



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

2009 Parade of Greys

Saturday, 2/21/09, From 10:00am-1:00pm
Al Lopez Park, Shelter # 315
4810 North Himes Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614



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Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc. and Greyhound Pets of America - Tampa Bay, are proud to announce the 3rd Annual Parade of Greys... a walkathon to benefit retired and rescued greyhounds!

Rain or shine, come enjoy a one mile walk, fellowship with other greyhound lovers, and learn more about the different groups that work tirelessly to find homes for retired racing greyhounds!

Registration begins at 10:00am and the Walk begins at 11:00am. There will be food and beverages available for purchase, fun activities, prize drawings and lots of great pet merchandise! Stay tuned for a list of vendors and activities, coming soon!

Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top five individual walkers!

- ◆ Registration begins at 10:00am
- ◆ Walk begins at 11:00am
- ◆ Vendors with fabulous pet merchandise
- ◆ Food and beverages available for purchase
- ◆ Fun activities
- ◆ Prize drawings

Forms are available for download or to be filled out and submitted online at www.great-greyhound.org.

We are currently seeking Corporate Sponsorships! Sponsorship Levels Available:

- ◆ Blue Brindle - \$1000+
- ◆ Blue - \$500 to \$1000
- ◆ Fawn - \$250 to \$500
- ◆ Brindle - \$100-\$250

If you own or work for a company that offers charitable donations or sponsorships, please do let us know. In the current economic climate, charitable giving suffers, and as always, our funding is 100% based on donations.

We hope we'll see you all at this wonderful event!

Special points of interest:

- What is poisoning our pets?
- Gift Wrapping Results
- Adoptions
- How to handle growling greys
- Rescue Dog theatre!

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What Poisoned Our Pets in 2008?

ASPCA News Alert:

With various dangers lurking in corners and cabinets, the home can be a minefield of poisons for our pets. In 2008, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) in Urbana, IL, handled more than 140,000 cases of pets exposed to toxic substances, many of which included everyday household products. Don't leave it up to Fido or Fluffy to keep themselves safe. Below is a list of the top ten pet poisons that affected our furry friends in 2008.

As always, if you suspect your pet has ingested anything toxic, please call your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.

Human Medications - For several years, human medications have been number one on the ASPCA's list of common hazards, and 2008 was no exception. Last year, the ASPCA managed more than 50,000 calls involving prescription and over-the-counter drugs, such as painkillers, cold medications, antidepressants and dietary supplements. Pets often snatch pill vials from counters and nightstands or gobble up medications accidentally dropped on the floor, so it's essential to keep meds tucked away in hard-to-reach cabinets.

Insecticides - In our effort to battle home invasions of unwelcome pests, we often unwittingly put our pets at risk. In 2008, our toxicologists fielded more than 31,000 calls related to insecticides. One of the most common incidents involved the misuse of flea and tick products—such as applying the wrong topical treatment to the wrong species. Thus, it's always important to talk to your pet's veterinarian before beginning any flea and tick control program.

People Food - People food like grapes, raisins, avocado and certain citrus fruit can seriously harm our furry friends, and accounted for more than 13,500 cases in 2008. One of the worst offenders – chocolate - contains large amounts of methylxanthines, which, if ingested in significant amounts, can cause vomiting, diarrhea, panting, excessive thirst, urination, hyperactivity, and in severe cases, abnormal heart rhythm, tremors and seizures.

Rodenticides - Last year, the ASPCA received approximately 8,000 calls about pets who had accidentally ingested rat and mouse poisons. Many baits used to attract rodents contain inactive ingredients that are attractive to pets as well. Depending on the type of rodenticide, ingestions can lead to potentially life-threatening problems for pets, including bleeding, seizures and kidney damage.

Veterinary Medications - Even though veterinary medications are intended for pets, they're often misapplied or improperly dispensed by well-meaning pet parents. In 2008, the ASPCA managed nearly 8,000 cases involving animal-related preparations such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, heartworm preventatives, de-wormers, antibiotics, vaccines and nutritional supplements.

Chemical Hazards - In 2008, the Animal Poison Control Center handled approximately 7,500 cases of pet exposure to chemical hazards. A category on the rise, chemical hazards—found in ethylene glycol antifreeze, paint thinner, drain cleaners and pool/spa chemicals—form a substantial danger to pets. Substances in this group can cause gastrointestinal upset, depression, respiratory difficulties and chemical burns.

Plants - Common houseplants were the subject of nearly 6,500 calls to the Animal Poison Control Center in 2008. Varieties such as azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, lilies, kalanchoe and schefflera are often found in homes and can be harmful to pets. Lilies are especially toxic to cats, and can cause life-threatening kidney failure even in small amounts.

