



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

From U.S. to U.K.—Becca’s Journey

by *Eva Sosnowska*



At the end of 2014 I made a big international move landing in Nottingham, UK. At the end of January it was time to start planning to move my greyhound Becca to join me. Moving a pet to the UK used to be a nightmare, but the rules have changed. They are still very strict but pretty straightforward. These are the few basic steps:

- Your pet must be microchipped with an ISO 11784 compliant, 15 digit microchip. If your pet's microchip is not ISO 11784 compliant, you can bring your own microchip scanner. The microchip must be implanted BEFORE your pet gets a rabies vaccination.
- Your pet must have been vaccinated against rabies.
- Your pet must have an official veterinary certificate (Annex IV) completed within 10 days of entry and endorsed by the local USDA.
- You must fill in a declaration confirming that you aren't going to sell or transfer the ownership of your pet.
- Dogs must have had a tapeworm treatment no less than 24 hours and no more than 120 hours (5 days) before entry.
- You must use an approved transport company (airline) and approved route/port of entry.

The most important paperwork has to be done at the last minute – 10 days before entering UK. Find your nearest USDA office – for Tampa, it is the USDA office in Gainesville. You will need to get all your paperwork endorsed there – and the safest and quickest way is to just drive there. Make sure to call and schedule an appointment ahead of time.

Flight arrangements usually have to be booked not more than 2 weeks before travel day (it might be different for different airlines). But lots of things can be done ahead of time to make those last days easier. In general – plan for at least 1-2 months before the trip.

- Do your research. The best and most current information can be found on official government websites. James Cargo Services in UK is also a reliable source of information.
- Choose your airline and check their rules regarding transporting dogs.
- What are their kennel size requirements?
- Do they require an additional “fit to fly” certificate from your vet?
- What are their rules regarding weather/temperature for transporting pets?
- Do they have direct flights and which airport you would land?
- When can you book yours and your pet’s flight?
- Check airlines websites and do not hesitate to call to confirm everything.
- I would advise to choose smaller and less busy airports for both departure and arrival. Smaller airports are easier on your pet, you get more personal attention and the whole process takes less time.

Find out if your vet is USDA accredited. If not, you need to find one who is to complete all the paperwork for you. But in either case it is good to take your dog for a general and thorough check up about a month or so before the trip

- Ask for copies of all records to take with you.

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Wesley Chapel Meet and Greet *by JoAnn Copertino*

My name is JoAnn Copertino and I have been a volunteer with GREAT for almost 16 years. Over the years, I have adopted 4 greyhounds through GREAT. Two were returned seniors, lived to 13-1/2 years old, & I have never regretted adopting older dogs. Seniors are wonderful. They fill a special place in my heart. My present hounds are Robbie and his half-sister Cindy Lou. They are 4 year old treasures; Robbie is calm and Cindy Lou is a bit crazy, but sweet. I adopted him 6 months ago and he is a treasure. He is amazingly calm for a 3 year old, but could get crazy when coaxed!

I have been coordinating a monthly Meet & Greet at the Wesley Chapel Petco for 11 years (1st Saturday of the month from 11-2pm), co-coordinate Muvico's Meet & Greet in New Tampa first with Jean Mauser and now Carol Chilton and Trisch & Rich Armading (2nd Saturday night from 7-9:30pm, weather permitting). In the past, I have coordinated bowling fundraisers and a Meet & Greet we had at the Tampa Palms Arts & Crafts fair, as well as volunteering at various events, such as the FL State Fair, and annual giftwrapping at Barnes & Noble.

I enjoy volunteering and speaking to folks about our wonderful hounds. It's always nice getting together at Meet & Greets with other volunteers, and I have made lifelong friends. Please join us at Petco or Muvico! Maybe both!!

Wesley Chapel Meet and Greet *by Trisch & Rich Armading*

We have always had pets and couldn't imagine being without! In Early 2014 we started the adoption process after going to several meet and greets. In April Hutton came into our home, got along with our other "kids" and decided to stay. Along with Hutton our family consists of Milo a mixed breed rescue dog, two birds, and 8 (yes 8) house cats. We have lived in six states in the last 20 years and have always volunteered at a local shelter or rescue. Hutton is our first Greyhound and is wonderfully perfect for us.

After adopting Hutton, learning how wonderful greyhounds are, and getting to know some of the amazing people in GREAT we decided to get more involved. We have been doing Meet & Greets with JoAnn and her greys, Robbie and Cindy Lou, since Hutton became a member of our family. JoAnn was the second person from GREAT we met and had a lot to do with us deciding on adopting a greyhound. We normally take Hutton to the PETCO and MOVICO meet and greets in New Tampa.

We recently went on our first home visit with Carol and hope to learn more about the process. Cat testing is another thing we have started to get involved in. Our cats are very comfortable around large dogs and are always willing to come right up and say Hi. We believe that both home visits and cat testing are very important to the adoption process. I have also made both knitted stocking caps (very cute on the greys) and snoods; would love to make them as a fundraiser for GREAT.

