



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Greyhounds Helping People

This issue of the GREATvine is all about what greyhounds bring into our lives! We already know they are fantastic, loving pets, who give us so much more than we could ever give them. But when you see them working as therapy dogs, you really begin to understand that there is just something truly magical about greyhounds. Exploited by humans early in their lives to the point where some never have the chance to know a family of their own... it absolutely amazes me how much they still manage to love us.



Del, Sam & a soldier, who is a K9 officer back in his hometown. He couldn't wait to get home to see his dog!



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Special points of interest:

- Greyhounds greeting the Troops
- How to turn your greyhound into a therapy dog
- Save on those doggie dental bills
- Fall picnic!

Warning - get out your hankies, because there are heartwarming stories ahead! First up, the story of Del & Robin Del Guidice and their dogs Sam and Coco, as they greet the troops arriving home!



Robin, Coco and Del, greeting the newly arrived troops in Bangor, Maine!

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Maine Troop Greeters *by Robert Del Guidice*

Anyone who has ever adopted a greyhound knows the joy and comfort that they bring into our lives. Sam and Coco have found a way to bring that joy into more people's lives by becoming certified therapy dogs with an organization called Paws For Friendship (www.pawsforfriendshipinc.org). However, this summer while in Maine, they "raised the bar."

Bangor International Airport is a "hub" for the U.S. military for men and women being deployed to and returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. There is an organization called The Maine Troop Greeters who greet every out-bound and in-bound flight of American troops so that these wonderful men and women know how much we appreciate their service to our country. Because they are both certified therapy dogs, Sam and Coco were welcomed into the organization.



Welcome Home!



Coco gets some love!

We go about our daily routines with a pager (yes, retro technology, a pager) and when we get a message that there is an incoming flight, we head off to the airport to greet another flight of American heroes. The four of us put on our Maine Troop Greeter name tags and head to the door.

At the airport we wait for the arrival, and when the troops deplane, we form a greeting line and cheer for and greet them, telling each how much we appreciate their service. They are offered free cell phone calls, snacks and someone to talk with if they want.

Sam and Coco are right there with us and it is amazing how these brave men and women are drawn to them. They get lots of hugs and pets, and comments from the troops like "Now I know I'm really home" and "It's really great to be able to pet a friendly dog" are common. There's also the occasional tearful hug with "I can't wait to see my dog(s)."

Over the years The Maine Troop Greeters (www.themainetroopgreeters.org) have met more than 6,000 flights and 1.3 million troops, and they all agree that having Sam and Coco as greeters is special. We've always known how wonderful our greyhounds are, and now The Greeters know.



Sam & Coco welcoming the troops back home!



Your Greyhound - A Therapy Pet? *By Fred Freshcorn*

Have you thought about volunteering your time and your grey's sweetness to help others? Several members and their pups participate in Therapy Pet programs in the area. Greyhounds are wonderful therapy pets. The folks who they visit and who get to touch and talk to them absolutely adore them. Some are fearful of their size, but that is very rare. Most visits are to hospitals, assisted living facilities of various specialties and rehab units. The facility staff always marvel at their calmness, stateliness and total demeanor. In actuality, the pups may provide the most therapy to the caregivers.



Sometimes you might wonder if the drive and the short time you spend with patients is worth the effort. When your pup(s) get all excited when they know they are going to visit, you know you have made a good choice. But, when at the facility you see a smile, or eyes open and crippled hands reach for the pup, or a tear rolls down a cheek as an Alzheimer patient remembers a past pet, you know it is worth the time and your effort. It might be called "Love thy neighbor".

Several GREAT members are members of Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People) and at least one GREAT member participates with Paws for Friendship. If you might be interested, check the group websites for more information. Project PUP is at www.projectpup.net/ and Paws for Friendship is at www.pawsforfriendshipinc.org/.

Adoptions

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

Janice & Doug Birch
Don & Judy Goldstein
Marsha & Don Hall
Amy Houston & Chris Wetjen
Diane Melvin
Eric & Megan Neal
Karen & Bob Powers
James Pullin & Stephanie Midler
Joel Wynn

Atascocita Fame
Atascocitajoejoe
Atascocita Vilma
Toledo Rocket
Funny Ace
Adopt a Duck
Graceland
Atascocita Petal
Kaias Crybaby

Kobe
Zack
Vilma
Roxy
Ace
Ducky
Grace
Petal
Kaia



Monthly Meet & Greet

DOG LOVERS - TAMPA

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

MUVICO - NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772
JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - BRANDON

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

PETCO - ODESSA

BJ Vosburgh 813.920.6477

PETCO - PORT RICHEY

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Tony & Bobbie Kovach 813.475.6343
Cyndi Rennick 727.417.0913

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Jodi Frazier 813.969.1310
Fred Freshcorn 813.891.1861

PETCO - PALM HARBOR

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301
Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286

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



Keeping Your Greyhound's Teeth Healthy *by Cyndi Rennick*

Our greyhounds add so much joy to our lives! One way we can give back is to keep their teeth clean and healthy. After all, good dental hygiene can help prevent many serious health conditions, such as kidney disease and heart disease. But, if you have ever had to have a dental cleaning done on your greyhound, you know that it's not only a big concern because of anesthesia, but it can also be a big expense!

