



# GREATvine



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

Volume 10, Issue 3

July 2005



## *GREAT Online Store*

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GREAT now has an online store! As a matter of fact, we've made a number of changes to streamline our processes and make life easier for our dedicated volunteers. Remember going to meet & greets and finding just the perfect color in a tee shirt, only to find out that the coordinator for Clearwater doesn't have your size? Or perhaps seeing your friend's dog in a new pattern of collar, but the only 2 left are in a different county? No more! Now, everything is centralized and in one place. You can go online, see what we have, place your order and pay via credit card, debit card or direct withdrawal from your bank account. The items will be shipped to you and you will have them in less than a week.

This change is good for GREAT in a variety of ways. Since we won't have inventory at the meet & greets, our coordinators will have much less work to do and can focus on educating the public about the dogs. We don't have to worry about that iffy gray area where we are competing for sales with the stores that are hosting us, which in some areas has been a sore spot. We don't have to order as much inventory, so more of our funds go directly to the dogs. And again, it's easier for the consumer to find what they want! Also, there is a clearance section where prices have been absolutely slashed... do be sure to check it out!

We're starting out with a "home-grown" store rather than a commercial site, so one thing we don't have access to is real-time inventory updates. Therefore, if we only have one Logo shirt in purple in size XL and someone orders it, the site won't update immediately (but will update that day). If by chance the item you order is sold out, your purchase price will be refunded. If you are uncertain as to the color of an item, please send an email (to the address on the "colors" page) and we'll get back to you with a clear description of the color so you can decide! We hope you will all enjoy the store and let family and friends know about it! (By the way, merchandise will still be available at our picnics and other special events – as long as we have permission from the venue to sell).

The change in the way we are handling merchandise leads us to another change that we are very excited about. We've found that while the adoption fee is \$150, the average amount spent by adopters is between \$167 and \$182 in order to purchase a muzzle and a martingale collar/leash set. Because merchandise is no longer be available at our meet & greets where adoptions take place, and some adoptions take place during "off" hours, we've raised our adoption fee to \$175 and INCLUDED a muzzle, solid collar/leash set and a GREAT ID tag. The items have been included in the foster dog packets and make it much easier to schedule adoptions and have everything that is needed right there! The GREAT tag is especially nifty, since combined with the owners' ID tag, it gives another opportunity for someone who finds a loose greyhound to contact someone right away and get that dog home!

We feel so strongly about this that we have also made GREAT tags available for sale on the web-site. We hope you'll enjoy the online store and the changes we have made! Make sure you check often... we'll have new merchandise available from time to time, starting with the Freedom Walker, a high quality hands-free leash that makes walking your dogs and keeping them safe and in control at meet & greets, etc. an absolute breeze! For more details, see [www.great-greyhound.org](http://www.great-greyhound.org)!

### **Greyhound REscue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 152407  
Tampa, FL 33684-2407  
(813) 971-4732**

[www.GREAT-Greyhound.org](http://www.GREAT-Greyhound.org)

### **Board of Directors**

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*Vice President ~*

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# *A Greyhound in Germany* by Natalie Restivo

A few months after I adopted Fancy, I found out that I would be moving to Germany for the next 2 years to serve as a Staff Pediatrician at Spangdahlem Air Base. I was very excited to be moving to Europe, but had some concerns about my pets (I also have a cat, Jacques). Would they have to be in quarantine? Would I be able to find housing that allowed animals? How would I get them there? Fortunately, the Air Force has some wonderful websites that had answers to all of these questions. Most countries in Europe do not require quarantine for animals that have been appropriately vaccinated. Even England has capitulated, but it does require that animals arrive in the country through approved shipping routes. A health certificate is required and must be done within 30 days prior to arriving. The rabies vaccine, if not up to date, must be given no less than 30 days prior to leaving.

My next problem came when I went to the TMO office to book my military flight to Germany. I had to take a commercial airline to Baltimore where I would then meet my military charter flight. I was authorized to take both Fancy and Jacques on the military charter, but not on the commercial flight. Unfortunately, many airline carriers will not ship animals during the summer time due to the temperature. After calling several airlines, I found a solution. Continental Airlines actually has their own "Pet Desk" to coordinate the shipping of pets and other live animals. They were not able to arrange a flight the same day I left, but not only arranged a flight the day prior, but transported my pets to a kennel upon arrival in Baltimore and dropped them off in front of the AMC terminal at the airport the next day. It cost quite a bit of money, but I couldn't have been happier with the service I received.

