



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Greyhound Racing in Florida *by Kelly Faircloth*



Cyndi Rennick & Jordena Backnick, in front of State Capital building in Tallahassee

Volume 16, Issue 2

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Special points of interest:

- Much more on the two greyhound racing bills
- Handy Tips on caring for your greys
- July 2002 Rescue - we remember

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Many of you know that Tuesday, April 5 was Florida Humane Lobby Day up in Tallahassee, where the legislative session is in full swing. Animal advocates from across the state traveled to Tallahassee to speak to lawmakers about animal welfare issues, and one of the most visible and hotly contested animal bills up for consideration is the bill that would "decouple" live greyhound racing from other forms of gambling. There are two, actually - Senate bill 1594 and House bill 1145.

Right now, greyhound tracks are required by Florida law to offer live racing if they want to operate a card room or casino. This law has been a thorn in the side of greyhound adoption groups for a long time, and as the industry declines, it has become a thorn in the side of greyhound track owners as well. They are losing money on greyhound racing, and many wish to have the choice to offer racing or not, or to decrease the number of races they offer. Imagine if you owned a business, and you had a division that was causing you to lose money. You'd want to divest, right? Well, now imagine the State of Florida coming to you and saying, "In order to operate your business, you MUST continue to operate the division that is losing you money." As a business owner and taxpayer, you'd resent the heck out of that.

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Greyhound Racing *continued*

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The major supporters of this bill are greyhound advocates who want to see racing end, and surprisingly, greyhound track owners. The major opponents are the greyhound racing industry.

The arguments you'll hear in favor of these bills are as follows, along with my comments:

- 1) Greyhound racing is an industry that has caused the death of untold numbers of dogs since racing began. Some numbers estimate that millions of dogs have been killed. This is likely true, since in its heyday most greyhounds bred for racing were killed at the end of their careers. That number has declined in recent years, due to more awareness of the issue in the general population, the proliferation of volunteer greyhound adoption groups that take in the dogs that the industry no longer needs, and decreased breeding due to the decline of racing. But, greyhounds still die every year... kill trucks still load up dogs who are deemed not race worthy and haul them away. We don't know how many, because this is a very secretive industry and they aren't required to report on dog disposition. But in my opinion, there is NO acceptable number... one greyhound death in the name of "sport" is too many.
- 2) Greyhounds suffer injuries due to racing, and they are often kept in less than optimum conditions both at the breeding farms and in the race kennels. People who believe that dogs are companion animals do not want to see dogs housed in crates for nearly their entire lives, 20 hours a day or more.
- 3) Business owners should not be required to subsidize a dying industry.

The arguments you'll hear in opposition are as follows, along with my own comments about each:

- 1) Greyhound racing brings in tax revenue to the state of Florida. (However, the amount of tax revenue has decreased by 97% over the last few years... the state just isn't making much on racing anymore, and if you factor in the cost of over-seeing the industry, it may actually be losing money).
- 2) The passage of the bill will cost the state 3000+ jobs. (However, this is likely an exaggeration - this number probably represents the TOTAL number of people employed by the industry in the state, and the truth is that while some tracks may end live racing immediately, some will not. In addition, the jobs are low-level, low-paid, without benefits, and certainly without a retirement plan. Frankly, these folks would be better off if they were laid off and retrained for jobs that will actually provide for a better future).
- 3) The passage of the bill will mean death to thousands of greyhounds. (This is a scare tactic, and an effective one, because almost certainly there will be hundreds, if not thousands, of dogs in need of a place to go. Plans are being discussed on how to move many of these dogs out of the state, to areas where racing does not exist, in order to find homes for them in areas not already saturated with greyhounds. This happened very successfully in the northeast during the track closings up there, and it is possible to do here as well, but it will take the efforts of ALL those who profess to love greyhounds, no matter on which side of the racing issue they stand).
- 4) Decoupling greyhound racing from other forms of gambling will allow an expansion of gambling across the state. (Other forms of gambling are already in place in Florida. Decoupling will lead to the DECLINE and hopefully eventual eradication of one form of gambling - greyhound racing. If the state wishes to control gambling in Florida, surely there are other ways to do so that don't involve harming animals).
- 5) The greyhound breed will be extinct without racing. (Another scare tactic. Racing has existed for about 100 years. Greyhounds have been around for thousands of years. They sure didn't need the racing industry to come into existence, and they don't need it to remain in existence. Since many in the industry claim that they do this out of love for the dogs, not for money, I challenge them to continue to love the dogs even if they can't race them for sport - work to maintain the breed, and instead of exploiting them for a profit, exploit them in a good way - tell everyone what great companions they are! The racing industry has ruined these dogs' reputations in the eyes of the rest of the dog world, many of whom be-