Household Cleaners - Everybody knows that household cleaning supplies can be toxic to adults and children, but few take precautions to protect their pets from common agents such as bleaches, detergents and disinfectants. Last year, the ASPCA received more than 4,000 calls related to household cleaners. These products, when inhaled by our furry friends, can cause serious gastrointestinal distress and irritation to the respiratory tract.

Heavy Metals - It's not too much loud music that constitutes our next pet poison offender. Instead, it's heavy metals such as lead, zinc and mercury, which accounted for more than 3,000 cases of pet poisonings in 2008. Lead is especially pernicious, and pets are exposed to it through many sources, including consumer products, paint chips, linoleum, and lead dust produced when surfaces in older homes are scraped or sanded.

Fertilizer - It may keep your grass green, but certain types of fertilizer can cause problems for cats and dogs. Last year, the ASPCA fielded more than 2,000 calls related to fertilizer exposure. Prevention is really key to avoiding accidental exposure, but if you suspect your pet has ingested something lawn-side, please contact your veterinarian or the Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435.



Adoptions

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

Cara & Arthur Arendt
 Jennifer & Jerome Chester
 Robin & Martin Del Monte
 Linda DePietto
 Dan & Cindy Greene
 Maureen & John Guthke
 Charlene & Steve Hasley
 Veronica & Joe Hitterman
 Richard & Lois Koleff
 Erin & David Root
 Diane Scheidle & David Schaffer
 Deborah Sims
 Julie & Tom Stonebraker
 BJ & Steve Vosburgh

Nitro Joltin Joe
 Kaias Palmer
 Atascocita Lucky
 Atascocita Yentl
 Scarlett O Sones

 Burgoo Burst
 Lisa's Loot
 Annikin
 Bob's Darci
 Kaias Before Dawn
 Hot Foot Kyle
 Sammy Farjha
 My Friend Pam

Joe
 Palmer
 Lucky
 Yentl
 Scarlett
 Roxie
 Kimmie
 Dasher
 Annie
 Samantha
 Dawn
 Kyle
 Samson
 Foxy



Gift Wrapping Results!

Despite a troubled economy, we did quite well with our gift wrapping event this year! In fact, at the Carrollwood Barnes & Noble, even though we had five fewer wrapping days due to a shorter period between Thanksgiving and Christmas, we actually surpassed last year's total! We made \$2,770 at Carrollwood!

At the Brandon store, lack of available volunteers forced us to sharply curtail our wrapping hours, but we still did well, making \$1,481. So, this brings this year's total for both stores to \$4,251!

Thank you to all of our hard-working volunteers, including those who helped make the toppers, those who donated wrapping supplies, and those who wrapped!

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 - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Cindy Wiehrs 813.289.4386

PETSMART - CITRUS PARK

Jodi Frazier 813.969.1310

Fred Freshcorn 813.891.1861

PETCO - PORT RICHEY

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETSMART - CLEARWATER

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

Norma Rogers 813.754.4301

Pamela Wiseman 863.324.6286





Pawsitively Speaking *by Janet Skinner, CPDT*

Help for growling greyhounds

Please note: Before beginning any type of program for aggressive behavior, it is strongly recommended that you have your greyhound evaluated by your veterinarian to eliminate any possible physical causes. If you are unsure if your dog's behavior is motivated by fear or by true aggression, if she has become progressively more reactive with other dogs or people, or if she has already bitten a person or dog, please engage the services of a professional trainer or veterinary behaviorist immediately.

In the last issue of the *GREATvine*, I discussed why it is never wise to punish your greyhound for growling. Your greyhound's growl is a cry for help that needs to be addressed using smart and humane training techniques. The most commonly applied protocols include desensitization, counter-conditioning and, for resource guarders, teaching a reliable "Give" or "Drop".

Before attempting any of these procedures, it will first be necessary to pinpoint exactly what it is that is causing your greyhound to feel fearful or uncomfortable. Is it small children? Men with beards or hats? All men? Is your greyhound okay with you approaching her while she is playing with her favorite squeaky toy, but growls if you come near when she is chewing on a rawhide? You may find that your greyhound has one or more of these "stressors", in which case, you will need to address each one separately.

Desensitization:

The process of desensitization is exactly what the term implies – you gradually expose the dog to the stimulus (object, noise, person, dog, etc.) that is provoking the growling so that she is no longer sensitive to it. The key word here is "gradually" – please do not rush your greyhound when attempting to desensitize her to something she is fearful of. It is also important to start the exposure to the fearful stimulus at a distance that is comfortable for the dog.

