarasota and her original adoption papers had been lost and there was a long waiting list with the GPA group who specializes in seniors, so I opened my home, temporarily, to Nikki in the summer of 2006. She soon became a permanent part of the family as she immediately insisted that she should be loved, petted and admired as the princess she knew she was. Never knowing a stranger, this small brindled bundle of love and affection added warmth to the household of greys, cockers and mixed breeds. When health matters required me to reduce the animal household chores, Pamela Wiseman asked to take Nikki into foster care and became Nikki's wonderful 3rd mom.

Pamela's Story: Around the end of October, 2007 Nikki came into my household just like a well-fitted glove. She already knew Kaleb (greyhound) and Emma (IG) from their many visits to Norma's house, however, deO'gee (yorkie) was the one who did not know her and he usually always tried to show the new guy on the block who was boss. Surprise! From the start he accepted Nikki and never once showed any aggression toward her. Nikki was immediately just "one of the family" and was a joy to have around. Her play times were so fun to watch.

When Norma knew that she would not be able to take Nikki back, it was decided that she would stay with us forever. She was 14 years of age, and while she was not expected to be with us for a long time, it we didn't expect her to leave us so soon. Nikki started to have seizures and on Wednesday, January 30, she did cross over the Rainbow Bridge.

She gave us so many good memories. She is missed but not forgotten.

When It Is Time *by Kelly Faircloth*

Back in 2001, one of my dogs was no longer able to stand on his own but was large and difficult to carry. The thought of struggling to get him into the car and then back out again had me in tears every time I thought about it, which caused me to delay the decision longer than I should have.

Finally, a member of GREAT told me about a mobile vet in the Tampa area. I made the appointment for the vet to come to my house, and when the day came, we got to spend time saying goodbye before the vet & vet tech did their part. They were kind and comforting, and while we grieved, we also were at peace knowing that our dog's last moments were here at home in the heart of his family.

If you find yourself in similar circumstances, knowing that it is time but unable to take that drive, do ask your vet if they will come to your home to provide this service. Many vets will do so, especially for long-time clients. Or, you can use www.vetlocator.com to find a vet in your area that makes house calls. It won't get any easier to say goodbye, but hopefully the knowledge that your pet is surrounded by all that he loves will help ease your pain at having to let him go.



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Lost Hounds *by Kelly Faircloth*

Almost every week, we get at least one phone call from someone who has either lost a greyhound, or found one. Almost invariably, the folks that have found dogs tell us the same thing: There is no collar, and therefore no tags. Ear tattoos may or may not be readable, and even if we can read them, the information in the racing database may not give us any clue as to current ownership. And as we all know, micro chips are only as good as the information that has been registered with them, and sadly too many people either never register the chip at all, or move and do not update their contact information with the micro chip company. Just in the last 2 weeks, GREAT has been involved in getting 4 lost/found dogs back into safe territory.

While there is no way to fully guarantee that no dog will ever get loose or make a break for it, there are some things you can do to minimize the likelihood of something happening to your dogs.

Don't assume that a well-trained dog will always obey. I can't tell you how many times I've been assured "oh, he won't run off" only to have the dog do exactly that. Dogs have minds of their own AND they don't speak "human." Assuming that you will always be able to predict what they will do and when they will do it is a recipe for tragedy. By all means train them, but don't take chances with their lives.

Be wary of doors, windows, leaving dogs outside without supervision, holes or gaps in fencing, short fences, gates that aren't locked, car doors and hatches, and screen porches. GREAT has had dogs that have bolted through doors that were only open a couple of inches (all it takes is a gap the width of your dog's nose, and he can force his way through). We've had dogs jump through windows (open AND closed), break through fencing, dig under fencing, jump over fences as high as 4 feet tall, leave through gates that the meter reader left open by accident, and run right through screen. We've had dogs taken from back yards when the owners stepped back inside for a moment. We've had dogs that jumped out of vehicles the moment the person popped the hatch, or when the person was in the process of closing the hatch. During one memorable pick-up from a farm, we had a dog that jumped from a **moving** vehicle through a door that wasn't closed properly. (I was behind them and saw it, and almost had a heart attack right then and there).

Hold leashes properly, and avoid retractable leashes. Having the wrist strap of the leash actually on your wrist is a much more secure way to hold it than to simply clutch it in your fingers. Sure, if your dog bolts or makes another sudden movement, it may hurt your wrist, but that pain isn't going to be nearly as bad as the pain you would feel if you had to stand and watch your dog dash away from you and get hit by a car (yep, that has happened too).

Keep a collar with ID on your dog 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our last "found dog" caused her owner several hours of worry, because his dog didn't have a tag on her collar. If she had been wearing a tag, he would have known she was safe within minutes of the time she ran off, because she was found almost immediately and we got the call. Update your dog's micro chip information, let your group know if you have new contact information, and of course, call your group the minute your dog is lost. We've had several successes in getting dogs back home quickly because we were able to activate immediately... but we cannot help you if you don't tell us you need help! And while the groups in the area all have different philosophies on racing and on placement, we all work together to assist in situations where a dog has been lost or found. So put that network to good use... it may make the difference between a happy ending and a lifetime of regret.
