



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

The Cruise was GREAT!



Our ship, the Inspiration, at the dock in Cozumel

A total of 26 people set sail for Cozumel, Mexico as part of GREAT's fundraiser cruise on November 30, 2006. Four days, one wedding, and unknown quantities of delicious food later, we arrived back in Tampa already discussing doing another cruise in 2007!

We had a wonderful time, raised \$1040 for GREAT and hope to announce plans for GREAT's 2007 cruise within days! In the meantime, here are some photos from the cruise, including a photo of Brenda Hodges, GREAT's long-time Board member and Secretary, marrying Paul Gauseweg on board! Next year's cruise will be bigger and better... we hope you'll all join us!



Brenda's grandson was ring-bearer



Some of GREAT's travelers, on the beach in Cozumel

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Special points of interest:

- Teaching youngsters about greyhounds
- Gift-Wrap Results
- Janet Skinner says "Leave It!"
- GREAT heads to Georgia in March - Won't you join us?

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The GREAT American Teach-In by Leslie Hardy

In November four GREAT ladies (Liz Lynch, Louise Shapiro, Wanda Bright, and I) had the opportunity to present our greyhounds and information about GREAT to three schools in the Tampa area.

Louise's adventures in Lakeland:

I was invited to Crystal Lake Elementary in Lakeland, wherein I met with nine different classes, from pre-K thru 2nd grade. The children were all very excited to have such a "big dog" in their presence! Many asked about Hazel's painted toenails, and all were intrigued by her tattoos. When I asked, "Who in this room has a tattoo?" a little boy answered, "OUR TEACHER!" He was right, but I meant my dog ;-)

I was saddened by the overwhelming poverty that these children face each day. The principal thanked me profusely for coming, saying that these children have so few fun surprises in their lives. I promised to return next year. However, I may need to bring a second greyhound since Hazel started to tire by the time we entered the seventh classroom filled with excited little kids!

Wanda's Plant City Experience:

Walk into a middle school with two greyhounds and capture every student's attention in five seconds. That is what happened when I walked on to the Turkey Creek Middle School Campus with my two greyhounds, Clark and Erin, for the Great American Teach-In.

We were greeted by students waiting just for us, and escorted to our check in point. On the way to our assigned classes, we created clusters of "ooohhing, awwwhhhing" students every step of the way. Having taught middle school, I realized I might be fighting for attention, but once we entered the room, my two hounds had every student's interest and attention. From George, who lost his 12-year-old dog two years ago; to Bree, who knew more of the history of the sighthounds than I did, greyhounds were the "item" at Turkey Creek Middle School that day. On our way out, at class change, we were stopped at least 10 times by students imploring us to come to their class. The day was just too short...next year put me down for volunteering all day!

Liz and Leslie in Downtown Tampa:

Liz and I took Rocco, Bonnet, and Peg to Stewart Middle School in downtown Tampa. Smiling, personable student guides met us at the door to the school and ushered us to the media center where we met and visited more excited students and teachers. However, some of the students were afraid of the dogs, some even asked if they were mean and if they would bite. A few asked if they were Great Danes. For the most part it became apparent that majority of the students were glad to see the dogs and since we were with the dogs they were interested in meeting us. The media center was the hospitality center for the day. In the morning when we arrived, there were bagels, muffins, juice, water, and coffee. Our student guides escorted us to our assigned teacher.

Any of you who have or have had preteens and early teen kids know that keeping their attention is a rare feat. How-



Rocco snoozes as Leslie speaks to the students



The GREAT American Teach-In *continued*

ever with a lot of help from the hounds, we were very successful with our first class. They were extremely attentive and interested in our presentation. They had very good questions about where the dogs lived, how long they raced, and what we meant by getting the dogs from “the farms.” When I asked how many of the students had tattoos several of them hesitated to admit that they did. However, they were extremely fascinated that the dogs were tattooed. Likewise, they were very upset to learn that dogs as young as Rocco, who was less than two years old were actually pulled out of the racing program and possibly killed just because he couldn’t win races.