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Greyhound Racing *continued*

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lieve that greyhounds can't be good pets because they are prey-driven, need tons of room to run, can't be around children, etc. Those of us who know better, KNOW BETTER, and it's time the rest of the dog-loving world found that out).

With all of this in mind, three GREAT members traveled to Tallahassee on Tuesday, April 5th for Florida Humane Lobby Day, sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA, and GREY2K USA. The purpose of this event was to talk to lawmakers about these bills, and why passing them is so important to the welfare of greyhounds. Jordena Backnick, Cyndi Rennick and I spent a long day learning about the bills, learning how to approach our lawmakers, and then doing exactly that. Some of our good friends were there as well, including Marilyn Varnberg of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, and Bryan & Carla Wilson of ARFF, formerly of Greyhound Protection League. It was a wonderful (exhausting) experience, and now we are all on pins and needles waiting to see what happens!

We did learn that some key lawmakers are being bombarded with calls, emails and letters from the pro-industry side, and so that means we can't just sit back and wait for our efforts in Tallahassee to produce results. We need to keep the pressure on those who represent us, and tell them how we feel about this issue! We learned from one Representative who came in to speak to us as a group that lawmakers DO pay attention when they hear from their own constituents, and two very effective means of communication are phone calls (even if you only get a staff member) and personal letters or cards. So, I am asking each of you to take action - not just today, but throughout the legislative session (which ends on 5/6). Call or write to your senators and representatives, and tell them how you feel. To find out who represents you, and to get mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses for them, go to:

www.flsenate.gov/senators/find

www.myfloridahouse.gov/default.aspx

Both feature a "find my legislator" search.

If you do opt to send an email, one little trick we learned from the Representative is that if you put something along the lines of "Thank you" in the subject line, they are more apt to open them and read them. Of course, you'll need to figure out something to thank them for - maybe they've already proven to be a friend to animals in another way, and you could bring that up. Sometimes if they get 100 emails that all say "Senate Bill 1594" in the subject line, they won't spend time reading each one. So, anything you can do to make sure your message is seen, without being scary, is good!

I personally got to meet with my House Representative, Janet Cruz. It surprised me how approachable she was, and how interested she was in learning more about why this bill was important to me. She asked me several key questions and took notes as I answered. At the end of our conversation, she told me that while she wanted to do a bit more research into the issue, she felt that she would be able to support the passage of this bill. I left the meeting feeling that I wasn't just another face in a countless number of faces and that she really heard me on this issue.

My Senator, Arthenia Joyner, was in the midst of some budget meetings so I didn't get to meet with her, but I sat down with her senior legislative aid Randi to discuss the Senate bill. She too took notes while we talked and promised to deliver several fact sheets that I left with her. I have met Senator Joyner once before, and was impressed by how caring she was towards animal welfare and other social issues that are important to me, so I have hopes that she too will support us in our efforts.

I followed up both visits with personal thank you notes, reiterating my position on these bills. All in all, it was a great day and I'm very glad I was able to take part. Elsewhere in this issue, Jordena and Cyndi describe their experiences as well!