Looking at it if from a human perspective, let's say that you are dreadfully afraid of snakes. I could probably get you to look at a snake from 30 feet away without your going into a full-blown panic. I would make sure that you were totally comfortable looking at the snake from 30 feet away before trying to see if you could do 29 feet, then 28 feet, gradually reducing the distance between you and the snake until it was only a few feet away from you. If at any time you started to panic and said, "Whoa, that snake is way too close for comfort," I would back off and go back to a distance that was more comfortable for you. I would

continue to attempt to gradually decrease the distance between you and the scary snake until you were comfortable with the snake at a close distance. This may not mean that you will ever want to hold the snake or wrap it around your neck, however. What it will ultimately do is allow you to be within reasonable proximity to a snake without having a serious fearful reaction.

Now imagine a greyhound is fearful of, and growls at, bearded men in hats. Set your greyhound up for success by exposing her at a distance to a man with *either* a beard or a hat – not both. Determine how far from the bearded man she is comfortable and start at that point. As in the example of the snake above, gradually have the bearded man move closer, watching your greyhound carefully for any signs of stress. If you see any such signs, go back to a more comfortable distance for her. Ultimately, you want your greyhound to be comfortable with the bearded man within arm's length of her. This may take several sessions over several days, or it could take weeks, even months depending on the level of fear your dog has of bearded men. Remember to be patient and not to rush the process. Once your greyhound is comfortable with bearded men, you can repeat the process with a man wearing a hat. Eventually, you will combine the two and work on desensitizing her to a bearded man who is also wearing a hat.

Counter-conditioning:

If you want more bang for your buck when desensitizing your greyhound to a fearful stimulus, you will want to combine desensitization with counter-conditioning. Counter-conditioning actually makes your dog feel *good* about the scary bearded guy in the hat because that guy is going to reliably predict that something absolutely wonderful is going to happen each time he appears.

Let's go back to our example of the snake. If I presented you with \$10,000 when the snake was 30 feet away, you would probably be pretty happy. How about if I gave you another \$10,000 when the snake was 29 feet away? And another \$10,000 at 28 feet? If I continued to hand you \$10,000 in cash each time the snake got one foot closer to you, by 25 feet you would probably be really happy to see that snake coming a little bit closer to you. You might even say, "Hey, hurry up and get that snake a little closer so I can get another 10 grand!"

Fortunately, you can do the same thing with your fearful greyhound at a much more affordable price. Most dogs will be more than happy with some super-yummy treats, like canned or fresh cooked chicken, little bits of steak, or



Pawsitively Speaking *continued*

string cheese. When using counter-conditioning, you really want to bring out the big guns, *so please do not be stingy with your treats*. While your greyhound may love her Milk Bones, they are not the equivalent of the \$10,000 I was giving you for exposure to the snake. In order for counter-conditioning to be effective, be sure and use treats that are very, very special and rewarding to your dog.

Now when you expose your greyhound – at a distance – to that scary bearded man, you will deliver several of your yummy, out-of-this-world treats. Begin delivery as soon as your dog spots the bearded man, and then stop feeding when the bearded man goes out of sight. Stay at the same distance until you can see your greyhound reacting to the sight of the bearded man by turning and looking at you, as if to say, “Hey, there is the bearded man, where is my darn chicken?” Gradually decrease the distance as you are successful, remembering to back up if you sense any discomfort whatsoever in your greyhound. Remember, with desensitization and counter-conditioning, nice and easy does it – go slow and be patient.

Give or Drop:

All dogs should be taught to willingly give up any object that they may have in their mouth when requested to do so by a human. Our dogs are descended from wolves, and while it might make sense for wolves to guard valuable resources such as food, it is both unnecessary and potentially dangerous to live with a dog who growls when you attempt to remove a forbidden object, such as the remote control or a chicken bone, from her mouth.

One of the most important exercises I teach my students in my Adult or Puppy Manners Classes is Give or Drop. Even if your greyhound does not have a resource-guarding issue, I strongly encourage you to teach this behavior anyway. Start by choosing whichever word (Give or Drop) is most comfortable for you and then be consistent in using that particular word. Arm yourself with some really yummy treats (soft and chewy are best) and an object that your greyhound is only mildly interested in (a toy that is not her very favorite, for example). You will put the toy near the dog’s mouth – if she takes it that is fine, if not, that is also okay. With the toy in or near your dog’s mouth, you will now place a yummy chewy treat *directly under her nose* and say, “Give (or Drop)”. Your greyhound should drop the toy to eat the treat. You provide lots of verbal praise while feeding your yummy treat, and repeat the exercise again. If your dog is not taking the toy in her mouth, just hold it near her mouth, place the treat under her nose, say “Give” and move the toy away from

her while feeding the treat and praising. (If your greyhound does not give up the object, you have either chosen too high value of an object or your treat is not tempting enough.)