For years I fed a raw diet to my greyhounds Bandit and Sweetie Pie and therefore never had an issue with their teeth (the raw bones kept their teeth pearly white). However, as Sweetie Pie aged, she became a very picky eater and often would turn her nose up at the raw food. At that point I was more worried about making sure she was eating enough than about what she was eating. Unfortunately, the change in her diet had a detrimental effect on her teeth and when she was scheduled to have a small lump removed from her back; it was recommended that we do a dental at the same time. That was the one and only dental cleaning she had in 12-1/2 years, not bad for a greyhound, but definitely not something I would want to have to do on a regular basis.

After that experience (and the bill) I decided to do some research to find alternatives to the yearly cleanings that many people with greyhounds seem to have to do. I was able to come up with a formula that seems to work well for my dogs and keeps us out of the vet's office. A few greyhound owners have told me that they do all these things and still have to have dentals done regularly, but they also said that anything that can help put some distance between those dental visits is worthwhile!

Okay, first and foremost, the single most important thing you can do for your greyhounds teeth is to BRUSH THEM. I know, I know, what a pain... and they may not like it! NOT A BIT! Not at first anyway! But... because as with anything else, if you continue to do the same thing over and over again and act like it's no big deal, they WILL get used to it! Some dogs even find it relaxing! Occasionally my guys will even doze off while I'm brushing!

As far as toothbrushes go, you can use any kind that has "SOFT" bristles. You can also buy a "doggie toothbrush" which generally has a longer handle and is sloped for ease of reaching the back teeth. I have tried using the doggie toothpaste you can buy at pet supply stores as well, but my guys don't seem to care for the taste of it, even the flavored type, so I stick with plain water. You can do whichever you or your dog prefers. Either way, it's imperative that you brush every day or at least almost most every day! One missed day won't be the end of the world, but remember that consistency is the key here.

The next thing I do is use a dental care product. I researched lots of brands and found one that is all natural, works great and my kids seem to like. It is called PetzLife and it comes in either a gel or a liquid that you spray on their teeth (and before you protest again, I promise they WILL get used to this!)



The Before Petzlife photo, from their website...



And the After photo - look at those pearly whites!



Healthy Teeth *continued*

This is from the PetzLife website:

PetzLife Oral Care Spray and Gel work fast and naturally to help remove plaque and tartar on dogs and cats. They also help control bacteria and bad breath. The secret? A proprietary blend of grapefruit seed extract and other natural herbs and ingredients produce a safe and effective oral care maintenance program, especially for senior pets.

You can visit their web site at www.petzlife.com.

I love this stuff and make sure I never run out. A small bottle lasts me about three months and that is using it on three greyhounds. I like the gel but know other people who love the spray. You should start out using it every day and when you see the results you want, back off to 3-4 times a week (but keep brushing every day!). The cost for a small bottle is anywhere from \$15 - \$30 depending on where you buy it. I generally buy it from one of the large pet supply retailers on Amazon.com as their prices are the best. You can also buy it at pet specialty stores and I believe that PetSmart is now carrying it as well. It's definitely much more affordable than a dental cleaning that can cost anywhere from \$300 and up! And that is just the base line cost and does not include any blood work, extractions or medications!

Last but not least, I still feed my dogs raw bones approximately twice a week. Raw bones are hard enough to knock tartar off of their teeth, but pliable enough for a good, satisfying chew, which dogs need. Raw bones do not splinter. Cooked bones splinter. Don't ever give your dog cooked bones. My guys have their favorites which are generally turkey necks, chicken necks and chicken feet (and before you say "gross"... think about this... chicken feet are one of nature's best sources of glucosamine!). Just remember not to feed very large or weight bearing bones, as they are too hard and can break a tooth, definitely not the result we are going for!

So that's it. Brush daily, apply a good dental care or anti-tartar product, and feed some raw, crunchy bones! Simple really and well worth the effort and the minimal expense! Your dogs will be happier for it and those smiles will be pearly white!

Editor's Note: *If you have never fed raw bones before, it's a good idea to get some advice before you start. If you have multiple dogs, separating them before giving them bones is recommended, since dogs can get very territorial over these highly desired objects! For assistance and guidance, please feel free to contact Cyndi at greyadvocate-mom@yahoo.com, or you can contact us at greatinfo@great-greyhound.org.*

Greyhounds at the Movies! *by Kelly Faircloth*

The movie 50/50, a comedy-drama, just hit theaters on September 30th. It stars Jason Gordon-Levitt as a man who discovers he has a rare and potentially fatal form of cancer, and follows his life as he learns to cope, amid the well-meaning but misguided efforts of his family and friends. One of the suggestions he is given is to get a dog because dogs are good for people who are sick or in therapy, so he goes to the shelter and adopts... a greyhound!