Their teacher told us that we had accomplished something he had been working on all year, that being holding the kids’ attention all period. Having been a teacher, I knew exactly what he was talking about. Originally, we were only going to meet with one class. However the teacher and the in-coming students were so interested we were asked to stay for a second class that actually became a joint class because another teacher had heard about “the big racing dogs down the hall” and she wanted to join in on the fun. Therefore, we were able to meet with 60+ children in a personal environment. In addition to the teachers and kids we met in person, we were also able to distribute numerous GREAT brochures and business cards to individuals who otherwise would not know about us.

I strongly recommend that anyone in GREAT who is interested in spending just a few hours one day a year with a very receptive audience contact Kelly or Carol and volunteer. The time is very rewarding and educational for both the presenters and the audiences.

Project Pup in Action *by Fred Freshcorn*

The October 2006 issue of the GREATvine contained an article about Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People). Pictured below are Project PUP members Hannah and Taz Freshcorn visiting residents at Arbor Court, a resident home in Palm Harbor. They visit Arbor Court every other week and the Skilled Nursing Facility at the Town and Country Hospital every week. Taz has been an active member for almost two years and Hannah for over one year. The patients and residents always enjoy their visits and those that can, look forward to their arrival. Though the therapy they provide is not always visible, the caregivers often remark about the impact they have on patients. Staffs of both facilities also enjoy Hannah and Taz, speak of their good looks and calm, stately demeanor, and are always anxious to pet them and to receive a kiss. The kids enjoy making their trips and the treats they get for a “*job well done*”.

If you’d like to find out how your hound can brighten the lives of nursing home residents and/or hospital patients, please call (727) 586-2106.





Adoptions

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

Jean & Thomas Bostock	Forbes Cylinder	Susie Q
Kelli & Steve Chickos	Solitary Racey	Racey
Robin & Del Del Guidice	Dog Gone Lisa	Sassafras
Terri Faircloth & Mark Peterson	Ajs Savannah	Hugo
Peg & Terry Hanks	Fancy That	Fancy
Lynn & Scott Henderson	Atascocita Susan	Bacardi
Pat & Paul Meyer	Fuzzys Chewy	Chewy
Mindy Rackner-Salper & William Salper	RC Tuff Enough	Cooper
Jerry & Jane Shupp	Par Wes	Wes
Jean & Jeff Sladky	Atascocita Rose	Rose
Nikki & Russ Smith	Apache Rambler	Sam
Patti & Cary Stoute		Grover



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.

Gift-Wrapping Success!

This year's gift-wrapping event at the Brandon & Carrollwood Barnes & Noble stores was extremely successful! We raised \$2436.65 at Carrollwood and \$3431.33 at Brandon, for a grand total of \$5867.98! Many thanks go to all of our dedicated volunteers who worked so hard at both stores for an entire month... without you, this tremendous success would not have been possible! You have made a huge difference in the lives of greyhounds and you also brought joy to each other and to the customers of the store, who continue to sing GREAT's praises to the B&N staff!

One of Brandon's volunteers, Fredi Cary, let us know that this event means as much to her as it does to GREAT, in a letter to Kathy Hoffman., Brandon's coordinator. Fredi graciously allowed us to share her thoughts with you:

Hi Kathy! I just wanted you to know that I have enjoyed every minute of the gift-wrapping this season. I have met the nicest volunteers, had the greatest conversations with endless generous donors, and I truly feel that the true Christmas spirit can be found in that big donation jar that sits on our gift-wrapping table. Although the road rage and lost patience in the parking lot at the mall is a reality that we each had to deal with every day, the love and kindness of the folks who visited our table was so much more important and credible, and I feel honored to have shared in all of its warmth.

I am off to the beach until Christmas Eve - to all of my fellow Greyhound supporters, may the holiday bring you love and happiness, and may the New Year bring joy and serenity to each of your lives!!

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Peace and Love...

Fredi





Pawsitively Speaking *by Janet Skinner, CPDT*



Annie patiently waits to be allowed to take the cookie

Several years ago, I was visiting an assisted living facility with my greyhound, Annie. As we approached one of the residents to say hello, Annie spied what looked like a green M&M under a chair. As she started to dive for what she thought might be a treat, I said, "Leave it!" Annie immediately left the M&M on the floor and turned and looked at me. Good girl! I picked up the item and realized it was actually a pill that had been dropped. I don't know what the medication was, but I knew it wasn't something my dog should eat! Annie's training may have prevented her from becoming ill, or worse.