Continue to practice this exercise, gradually using toys or other items that are more valuable to your dog. What you will be teaching your greyhound is that when you say “Give” and she drops what she has in her mouth, she gets something really wonderful – food and praise -- from you. Ultimately, you will just have to say “Give” and offer verbal praise without a treat.

Dogs are natural scavengers and love to pick up things in their mouths that they should not have. Having the ability to get your greyhound to drop whatever she has in her mouth at any time will certainly come in handy. Please do not ever get into a confrontation with your greyhound in an attempt to get something out of her mouth – this type of power struggle will most likely result in a bite. If you have an emergency situation, such as your dog picking up a chicken bone off the street, use whatever tempting treat or object you have to get her to give up the forbidden object. Be sure and praise her enthusiastically when she gives it up and resolve to work harder on practicing your exchange exercises with safe items.

Resolving the issues that cause your greyhound to growl does take time and patience. But you will make life much better for your greyhound by relieving her stress level, and eliminating some of your stress as well.

I hope that everyone has a Happy and Safe New Year, and that I will see you at the 2009 Parade of Greys in February!

Janet Skinner is a Certified Pet Dog Trainer and the owner of *Think Pawsitive! Dog Training LLC*. She is a member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers, a member of GREAT, and a longtime Greyhound advocate. For more information about her positive training methods or to schedule training for your dog, contact her at 727-784-5529 or thinkpawsitive@verizon.net. There is also information available on Janet’s website at www.thinkpawsitive.net.



Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Mary Jane & Frank Arnone | Noah |
| Laura & Frank Calci | Fury & Paloma |
| Doreen & Jim Chonko | Gallagher |
| Michelle DeCandia | Betty |
| Kelly & Melinda Faircloth | Bumper & Cindy |
| Bonnie & David Harbaugh | Bubba |
| Veronica & Joe Hitterman | Fuzzy |
| Kathy & Greg Hoffman | Bomber |
| Marie & Bruce Kameg | Gator |
| Meg LaLonde & Tracy Pritchard | Roscoe |
| Donna Lettierio & Bob Moree | Kiowa |
| Marie Messina & Barb Nesbitt | Relay |
| Cheryl & Tom Orr | CJ |
| Stacey & Danny Paul | Steele |
| Kobie, Scott & Zeke Pierce | Riley |
| Laurie & Michael Sauble | Joey & Nick |
| Patty & Cary Stoute | Chief |
| Pam & Joe Thomas | Bandit |
| BJ & Steve Vosburgh | Andy |



Cindy Lou Who *by Kelly Faircloth*

We let our feisty, funny, tiny but tough girl go today. If she was solely powered by spirit and drive, she would have lived forever, but her frail little body just couldn't keep up. Already having some health issues when she came to us 6 years ago, we feel incredibly lucky to have had her in our lives for this long.

Cindy was a returned pet twice - once due to the family's financial situation, and once due to separation anxiety - she was not happy as an only pet. We fostered her for a few months and found that when it was time to move her to another foster home so that we could take in a new foster dog, we simply couldn't let her go.

So she became the only female greyhound in the house, and she ruled the boys of the household with an iron paw, even though they were all a lot bigger than she was. She was full of attitude and sass... she made us laugh every single day.

How empty the house feels right now... tiny Cindy Lou Who sure leaves a big hole in our hearts.

She will be forever missed.



Cindy - 7/18/95 to 1/3/09





Bomber *by Kathy Hoffman*

After weeks of watching him experience bad and worse days, Greg and I finally made the decision this afternoon to allow our Bomber to go to the Bridge. CNJ White Bomber introduced us to the world of retired rescued greyhounds nine years ago, and taught us how to open our home to nine forever greys, as well as many other fosters.

This boy had quite a rough start in life. Animal Services found him tied to their fence at 2am in the middle of a thunderstorm. He'd suffered multiple skull fractures and having half of his teeth knocked out, and was terrified of men for quite a long time. Over the years, he lost his fear of men and storms. He'd already found his way into our hearts when his first foster mom, Sharon, brought him 'home' to us.

Bomber never sat or slept anywhere without a toy in his mouth. This photograph of Bomber is the one that we'll forever see when we think of him. Rest well, our forever-loved first grey, and know you are loved and missed.



Bomber - 7/27/93 to 12/30/08

Gallagher *by Doreen Chonko*

Gallagher was a true ambassador for greyhounds. Everyone that met him loved him, just as he loved all creatures great and small.



