



# GREATvine



*A newsletter for Greyhounds and the people who love them*

Volume 10, Issue 1

January 2005



## ***Foster Homes Needed!*** by Kelly Faircloth

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GREAT's most important resource is our network of volunteers. We simply cannot do the work we do without their time, efforts, energy and above all, their hearts! But out of all of our volunteers, there exists a very special group who time and time again take dogs in who have no place else to go and turn them into fantastic pets - foster moms and dads.

To steal a phrase from a well-known ad campaign of a few years ago, fostering is the toughest job you will ever love. Make no mistake - it's EASY to take a dog in and love it as your own. It's easy to marvel at how quickly the dog transitions from track to home, and it's so easy to take a special delight in watching the development of the dog's personality. Indeed, we get a thrill when we see the dog suddenly 'get it' - that moment when the dog realizes that he has a family and is surrounded by love.

What's tough is saying goodbye when it is time for that dog to go to his or her forever home. We won't lie to you - you'll feel sad and you may even shed a few tears. But even through your tears, you'll see the big picture:

*Without you, this dog would have had no hope. Now he does, hope for a long, happy life full of joy, comfort and napping on the couch. And without you, the thousands of dogs that wait for their chance will have no hope either.*

Won't you please consider risking a piece of your heart? You won't regret it. You'll grow to love it, and you'll find yourself looking forward to getting to know your next foster dog, even as you send the current foster off to his new life.

Periodically, with families moving away, taking breaks or finding their work schedules changing, etc., GREAT begins to run low on foster homes. If you have been thinking about fostering, or you know someone that is interested, please let us know. The more foster homes, the more dogs that live. It's a win-win situation.

GREAT asks that our foster families provide love & attention, and that they be willing to crate the foster dog regularly and when there is no one home. This is important for house-training purposes, provides the dog a safe, familiar place while adjusting to home life, and insures that the dog will be willing to go into the crate during the transition period in the new adoptive home. We also ask that foster families take regular leash walks to familiarize the hound with the leash, and that they do not take the foster dog to dog parks, in order to avoid injuries common with these locations.

An important note - while we always need foster homes, there are times when we are not able to approve a family to adopt. Some of those situations would include where a child is to be the primary caregiver in order to gain community service credit for school, where the family is doing extensive remodeling of their home or preparing to move in the near future to a new home, or where the greyhound would be left alone with no breaks for more than the average working day.

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## ***Auntie Carol's Corner*** by Carol Chilton

Hello, hounds and hoomins! Here are just a few friendly words from Auntie Carol and her support staff – Sir Guy, Merlin & Angel, along with Torpedo the foster dog in an advisory capacity, and Velcro the terrier/Iggie mix as the team's mascot:

- 🐕 Collars and leashes can easily be laundered by putting them into a lingerie bag and tossing them in the washer. Air-dry after. A spiffy clean collar and leash nicely complements your lovely, clean hound! :)
- 🐕 There are many websites with appropriate martingale-style greyhound collars and matching leashes. (Remember **always** a martingale collar and **never** a retractable leash.) Simply put "martingale collar" in your browser's search field. Don't forget to check out eBay as well! Sadly, after we received the 4<sup>th</sup> case of Bowser's Bargain Biscuits in the industrial size, we had to cut off Merlin's credit card. No more eBay for him.
- 🐕 If your greyhound has tender skin on the neck, use a 3/4" or 1" collar and/or one that is lined with satin, velvet, or a soft material. (Angel says all of the high society hounds have velvet in their collars.)
- 🐕 To minimize the clicking sound of ID tags, rabies tags, and other tags rubbing together, check out these websites for "tag bags". Sir Guy insists on leather... he says any other material makes him look like a sissy.

[www.longdogleather.com](http://www.longdogleather.com)

[www.quietspot.com](http://www.quietspot.com)

- 🐕 You can get plastic turnout muzzles from GREAT or from Greyhound Colors here in Tampa. For fun, you can combine two colors by request. For example if you are an FSU fan, you can use red for the strap and gold for the muzzle, or vice versa! You may also want to coordinate the muzzle's color(s) with the collar and leash designs! Velcro particularly enjoys chewing on muzzles (says they taste like chicken) so you may want to hang them out of reach when not in use!
- 🐕 Many prescription drugs like Interceptor, Heartgard Plus, soloxine, enalapril can be bought online for a good savings. Ask your veterinarian to write you a prescription for your grey's medication. These are a few of the websites to compare pricing:

[www.petrx.com](http://www.petrx.com)