When I arrived in Germany, I found out that I would not be staying in billeting like I thought I was. I had already arranged for Fancy and Jacques to stay in the base kennel because billeting doesn't accept pets. I ended up staying in a small, family-owned hotel in a very small village. When the proprietors found out that my pets were in the kennel, they insisted that I go and bring them to the hotel to stay with me. As I didn't have a car or a driver's license, the hotel owners drove me themselves to go and pick up Fancy and Jacques.



*Fancy & Sinbad enjoyed their photo shoot...*

After a month of staying in the hotel, I was finally able to move into my apartment. It was a house with 4 units and a small backyard. That's where Fancy met a new friend. The tenant that lived above me was also in the military. She had a large Belgian Malinois-German Shepherd mix named Sinbad. Over the past 9 months, Fancy and Sinbad have become inseparable. Connie, Sinbad's mom, watches Fancy during the day and on her days off so that Fancy won't have to stay in the kennel all day. Fancy won't chew on rawhides at home, but she and Sinbad "fight" over them when they're together. Neither one of them can stand the other getting too much attention. When Connie comes home, Fancy knows it's her and starts whining and barking because she wants to go upstairs to see Sinbad. So you see, it looks like I've created a monster! But I shouldn't leave Jacques out either...he made friends with a stray cat that likes to come up to my glass door all the time. When Jacques sees him, he starts to whine and meow, no matter what time it is!

This past winter was interesting as Fancy has lived her entire life in Florida. She never really cared much for the cold, but snow was a totally new experience. The first time she walked on it, she started jumping up into the air every time she took a step. I wish I had a video camera at the time because it truly was the funniest thing I ever saw! Just before winter started, we had some nocturnal visitors in our backyard. Apparently, the backyard is a haven for hedgehogs. It gets dark pretty early here in the fall/winter, so when I took Fancy out, she started acting strangely and wouldn't go into the grass. I got a flashlight out and found a small hedgehog curled up into a little ball just by the patio.

So that has been our experience in Germany so far. The Germans love animals...they take their pets on holiday, to the store, and yes, even out to eat at restaurants! It still seems so foreign to me to do these things myself, but I love the fact that the Germans are so accepting of pets in just about any situation.



*but Jacques wasn't impressed*

*Natalie plans to leave the Air Force in the summer of 2006 and hopes to return to Florida with Fancy and Jacques.*



## **Trinity School** *by Joyce McCarthy*

On May 16, 2005, Melinda Faircloth and her greyhound Shadow visited Trinity School for Children to accept a donation to GREAT of \$346.00.

Trinity is a charter school located in Tampa and believes in teaching its students about volunteering in the community. The students of Trinity raised the money for GREAT during their annual book fair. The school librarian and coordinator of the book fair, Alisa Murray, created the dog theme of "TAIL" stories. The theme was evident in a "dog bone" hunt and other events. The school collected proceeds on meals sold, face paintings and donations received.

GREAT would like to acknowledge the generosity of all those who participated, especially Tammy Epperson and her daughter Madison for suggesting GREAT as the recipient of this fundraiser.



Coyote sightings & incidents have increased in Pinellas County. Adult coyotes weigh between 24 & 37 pounds & although attacks on domestic pets usually involve cats or other small pets, coyotes have been known to attack medium or large dogs on occasion. You can report coyote sightings in Pinellas County to Animal Services at (727) 582-2600. For more information, please go to [www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/coyote.pdf](http://www.pinellascounty.org/animalservices/coyote.pdf).

Some tips:

- ◆ Coyotes are most active between dusk & dawn, so please keep pets indoors, especially at night & when not supervised.
- ◆ Never feed any wild animal (with the exception of high-mounted bird feeders). Feeding wild animals attracts more of them & causes them to lose their natural fear of humans.
- ◆ Do not feed pets outside or store food outside.
- ◆ Use garbage cans with lids that latch & take garbage out on the morning of garbage pickup, especially if it contains food waste.
- ◆ Clear dense brush, wood piles & other hiding areas from your yard, & keep citrus or other fruit cleared from the ground, in order not to attract rodents (a favorite prey for coyotes).
- ◆ If you know that an area is frequented by coyotes, keep pets & children away.
- ◆ If you see a coyote, make sure they see you & fear you. Yell & clap, throw rocks or spray them with a garden hose.
- ◆ As always, make sure your pet's vaccines are up-to-date. Coyotes can carry rabies.