Gallagher - 11/18/97 to 12/3/08

Gallagher was our "Big Gooch" and constantly amused us with his antics from his "headaches," to opening the kitchen cabinets, to drinking Dad's soda without spilling it when the glass was unattended for a minute, to waking us up early every morning because his belly clock was going off and he wanted to eat. Any food within reach was always fair game for our fair-haired boy, who had the softest, silkiest coat ever. But you could never get mad at him because he was one big, lovable, and very handsome boy!

Gallagher was the bravest soul we ever met. He broke his leg over 14 months ago and then the osteosarcoma set in 6 months later, just as we thought he was healed. With his strong will to live, he battled the cancer for more than 7 months and even at the end, he didn't want to leave us but it was time for him to wait for us at the Rainbow Bridge. He joins his many "brothers and sisters" there, so we know he is in good company running and playing again.

Gallagher, your Mom, Dad, Nemo, Christie and Francie miss you terribly.

Thank you for all the joy you gave us and thank you for coming to us almost 6 1/2 years ago. We love you and always will!!!

Betty *by Michelle DeCandia*

Betty was my sweet little girl. Always gentle and graceful, she reigned over the house watching everything with a calm demeanor. While I was working on my Master's, she kept me sane and focused. With a quick poke of her nose, she'd pull me away from my work and give me lots of love and laughs. When Dugan came to us as a foster, she laid down next to him, looked at me with those big, brown eyes and asked "Can we keep him?" They were practically inseparable after that. Unfortunately, her body couldn't keep up with her spirit. Seeing her suffer as her body wore out broke my heart.

I know she's running free now with her doggy friends that went on before her. She will always be my little Betty-girl, and I really miss seeing her that sweet, white face of hers. I truly feel blessed to have spent the past few years with her.



Betty - 7/1/94 to 12/2/08

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

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Teach-In by Robin Del Guidice

Del and I went to Wesley Chapel High School for The Great American Teach-in. Everyone at the school was very accommodating and gracious and we had a wonderful time. Jennifer Larrimore, the school's Career Specialist, greeted us in the office and a member of the PTA then escorted us to the classroom. As we walked down the hallways with Mickey and Sam, students and teachers were poking their heads out of the doors to see the dogs. We created quite a sensation.

Our class was a group of exceptional students in the Diversified Career Technology program that helps students learn about the workplace and prepares them for life after high school. As they entered the classroom, the reactions to the dogs and us ran the gamut from excitement to curiosity to apprehension. As we talked about the traits of a greyhound and told them what sweet loving dogs they were uncertainty turned to curiosity and interest. We told them how much they loved to run and showed them how their muscular chests and thighs make them strong while their pointy noses and sleek heads make them aerodynamic and built for speed. We showed them their tattoos and explained what they were for and also talked a little about the history of the greyhound.

Sam and Mickey were patient and gentle while all of the class came up to pet them – including those who had been fearful at the start. The kids were full of questions and very excited about coming up to touch the dogs. Teachers were coming from everywhere to see the dogs and ask questions, as well. The classroom teacher, Sheryl Arnold, was delighted about us being there and asked if we would come back again. Del and I had such a good time that we immediately agreed.

Sylvia by Joyce McCarthy

Dee Ford, the director of "SYLVIA", has invited GREAT members to host a meet & greet at the Carrollwood Player Theatre, on Sunday, January 25, starting at 2:30pm. GREAT volunteers will be outside to distribute greyhound information and introduce theater patrons to greyhounds. If you'd like to volunteer for this event, please contact Joyce McCarthy at (813) 962-7115. We hope to have several foster dogs available at this event.

In addition, GREAT members who will not be bringing dogs for the meet & greet are encouraged to come see the show (unfortunately, dogs are not allowed inside the theater)! SYLVIA is a story of empty nesters who decide to adopt a dog who then proceeds to squeeze the wife out of the picture as the husband proves unable to resist the dog's charm. The idea of a dog becoming a third party in a marriage dispute provides the funniest moments in the play. (*WARNING: This play includes adult language*). The Sunday, January 25 show begins at 3pm.

Carrollwood Playhouse is located in Plantation Plaza at 4333-5 Gunn Highway, Tampa. The shows are on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm and Sunday afternoons at 3 pm from January 9th through the 31st. If you would like to reserve your seat please contact Carrollwood Playhouse at www.carrollwoodplayers.com or call 813-265-4000. Tickets start at just \$14, and you can reserve your seat online. **Please reserve your seat early, as the show sells out quickly!**

See you at the theatre!

