



GREATvine



A newsletter for Greyhounds and the people who love them

Volume 11, Issue 1

January 2006



Cozumel Awaits!

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The holidays are over and it's time to think about your NEXT vacation! We're hoping you'll decide to make it a GREAT one... and join us on our Cruise to Cozumel!

For those that have already booked passage and are day-dreaming about balmy breezes and frosty margaritas, we thank you and hope you'll bear with us while we tempt some of our newer members!

We board our ship, the Carnival Inspiration, in Tampa on Thursday, November 30, 2006, departing at 4pm. We cruise all night and all day Friday, enjoying a fun day at sea where we will be free to enjoy all of the ship's amenities, including the following:

- ◆ Casino
- ◆ Las Vegas-style shows
- ◆ Salon Services
- ◆ Massage Services
- ◆ Food, food and more food!
- ◆ Swimming Pools
- ◆ Fitness Center
- ◆ Nightclubs
- ◆ Shopping and much, much more!

Saturday, we arrive in Cozumel at 7am and spend the whole day exploring, shopping or other activities. The ship departs again at midnight, and we spend another fun, relaxing day at sea on Sunday. At 8am on Monday, we arrive back in Tampa, rested, tanned and ready to go home and hug our greyhounds!

Not only will you have a great time, but you will also be caring for retired rescued greyhounds, because \$20 of your ticket price will be a tax deductible charitable donation to GREAT, and Carnival Cruise Lines will match your donation! So for every person that goes on the cruise, the greyhounds get \$40... for food, medical care and other expenses until they find their forever home. What a deal!

Fares include the four night cruise, all meals (and there are a LOT of wonderful meals on a cruise ship!), Las Vegas style shows, room service, port charges, taxes, our Travel Beyond travel agency escort and a special cocktail party for GREAT travelers.

Not included are transportation to the Port of Tampa, gratuities, shore excursions, bar drinks, salon and massage services, casino, cancellation insurance and items of a personal nature.

Our group rates are per person, double occupancy and are as follows:

- ◆ Interior Stateroom, Category 4A, \$413.50
- ◆ Ocean View Stateroom, Category 6A, \$473.50

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**Greyhound
REscue & Adoptions
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Sandy Paws - Greyt Fun in the Sun

Some of our newer members may wonder what all the fuss is about... what is this thing called Sandy Paws, and why are there constant updates about it?

Well, straight from the keyboard of Dione Garnand, one of the organizers of the event, here is an overview of what Sandy Paws is all about:

I wanted to give you all a run down in case you haven't been to Sandy Paws before. Here goes - Sandy Paws-Greyt Fun in the Sun 2006 will be held the first weekend in March 2006. It is at the Jekyll Oceanfront resort on Jekyll Island GA. Jekyll Island is a small quaint island with lots of history. Look at www.jekyllisland.com for more info. The resort is perfect for the hounds as it is made up of separate buildings with only two floors. In between the buildings of the resort are grassy areas perfect for walking and then you can explore the sandy dunes and the beach. The resort is right on the beach. For 2006 we will have the entire resort!

In the main lobby will be the registration area. When you get there the first thing to do is check in and pick up your goody bag!! Upstairs are the fabulous vendors, the Sandy Paws Rootique (with official Sandy Paws gear) and the raffle room. Out by the pool is the Pavilion or big tent. We will have the Friday night Roo'au in the tent with lots of festivities and music. Saturday night fun will also take place in the tent with the ice cream social, crowning of the queen and king and the memorial service along with more fun. Right outside the tent is the tiki bar and the boardwalk to part of the beach. The only thing you have to sign up for is the 2nd annual Greyt Talent contest. Does your hound have a unique talent?

The official schedule is now posted on the website at www.sandypaws.org, so do get started planning your trip to Sandy Paws. Committee members will be dressed in bright orange t-shirts so if you have any questions throughout the weekend just ask one of us and we'll be happy to help. On the announcement page of the website there is an article entitled "There's something for everyone at Sandy Paws" that will give you more information. In the meantime, contact any of us with questions you may have. It will be a FABULOUS time!! Can't wait to see you there!!