*Article submitted by Vince Collogan, dad to greyhounds Betsy & Anchor.*

## **Baby, Let's Cruise!**



We are pleased to announce that next year (2006) we are taking part in a fundraising cruise to Cozumel, Mexico with the help of Jeff Almony of Travel Beyond, who also happens to be adoptive dad to Apollo and Mini Me (two GREAT littermates!) Jeff's company has had great success with these charity fundraisers and we're thrilled to have him working on this one for us! Plus, well, it's a party boat to Mexico... come on!

We set sail from the Port of Tampa on the Carnival Inspiration on Thursday, 11/30/06 and head towards Mexico. Friday, 12/1/06 is a fun day at sea – the perfect opportunity to check out the ship's casino, the swimming pools, the duty-free shopping mall, or simply to relax in the spa and enjoy a massage! Saturday, 12/2/06, we arrive in Cozumel, where we have the whole day to enjoy the sights and sounds of this happening town. Late that evening, we re-board and head out for another fun day at sea on Sunday, 12/3/06 before arriving back in Tampa on Monday morning. Don't leave the kids at home – Camp Carnival will keep kids from 2-14 years of age entertained daily with age-appropriate activities like crafts, games, video games, dance classes, parties and more! The only downside – no greyhounds allowed! But it's only 4 days... they'll barely have time to miss us!

For pricing and other details, please see the flyer inside this newsletter or on our website at [www.great-greyhound.org](http://www.great-greyhound.org). If you'd like additional flyers for your church, office or neighborhood, please call us at (813) 971-4732 or click on "Contact Us" from the home page of the website. We hope to see you all on board!



## *In Loving Memory...*

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

Jennie & Robert Berman  
Kathy Fabbri & Sue Stagon  
GREAT Foster Dog  
Joyce & John McCarthy  
Laura & Ed Moseley  
Barbara & Don Sheldon  
Magda & Dick Smith  
Betsy Swisher  
Marilyn & Bob Varnberg

Purrlic  
Hillary  
Burgundy  
Chloe  
Ernie  
Dasher  
Susie  
Laura  
Tommie Girl



## *Tribute to Chloe*

We would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, cards, and prayers during this difficult time. Chloe was not with us long enough. We will miss:

Her smile

Her needle nose

Playing hide and seek

Someone warm to cuddle with

The clicking of her nails on the tile

Her greeting when we walked in the door

Her disappearing act when she knew a bath was coming

Her sudden appearance when she heard the treat jar open

Her paw on your leg to remind you she was there for any leftovers

Quiet walks in the woods stalking bunnies and splashing in puddles

The carpet is straight now and we no longer need to guard our meals, but there is a big hole in our hearts. We miss that loving greyhound that came into our lives.

Joyce & John McCarthy

*Chloe passed away recently due to cancer. She was only 7 years old.*

## *Freedom* by Marilyn Varnberg

**July 4, 2005**

We buried a greyhound today. We don't know her name or where she came from. She was either six or eight years old, she was black and she had a little white on her chest and on her toes. She was hit by a car at the end of our road, sometime this morning and left to die on the side of the road, alone.

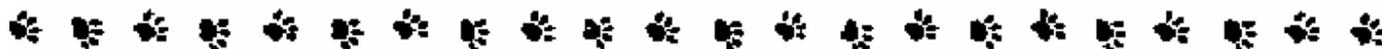
Tomorrow I will try to find out who she was and where she belonged. But it really doesn't matter, does it? She had no collar on.....she was full of fleas....and she was beautiful. No one around here admits they were missing a greyhound.

I will call her "Freedom". She died on the Fourth of July and I would like to think she was trying to find her freedom. I would like to believe she would have been happy on a couch with a basket full of toys and a family of her own.

She is buried here on the farm in a place where she will be remembered and surrounded by flowers, near a small pond.....a place that will soon become a memorial garden. Maybe we should name it after her....a place where greyhounds are finally free and will never be forgotten.

God speed, Freedom....