I dream of a day when greyhound advocates in Florida no longer lose sleep over which dogs we have to turn our backs on, due to a lack of space or resources needed in order to help them. I never thought I'd see it in my lifetime... but we are getting closer. With all of us working together, it could happen! Please, help us get there.



Surrounded by GREATness *by Jordena Backnick*

Have you ever felt like you were in the presence of greatness, something bigger than yourself? This can mean many different things to many different people. Last Tuesday, April 5th, I felt like I was in the midst of greatness. It was Humane Lobby Day at our state's capitol in Tallahassee, and GREAT volunteer, Cyndi Rennick, had invited me to join her in lobbying for the Decoupling of Greyhound Racing. Even before I completely understood what that meant, I was onboard.

Getting to Tallahassee was no small feat. A vanload of us departed at 4:00 a.m., and at about 5:00 a.m. we were driving through the proverbial "dark and stormy night." That van was filled with women who run rescues, foster, volunteer, and just simply know what I strive to know someday about Greyhounds and the racing industry. Surrounded by such passion, such greatness, I felt inspired and stopped asking myself, "How can I make a difference?" and started looking forward to being face to face with my Senator and Representative to tell them what had to be said, "Greyhound racing must stop."

While I didn't get to meet face to face with my legislators, I did meet with their staff members, who listened intently and committed themselves to conveying my message. I surprised myself by reciting facts, being passionate, making personal connections with them, and telling my personal Greyhound stories of those I've lost, and about the two girls I have now. Nerves, fear and self-doubt about my ability to speak knowledgably had initially took over, but as it turned out, my message came out loud and clear and with more passion and knowledge than I ever thought I had.

I know I made a difference last week, and I am proud of myself and the others who were there that day. No matter the immediate outcome of House Bill 1145 and its Senate companion SB1594...we made a difference. You can, too. If you are reading this, it's because of your love, your passion, and your commitment, to putting an end to Greyhound racing. The first step is getting this bill passed. And just one simple action - making a phone call, sending an e-mail, to your legislators, can and eventually will, make a difference. Please do it not only for the rescued racers in your life, but for those who are destined to be born to a life of racing until they are deemed worthless and discarded.

Fighting for the Greyhounds *by Cyndi Rennick*

On Tuesday April 5th I joined other greyhound and animal advocates at Humane Lobby Day in Tallahassee. It is an event that is co-sponsored by the ASPCA, the Humane Society of the United States and GREY2K USA. It was a wonderful opportunity to have the chance to speak face to face with my lawmakers and to voice my support for the decoupling of live greyhound racing and gambling.

After a long and sleepless night of driving first to Ocala to meet with other greyhound advocates and then all boarding a rental van for several more sleepless hours for the drive to Tallahassee (through an intense storm which included hail!), we finally made it to our destination of the Capitol. We spent the morning with advocates from the ASPCA, HSUS and GREY2K USA, who went over pending animal related legislation with us. We were provided with materials to help us become effective animal advocates and to help us prepare to meet with our state senators, our representatives and their staff.

It was a learning experience and extremely interesting to see how things run at the state level (I haven't seen that many men in suits and smelled that much cologne in a long time! :) Unfortunately, I was not able to speak directly with my senator or my representative but was assured that this was not at all unusual. I was, however, able to speak with key members of their staff. They were polite and listened to what I had to say, especially when I impressed upon them how important this issue was to to me and that I had come all the way from Pinellas County the night before to ask for their support of this bill. I also showed them pictures of my greyhounds and talked about how much they mean to me and what their lives were like as racing dogs. A picture of my Sweetie Pie was featured on the Fact Sheet that we handed out to them, which made it easy to point out that they are indeed, living, breathing and loving family members to us, and should not be treated cruelly or as a commodity.

I am so glad I was able to go to Tallahassee to be a part of this effort. It felt so right to be actively involved in something I feel so passionate about. I was glad to spend time with others who feel as passionately about greyhounds as I do. It was

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Fighting for the Greyhounds *by Cyndi Rennick*

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an amazing experience.