Dogs are natural scavengers and it is perfectly normal for them to seek out and attempt to eat interesting stuff that they find on the floor or ground. Unfortunately, many of the things that our dogs may pick up are not good for them. If your dog has ever grabbed a chicken bone off the street while out on a walk, you should appreciate the value of teaching your dog to "Leave it." If you have a dog who loves chasing and eating lizards in the yard, teaching him/her to "Leave it" may prevent an upset tummy, and spare the lives of countless lizards. I have even used "Leave it" to redirect my cat-hating greyhounds when they see a cat on their walks and begin to lunge and pull.

Teaching "Leave it" to your dog utilizes one of the basic tools of positive dog training – redirecting behavior. This means that when your dog is engaging in a behavior that you do *not* like, you interrupt that behavior, ask for a behavior you *do* like, and then reward it. In the case of "Leave it," the verbal cue interrupts the behavior and signals the dog to look at you, and to ignore the object that he/she was thinking about picking up. Ultimately, your dog will learn that looking at you earns much better rewards than picking up stuff off the ground and will quickly respond to your "Leave it" cue, just as Annie did.

The behavior is very easy and fun to for dogs to learn, since it involves treats as rewards. First, place a treat on the floor a few feet from your dog. When s/he goes for the treat, cover it with your foot. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, not sandals! Ignore his/her sniffing and pawing at the treat and do not say anything. When s/he looks away from the treat or looks at *you*, say "Yes!" and reward with a treat from your hand (not the floor) and verbal praise. Once s/he is consistently looking at you instead of trying to get the treat from under your foot, add the verbal cue, "Leave It" when s/he first looks at the treat on the floor. Then when s/he looks at you, say "Yes" and give the dog a treat from your hand.

Teach the behavior in a quiet environment with no distractions to make it easier for your dog to concentrate and to perform the behavior correctly and earn a reward. You should train in a variety of locations because dogs do not generalize the way that humans do. If you only teach "Leave it" in the kitchen, your dog will think that it only applies in that location. All family members should also take a turn working with the dog so that s/he will respond to all of them. As your training progresses, you can also start replacing the items on the floor with things like a paper wrapper from McDonalds or a crumpled up Kleenex, still rewarding with a treat from your hand and verbal praise when the dog looks at you. As you continue with your successful training, you can gradually reduce the frequency of the treat as a reward, and substitute other rewards such as verbal praise, a toy, or play.

One thing you can be sure of, the "Leave it" cue will be one that you find yourself using again and again. I consider "Leave it" to be one of the most essential behaviors that any dog can learn. There are lots of bad things that your dog can get into and teaching "Leave it" could save your dog's life one day. I encourage you to take the time to teach this very valuable behavior to your dog. You won't regret it.

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Annie, Alex, Piper, Joey and I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year, and encourage you all to continue to *Think Pawsitive* in 2007!

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.





My Dearest Farley *by Stephenie Sasse*

For some
fate offers second chances
at new life, at new love
suffering and fear replaced by quiet love

In your eyes I see your trust
given fully and freely
Your head resting upon my lap
in quiet contentment

I remember the first time I saw you discover
that you could choose how to run
and the joy that filled your gallop
through the park

I remember the first time when you helped yourself
to the cake on the counter behind my back the second I
turned
and the innocent look you gave
imagining I couldn't see the icing on your face

Happiness comes to those who wait
One need not be young
to love the discovery
of new things

Each day I learn more
of the secrets of your heart
Each day we learn
to smile more together

Being quiet doesn't mean
you are without a sense of fun
Being lazy doesn't mean
that you never like to play

How very gentle is your touch
to all you encounter
One could not imagine
that once your life was very different

For some
fate offers second chances
for me
and for you, our beloved retired racer

Foster Food Contest Results

In the October 2006 issue of the GREATvine, we told you about Valerie Gentili, a teacher at Hillsborough High School in Tampa, who wanted to encourage her students to help the greyhounds, so she decided to have a contest for foster food donations. The contest ended in December and here is what Valerie wrote to us at the end of the contest:

“Well it didn't go as I had hoped. The students just weren't very motivated. I thought that my offering them \$100 gift certificate as a grand prize would inspire many of them to work hard to help these beautiful dogs out.