[www.petpharmacopia.com](http://www.petpharmacopia.com)

[www.drsfostersmith.com](http://www.drsfostersmith.com)

[www.petmeds.com](http://www.petmeds.com)

[www.1800petmeds.com](http://www.1800petmeds.com)

- 🐕 You can find information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sandy Paws gathering from March 3-6, 2005 at [www.sandypaws.org](http://www.sandypaws.org) which will be at Jekyll Island, Georgia. The famous Greyhounds Reach the Beach at Dewey Beach, Delaware celebrates its 11<sup>th</sup> year on October 7-10, 2005. Their website is [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey). They have a message board year round that is fun and informative.
- 🐕 Preventic collars are safe deterrents to those pesky, nasty ticks. They can be bought from your veterinarian or through many online sources. You can also use Borax powder (a laundry booster you can find in most grocery stores) safely in your yard or among the folded comforters or inside a dog bed -- just sprinkle around. Last but not least, check your hounds once a day for ticks, removing them by grasping them at the skin and pulling, then killing them by dousing them in rubbing alcohol.
- 🐕 Finally, a **healthy** greyhound -- the prime sprinting athlete of the dog world -- is one whose last 3 ribs are visible to the eye and one whose nails are kept short enough so they don't click on the floor (be careful not to get them TOO short -- they do provide some traction.) In the words of Torpedo, a dashing debonair boy who was turning all the girl's heads at last year's Sandy Paws, "A trim and fit hound is a babe-magnet! Seriously!"

Give your hounds a hug every day! And your family too! :)

Auntie Carol and her Canine Crew



## ***Foster Homes*** continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

In addition, if a family is dealing with extremely stressful conditions such as serious or terminal illness in a family member, although a new pet may help the human members of the family to get through the difficult time, in our experience we have found that the greyhound will sometimes develop behaviors related to anxiety and stress. As our goal with fostering is to prepare the dog to move to a permanent home, it is best to avoid those situations where their transition from track to home may be delayed due to the above mentioned conditions.

GREAT provides all financial and material care for the foster dog, including medical care and food and crate, for as long as the dog is in foster care. The foster period is indefinite and can range from two weeks to several months, depending on age, health and how long it takes to match the dog to the right family. We will move the foster dog to another home if needed for vacation purposes, etc.

We hope you'll consider giving the gift of a foster home to one or more greyhounds. After all, the greyhound(s) that have filled your lives with joy most likely came to you via a loving foster home!

Want to learn more about keeping your greyhound healthy? Dr. Suzanne Stack, a veterinarian well-versed in greyhound issues, has consolidated all of her articles on a wealth of issues such as pain medications, ehrlichia, lumbosacral stenosis, injuries, anesthesia and many other subjects onto the following website: [www.greythealth.com](http://www.greythealth.com)

## ***GREAT Gift-Wrapping*** by Kathy Hoffman & Kelly Faircloth

*"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart." -- Anonymous*

The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas seems to be the busiest time of year for most of us, and that time seems to fly by, leaving us to later wonder where it all went. GREAT's volunteers are no different from other folks...they lead busy lives made even busier by the holidays; yet, when called upon to give three to four hours shifts to gift-wrap presents at Barnes & Noble, their hearts always speak to them, enabling them to say 'yes'.

This year, GREAT wrapped gifts at two area Barnes & Noble stores – Brandon and Carrollwood. At the Brandon store, GREAT was the ONLY group asked to wrap, and our volunteers signed up to fill the almost 100 slots available from Thanksgiving week-end through Christmas Eve. With only an exception or two due to unavoidable reasons, all of these folks fought holiday traffic, hired babysitters, and served drive-through dinners to their families to work their shifts. When we got slammed or had unexpected openings, these same loyal few again said “yes, of course” and filled those shifts.

At the Carrollwood store, even though other groups were signed up to volunteer, GREAT was the group called at the last minute to cover on several occasions when other groups were unable to fulfill their obligations. Even though most of the volunteers had already signed up for multiple shifts including late nights up until 10pm, they stepped in... for the greyhounds.

Words cannot express our profound appreciation to the GREAT members and their families, neighbors and friends who selflessly gave of their time to benefit the greyhounds in GREAT's care. We'd also like to thank Denise and all of the management and staff at the Brandon location and Nan and the devoted staff at the Carrollwood store for all of their support and assistance. Kathy especially would like to thank her visiting daughters for devoting so much of their vacation time to helping her wrap at the Brandon store, and to her neighbors and friends whose first experiences volunteering for GREAT were at the gift-wrapping tables.