Whatever the outcome of this legislation, I am glad I went. And whatever the outcome, I will keep on fighting. I fight for Bandit. I fight for Sweetie Pie. I fight for Joe, Dodd and Taylor and for each and every greyhound that has suffered at the hands of this industry. They cannot speak for themselves. That's where we come in. We have to speak for them. I hope you all will do just that by contacting your state senator and your state representative and ask them to support this legislation. It only takes a moment and it could do so much to help the greyhounds. I know you all would do just about anything for the greyhounds. How about making a phone call?

Adoptions

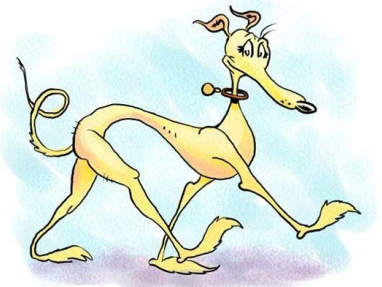
GREAT congratulates the following adopters on their new four-legged family members!

Chris Ales
 Jordena & Ron Backnick
 Jennie & Robert Berman
 Nathan Bittel & Lindsey Flynn
 Jennifer & Jay Bryant
 Del & Robin Del Guidice
 Jayne Demeter & Ron Hawthorne
 David & Leslie Hardy
 Darryl & Kirsten Peterson
 Mary & Walt Postma
 Cyndi Rennick
 Maureen Ripley
 Gary & Carol Robling
 Terri Sansonetti
 Alan Solowitz
 Chris Thompson & Katharina Rainer
 Cindy Wiehrs & Hank Orr

Kaias Piranha
 Atascocita Bea
 Sylar
 Oneco Maria
 Atascocita Coco
 Starz One Shot
 Gary Mile
 Kaias Designer
 Breezin Dory

Dallas Decoy
 Kaias Ben Amiss
 Hallo Wait a Bit
 Take A Hike
 Atascocitacecily
 Kay Sidewinder

Leah
 Kona
 Beezy
 Sylar
 Maria
 Coco
 Coco
 Miles
 Desi
 Dory
 Taylor
 Dallas
 Missy
 Lucy
 Lex
 Cecily
 Coco



Monthly Meet & Greet

DOG LOVERS - TAMPA

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

MUVICO - NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772
JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - BRANDON

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

PETCO - ODESSA

BJ Vosburgh 813.920.6477

PETCO - PORT RICHEY

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Tony & Bobbie Kovach 813.475.6343
Cyndi Rennick 727.417.0913

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Jodi Frazier 813.969.1310
Fred Freshcorn 813.891.1861

PETCO - PALM HARBOR

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301
Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286

See our event calendar at www.great-greyhound.org.



Safeguarding Your Hounds *by Carol Chilton*

Greyhounds, like other pets, are intrigued by an opening door. It is possible they may consider the opening door to resemble the action of the racetrack starting box door being sprung. "What excitement! What is on the other side of that door? Who can I see?" The difference of course, is that greyhounds are fast, and once they get started, a mere human isn't going to be able to catch them!

In order to keep your hound safely inside, and to keep your own heart from racing, the use of a baby gate at key entries and exits to the house makes sense. There are many baby gates available both in stores catering to children's items, as well as pet stores. There are metal baby gates, plastic baby gates and wooden baby gates. Online is a possibility as well. The best gates have walkthrough gates installed in them, so that you can leave the gate in place and just use the walkthrough when you need to get to the other side. Choose one that your dogs can't learn to operate on their own, of course!

An example of an attractive baby gate which stays up by tension can be found at:

www.petexpectations.com/BindabooPetSecurityGates.aspx

This particular one comes in white or black metal. Extensions to make the basic gate fit in most any hallway or door can be purchased as well.