Only one of my International Baccalaureate students donated, plus another student who graduated last year came back and donated. The good news is that the winner, Wendy Hou, told me that she didn't want her \$100 prize and asked me to buy more dog food with that money. So I did, and I have several bags for you. I wish I had more, but I can try again at another time, and I gladly will!”

We assured Valerie that while she might not see immediate results from her efforts, we know she made an impact on her students and while it may take a while for it to show, the fact that Wendy made such a caring, selfless decision should make her very, very proud! We sure are, and grateful as well!

Many thanks to Valerie and her students for their efforts to help the greyhounds, and we look forward to trying something similar again in the future!





Sandy Paws - Greyt Fun in the Sun!

Join us at Sandy Paws on March 2-4, 2007 at Jekyll Island, Georgia! To register, just go to www.sandypaws.org and click on "Store" at the top of the page. This will take you to the Sandy Paws Registration store.

From there you can do a single or family registration, and you can also pre-purchase raffle tickets. You can order official Sandy Paws clothing – t-shirts, tote bags and baseball hats plus other goodies. And don't forget tickets to the Friday night dinner - Mardi Paws! Once you choose all of your goodies, you can check out and pay by PayPal or mail a check.

Please be sure to fill out the address and attendee information completely. Registration has been extended to 1/21/07, but it's still possible to register after that and pay a small late fee. Do keep in mind that registering for Sandy Paws is separate from making reservations at the hotel... you'll still need to do that!

The Jekyll Oceanfront Resort is the headquarters hotel for the event. They are offering various guest rooms all at a discount, but you must mention that you are with Sandy Paws.

The web site for the hotel is www.jekyllinn.com and the phone number is (800) 736-1046. Reservations must be called in. The charges that follow do not include assorted taxes or resort fee.

Guest Rooms:

- Island side Guestroom \$ 90.00 per night
- Ocean view Guestroom \$100.00 per night
- Oceanfront Guestroom \$110.00 per night
- One Bedroom Villa \$140.00 per night
- Two Bedroom Villa \$160.00 per night

There is also a one (1) time pet fee of \$35.00 for a room with four (4) dogs or less. The pet fee for more than five (5) dogs is \$50.00.

For information on camping, making reservations with the pet photographer or pet communicator, or to see the Schedule of Events, please check out www.sandypaws.org.

Also, for the second year, GREAT volunteers will be manning the Rootique, home of the official Sandy Paws merchandise! Last year each attendee from GREAT worked just one hour at the Rootique, and for our efforts we received a \$1000 donation from the Sandy Paws committee! This is a wonderful and fun way to raise money for the greyhounds... so we hope you'll all work an hour this year as well!

If you have any questions, please email Kelly at kfairclo@tampabay.rr.com. We hope you'll all consider taking part in this fun, relaxing vacation with the hounds!

Excerpts taken from www.sandypaws.org.

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)





Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Valerie & Steve Anderson | Molly |
| Marjorie & Jack Brown | Sandy |
| Ruth & Jack Brunson | Emily |
| Laura & Frank Calci | Sassy & Casey |
| Kelli & Steve Chickos | Elfie |
| Robin & Del Del Guidice | Demi |
| Kelly & Melinda Faircloth | BonBon |
| Betty & Fred Freshcorn | Guinness |
| Peg & Terry Hanks | Lucky |
| Bonnie & David Harbaugh | Chloe |
| Joan & John Harris | Guinness |
| Trina & Chris Hornbrook | Jack |
| Marilynn & Jerry Howell | Bruce |
| Karla & Karl Jenkins | Olivia |
| Michele & Doug Jump | Mona |
| Pat LeMarr | Mr. Bob |
| Mia Masgai & Tom Smith | Rough |
| Marge & Jerry Middaugh | Strider & Seymour |
| Marti Ryan | Snowcap |
| Rhonda Salyer | Reebok |
| Marilyn & Bob Varnberg | Dizzy |
| Diane & Scott Vivian | Denver & Ego |
| B.J. & Steve Vosburgh | Terri & Saki |



The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

Author Unknown





For the Love of Demi *by Del Del Guidice*

Editor's Note: This article, written in July 2006, was originally meant to run in October 2006. It didn't make it into the issue, so we planned to run it in January 2007. Sadly, the article has become a tribute to a wonderful girl who touched us all so deeply.