Incidentally, please mark your calendars... we will need wrapping assistance at the Brandon location for Valentine's Day weekend as well as Mother's Day and Father's Day weekends. If you would like to help, please contact Kathy Hoffman at [kdspeech@aol.com](mailto:kdspeech@aol.com).



## ***In Loving Memory...***

*It is with deepest sympathy that we say goodbye to the following beloved pets:*

Lisa & Doug Blackmer	Fairfax
Connie & Jim Carrier	Xena
Susie Nelson-Crowley & Dan Crowley	Rudder
Ruth E. & Brian Gardner	Babe
Cathy & Bill Heim	Blosson
Joyce & Tim Holden	Spenser
The Killory Family	Bebe
Jean Miller & Gary Cepin	Polo Pup
Jeannie & Mike Stanley	Moose



### ***For Babe*** by Ruth Gardner

Babe received a diagnosis of stage four canine Lymphoma cancer on December 16, 2004. During the following two weeks his health deteriorated more rapidly than we could have ever anticipated. We knew it was a matter of time, but did not realize it would only be 16 days. Brian and I had already reprioritized our lifestyle two months ago when Babe started to show signs that something was wrong. We made sure we spent quality time at home with our boy, Babe, as much as we possibly could.

Babe was our beloved retired racing greyhound that we adopted through GREAT in May of 1998. He immediately became our faithful and loyal companion, and he trusted us completely. I called him as my velveteen hound because of his plush black coat. His foster mom, “Aunt “ Sharon, told us, “you are so lucky to be adopting Babe, as he is a very special boy, and in all my time with GREAT I have never met another Greyhound like Babe.” Her words remained true throughout Babe’s life. We truly feel blessed to have had an opportunity to have shared our life with this extraordinary greyhound who always had a kiss, a special shake and tail wiggle for us and everyone he met!

I started every morning with a smile because of Babe. I could not resist his cuteness. In the mornings he always had a sparkle in his eyes and would bow with his tail wagging in the air as if to say good morning! In actuality he was saying, “please, scratch my ribs!” Because of Babe my mornings started off with immense happiness, and my evenings concluded with happiness and contentment. At 8:30 p.m. every evening, like clockwork, Babe would let us know it was treat-time. He would not leave our sides until we went to the pantry door where we would present his most delectable treat to him. Ever so gently Babe would take his bone, prance elegantly into the living room reminiscent of Fred Astaire, lie down on the rug and inhale his treat. Afterward he would lie there so sweetly and patiently watching his brother, Sweeney, savor every morsel. As soon as Sweeney would finish his treat and make his way to his water bowl, Babe would very nonchalantly scoot over to Sweeney’s crumbs and inhale them like dessert!!

Babe’s dad Brian had a very special connection with him. Every morning started a little too early for Babe and Brian, but not for Sweeney who wakes us at 4:45 a.m. sharp every morning. Babe would always look up at Daddy during their walks as if to say, “Good morning and thank you Dad for spending this quality time with me.” Babe cherished his morning and evening walks with his Dad and brother. And since June, he also enjoyed his Sr. Citizen outings in the afternoon, which became Mommy’s favorite special time with Babe.

Babe touched so many people with his overwhelmingly genteel and intuitive personality. On those special Saturdays (Babe was part of the pioneer group volunteers who started the Lakeland Pet Supermarket meet & greets) when Brian and I would don our GREAT t-shirts Babe would become ecstatic. He absolutely loved attending these events and got so much enjoyment and satisfaction from receiving lots of love from everyone, especially his fellow four-legged greyhound friends. He was always the smiling black velveteen hound with an effervescent personality. On one special GREAT Saturday in November 1999 a foster greyhound joined us for the morning shift. His foster parents were planning to be out of town over the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Brian and I agreed to invite into our home this beautiful and shy young red brindle boy as a houseguest over the holiday week. On Brian’s way home from work, he stopped and picked-up Sweeney from Tracy and Meg. Sweeney was a little apprehensive when he arrived at his vacation home. Babe being the gregarious greyhound decided he needed to go to the car and give Sweeney a warm and heartfelt welcome. It worked and Sweeney popped out of the car, never looking back. Babe shared his bed, his toys, his

*(Continued on page 5)*



## ***For Babe*** continued

morning walks, his treats and his unconditional love with Sweeney the entire week. We talked with both Babe and Sweeney and decided that Babe had found a younger brother and soul mate for life in Sweeney. We officially adopted Sweeney that following December 18, 1999 at the Lakeland Pet Supermarket. Babe helped Sweeney to develop trust and to develop a love for treats! Sweeney, however, still has not figured out what Babe ever saw in taking rides in the car. But, Babe did leave his legacy of immense courage and bravery to his younger brother, Sweeney.