Strategic points for placement of baby gates are at the front door, the door to the garage, the doorway to the "safe room" for household cats, entrance to a walk-in pantry, and any other place you would rather your dog not enter. For cat rooms, a style which allows you to raise the gate a few inches above the floor so cats can go under or over is best.

Many of us have created a "double entrance" at key entry points in our homes, so that there are always two doors (gates) between our dogs and outside. Using a baby gate across a foyer, for example, keeps your entry hall a "dog free" zone enabling guests to enter, or you to get inside with your grocery bags, shopping bags or briefcase, without having to worry about keeping your dogs from running out of the door!

Handy Tips for Greyhound Care *by Carol Chilton*

When our greyhounds appear at meet-and-greets, special events, visit friends or neighbors or just simply lounge around the house, they deserve to look and feel their very best. Some tips are for aesthetic purposes, but others are for their continued good health.

To keep **collars and leashes** clean, simply put them in a lingerie bag or similar and launder in the clothes washer. After washing, line dry. If deep cleaning is needed, use a spot cleaner (like Oxyfresh or Shout), let sit 10-15 minutes, then launder and line dry. For those very special collars and leashes that have metallic threads, etc., hand wash carefully and line dry. A good rule of thumb is to wash the collars and leashes each time the dog is bathed (every 6-8 weeks or so). Be sure to have at least 2 sets of collars and leashes so the dry set can be put on your hound while the set most recently worn is being washed and dried. Be sure to move all ID tags to the clean collar!

Martingale collars and leashes can be found and purchased online. Here are a few good websites including GREAT's online store:

www.great-greyhound.org/Store%20Lupine.htm

www.neenasgreytcollars.com





Handy Tips *continued*

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www.2houndsdesign.com

www.crazycollars.com

www.mrsbones.com

www.aroundthehounds.com

To **bathe** your hound, use a mild dog shampoo. If the coat is flaky, you can safely use the human shampoo, Selsun Blue. Whatever shampoo you use, be sure to thoroughly rinse since dried shampoo can cause itching and will also attract and retain dirt, dust and sand. Greyhounds should only be bathed every 6-8 weeks unless your veterinarian has advised more frequent bathing with a prescription shampoo for those dogs with skin issues.

When bathing your greyhound, take time to also inspect his/her **ears** and remove any ear debris. You may want to use an ear cleanser made for dogs which can be bought online or in a local pet store. Do not use water as water can be trapped in the ear, and such moisture can lead to a yeast infection which is itchy and uncomfortable for your dog.

If you habitually use a **topical flea or tick deterrent** (ONLY Advantage, Advantix, Frontline or Frontline Plus --- other brands may not be safe for greyhounds), you may choose to use Hylt Shampoo or similar soapless shampoo which gives longer life to the topical deterrent. If the life of the topical (usually 30 days) has passed, wait 24-48 hours after bathing to apply the new tube's contents.

Brushing your greyhound's coat 3-5 times a week for 5 minutes will loosen any dead hair and spread the natural oils. Brushing is also a good way to bond with your pet. A hound glove, which looks like a gardening glove with small rubber bumps on the palm and fingers, does a good job in removing dead hair without irritating the skin. A rubber curry type brush also works well.

Nails should be trimmed at least once a month; or more often if needed. To gauge when nails need a trim, have your dog stand on a tile, wood or cement area and then slip a piece of paper between the floor and their nails. If you are not able to get the paper under the nails, the nails DO need to be trimmed. Most PetSmart and Petco stores have grooming areas and will do nail trims on a walk-in basis. Be sure to take along proof of the most recent, unexpired rabies vaccination certificate. Many veterinarians will do a complimentary nail trim when you are there for other reasons (annual check up, etc.). Even if they do not trim for free, if you are there and your pet's nails need a trim, you should go ahead and have the nails done.

