



GREATvine



A newsletter for Greyhounds and the people who love them

Volume 10, Issue 4

October 2005



In the Wake of Katrina by Kelli Chickos

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During the days following August 29, 2005, most of us watched the television closely for updates on how the Gulf Coast was dealing with the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina after the strong Category 4 storm ripped through the vulnerable cities of New Orleans, Biloxi, Gulfport and surrounding areas. The scenes plastered through every media were shocking and unthinkable. An unknown number had lost their lives and nearly a half million were left with little more than the clothes on their back. The world had just witnessed one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike the United States.

When disaster strikes and people are uprooted, their pets often become the forgotten victims. After Katrina struck, millions of animals, dependent on humans for survival, waited for help.

On Sunday, September 5, I was deployed to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to assemble a make-shift shelter on the grounds of the Forrest County multi-purpose center. We went to assist some of the hundreds of thousands of animals victimized by the cruel effects of the storm. As a member of the Bay Area Disaster Animal Response Team (DART), I am trained to cope with the various aspects of disasters. But nothing could prepare me for the horrible, desperate stories of so many precious, innocent animals.

There was the man who was running a puppy mill inside of his home. It was estimated he had more than 150 pit bulls and miniature pinschers locked in cages when the flood waters rose and parts of the house collapsed. Less than half of the dogs made it out alive.

There was the shepherd-mix dog who arrived with what appeared to be some sort of chemical burn covering much of the left side of his body. He received daily treatment for his wounds in the pseudo-vet clinic constructed out of one of the horse stalls. His prognosis was good and his spirit was equally positive!

There was the dachshund trembling with fear in this unfamiliar place. His paperwork said his parents had to cut their way of the attic to survive. They were hoping they could pick him up the following day.

There was a cute white and tiger cat who had a severe throat laceration, closed with staples by the volunteer vet staff. His cry would turn to a purr when you cradled him in your arms.

There was a cat with her 3 kittens who was unable to produce milk leaving the kittens squealing with hunger. Every couple hours volunteers used a tiny eye dropper filled with KMR to gently calm the hungry kittens.

Then there was the Afghan, who may actually owe his life to Katrina. He came to the shelter during one of the midnight drop-offs by a rescue truck carrying more than 40 dogs. Veteran animal welfare workers fought back tears at the sight of this boy with the matted hair and infected toes whose skeleton was merely painted with a thin layer of skin. Because Mississippi's animal cruelty law was found unconstitutional, there is virtually nothing to protect these animals from ignorant, malicious owners. He, two other Afghans and three Chihuahuas in deplorable condition were surrendered by their owner after the storm. They were now safe from not only the cruelties

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

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www.GREAT-Greyhound.org

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GREAT Fall Picnic/Board Election

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

It's time for GREAT's Fall Picnic! This year it is being held on the day before Halloween and we are planning a Howling good time! We will have a Halloween Costume Contest at 2pm. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be chosen from two categories - the Funniest and the Spookiest! Lunch this year is barbecue with various side items and will cost \$5 per person.

The following vendors/services will be available at the picnic:

- ◆ Natalie & John Balvich, formerly of Brass & More, with a few fine collectibles
- ◆ Neena Derf's Greyt Collars
- ◆ Melinda Faircloth's Glass Mosaics
- ◆ Tina Koufas-Eisbacher's Greyhound Art
- ◆ Pupperware Parties - Pet Product fundraiser information
- ◆ Nail Clipping
- ◆ Bathing (for the hounds!)

We will have new GREAT items as well, including collar & leash sets, hands-free leashes and martingale harnesses, so this is an excellent time to do some holiday shopping! Remember, not all vendors are set up to accept credit cards, so please bring cash or checkbooks as well!

We have some AMAZING raffle prizes so be prepared to buy lots of tickets! If you have something you would like to donate to GREAT's raffle, please contact Doug Rubottom at (813) 924-3621 or Kelly Faircloth at (813) 876-5237. Raffle items do not have to be greyhound-related, and certificates for goods or services are greatly appreciated!

Due to the fact that some greyhounds are NOT small-animal or other-breed friendly, please leave your non-greyhound furry friends safe at home. This day is for the greyhounds!

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. While the Board members whose terms are up will be running for their positions again, we are also accepting other nominations. If you'd like to serve on the Board, here are some 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.
- ◆ Online nominations will be accepted from 10/1/05 through 10/15/05. If you prefer to print the nomination form and mail it via USPS, please allow time for it to be received no later than 10/15/05. Online voting will begin 10/17/05 and end on 10/30/05. Paper ballots may be submitted at the picnic on 10/30/05, but if you are mailing in your ballot, please allow ample mailing time in order for the ballot to be received before 10/30/05. Ballots received after that date will be discarded. Results will be announced on our website on 10/31/05.

