



# The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

## The More Things Change... by Kelly Faircloth



Believe it or not, GREAT will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2013! While very few people are left from the time that the group was initially founded in 1993, there are several people still involved today who first became active with the group in the 90s. Our own Carol Chilton is one of them!

Over the years, we've changed a lot. Back when I first got involved with GREAT, in 2001, there was no such thing as an online application. The newsletter, which began 16 years ago, was black and white and was mailed to each member's home. Board meetings were held monthly, and typically lasted 5 to 6 hours - now we do them quarterly and they last 2 hours tops!

But, some things have not changed much at all. We have always been and likely always will be a group that relies solely on its foster homes, and foster homes always have been and sadly probably always will be too few for the need. Greyhounds still sit and wait for a place to go once their racing days are over. And some greyhounds still don't ever make it to that happy place we call home - they never had a chance.

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### Special points of interest:

- Treat your yard instead of your dog
- Come Cruise with GREAT
- All about cat-testing

### Inside this issue:

Ticks & Fleas	2
Adoptions	3
Meet & Greet	3
Last Chance for Cruise	4
Craft Days	4
Farm Dogs	5
Greys at Boy Scout Camp	5
Rainbow Bridge	6
Tributes	7
Fun Fundraising	8



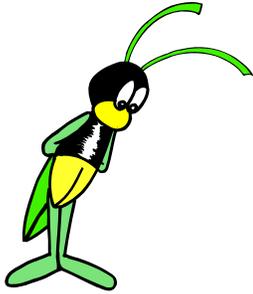
Early Tampa Tribune newspaper article about GREAT, 11/1/94

From time to time, GREAT will look at our operation and make changes that we hope will make us more effective, and that will benefit the greatest number of dogs. But one thing that will never change is our mission to help as many dogs as we can possibly help, even if it is one at a time. And we'll never stop being grateful and feeling incredibly blessed for all of your efforts on behalf of the dogs... it takes each one of you to get the job done, and you do it not for money but for love of the dogs, and that makes you, to put it simply, GREAT!

We do have GREAT scrapbooks which include some of GREAT's history, including pictures! If any of you would like to see the scrapbooks, or help us to work on new ones to document our more recent history, please do let me know. We'll have the scrapbooks available at our next picnic, for all to enjoy!



## Lions and Fleas and Ticks, Oh My! *by Kelly R Faircloth*



Ok, so lions aren't really an issue when it comes to dealing with pests that bite, sting and otherwise make our pets and our lives miserable. But here in Florida, the other two critters are definitely a problem. In the past few years we have seen an increase in "resistant" fleas and ticks - where the tried and true methods just don't seem to work anymore. New products are introduced all the time, but the problem is that they are new, and even though new products have to go through testing before they can be sold to the public, that doesn't mean that they are safe. I don't know about you, but I'm not going to experiment with the health of my dogs - I will wait until a product has been on the market for a while, long enough for reports of side effects and any resulting health problems to become known.

I have always been a proponent of using the smallest amount and most infrequent dosing schedule as possible when it comes to treating hounds for ticks and fleas. You can find a lot of information online and in all of the greyhound books about which treatments are safe for greyhounds, but the bottom line is that all insecticides are poison, and all can cause side effects in our dogs. So, my usual mode of operation is to only use products like Advantage (for fleas) or Frontline (for fleas and ticks), to only use them **IF** I find a flea or a tick, and to use half the amount that is recommended. So, while the dosing schedule on the box says to use one tube every month, I will use 1/2 of a tube per dog, and maybe only once or twice a year. That's usually enough to prevent ongoing issues, at least here at my house.

And please remember that there are **NO** safe flea collars for greyhounds. You'll want to steer clear of them altogether. There is one safe tick collar called Preventic, but again, this is something you put right on your dog, and if you have more than one dog and they spend time grooming each other, they could be ingesting quite a bit of pesticide if you use these products. Last but not least, many products that are ok for dogs are not ok for cats, and in fact, there is a warning label on the Preventic collar which states that it should not be used around cats.

So, what do you do when the critters start biting? My neighborhood seems to go in cycles every few years, and it was about 5-6 years ago that the last tick invasion hit. It was awful - they were everywhere. Nothing seemed to work - not Adam's Flea & Tick shampoo, normally very effective, and not Frontline. And the dogs weren't the only ones suffering. I could walk into my back yard for 5 minutes and come back inside, and find 2 or 3 small ticks wandering around on my shoes. <shudder>

So, in situations like this where the problem seems to be too overwhelming for the usual methods to make a dent, I feel that there is only one recourse (short of investing in a flock of tick-eating chickens to turn loose in the back yard), and that is to treat the yard itself. It's not a decision to make lightly, because of the risks to your pets and the environmental effect as well, but if you are already inundating your pets with topical pest control like Advantage or Frontline every month, and/or possibly using an oral med like Comfortis, then your dog is already being exposed to toxins on an ongoing basis, with no end in sight. Treating your yard may end your problem for a number of years, leaving you free to stop the ongoing direct treatment of your pets - which will hopefully be healthier for them in the long run.