*Marilyn & Bob Varnberg run Greyhound Adoptions of Florida from the heart of racing greyhound farm country, in Sparr, Florida. Their greyhound sanctuary, Grey Haven, is a former greyhound farm that they have turned into a greyhound hospital, a halfway house for hounds waiting for a home & a place of hope where once there was none. The Freedom Memorial Garden for Greyhounds will be the next project for a Grey Haven workday. More details will be announced at a later date.*



## ***Fast Flea Facts*** *by Kobie Pierce*

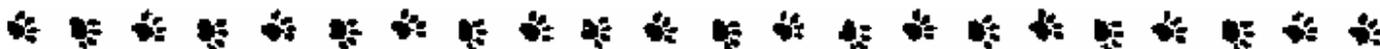
1. Pet owners spend \$1 billion per year on controlling fleas.
2. The cat flea is the most common flea found in Florida. (It annoys dogs as well as cats!)
3. An adult flea can lay up to 50 eggs per day.
4. Flea eggs hatch in 1-12 days.
5. The flea life cycle progresses from eggs, to larvae, to pupae to adults.
6. The entire flea life cycle can take 2 weeks to 2 years (depending on conditions.)
7. If a pet is allergic to fleas, she may get a rash.
8. Fleas can transmit tapeworms to your pet. Symptoms of tapeworms include irritability, erratic appetite, shaggy coat, mild diarrhea that may be tinged with blood, weight loss and seizures.
9. Flea larvae feed on "flea dirt," the black, poppy seed-like excrement found on your pet.
10. Frequent removal of fleas (via flea combing or bathing) can decrease the flea infestation.

Fast flea facts taken from the following websites: [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov), [www.fleasmart.com](http://www.fleasmart.com), [www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu), the University of Kentucky's website and Ohio State University's website. If you have found a foolproof and SAFE way to get rid of fleas, please let us know! Go to [www.great-greyhound.org](http://www.great-greyhound.org) and click on "Contact Us."



## ***Healthy Reminders*** *by Granny Chilton*

- ◆ Fleas aren't the only nasty critters waiting to take a bite out of your pet (or you!) Ticks are active year-round in Florida, and this summer in particular has been a heavy season for ticks. Please remember to check your pets and your family daily for ticks and remove them immediately. Disease is much less likely if you remove ticks within 24 hours of being bitten, so don't let a day go by without checking, especially if you and your pets spend a lot of time outdoors. For more information on ticks and greyhounds, check out this website: [www.geocities.com/bo\\_freddy/ticks.html](http://www.geocities.com/bo_freddy/ticks.html). For more information on tick removal and disposal, see <http://vetmedicine.about.com/library/howto/httick.htm>.
- ◆ A greyhound's nails need a trim if, when standing, you are unable to easily insert a piece of paper between the dog's nails and a smooth flooring surface (tile, wood, cement).
- ◆ Greyhounds are canine athletes. Even after retirement they are at their healthy best when the last 3 ribs are still visible to the eye. Being too heavy puts a strain on their joints and their internal organs.
- ◆ Help your greyhound look spiffy at meet-and-greets and when out on walks too! Keep his/her collar and leash clean by washing every month, or more frequently if needed. Remember to keep the identification tag and your county rabies tag on the collar at all times. For a great deal on a quality tag with deep engraving on both sides, perfect for listing multiple phone numbers or medical information, please go to [www.boomerangtags.com](http://www.boomerangtags.com)
- ◆ Speaking of collars and tags, while it is important to make sure your pet ALWAYS has both items on, it's a good idea to microchip him as well. Periodically we will send out information about local low-cost microchip clinics provided by area rescue groups, but you can also ask your vet or local shelter for information on microchipping your pet. Don't forget to register the microchip with the national registry that your chip manufacturer provides - otherwise the microchip is useless!
- ◆ Accidents happen to all of us, including our pets, so a pet first aid kit is a good idea. For more information on what to stock in a first aid kit, check out the January 2003 issue of the GREATvine, available under the "Helpful Links" button on GREAT's home page. The first aid information is on pages 4 and 5. A well-stocked first aid kit can be used for humans and canines, and should be checked yearly to insure that products haven't expired or degraded. June 1st is a good time to check the kit, since that's when hurricane season begins! Also, be sure to re-stock your kit after use so that you don't run out of important items. Most importantly, consult with your veterinarian before using any product or medication on your pet.