If you have any questions, please go to www.great-greyhound.org and click on "FAQ/Contact Us" to send us an email, or call (813) 971-4732.

Only members of GREAT are eligible to vote. To become a member, go to www.great-greyhound.org and click on "How You Can Help" then click "Membership Information."



Annie, Agility Star - Now Rally Star! by Janet Skinner

Some of you may already know Annie, my little 10-year-old greyhound “agility star.” Unfortunately, I was forced to retire Annie from agility competitions earlier this year due to a shoulder injury. During the course of her treatment, it was determined that Annie also suffered from some degenerative discs in her spine. Both her holistic and traditional veterinarian advised me that Annie’s agility days were over.

But my girl was not ready to retire from canine competitions just yet. In June, Annie and I enrolled in a 6-week Rally class at the St. Petersburg Dog Training Club. Rally is a new sport in which the dog and handler complete a course of designated stations (10 - 20, depending on the level). Each of these stations has a sign providing instructions regarding the next skill that is to be performed. Some of the skills performed include Sit, Down, Front and Finish, Weave, Circle, Right and Left Turn, and Heel.

Annie has never been overly enthusiastic about doing Obedience exercises before, but because Rally involves a lot of constant movement and positive interaction between dog and handler, Annie took to it like a pro. It also did not hurt that there were lots of yummy treats involved in the training process!

On August 27, Annie and I participated in our very first Rally competition in St. Petersburg. Annie really strutted her stuff, wagging her tail and flashing that happy greyhound smile at the crowd as she completed each station. We were met with a huge round of applause as we left the ring. Much to my surprise and delight, Annie took 1st place in the Novice A class!

Annie and I went home with a shiny blue ribbon and a nice new squeaky toy. Her agility days may be over, but Annie is still a young pup at heart and not quite ready to retire from all the adventures that life holds in store for her.

After nearly nine years together, Annie continues to amaze and inspire me. She is an absolutely phenomenal greyhound and I treasure every day that I share with her.



Janet & Annie pose with Annie’s first, but not last, Rally ribbon!

Janet recently started her own business, Think Pawsitive! Dog Training LLC. As the name implies, she utilizes reward-based, positive training techniques rather than traditional force-based methods. She has found that this type of training works extremely well on all breeds of dogs, and is the only way to train greyhounds.

Janet will be teaching small group classes (limit of 8 dogs) at Countryside Recreation Center in Clearwater and at Dunedin Community Center in Dunedin. Classes will include instructing pet dog owners to train their dogs to perform a variety of basic behaviors, including sit, down, come, leave it, and more. Instruction on effective management practices for dealing with common behavioral problems, such as chewing, housetraining, jumping, will also be included in the curriculum.

For class start dates, call Janet at (727) 784-5529.

In the Wake of Katrina continued

(Continued from page 1)

of mother nature, but the cruelties of man.

Similar stories would unfold hundreds of times throughout that week and for many more weeks to come. By the end of the first week (nearly 2 weeks after the storm struck), we had about 150 dogs and cats at the Hattiesburg shelter. One week later, the total grew to more than 1,100 and included several emaciated horses. HSUS predicts that, three weeks after the storm, there are still tens of thousands trapped and in desperate need of aid (including livestock and farm animals) and time is definitely running out...

Ed. Note - HSUS offers DART training several times per year and also accepts certain types of untrained volunteer assistance. If you are interested in learning more about this important training, please go to www.hsus.org.



In Loving Memory...

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

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Arleen & Robert Barry | Rascal |
| Candace & Andrew Billingsley | Jake |
| Marina & Chuck Cawley | Alvin |
| Kelli & Steve Chickos | Holly |
| Pam & Mike Dupree | Freddie |
| Tina & Michael Eisbacher | Tigger & Jethro |
| Kelly & Nate English | Spicey |
| Bobbie & Bob Hartzell | Wally |
| Liz & Scott Lynch | Blake |
| Amy & Eric Scheffler | Lucy |
| Myra & Roderick Shepard | Isabella |
| Penny & Billy Stevens | Duke |
| B.J. & Steve Vosburgh | Hoosier |



Tribute to Holly *by Kelli Chickos*



Holly, her first day off the farm at age 14...