You can call in a professional to treat your yard, if you wish. You'll want to interview them about what they use, what the effects on pets (and humans) might be, and give yourself time to research the chemicals they mention so that you can determine if there have been reported health problems associated with these chemicals. Checking with your vet on those products isn't a bad idea either. You'll want to ask for products that are safe for nursing doggie moms and puppies, since those tend to be a bit safer for greyhounds as well. You'll want to follow guidelines regarding how many hours you should wait after treatment before you allow the dogs back out into the yard. And you'll want to ask if there is a recommended follow-up time, where the initial application is followed up a few days later to kill of anything hatching.

Or, you can treat your yard yourself, using the same criteria I mentioned for the professionals. This is what I did a few years ago when the Invasion of the Body-Snatching Ticks was in full force. I went to Home Depot, studied the labels of the yard treatment products, looked at the ingredients and researched them online for health information, and chose a product that would kill ticks and was safe to use around vegetable gardens (I figured that made it a little less toxic than the others). I chose a water soluble product that could attach to my hose for two reasons - there wouldn't be any result-

*(Continued on page 3)*



## Lions & Ticks & Fleas *continued*

(Continued from page 2)

ing debris that my dogs might try to ingest, and it gave me the ability to spray tree branches, walls and fences, since ticks do climb. I treated the yard one morning when it looked like there would be no rain, and leash walked the dogs that day instead of allowing them into the back yard. I waited another 3-4 days then treated again. And as I mentioned, that was 5-6 years ago and we've had no problems since then. My dogs haven't actually had any Frontline since June 2010, when we went to Gatlinburg, and I only put it on them then because Gatlinburg is a very piney area and prone to ticks.

So, in a nutshell, I encourage you all to think about taking your pest battle off of the dog and out to the yard, where the problem begins. You may find that you will only have to deal with pests once every few years instead of constantly, and hopefully the decrease in the amount of chemical pesticides that are being applied on or into your pets will lead to healthier, happier, less itchy lives!

## Adoptions

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

Sharon & Lee Griffis  
Steve & Stephanie Grossman  
Tina & Terry Levandoski  
Sandra & Todd Lindstedt  
Mary & Walt Postma  
Rhonda Salyer & Al Menchen  
Nataliya & Sunny Sia

Atascocita Estee  
Atascocita Pink  
Atascocita Cian  
Let It Be Me  
Solitary Elvin  
El Zachary  
Breezin Thru

Estee  
Artemis  
Ian  
MeMe  
Elvin  
Rocco  
Dash



## Monthly Meet & Greets

### **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](http://www.great-greyhound.org).



## It's Not Too Late! *by Kelly R. Faircloth*

There's still time to get in on GREAT's next cruise! While Carnival Cruise Lines did take back some of our block of rooms that were unsold, due to our previous pattern of late sales on past cruises, they have left a few rooms for us to continue to try to book! And the best news is that the original prices have come down slightly!

So, if you would like to join us on this cruise, which departs Tampa on Sunday, November 27th, travels to Cozumel, Belize and Isla Roatan, Honduras, then arrives back in Tampa on Sunday, December 4th, just go to our website [www.great-greyhound.org](http://www.great-greyhound.org) and click on the image of the cruise. All of the details are available there, including the reservation form which can be printed, filled out and faxed to our travel agent.

We hope you'll join us on our fifth annual cruise, and help us raise funds for the greyhounds all the while enjoying a fantastic tropical vacation!



## Craft Days *by Kelly R. Faircloth*

Yep, believe it or not, it is now July and as happens every July, our thoughts turn to Christmas gift wrapping...

Huh? This may sound a bit insane if you are new to GREAT, but it's true! Our holiday fundraiser, gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Carrollwood, is just around the corner. We start the day after Thanksgiving and throughout the month before Christmas, we wrap hundreds and hundreds of gifts. Barnes & Noble is good to us and supplies many of the materials we need for the fundraiser, but we like to do a little bit extra to make each package special, and that's where the craft days come in! Two or three times during the summer, several GREAT members gather together to make ornaments to be used as toppers for the packages. We have come up with awesome ideas over the years, including cork reindeer, recycled gift card ornaments, and teeny little popsicle stick sleighs! Our toppers are the hit of the season, and we have several repeat customers who have been bringing their gifts to us for years - they ask for us by name and they are always intrigued to see what new ideas we've come up with! In fact, several customers end up buying our ornaments outright - one notable example is the lady who paid us \$50 for some candy cane reindeer for her husband to use for employee stockings!