We have been so blessed, in so many ways, to have found GREAT!

Monthly Meet & Greets

MUVICO – NEW TAMPA

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825
Trisch & Rich Armading 813.944.4873

PETCO - BRANDON

Don Goldstein 813.361.7146

PETCO - ODESSA

Linda DePietto 727.848.2241

PETCO - PORT RICHEY

Larry Bowser 727.862.8285

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825
Trisch & Rich Armading 813.944.4873

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Cyndi Rennick 727.417.0913
Buddy Holliday & Darryl Gilbert 727.323.6057

PETSUPERMARKET - PALM HARBOR

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PETCO - PALM HARBOR

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

John Sprenkle 863.940.4065

Please see our event calendar at www.great-greyhound.org/

Collar Safety

by Dana Laggan

We all know that Greyhounds need Martingale collars when outside. With regular collars, they could easily back up and slip out of the collar. But should we keep a Martingale on our hound inside (and with hanging tags?)? This can be a controversial topic and there are a lot of opinions out there. I will just share with you a few of my personal experiences and some things that I have learned along the way.

First of all, I had a Greyhound for nearly a decade that wore a Martingale 24/7 and never encountered a problem. Then, all of a sudden I started reading about it and hearing horror stories about dogs choking and such. I still didn't feel the urge to do anything differently...until a few incidences occurred in my own household. I have a tiny girl, Callie, who is only about 50 lbs. Her feet are so tiny to begin with, so when we had to get the outer toe on her back foot amputated, it made her foot even smaller. One day she was scratching at her neck with her back foot and she got it stuck in the "D" ring and boy did she squeal. Thank goodness I was home. I ran into the family room to see what was wrong and she was basically choking herself because her foot was stuck and the more she panicked, the more it tightened around her neck. That day I went to the pet store and purchased a little side-release collar and ordered a collar tag from Boomerang® tags to latch on to the collar. But I still had my other Greyhound, Callie's daughter Penny, and never thought twice about her Martingale, until one day, a few months after Callie's incident, Penny somehow got her dangling tag caught on the big bedsheets that was on her dog bed and panicked and was darting around with the sheet dragging from her neck. Again, I am so thankful I was home. So that led me to get another regular collar and Boomerang tag that didn't dangle. However, one thing I didn't like about the collars that I had bought at a local pet store is that they were too narrow.

I recently went back to Michigan for a visit and was with a friend who has fostered hundreds of Greyhounds over the years. I noticed the beautiful tag collar her dog was wearing. We started talking about the "to wear or not to wear a Martingale inside" controversy and she began telling me many horror stories she had experienced over the years with Martingales and fosters. The worst being the time when she walked into her living room (thank goodness she was home!) and her foster was hanging from the top of the crate! He had somehow gotten his tags caught through the wire above him. After that, she had a hard fast rule to NEVER allow a Martingale on when in the crate, EVER. Then, after another incident with her own dog (who was not crated at the time), she began using tag collars inside from Houndstown (2 Hounds Design also makes them): http://www.houndstown.com/index.php?dispatch=categories.view&category_id=258#.VeH0S_IViko

What I really love about them is you can get them one inch wide, instead of the narrower collars that you find in pet stores.

I am not here to say "Never use Martingales inside" but simply to share my experience and some simple guidelines about collar safety:

1. If you use a Martingale inside, NEVER hook hanging ID tags on the D ring itself. If the tags get caught, your dog can potentially choke.
2. To avoid dangling tags altogether on your Martingale, you can get a "tag bag" from LongDog Leather Works that holds the tags and attaches to the collar so they don't hang. Or, if you have a one inch Martingale, you can order a collar tag from Boomerang tags that will fit on the collar and not dangle (however, when out in the world, you will want to attach the other tags such as your dog license).
3. Never keep a Martingale collar on your dog while he/she is in a crate. However, some say it is okay as long as A) you have the tags tucked away, such as with a tag bag, and B) as long as the tags are not hooked to the D ring.
4. DO always keep ID on your dog, even when inside. Again, I highly recommend the tag collars from Houndstown.



Adoptions

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Judy & Don Goldstein | Boomer |
| Barbara Rambow | Greg |
| Summer Sides & Michael Griffith | Hugo |
| Donna & Leroy VanWhy | Nito |
| Lorna White | Hunter (Chance) |



Drag Queen Bingo

by Shelly Hollingsworth

It's not your grandmother's Bingo anymore! Let a drag queen call your numbers!

A night out at Hamburger Mary's to play Bingo is fun....and different....and nerve wracking.....and one of the BEST ways to raise money for our hounds!

It's \$10 to play all ten games, and each has a different "theme" way to win. When "It's On" everyone knows that somebody is one number away from a win. Then there are cheers and jeers and the calling of "BINGO!" Winners take a lap around the restaurant and are bopped with the wadded up bingo papers from all the losers. It's all fun and games until someone puts their paper in a drink and makes a wet wad to throw!