The Really, Really GREAT Rescue -

It was a little less than a year ago that the folks at GREAT received a call from an emergency vet. They had a greyhound with no tags that had been running loose and had been hit by not one, but two cars. She had a badly fractured hip, a second hip that was dislocated, a mangled tail, a fractured rib, multiple cuts and lacerations, she was twenty or so pounds underweight (at her low point she weighed only 47 pounds) and as icing on this horrible cake, she tested positive for heartworm and hook worm.

"Does GREAT want to pay for her medical treatment or shall we put her down? Under any circumstances, there is only a 50% chance that she will survive.....she's in pretty bad shape." Well, as you would expect, the answer was "do what you can for her and we'll pay for her care." GREAT truly lived up to its name and came to the rescue.

For the first month, Kelly and Melinda Faircloth nursed this beautiful girl (now called Demi) through her major injuries. To everyone's amazement and joy she started to heal well and to stage a remarkable comeback. She gained a little weight and really started to develop a personality. Then came the heartworm treatments.

Demi needed a very quiet and peaceful environment in which she could safely fight the heartworm (more advanced than originally thought) so Kelly asked Robin and me if we would foster Demi through that stage of her recovery. She came to us in September and for the next month she lived in an x-pen which we moved from room to room as we moved about the house. Sam, our other greyhound, treated her as if he knew she was not well....anything Demi wanted, Demi could have. She gained more weight and with her unbelievably indomitable spirit, she overcame everything. And of course, when it came time for Demi to move on, we simply couldn't imagine being without her. We adopted her in November 2005 and she is in her forever home.

Today, at nine and a half years old, Demi is simply 65 pounds of love, joy and affection. She delights in playing

with toys, running like crazy (yes, running with that hip of hers!) and just hanging out with the family. When she really gets excited, she loves to chase the tail she no longer has and to talk. Yup, she thinks she can talk.

When the word got out last year about Demi and her injuries, so many of you opened your hearts and wallets to help an unnamed, homeless runaway. Robin and I want all of you to know that you played such an important part in saving the life of a beautiful, loving creature and we can never be grateful enough. She has brought such joy into our lives and we will always be appreciative. Besides, Demi is teaching us to speak "Dog!"

On December 8, 2006, Del wrote the following:

I have a favor to ask of you. Even though Demi is gone, I'd really appreciate it if you would still publish the article about her in the next Newsletter as a celebration of her life. Please add the following:

This morning, Demi was at the dog park running, prancing, playing and generally enjoying every good thing that life had to offer her, a picture of unbridled joy. Sadly, that enormous heart of hers that overcame so much adversity and brought so much love into our home suddenly stopped and Demi left us, quickly and painlessly.

If she had to leave us, this is the way we would have wanted it. While she has left enormous holes in both our hearts, we "will not cry because it is over, but we will laugh because it happened." Thank you Demi for rescuing us!

Del and Robin

On December 30, 2006, Del & Robin decided to honor Demi's memory in the most wonderful way... they adopted Lisa, now known as Sassy, an 8 year old female greyhound in need of a loving family. Sassy was a former pet, returned to Greyhound Adoptions of Florida after her companion greyhound of 5 years died. GREAT offered to help GAF with a couple of dogs so Sassy came to GREAT... and now she's home.



Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

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Reflections

This issue, the Rainbow Bridge seems to overflow, and reading the names of dogs that we picked up from farms and kennels and other places on the way to their new lives saddens us. No matter how old or young, they left us way too soon, as did the other breeds of dogs and the cats represented on the list.

Upon further reflection, we remember the process of these wonderful hounds learning to be pets, and we remember the excitement and fulfillment we and their new families felt when they became part of a family. There isn't a greyhound family out there that doesn't feel that the first day they opened their homes and hearts to a greyhound was a day that changed their lives forever.

Our deepest wish for 2007 for every greyhound still waiting is that, once again, hearts and homes will open wide to welcome and cherish another beautiful greyhound soul.

GREAT, Inc.

"One by one we can make a difference"



Demi Del Guidice, 5/97 - 12/06