During Babe's illness, Brian and I provided at home hospice care, with the help of Babe's doctor, Dr. Latter. Babe passed away peacefully at home, resting on his bed, the morning of New Year's Day.

Brian and I would like to thank you all for your prayers, which were a tremendous source of strength for us. In addition, we can never express our immense gratitude to Dr. Latter for all of his compassion and tender loving care for Babe. We will always be so grateful to Babe's "Aunt", Sharon Thorpe, former GREAT volunteer and home visit volunteer, for introducing us to Babe. We will always be grateful to GREAT for allowing us to adopt this charming, elegant, and beautiful greyhound. Lastly, we ask for your prayers for Sweeney as he learns to cope without his devoted mentor and life coach. In closing, I share with you one of the special poems that is helping me to heal:

### ***I am Still Here ~ Author Unknown***

*I stood by your bed last night, I came to have a peep.  
I could see that you were crying, You found it hard to sleep.*

*I whined to you softly as you brushed away a tear,  
"It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here."*

*I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea,  
You were thinking of the many times, your hands reached down to me.*

*I was with you at the shops today, Your arms were getting sore.  
I longed to take your parcels, I wish I could do more.*

*I was with you at my grave today, You tend it with such care.  
I want to reassure you, that I'm not lying there.*

*I walked with you towards the house, as you fumbled for your key.  
I gently put my paw on you, I smiled and said "it's me."*

*You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair.  
I tried so hard to let you know, that I was standing there.*

*It's possible for me, to be so near you everyday.  
To say to you with certainty, "I never went away."*

*You sat there very quietly, then smiled, I think you knew ... in the  
stillness of that evening, I was very close to you.*

*The day is over... I smile and watch you yawning  
and say "goodnight, God bless, I'll see you in the morning."*

*And when the time is right for you to cross the brief divide,  
I'll rush across to greet you and we'll stand, side by side.*

*I have so many things to show you, there is so much for you to see.  
Be patient, live your journey out ... then come home to be with me.*



*Babe Gardner, 5/6/1992 - 1/1/2005*



# Adoptions

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

Pam & John Atwill  
 Chuck & Marina Cawley  
 Jennifer & Jerome Chester  
 Angela Divi  
 Barry Ezell  
 Amy & Dave Foshee  
 Kay & Mike Futrell  
 Joyce & Tim Holden  
 Karla & Karl Jenkins  
 Susan Livorini & Jimmy Doherty  
 Liz & Scott Lynch  
 Anna Mattison  
 Donna & Christopher Monagle  
 Tina & Bill Nelson  
 Karen & Bob Powers  
 Janet & Brian Schara  
 Michele Tidwell  
 Laureen & Donald Weits  
 Joanie & Charlie Wiehrs

Star Struttin  
 Task Bella Brave  
 Where's Halo  
 Edren Skedaddle  
 Kaias Plantation  
 He's Louie  
 Emily Post  
 Edren Spectrum  
 GR's Olivia  
 CTW Magic Melody  
 Santa Fe Bonnet  
  
 Next In Line  
 Dewey Fantasy  
 Tetrabastic  
 Dewey Rocknkacy  
 Duke Daddy  
 Ibex Donna Joy  
 Redhot Rita

Drew  
 Bella  
 Halo  
 Prince  
 Pineapple  
 Louie  
 Emily  
 Star  
 Olivia  
 Melody  
 Bonnet  
 Stryder  
 Cheney  
 Stryder  
 Bailey  
 Jenny  
 Dugan  
 Donna  
 Molly



## ***GREAT Store Coordinators***

**DOG LOVERS - TAMPA**

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

**PET SUPERMARKET - BRANDON**

Peg Hanks 813.707.5585

**PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND**

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

**PETSMART - CITRUS PARK**

Fred Freshcorn 813.885.3925

**PETSMART - CLEARWATER**

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

**PETSMART - TAMPA**

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

**PETCO - WEST SHORE**

Kelly English 813.805.6635 (2nd Saturday)

Cindy Wiehrs 813.289.4386 (4th Saturday)

**MUVICO – NEW TAMPA**

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772 (Friday Nights)

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825 (Saturday Nights)

**RAYMOND JAMES – ST. PETERSBURG**

Diane Scheidle 813.258.9887

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



## ***Just For Fun***

### **You Know You're a Greyhound Person When...**

You keep the hound mitt by the computer but your own washcloth has disappeared.