Last October, GREAT's newsletter cover story was about Task Holly Day, our beautiful brindle girl with a crooked ear and clumsy gait, who found her first and forever family just shy of her 14th birthday. Holly enjoyed 11 months of absolute love and adoration before her heart simply and quickly gave out. She passed away at home, in her Daddy's arms and with her Mommy by her side, on July 7, 2005. We knew her time on earth would not be long, but that did not prepare us for the sadness we felt when she was gone. She will always hold a special place in our hearts and the memories we have of her will always make us smile.

Although our time with Holly was short and losing her was so very hard, I still believe in my heart that adopting a senior is one of the most wonderful and rewarding ways to bring sheer joy to your life and the life of a deserving greyhound. Just ask Elfie, who we adopted on September 4, 2005. She turns 12 in February.



and with her parents - what a difference love made in her life.



Goodbye Isabella by Myra Shepard

Many of you may know the story of two very special greyhounds, Isabella and Laura, that came to GREAT the summer of 2002. I will never forget the day they came to my house straight off the 'farm' - both in such terrible shape. Laura had large growths hanging from her body and Isabella had no hair at all from her shoulders all the way down her backside. It was pathetic. Still, with all that she had been through and the fact that she had never seen the inside of a house before even though she was then 8 years old, Isa quietly stood in my living room and then calmly hopped up on my couch as if she had done it a thousand times. It was at that moment that I knew *she* had chosen *me*. This was no regular 'foster'. She was in such poor shape. I sat with her to try to make her feel comfortable, which wasn't easy, since her breath was the worst thing I have ever smelled due to having teeth so rotten that TWO fell out as she was panting. There was sand, grass and who knows what else compacted in her mouth... it made me sick to my stomach. The first night was a challenge since she needed ice packs on her back from the inflammation she suffered due to being doused in malathion at the farm in an attempt to control fleas. She cried all that night due to the pain and I wanted so badly to take that pain away. Given her appearance, I could only imagine what she had been through, but I was so thankful she was free from it from that point on.



The next day she was transported to the vet and that ride was so gross! She wasn't a good rider and drooled A LOT, so you can imagine how bad the car smelled. It was all I could do not to throw up from the stench, but we made it. After having 23 teeth removed along with all of her other medical needs attended to and some TLC from the vet and staff, Isabella was on her way to a brand new life. I thought Isa would have a problem eating since she was missing so many teeth, but there were no problems at all! She gobbled her food with gusto. She loved peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, veggie burgers, potato chips - I was really impressed. (I know that stuff wasn't really part of a balanced doggie diet, but she so deserved to have special treats!) I decided after taking her to a few 'prospective forever homes' that I was kidding myself and could never let her go. I needed her and she needed me. On 8/17/02, it became a reality - I was Isa's new mommy, sister, forever friend. No more pain, no more harsh chemicals on her back, no more artificial inseminations, she was no longer be a greyhound making machine... she was home.

Isa got to spend time with her sister Kiwi, who was rescued a few weeks later from the same hideous farm (editor's note: GREAT ended up rescuing more than 15 dogs from this place - all in poor condition but all of which thrived with loving care.) Kiwi and Isa acted like two old ladies hanging out - it was quite funny. She met many foster dogs and showed them the ropes. In becoming a member of my family, she also inherited a family of 4 cats and lived peacefully among them. There are so many awesome memories...

Isabella was truly an ambassador, a voice for the thousands of unwanted greyhounds all over the world. I would carry her pictures along with us and whenever anyone asked about her - she became an activist for the plight of greys.

So many people would be blown away by her story, having had no idea of what goes on behind the scenes in the lives of racing greyhounds. They would give me donations, money, quilts, towel, bleach ... anything to help our cause. It was truly amazing to see how through her story so many peoples' eyes and hearts were opened.



In August 2005, Isabella was laid to rest. She was such a wonderful girl and we miss her more than we can ever express. I still wake up looking for her so I don't step on her as I get out of bed... just habits you form without even realizing it... it hurts so much that she's not there. She was my baby, my heart, my pal. We buried her in her favorite comforter - the one she dug around in and nested for 20 minutes before it was just right. I put her favorite little purple stuffed animal that she loved to cuddle with between her paws. I will never forget her gentle spirit and I know she waits patiently for me at the Rainbow Bridge. Good-bye my sweet Bella...