# Adoptions

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

Jeff Almoney & Jeff McGuire  
 Jennie & Robert Berman  
 Chris Chartier  
 Carol Chilton  
 Kristen Coccozza & Brent Thomas  
 Phyllis & Gary Galan  
 Ruth E. & Brian Gardner  
 Beth & David Hood  
 Jen & Don Keller  
 Tammy & David Mallory  
 Catherine & Frank Moseley  
 Laura & Ed Moseley  
 Sieglinde & Wolfgang Obernesser  
 Sheri & John Stickle  
 Kimberly Wolverton

Kiowa Mini Me  
 ICU Cassius Clay  
 Odd Solomon  
 Black Day  
 Lady Mae Blondie  
 Mohicanalmondjoy  
 Kiowa Sweet Eli  
 Miss Power  
 Bad Little Bubba  
 Santas Belle  
 Kiowa Reese  
 Racing Rosalie  
 Angela Mia  
 Solitary Fortune  
 Graceland

Mini Me  
 Clay  
 Solomon  
 Bette  
 Gracie  
 A.J.  
 Eli  
 Josie  
 Bubba  
 Belle  
 Reese  
 Rosalie  
 Mia  
 Fortune  
 Grace



## ***GREAT Store Coordinators***

### **DOG LOVERS - TAMPA**

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

### **PETCO - BRANDON**

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

### **PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND**

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

### **PETSMART - CITRUS PARK**

Fred Freshcorn 813.885.3925

### **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)

If you 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

## The Happy Dog's Bedtime Prayer - Author Unknown

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
The king-size bed is soft and deep.  
I sleep right in the center groove  
My human being can hardly move!

I've trapped her legs,  
she's tucked in tight,  
And here is where I pass the night.  
No one disturbs me or dares intrude  
'Til morning comes and I want food!

I sneak up slowly and it begins  
My nibbles on my human's chin.  
She wakes up slowly and smiles and shouts,  
"You darling beast! Just cut it out!"  
But morning's here and it's time to play  
I always seem to get my way.

So thank you, Lord, for giving me  
This human person that I see  
The one who hugs and holds me tight  
and shares her bed with me at night!



Shannon Toomey is all set for bedtime



Dear Dogs:

- ◆ When I say to move, it means go someplace else, not switch positions with each other so there are still two dogs in the way.
- ◆ The dishes with the paw print are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note, placing a paw in the middle of my plate does not stake a claim for it becoming your dish, nor do I find that aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.
- ◆ The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.
- ◆ I cannot buy anything bigger than a king-size bed. I am very sorry about this. Do not think I will continue to sleep on the couch to ensure your comfort. Look at videos of dogs sleeping; they can actually curl up in a ball. It is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to each other stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also know that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out the other end to maximize space used is nothing but doggy sarcasm.
- ◆ For the last time, there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, try to turn the knob, or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I must exit through the same door I entered. In addition, I have been using bathrooms for years, canine attendance is not mandatory.
- ◆ The proper order is kiss me, then go smell the other dog's butt. I cannot stress this enough. It would be such a simple change for you.

Thanks,

Your owner? Friend? The guy who happens to live here?



# ***GREAT Fall Picnic/Board Election***

October 30, 2005, Noon - 4 pm  
Al Lopez Park, Shelter # 315  
4810 North Himes Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614

GREAT's next picnic is rapidly approaching! Please mark it on your calendar and make plans to attend! As always, we'll have food, fun, the hounds, a costume party, and more! Details will be coming soon.

In addition to all of the fun activities at the picnic, we will also be voting to elect new board members. This year we will have 3 open Board positions. If you'd like to be considered for the Board, there are a couple of things to consider:

- ◆ Board members meet every other month at a pre-determined location for approximately 3-4 hours.
- ◆ Board members should be available to check emails daily in order to respond to urgent situations or items that need an immediate response.

If you would like to run for a Board position, please go to [www.great-greyhound.org](http://www.great-greyhound.org) and click on "Contact Us." Please include a small paragraph telling us a little about you. This information will be included on the online and paper ballots that people will use to make their selections.

*More information will be available online on 10/1/05 about the Board vote. Only GREAT members are eligible to vote.*



Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.  
P.O. Box 152407  
Tampa, FL 33684-2407  
(813)971-4732  
www.GREAT-GREYHOUND.org