The Greyhound coats are all hung up carefully in the closet, but your own jackets from last winter are still hanging on the hall door.

The Greyhounds have necklaces for formal affairs but you don't wear jewelry unless it depicts a Greyhound.

You go to pet supply stores on weekends because it's one of the few places you can take your dog.

You angle the rearview mirror so you can watch your Greyhound sleeping on the back seat while you drive.

You run out of places to put those Greyhound calendars.

You don't consider yourself well-dressed unless there's a representation of a Greyhound somewhere on your outfit.

You feel paranoid about keeping an ID on your Greyhound at all times (collar, tags, microchip, tattoo) but don't bother to carry an ID yourself.

You have nose prints on all glass surfaces -- windows, doors, inside the car, etc. -- and you leave them there because cleaning them seems so futile at this point.

You've had long, meaningful discussions with your friends on the best way to trim your Greyhound's nails but never had a manicure or pedicure in your life.

Author Unknown

### **The Secret Diary of a Cat**

DAY 752 - My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while I am forced to eat dry cereal. The only thing that keeps me going is the hope of escape, and the mild satisfaction I get from shredding on the occasional piece of furniture. Tomorrow I may eat another houseplant and cough it up on the carpeting.

DAY 761 - Today my attempt to kill my captors by weaving around their feet while they were walking almost succeeded, must try this at the top of the stairs. In an attempt to disgust and repulse these vile oppressors, I once again induced myself to vomit on their favorite chair... must try this on their bed (again).

DAY 762 - Slept all day so that I could annoy my captors with sleep depriving, incessant pleas for food at ungodly hours of the night.

DAY 765 - Decapitated a mouse and brought them the headless body, in attempt to make them aware of what I am capable of, and to try to strike fear into their hearts. They only cooed and condescended about what a good little cat I was ...Hmmm. Not working according to plan...

DAY 768 - I am finally aware of how sadistic they are. For no good reason I was chosen for the water torture. This time however it included a burning foamy chemical called "shampoo." What sick minds could invent such a liquid. My only consolation is the piece of thumb still stuck between my teeth and the tiny bit of flesh under my claws.

DAY 771 - There was some sort of gathering of their accomplices. I was placed in solitary throughout the event. I overheard that my confinement was due to MY power of "allergies." Must learn what this is and how to use it to my advantage.

DAY 774 - I am convinced the other captives are flunkies and maybe snitches. The dog is routinely released and seems more than happy to return. He is obviously a half-wit. The bird, on the other hand, has got to be an informant. He has mastered their frightful tongue (something akin to mole-speak) and speaks with them regularly. I am certain he reports my every move. Due to his current placement in the metal room his safety is assured. But I can wait; it is only a matter of time...



## **Speaker's Bureau** *by Jamie Dodd*

In an effort to expand our outreach and to garner additional support for our cause, GREAT is putting together a Speakers Bureau. The Speakers Bureau will serve as a resource to organizations and schools throughout our community by providing presentations about greyhounds, their plight and our efforts towards increased greyhound adoption. We are calling for volunteers to serve as part of the Speakers Bureau.

Volunteers will need to feel comfortable speaking before large groups, possess good presentation skills and have general knowledge about greyhounds. Members of the Speaker's Bureau will be chosen from those who have been with GREAT for 6 months and who have attended Orientation.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the Speakers Bureau or if you belong to an organization that would be interested in having GREAT speak to its membership, please email Jamie Dodd at [jdodd@dutchergroup.com](mailto:jdodd@dutchergroup.com) or call (813) 831-5266.

## **Spring Picnic Canceled**

GREAT's schedule gets busier and busier every year and we find that spring in particular is a very hectic season! With events like the Super RV show, the Florida State Fair, Bark in the Park, No More Homeless Pets adoptathons, and numerous Earth Day celebrations, it is becoming more and more difficult to find time to host a spring picnic as well.

Therefore, in an effort to ease the burden on our volunteers and to make room for new ideas for events and fundraisers, GREAT will go to a one-picnic-per-year format beginning this year. The annual picnic will be held sometime in the fall (location and date to be announced.) Board elections will be held during the fall picnic.

We hope this change will be welcomed by all and will offer us an opportunity to explore some creative new ideas! If you have any questions or suggestions about new activities, please contact our GREATline at (813) 971-4732.



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