Please do make your reservations and join GREAT, Inc. at Sandy Paws! The only thing better than a vacation is a vacation with the hounds!



GREAT, Inc., making a strong showing at the 2005 Sandy Paws event!



2006 Spring Events

Well, another year has begun and already we have a very full calendar of events! To volunteer at any of these events or to get more information, please contact me at kfairclo@tampabay.rr.com or call (813) 971-4732.

- ◆ Super RV Show, Florida State Fairgrounds, January 21 & 22, 10am-4pm

Two shifts each day, from 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm.

- ◆ Volunteer Meeting, Location in Tampa & Time TBD, January 29

We hope you'll consider joining us for this first meeting where we will be discussing GREAT's practices, looking for new ways to attract good foster homes and potential adopters, and discussing ways to improve our home visit process. We'd like to continue having these meetings on a regular basis, perhaps twice annually or more often if needed. Our volunteers are our greatest asset and we want to hear your ideas!

- ◆ Florida State Fair, Florida State Fairgrounds, February 9-February 20, 9am-6pm daily

Two shifts each day, from 9am-1:30pm and 1:30pm-6pm. Volunteers receive paid admission to the Fair and a parking pass for one of two special lots reserved for the Purebred Dog Tent exhibitors.

- ◆ Humane Society of Tampa Bay's Bark in the Park, Al Lopez Park, Tampa, March 18, 8:30am-1pm

GREAT, Inc. has an informational booth at this event, however, with enough volunteer participation, we can also form a walking team. Please contact Kelly at kfairclo@tampabay.rr.com for more information.

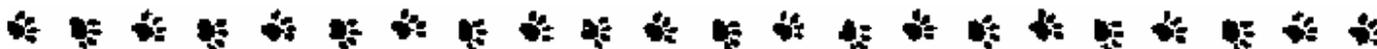
Please keep an eye on our website event calendar... we are always adding new events!

Cozumel *continued*

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There are suites with balconies, single rooms, and triple/quad/quint rooms available upon request. For those rates, please contact Jeff Almoney (Travel Beyond representative and member of GREAT!) at (800) 237-4070. For the category 4A & 6A rooms, a deposit of \$50 per person is due at the time of reservation, with the remaining deposit of \$150 per person due on 7/25/2006, and final payment due on 9/18/2006. Deposits are fully refundable if you cancel your trip in writing by 9/30/2006. After that date, graduating cancellation fees apply. Please see our website at www.great-greyhound.org for more details.

We hope you will join us! What better way to spend a few days enjoying a cruise, than to enjoy it with other people who own and love greyhounds!



In Loving Memory...

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

Bobbie & Erick Bertram	Mo
Marina & Chuck Cawley	Bella
Kelli & Steve Chickos	Little Miss Magic & Pete
Doreen & Jim Chonko	Kathie
Jennifer & Randy Cutro	Alex
Kelly & Nate English	Bella
Kelly & Melinda Faircloth	Shadow
Kiley Frazier	Mab
GREAT Foster Dog	Princess
Donna & James Haggie	Gopher
Kathy & Grey Hoffman	Billy Burleson
Joanie & Rami Huff & Stuart Dawson	Bopper
Janet Hughes	Gin & Lucy
Kathy Jeske	Petie
Harriet & Art Raschke	Nike



Sad Goodbyes



Pretty Girl, hoping for a home as wonderful as her last one

We have recently lost two wonderful GREAT adopters. One was Charles “Chuck” Yeoman, who adopted Pretty Girl back in July 2002. At that point, Pretty Girl had experienced a lot of turmoil in her life, passing from shelter to home more than once before GREAT took her in. At that time, she just couldn’t handle being around other dogs but when Chuck came along, her whole life changed. Chuck showered her with love and attention and she became his best friend, and he was hers. Because of his loving influence, we have found Pretty Girl to be more relaxed and comfortable around other dogs, and in fact, she quite enjoys the company of her foster sister. We know she misses her dad, but he gave her the gift of enjoying life again, and we are so grateful that they had each other.