We always have a great time on Craft Day, which is usually hosted by the fabulous Betty and Fred Freshcorn, and we ALWAYS have lots of food. It's a great time for your kids to get in some volunteer hours, as well! We're in the process of finalizing our schedule for craft days for this summer, and will get that information out to you ASAP. In the meantime, if you are interested in helping out, please do let me know!





## Cat-Testing? What is that? *by Carol Chilton*

Cat-testing of potential foster dogs is usually done at the greyhound farm of Suncoast Kennels in central Hillsborough County. Because many of the foster homes and many applicants wishing to adopt a greyhound have cats in the home, cat-testing provides the initial screening of the retired racer.

At the farm the retired racers are brought outside the kennel to the paddock area and are walked a bit, out of sight of the cat, Winston, and his "mom" Janet Dubois. The greyhound is muzzled and is leashed.

One dog at a time is walked toward Janet and Winston. Janet holds Winston in her arms at first, and then if the dog's reaction is good at that point, Winston is put on the ground. Winston does wear a harness with leash, and Janet is very careful.

A dog who will not break eye contact with the cat (even with a volunteer trying to get the dog's attention), who lunges toward the cat throughout the introduction, who tries to bite Winston, whose teeth chatter, will be designated as not cat friendly. If one of these dogs is at the farm for a while, it will be cat-tested again. Sometimes the classification is then changed to "needs supervision". That means that the foster home will supervise with extreme care, perhaps even with the dog being muzzled in the foster home, all interactions between their own cat(s) and the foster dog.

Then after meeting Winston, the greyhound is taken back into the kennel, and the next retiree is brought to meet Winston. It is important to note that the waiting dog does not watch the interactions between Winston and the greyhound currently meeting him.

It happens that about one fifth of the greyhounds that we have tested will NOT be OK with cats. Fortunately there are applicants who do not have cats. Some dogs could go either way, depending on the supervision in the home (whether in the foster home or eventual pet home) and the personality of the cat. There are times that dog who tested OK with cats at the farm may need to be moved from the foster home with cats to one without. However, the large majority of greyhounds are capable of living a long, peaceful life in the company of an inside cat. (And most are fine with small dogs as well.)

## Boy Scout Day Camp *by Larry Bowser*

On June 27, Burke Barnaby & I, along with our greyhounds Barnaby and Jesse, attended a one hour lunch presentation at Boy Scouts Day Camp. There were about one hundred and fifty scouts there, and after a brief talk on the history of greyhounds we went out amongst the tables and were surrounded by the youngsters. While the hounds took it all in stride, their owners were slightly overwhelmed! The kids bombarded us with questions, most of which I was proud to be able to answer. In the meantime, Jesse was lying there like a king while the kids petted and hugged him. Over in the distance I could see Burke, but not Barnaby since he too was surrounded by a gaggle of adoring fans.

The hour passed very quickly and the scouts were off to their next assignment. We headed home and big boy Jesse was fast asleep five minutes into the ride. It was a good time!

*(The picture at right shows brindle Barnaby, black Jesse and human Larry, relaxing at a recent meet & greet!)*





## Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- |                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Jeff Almoney & Jeff McGuire        | Apollo     |
| Kiersty Cox                        | Miss Maddy |
| Jayne Demeter & Ron Hawthorne      | Chloe      |
| GREAT                              | Sooner     |
| Christine & Doug Grose             | Fireball   |
| Peg & Terry Hanks                  | Gus        |
| Beth & David Hood                  | Hazel      |
| Jeannie & Rick Kouwe               | Ally       |
| Mark Lazar                         | Remy       |
| Carolyn Spress & Kenneth Poplawski | Cozy       |
| Alanna & Jim Watson                | Danka      |



*Due to a recent technical failure, we may have inadvertently left out some of our friends who have lost pets. We deeply regret any omissions.*

## Rainbow Bridge *by unknown author*

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 the Rainbow Bridge together....





### *Sassy by Del & Robin Del Guidice*

Our sweet little Sassafras crossed the Rainbow Bridge on April 20, 2011, at the age of 12 1/2. Our daughter Lisa chose Sassy for us after we lost our beloved Demi. She was browsing the GREAT website when she saw Dog Gone Lisa. She immediately called us and said that we had to adopt her, "It was fate."

She was renamed Sassafras, our daughter Lisa's nickname when she was a baby. Always a little shy and nervous, her teeth would chatter like castanets and her whole body quiver in large crowds or with loud sounds. But when her dark eyes looked up at us out of that fawn-like face, our hearts would melt.