Even though it wasn't our regularly scheduled Muvico night, we decided to put together a meet & greet for Saturday, October 1st, so we could be on hand outside of the theater to introduce people to real greyhounds and answer any questions they might have. Even as we were setting up, we were greeted by two women who had just seen the film and upon seeing us, squealed, "Oh my gosh - we just saw a movie with greyhounds!"

It was a good opportunity to spread the word about greyhounds as pets, and we even raised over \$80 to boot! It's nice to see greyhounds starting to be recognized even by Hollywood as dogs that make wonderful pets, and wonderful therapy dogs!





Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Debbie Allen | Amy |
| Laura & Robert Box | Molly |
| Kiersty Cox | My & Dizzy |
| Carol Hansen & family | Comet |
| Leslie & Dave Hardy | BeBe & Patches |
| Judy & Carl Ilse | Tyke |
| Arline Isaacson | Flash |
| Laura Maranto | Bella |
| Anna Mattison | Jester |
| Michael McKenzie | Barnabus |
| Kristi & Philip Steuber | Mary |
| Barbara Walton | Niko |



A Dog's Prayer by Beth Norman Harris

Treat me kindly, my beloved master, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I should lick your hand between the blows, your patience and understanding will more quickly teach me the things you would have me do.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

When it is cold and wet, please take me inside... for I am now a domesticated animal, no longer used to bitter elements... and I ask no greater glory than the privilege of sitting at your feet beside the hearth... though had you no home, I would rather follow you through ice and snow than rest upon the softest pillow in the warmest home in all the land... for you are my god... and I am your devoted worshiper.

Keep my pan filled with fresh water, for although I should not reproach you were it dry, I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst. Feed me clean food, that I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side, and stand ready, willing and able to protect you with my life, should your life be in danger.

And, beloved master, should the Great Master see fit to deprive me of my health or sight, do not turn me away from you. Rather hold me gently in your arms as skilled hands grant me the merciful boon of eternal rest...and I will leave you knowing with the last breath I drew, my fate was ever safest in your hands.





Bella *by Laura Maranto*



Bella, 4/21/01 - 8/24/11

We are saddened to say that Bella has crossed the rainbow bridge.

Thank you Bella for all the years of joy and love you brought to us.
We love you so much and you will be terribly missed.

Barnabus *by Michael McKenzie*

Sunday, July 31, 2011 was a very sad day as we lost our "Barnabus". As he crossed the Rainbow Bridge we are sure he jumped for joy as Ali and Dakota were waiting for him. Now all three of them are running and playing together again. Barnabus was a very gentle soul and he was full of love and life. He loved his toys and sleeping in the king size bed.

He blessed our lives and filled us with constant joy.

Barnabus, you will be forever missed. We have such a hole in our hearts since you left.

Thank you our faithful friend for all the years of happiness.

We love you and miss you.



Barnabus, 9/1/98 - 7/31/11



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



GREAT FALL PICNIC

Sunday, 11/20/11, From Noon to 4 pm
Upper Tampa Bay Park, Palm Shelter
8001 Double Branch Road
Tampa, FL 33635
Rain or Shine

- ◆ Costume Contest - Prizes for Funny, Scary, and Hound/Owner lookalike!
- ◆ Vendor Merchandise and GREAT Merchandise - bring your checkbook!
- ◆ Consignment Table - gently used pet items including collars, leashes, beds, etc.
- ◆ Lots of fantastic raffles
- ◆ Lunch - to be announced!
- ◆ Board Elections

If you have items you'd like to donate for the consignment table, please contact me as soon as possible at greytmom-2008@gmail.com!

There are currently 2 open Board positions. At this time, Liz Lynch & Jordena Backnick have decided to run again, but as always, we welcome your nominations!

Nominations for the Board will be accepted online at www.great-greyhound.org from 10/23/11 through 11/5/11. You may also print out the nomination form and mail it, but nominations MUST be received in our P.O. Box by 11/5/11. If you'd like to run for the Board, please submit your nomination and a short bio.

Voting for the Board will be available online from 11/6/11 through 11/19/11. You will also be able to print out the ballot form and mail it, but ballots MUST be received in our P.O. Box by 11/19/11. You will also be able to vote in person at the picnic, in the event that you can't vote online. If your family is listed as a member of GREAT, every adult family member has a vote.

Only members of GREAT are eligible to vote in Board elections. If you are not certain of your membership status and would like to check, please email GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org.

If you would like to become a member of GREAT, please go to www.great-greyhound.org and move your mouse over the menu item "How You Can Help." Click on "Membership Information" and follow the instructions. You may also print a membership form and mail it along with your payment of \$25, but in order to be eligible to vote in this year's elections, your payment and form must be received before 11/19/11. You may also become a member at the picnic by filling out a membership form and turning it in with your \$25 membership fee.

We look forward to seeing everyone at this year's picnic!