The other GREAT adopter passed away on Thanksgiving Day, in a tragic accident. According to the St. Petersburg Times, Marilyn Rhodes and her GREAT greyhound, Lucy, were out enjoying one of their usual walks around their neighborhood, when they apparently stepped into the road and were struck by an elderly neighbor’s vehicle, who did not see them in time to stop the car. Lucy died at the scene and Marilyn died later at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Tampa. Marilyn, who adopted Lucy in October 2000, and her beloved greyhound were a fixture in the neighborhood, well-known by all and often stopped to chat with people while out walking. Constant companions, they would have been lost without each other...

We here at GREAT mourn for those who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge, both humans and animals. Our deepest and most heartfelt expressions of sympathy go to the families they left behind.



Shadow Faircloth *by his mom*

On November 20, 2005, one day before my birthday, Melinda and I had to say goodbye to Shadow, our first greyhound. It was sudden and unexpected, and absolutely broke our hearts. Not a day goes by that we don't look for him, or listen for his trademark three-tone whine when he wanted the other dogs to clear off the couch, or his happy groan when we rubbed his ears. No one loved an ear rub as much as he did, or for that matter, a back-end rub. Do both at the same time, and he was your new best friend.

One of our members sent me this poem, written by a friend of theirs, after Shadow died. Gillian, the author, kindly gave me permission to print it here for you. I hope she'll forgive me... I made one small change and changed the dog from a German Shorthaired Pointer to a "lovely Greyhound."

*Thanks for the memory
of silky puppy ears
your tongue that wiped our tears
of a pup grown tall
when kids were small
then you watched them through the years
I thank you... so much*

*Thanks for the memory
of countless lovely times
that lovely Greyhound whine
of climbs so high we'd touch the sky
then down the trail we'd fly
Oh, thank you... so much*

*Thanks for the memory
Though muzzle turning grey
You'd still take on the day
Just one more walk
To ridge or park
Just one more game to play
Oh, thank you... so much*

*So, thanks for the memories
Of silky puppy ears
that tongue that wiped our tears
For a 'tail' to tell
Of a life lived well
That will last us through the years*

We thank you

So... Much

Written by Gillian Acord. Permission to re-print.

I Am With You *Author Unknown*

I stood by your bed last night, I came to have a peep.
I could see that you were crying, you found it hard to sleep.
I whined to you softly as you brushed away your tear
"It's me, I haven't left you, I'm well, I'm fine, I'm here."

I was close to you at breakfast, I watched you pour the tea
And think about all the times your hands reached down to me.
I was with you at the shops today, your arms were getting sore.
I longed to take your parcels, I wish I could do more.

I was with you at my grave today, you tend it with such care.
I want to reassure you that I'm not lying there.
I walked with you toward the house, you fumbled for your key.
I gently put my paw on you, I smiled and said "It's me."

You looked so very tired, and sank into a chair.
I tried so hard to let you know that I was standing there.
It's possible for me to be so near you everyday.
To say to you with certainty, "I never went away."

You sat there very quietly, then smiled. I think you knew
in the stillness of that evening I was very close to you.
The day is over. I watch you yawn and say "goodnight,
I'll see you in the morning." And when the time is right

For you to cross the brief divide,
I'll rush across to greet you and we'll stand, side by side.
I have many things to show you, there is so much for you to see.
Be patient, live your journey out... then come home to be with me.



Shadow Faircloth 2/19/1996 - 11/20/2005



Adoptions

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

Del & Robin Del Guidice
 Jennifer Freeman
 Cindy Hicks
 Kimberly & Joseph Pacini
 Rachel & David Powers
 Laura Riess & Eric Bravick
 Matt Skedel
 Sarah & Court Terrell
 Lorna White
 Gail & Joe Zeman

Solitary Vision
 Slammin Eddie
 Nimby Viper
 Pat C Add Value
 Dewey Firstofall
 RPM Joy
 Fire Bound
 Kaias Drifter
 Nock Three Times

Demi
 Vision
 Eddie
 Bandit
 Val
 Dewey
 Joy
 Fiona
 Chance
 Tina



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)

PETSMART - DALE MABRY

Peggy Toomey 813.968.1445

Please see our Event Calendar at www.great-greyhound.org for information on other appearances!