Hamburger Mary's nationally has donated over \$2,000,000 to charities through their Drag Queen Bingo nights. Food is plentiful, servers are fun, the Drag Queen Bingo-callers are entertaining, and most important, hugely supportive of our organization

Winners take home prizes and everyone can purchase tickets for the 50/50 raffle. At our last evening GREAT raised \$863. Special thanks to Shelley Perfect who gave \$100 back to GREAT after being the 50/50 winner.

Make plans now for our next fun night. We'll let you know as soon as it's scheduled. If you have something to donate as a prize, please let Kelly Faircloth know.





Forever in Our Hearts...

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

Jeff Almoney & Jeff McGuire	Oates
Lelia & Charlie Barnhart	Alex
Carol Chilton	Diana
Janet & Mark DuBois	Angel
Peg & Terry Hanks	Abby
Leslie & Dave Hardy	Miles & Diamond
Carrie Hulen	Shorty
Lindsey & Jason Lucas	Hammer
Laura Maranto	Snappy
Spring, Kent, Dylan & Emma Vesper	Powwow



Upcoming Events

October 17 Polk State College in Winter Haven will hold its annual FallFest, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This is a fall arts/crafts festival that typically draws large crowds. GREAT has participated in this event for several years. We will once again have a booth. We are searching for volunteers to come out and raise awareness about Greyhounds. Contact John Sprenkle.

November 8 The GREAT Picnic is coming up on November 8. It will be the same place as last year, and we'll follow the same, format, namely relaxing with the dogs, eating and catching up with our former foster dogs. This event will not feature vendors, sales or raffles. We will have the Board election, fun games, and we will have a 'swap' table - bring your gently used dog collars, etc.!). See Page 6 for more details. Please join us from Noon to 3:00 pm at:

Philippe Park, Shelter 7
2525 Philippe Parkway
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

November 19 Great American Teach-in. This is an opportunity to share our pups with school kids. Everyone who has participated in the past has thoroughly enjoyed it, and of course the greyhounds love kids. We take our greys to an elementary or middle school, talk about greyhounds with the kids, and let the kids love on the dogs. This is during the school day, generally between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. The schools are flexible with in that timeframe. If anyone is interested in participating, please let Don Goldstein know as soon as possible.

Holiday Fund Raiser We anticipate being back at the Barnes & Noble in Carrollwood. Remember this is onbe of main fundraisers each year and we need everyone's help. We're still working out the exact days and times, but ot will start right after Thanksgiving and go to Christmas Eve. Please watch your email for details as they develop.

November 29 Harbour Island Art Walk from 12:00 to 5:00 pm.



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GREAT's Board of Directors:

President
Secretary
Members at Large

Kelly R. Faircloth
Brenda Hodges
Don Goldstein
Buddy Holliday
Liz Lynch
Karen Powers



GREAT Annual Picnic

It's time for the GREAT Picnic, coming up on November 8. We'll be doing the same thing we did the last couple years—having a relaxed “un-picnic.” We will once again be at Philippe Park from Noon to 3 pm in shelter 7. A pre-paid cover charge of \$15.00 per family (no matter how many people and hounds you can fit into your car) covers the shelter price, hotdogs, buns, condiments and beverages. We are asking everyone to bring a covered dish. We will also have water bowls for the dogs.

There will be no vendors or shopping, but we will have a few cool items for a raffle and we will also have a swap table—bring your gently used collars, leashes and coats. Whatever is left will be donated to the galgos or other hounds in need. Mostly it will all be about just hanging out, stuffing our faces, and enjoying our hounds and hopefully, the weather! Hope to see you all there! You will soon be able to register for the picnic online at www.great-greyhound.org, and if you are a member of GREAT, stay tuned for more information about our annual board election, which takes place at the picnic.

Hope to see you all there!

U.S. to U.K. (continued)

We ran into a few issues. Becca's travel kennel was a major problem. We had a giant size plastic airline approved kennel, but according to airline rules, it was too small for Becca – she was 1.5" too long. Different airlines have different rules – it is important to check. We thought we would have to order a custom built kennel at a cost of well over \$1000. So I went to work, and contacted British Airlines in Tampa as they would be the ones having a final say. Jaime went directly to Cargo at the Tampa International Airport and found the British Airlines office there. He explained, showed photos and got the OK! We all gave a big sigh of relief :)

As the day of the travel was approaching, another problem came up – weather. British Airlines will not fly pets if the temperature exceeds 85F on that day. For early May in Tampa, it was a concern. Luckily for us, it was a slightly cooler day. But we made arrangements for friends to pick up Becca in case she would not be allowed to fly.

Finally, the day came! Early on May 2nd I made my way to London and then Gatwick Airport. I met Jaime first then went to the Animal Reception Centre to collect Becca. It was not a busy day and she was ready for us. Finally, after long 6 months, I could hold her again. Yes, I cried. And she ignored me at first ;)

(Stay tuned for more to come in the next issue)