Keeping the **nails trimmed** to a proper length helps the dog walk normally. Nails that are too long are prone to getting caught and/or breaking off, possibly causing a broken toe. Long nails make it more difficult to walk on slippery surfaces and can throw off the spine's alignment, which can cause or worsen joint or back pain.

If you want to try trimming your dog's nails yourself but are concerned you might cut the nails too short, try a **Dremel** tool instead. For an excellent "how to" website, check out www.DoberDawn.com and click on the link on the left titled "How to Dremel Dog Nails".

Keeping your dog's mouth clean and healthy can play a huge part in keeping your greyhound in good general health. Do have **dental cleaning** done regularly by your veterinarian. In between professional cleanings, you can clean your hound's mouth with a damp washcloth or a damp gauze pad. If your dog will tolerate it, and most will, use a soft toothbrush and toothpaste formulated for dogs to brush the teeth. Daily brushing is very best; 3-5 times a week sufficient.

It is time to **sign up** for one of the many events (meet-and-greets and other special events) in which GREAT participates nearly every weekend! Now that your hound is looking and feeling wonderful, let's show others what they are missing by not having a greyhound of their very own!



Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Jennie & Rob Berman | Paloma |
| Nathan Bittel | Buddy |
| Laura & Frank Calci | Chase |
| Jennifer & Jerome Chester | Palmer |
| Maria & David Coffee | Torpedo |
| Jayne Demeter & family | Rosie Roo |
| Jan & George Gazell | Fooler |
| GREAT | Lola |
| Christine & Doug Grose | Ariel |
| Liz & Scott Lynch | Dice |
| Jean & Jeff Sladky | Rosie |



Dice by Liz Lynch



Dice, 7/12/03 - 1/24/11

Just over 3 years ago Dice “The Dice Man” came into our lives. He was a tall goofy boy with the silliest buck teeth you ever saw. He was anxious and unsure of what was going on in his new environment. Dice was a master at breaking out of crates, metal or wire. He would use those buck teeth of his to pick the lock. He was even able to break out of a greyhound muzzle and then open the crate and be waiting by the door for me when I got home. This earned him the nick name of Houdini, as the cage was still standing with the door locked and clipped when he had gotten out of it. It took Dice awhile to realize that he was now loved and that his people **WOULD** come home to him daily, he wasn’t going to be left or moved away from those he loved anymore.

The transformation that took place over the next year was amazing. Dice learned his manners on our nightly walk and would prance right by my side; he got many compliments and never met a stranger. He was a regular at meet and greets with or without me!! He loved his Grandma and Grandpa Hardy and if they came by he just **KNEW** he was going somewhere fun! The softball team called him their mascot as Dice was a regular at the games, helping me cheer them on.

Dice convinced many people that thought they needed a small female greyhound to give a big boy a chance; I had many ask for me to just leave him there with them... I will never forget at Julie and Tommy’s home visit...Dice followed their granddaughter from room to room as she gave him the “tour.” She was in love with him and he adored her.

Working the Florida State Fair wasn’t the same without him this year. He did the pet parade and represented the breed so well. I will never forget how when the man with the turkey leg walked up, how fast Dice “Sat” down in front of him asking for a taste. He made kids laugh while searching the strollers for lost cheerios!

Dice and I needed each other; he taught me a lot and loved us unconditionally. Dice, you were taken so suddenly from us, we miss you so much. I hope he knows how much we loved him and how much we all miss him...the house is quiet without my big doofus.





Ariel *by Kelly Faircloth*



Ariel, 3/1/98 - 4/3/11

“Sunday, April 3rd was a sad day at the Grose household. We had to say goodbye to our girl dog Ariel. She badly fractured her back leg/femur. We had to put her to sleep. We are sad but are so grateful for the 8 years we had her.”

This email from Ariel’s parents, Christine and Doug Grose, is not the typical email from these folks. Adopters of two GREAT greyhounds, they are usually full of happy stories bragging about their dogs to anyone who will read them. The pain of losing one of their much-loved dogs clearly leaves them speechless, and this email has sparked a hailstorm of bitter-sweet memories for those of us who were with GREAT in July 2002, when Ariel and several of her fellow farm dogs (most of whom were related to her) were picked up near Williston, Florida.