Isa on her favorite comforter, cuddling with her purple stuffie



Adoptions

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

Jennie & Robert Berman
 Kelli & Steve Chickos
 David Forte
 Julie Guida
 Stacey Ingandela
 Sandra Kozlowski & Bryan Goss
 Michele Lawson
 Joyce & John McCarthy
 Donna & Chris Monagle
 Kimberly & Joseph Pacini
 Kimberly & Joseph Pacini
 Jessica & Justin Rice
 Hilary Snow
 Betsy Swisher

Forbes LPD Ploma
 Jeannette May
 Altered Wind
 Woods Talisman

 Excavator
 Kiowa Mini Midas
 ICU Flying Julie
 CD's Prairie
 Solitary Jane
 Mesa Zeke
 Dewey Fantasy
 Moesha
 Nebo Imperial

Paloma
 Elfie
 Midnight
 Ziggy
 Duke
 X-ray
 Midas
 Julie
 Prairie
 Janie
 Zeke
 Guinness
 Martha
 Emma



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
 Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK
 Fred Freshcorn 813.891.1861

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!



2005 Fall & Winter Events

Aside from our regular meet & greets, we have a LOT of stuff happening this fall and winter! As always, we need your help to make these events a success! If you would like to help with any of these events, please email the coordinator listed after each item. If you do not see a coordinator listed, please email kfairclo@tampabay.rr.com. (FYI – for the picnic, we are hoping to use non-GREAT volunteers so that our hard-working GREAT people can just have fun!)

Saturday, 10/15/05

- ◆ Stride for the Strays, Al Lopez Park, Tampa, 8:30am-noon
- ◆ Polk Community College FallFest, Polk Community College, Winter Haven, 9am-4pm, Pamela Wiseman, pswbirdlady@juno.com

Saturday, 10/22/05

- ◆ Dog Day in the Park, Water Works Park, Tampa, 11am-2pm

Saturday, 10/29/05

- ◆ Spirit of the Woods, Hillsborough River State Park, Thonotosassa, 9am-3pm, Dave & Leslie Hardy, daveles@mindspring.com

Sunday, 10/30/05

- ◆ GREAT's Fall Picnic, Al Lopez Park, Tampa, noon-4pm

Saturday & Sunday, 11/12/05 & 11/13/05

- ◆ Tampa RV Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, Tampa, 10am-4pm

11/25/05 through 12/24/05

- ◆ Brandon Barnes & Noble Holiday Gift Wrapping, Brandon, various times, Kathy Hoffman, kdhspeech@aol.com
- ◆ Carrollwood Barnes & Noble Holiday Gift Wrapping, Tampa, various times

Saturday & Sunday, 12/3/05 & 12/4/05

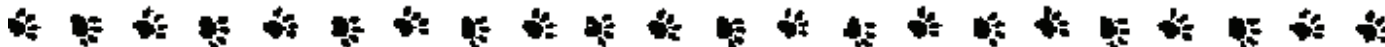
- ◆ Tampa PETsMART Photos with Santa, Fletcher & Bruce B. Downs, 11am-4pm, JoAnn Copertino, jalcopertino@aol.com

Saturday, 12/10/05

- ◆ Citrus Park PETsMART Photos with Santa, Citrus Park Drive, Tampa, 11am-4pm, Fred Freshcorn, fredlf@mindspring.com

We are trying to secure a day for Photos with Santa at the Clearwater PETsMART as well.

For information on the dates and times of the Gift Wrapping events, please go to www.great-greyhound.org and click on "About Us" then click on "Event Calendar." Also, events are added on a regular basis, so please do check our Event Calendar regularly!



GREAT Bowlathon by JoAnn Copertino

GREAT sponsored its first cyber bowling event on Sunday, August 21st, at Regal Lanes on Armenia Avenue in Tampa. Forty-five attendees came for an afternoon of bowling, music and fun! The disc jockey had everyone lining up at the front of the lanes dancing to those silly wedding songs we all hate like the Hokey Pokey, but we had fun. Who would have thought?

Bowlers ranged from the very talented to the very challenged - in fact, at least two of our bowlers used the bumpers for one or more games and still couldn't score above 80! The big surprise of the day was Foster Dog Coordinator and Vice President Carol Chilton, who although claiming to be "not very good" proceeded to wipe the lanes with both her teammates and the challenging team! It was all in good fun though, and President Kelly Faircloth got her one strike by rolling a "granny ball" - yep, a two-handed toss that is anything but graceful but still brought down the pins.

Melinda & Shadow Faircloth manned our Meet & Greet table and did an excellent job. Shadow was his ever gracious self, happy to meet adults and children alike. A perfect representative for greyhounds!

All in all, it was greyt fun! I am looking forward to our next big bowling challenge!



Melinda & Shadow Faircloth, GREAT ambassador!



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