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!



What Does It Take To Do Rescue? *Author Unknown*

Your rescue "kit" should include:

- ◆ A heart of gold to accept those creatures that don't measure up as "perfect" in the eyes of the rest of the world.
- ◆ The people skills of a salesperson.... to convince those that are looking for perfection that they will find it in a rescue dog if they are willing to look a little deeper.
- ◆ A heart of steel to be able to say no when there just isn't any more room for just one more dog.
- ◆ Strong arms and cases of tissues for holding those that must die because there just isn't any other way.
- ◆ The knowledge that you cannot save them all as hard you try and that choice to euthanize is the ending of suffering and not the end of the world.
- ◆ The ability to smile and speak rationally when the 10th person for the day says "I don't want this stupid dog anymore... take him or I am gonna shoot him."
- ◆ Some medical knowledge... or your rescue vet bill will be bigger than the national debt.
- ◆ The fine art of fund raising.... so your vet bill can be reduced to just under the size of the national debt.
- ◆ Patience for breeders who don't care, won't help, turn their backs and say it's not their problem.
- ◆ Patience for dogs that were incorrectly placed and come to rescue with so much excess baggage that you think they will never be adoptable.
- ◆ A sense of humor... because sometimes a smile on your face is the only way to hide the agony and turmoil in your heart.
- ◆ A significant other, family or good friend with housekeeping skills that are so outstanding that they could be highlighted in Good Housekeeping Magazine.... so you can devote your time to all the rescues and be secure in the knowledge that the local Board of Health will not condemn your own home.
- ◆ Personal dogs that will tolerate the never ending stream of four legged orphans, waifs and street urchins that will start arriving at your door the moment you say..."I have room."
- ◆ Children that like being the "token" child to socialize every dog that comes thru the door....being able to say "good with kids" is a real selling point.
- ◆ Magician skills so you can change anything that comes thru the door into good with kids, housebroken, crate trained and obedient.
- ◆ The ability to face the paperwork head-on and deal with it....or someone you can send it to and say..."Here, do something with this mess!"
- ◆ Grooming skills for those ugly ducklings waiting for their chance to be a swan....with a little help from you.

I could go on but you probably get the picture...

None of us have all of these things but we all know that the business of rescue is a team effort. Each of us contributes what we can as a team member. Some of us cannot handle the animals themselves...but there are other things that must be done.

Some only want to work with the dogs...so leave the paperwork to those that like it. No matter what your situation is, it is your simple willingness to help that is most important.



GREATvine Online

This will be the last printed issue of the GREATvine! In order to cut administrative costs so that we can devote more of our resources to the hounds, we've decided to change to an electronic format. Not only will this save time and money, but it will also make it possible for us to make changes to our style, format and to do more with animation and color! These changes will take place over several issues and we hope they will make this a more enjoyable and informative newsletter!

Memberships to GREAT will still be available! Proceeds from memberships go towards the care of our greyhounds, and also make it possible for you to vote in GREAT elections for the Board of Directors! We are working on a plan to combine our membership and sponsorship programs as well, so that your donations will go where you want them to go - senior hounds, special needs hounds, food, veterinary care, medication, etc. Stay tuned for that program!

The quarterly deadlines for each issue of the GREATvine are as follows:

- ◆ January 1
- ◆ April 1
- ◆ July 1
- ◆ October 1

We will keep you informed of any changes to the deadline schedule, and we hope that you will submit items regularly, from tributes to beloved departed pets to jokes and stories about your experiences with your hounds. Photos are welcome too! If you have questions about the newsletter or would like to submit an item, please email GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org or call (813) 971-4732.



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