Sassy was extremely aloof when we first got her. She wouldn't look at a toy, never asked to be petted, and always seemed just a little sad. But when we took her to the dog park she would run like the wind, around and around the fence-line, making a track for herself. The first time she pounced on a toy you would have thought she was one of our children bringing home a straight A report card. We were overjoyed!



Sassy, 11/21/98 - 4/20/11

The last couple of years she didn't run or even walk very fast, she had a heart condition that slowed her down, but she was the boss at home. She didn't mind sharing her bed or toys, even her food, but when a foster dog crossed the line and she had had enough, she let them know with no uncertainty. She also learned how to be bossy with us. Every evening she would bow down, look one of us right in the eye and give several short barks. If there was no response, she tried the other one. She was saying, "More treats, fill the water bowl dummies, or open the closet door I want to go to bed!" Without fail one of the three was what she wanted and she didn't take "no" for an answer.

She was with us for four years and we watched her grow from a timid little girl to a feisty old lady. We will miss her sweet little doe eyes, her helicopter tail and the way she "talked" to us. She was a love and we'll never forget her. But we know she is running through the fields with Demi on the other side of the bridge. Her ashes will be buried in Maine where she loved to run through the neighbors' yards and sleep in her favorite sun spot.

### *Sooner*

Our hearts are broken, here at GREAT. This beautiful girl, so recently taken into foster care, passed away today while under anesthesia for her dental procedure. This same procedure has been performed thousands of times without complications, but for reasons we will probably never know, Sooner's heart gave out on her and our wonderful vets were not able to revive her.

We can't tell you how saddened we are to know that after 7.5 years in the racing world, she was so close to finally finding her forever home, but it was not to be. We are immensely grateful to her foster mom, Carol Chilton, for giving her love and care during her short time as a foster dog.

These terrible things happen from time to time, and it just makes us all remember how lucky we are to be blessed with our pets - they add so much to our lives.

Rest peacefully, Sooner, until we see you again.



Sooner, 10/8/03 - 5/11/11

## Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

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### GREAT's Board of Directors:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Members at Large

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



## Fundraising Can Be Fun *by Carol Chilton*

GREAT is a non-profit entity with no employees but lots of wonderful volunteers. The numerous greyhounds that come through GREAT's doors need food, monthly heart worm prevention, vaccines, spay or neuter surgery, dental and other routine vet work before they are placed into a well screened and educated pet home.

Money to provide for these needs is done through fundraising, with events either sought out or planned by the volunteers, or by invitation from the owners of the venue of the fundraiser. May and June saw some new and different locations for fundraising at which events the public, GREAT volunteers, the foster dogs, and the sponsors all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A Yappy Hour was held on May 20th at the Sono Cafe adjacent to the Tampa Museum in downtown Tampa. Each third Friday of the month different pet related organizations are asked to attend. This Friday GREAT, Veterinary Medical Clinic of South Tampa, and Barkbusters were there. Several folks who had not seen greyhounds before were enamored of the hounds' personalities and asked good questions. Public education is a must in promoting greyhound adoption!



GREAT at the recent Whine & Cheese event.

The next week on May 26, Dr. Kimberly Tyson of Four Paws Veterinary Hospital invited GREAT to be the beneficiary of the raffle she sponsored at the Yappy Hour at Joia's Fabulous Pizza and Martini Bar in Riverview. The food was wonderful and the pet owners who came with their various breeds of dogs as well as many greyhounds with their "parents" had a grand time in the outside covered patio.

Yvonne of Groovy Cats and Dogs in Carrollwood asked GREAT to a meet-and-greet at the store on the covered walkway in front of the store on June 18. Yvonne was also instrumental in gaining GREAT an invitation to be at the Whine & Cheese tasting at Jenn's Wine Shop in Carrollwood on June 24. Both the day event at Groovy Cats and Dogs and the evening tasting (with yummy snacks!) were very enjoyable, elicited good donations (thank you!), and provided excellent opportunities for telling the public that retired racing greyhounds make wonderful couch potato family members. Photographer Nicole Geller took pet photos at Jenn's Wine Shop and provided one free digital print to each customer.

GREAT thanks the Sono Cafe, Joia's Fabulous Pizza and Martini Bar, Groovy Cats and Dogs, and Jenn's Wine Shop for hosting these events and thereby helping GREAT spread the word about greyhounds as pets, as well as helping GREAT with fundraising opportunities to support the foster dogs in GREAT's care.

NOTE: Please always be on the lookout for a place where GREAT can showcase the foster and pet greyhounds. You will find that you will enjoy helping coordinate a special event, and these events DO help the greyhounds!

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