We picked up 12 dogs that day - several brood moms and a few younger dogs who for whatever reason, weren’t wanted for

racing. We had been contacted by Marilyn & Bob Varnberg of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, who feared these dogs would be put down if someone didn’t take them. For that was how this farm worked... dogs were put on a “kill list” once they had outlived their usefulness. These dogs were in imminent danger.

A huge group of almost 30 GREAT volunteers headed out that day to drive to Williston, including the majority of GREAT’s board members. Some of the volunteers had never seen this hidden side of the industry before, but all would never forget what we found that day - dogs indescribably dirty, flea and tick-laden, with rotting teeth and breath so bad that you could smell it several feet away. Several of the dogs were hairless, and some had severe inflammation from having strong commercial farming pesticides poured over them in an misguided and extremely painful attempt to control the fleas. Yet all of the dogs were docile, many wagging their tails and leaning on the volunteers, as they tried to clean them up and make them more comfortable for their trip back to Tampa.

We did not have room for all 12 dogs, so we had made prior arrangements to transport 5 of the younger dogs, who were in better shape and stood a better chance of getting placed soon, to Humane Society of Pinellas, who at the time were very greyhound-focused and did a lot of placements. The other 7, which included all of the brood moms, came home with GREAT. Ariel at 4 was the youngest of that group, with the others ranging from 8 to 11.

Unfortunately, what happened next was something that took many of us by surprise. A member of GREAT’s board, upon attempting to do some fundraising to raise money to provide for these dogs, exaggerated the situation and some GREAT members who had not been involved in the rescue were left with the impression that GREAT had bankrupted itself by taking in 7 “unadoptable” dogs. The situation became heated, accusations were made, and eventually, several members left GREAT, including the board member. Of course, GREAT wasn’t bankrupted, and we went on to take several more dogs from this horrible farm until the day we were thrilled to find out that it had gone out of business for good.

In the meantime, we discovered that all but one of these dogs simply needed routine care, and the 7th dog needed cancerous ovaries removed during her spay surgery. All 7 dogs, just a few weeks later, were the picture of health, and all had found forever homes... these old gals were charming, full of personality, and simply irresistible!

Now, Ariel, the last of our “old girls” as we called them, has left us. She joins her fellow old girls Pepper, Kiwi, Kitty, Pearl, Penny and Becky at the bridge, where they all bask in the knowledge of how much they were loved, not during the first part of their lives, but definitely during their new lives as pets. They changed GREAT for the better, and they changed all of us who fell in love with them. They were the epitome of why we do what we do, and we will never, ever forget them.

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

GREAT's Board of Directors:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Members at Large

Kelly R. Faircloth
Liz Lynch
Brenda Hodges
Jordena Backnick
Karen Powers



Doggy Birthday Cake

Many thanks to JoAnn Copertino for passing along this recipe for doggy birthday cake, originally shared with her by Barbara Celli! While we think it probably wouldn't be very appetizing to humans, we bet your dogs will love it!

Jerky Birthday cake for dogs

- * 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- * 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- * 1/2 cup soft butter
- * 1/2 cup corn oil
- * 1 jar strained beef baby food
- * 4 eggs
- * 2-3 strips of beef jerky

Preheat oven to 325°. Grease and flour an 8x5x3 inch loaf pan. Cream butter until smooth. Add corn oil, baby food, and eggs. Mix until smooth.

Mix dry ingredients into beef mixture until batter is smooth. Crumble beef jerky and fold into batter. Pour batter into loaf pan. Bake 1 hour and 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack 15 minutes. Frost with plain yogurt, cream cheese or cottage cheese. Crumble another strip of beef jerky and sprinkle on top of icing. Store in refrigerator.

