



The GREATvine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

Greyhounds as Canine Blood Donors

by Shelly Hollingsworth



Have you ever given blood, and stopped to think about the life you could be saving as a result? Just as people need the life-giving gift of blood, so do our furry friends.

For several years, my greyhounds have been involved in the blood donor program at Blue Pearl (formerly FVS). When I mention that they are blood donors, many people are surprised, but then their thoughts move to immediate understanding – of course animals in distress would need blood, just like we do.

For many animals, blood donation is a simple process, and because of the calm nature of our greyhounds, they make excellent donors. Even more important, perhaps, is that most greyhounds have a universal blood type that can be used by all other canines. In fact, in all the years the program has been in place at Blue Pearl, our girl Wendy is only the 2nd greyhound whose blood is not universal. Wendy donates anyway, and her blood is then typed specifically for exact canine matches.

The blood donation process is simple, and all four of the dogs I have had experience with have reacted the same. The first time they are a bit nervous. The second time they seem to have an understanding of what is happening, and thereafter, it's as routine as ear cleaning or teeth brushing.

The dog is lifted on to a table and a small patch is shaved from the neck area, and the area is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. From the vein, the blood is drawn. Normally, I stand at the head of the table, gently stroking my greys and complimenting their behavior. The blood draw takes less than 10 minutes.

Blue Pearl thanks donors by giving a \$25.00 credit for each donation. That credit goes into an account and is accessible by the owner for any pet in need. It's amazing how quickly my account has grown, and it is sure nice to know I have that credit should I ever need Blue Pearl's specialized or emergency services. Additionally, you will receive the full panel blood work every year, valued at \$600.00. In return, they ask that you bring your pets in 5-6 times a year. You can donate at the main Tampa campus, or the Brandon or Clearwater satellite offices. Appointments are normally early evening or weekends.

Blue Pearl is expanding the blood donation program, and looking for more greyhounds to participate! Dogs must be between 1-8 years of age, healthy, and over 50 pounds. They must be current on all vaccines and have proof of heartworm prevention. Dog must be neutered or spayed with no previous pregnancies.

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Groovy Cats & Dogs Meet and Greet *by Jodi Frazier*

I've been a volunteer with GREAT for about 10 years. It started when I became interested in greyhounds and GREAT matched me up with my first greyhound, Kelly. The following year I adopted Dusty, who was then 4 years old and is now almost 14 and going strong!

Please join us the second Saturday of every month from 11 am to 1 pm for a meet & greet at Groovy Cats & Dogs. Groovy is located in the Carrollwood/Forest Hills area of Tampa at 2305 W. Linebaugh Avenue. Groovy is an independently-owned pet store focusing on holistic products. You can learn more about the store by visiting their website at <http://groovycatsndogs.com>.



Lakeland Meet and Greet *by John Sprenkle*

I am John Sprenkle. My wife Candi and I coordinate the Lakeland Meet and Greet. I was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Florida in 2000. I met Candi, who is a Polk County native, in 2000 and we got married in 2001. I became interested in greyhounds around 2008 or so when someone in our neighborhood adopted a grey. I loved seeing her when they were out walking. We met some of the GREAT crew at Polk State College Fall Fest in 2011. I went back several times to pet the dogs until Jordena and Carol were tired of seeing me. We applied in late October of that year and we were approved in November. Since we had small dogs, it took us a while to find a match. In February, 2012, we met and adopted our Shiloh. We became immediately involved in Meet and Greets. That summer Norma Rogers asked us if we would take over coordinating the Lakeland Meet and Greet for her while she traveled, and the rest is history. We love doing the Meet and Greets to spread the word about Greyhounds and how wonderful the breed is. Last May we started to foster, and we failed on our second, so now have Shiloh and Bee. We are currently fostering Powwow. We really enjoy being involved in GREAT and meeting all its members.

Monthly Meet & Greets

MUVICO - NEW TAMPA

Jean Mauser 813.971.5772
JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - BRANDON

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

PETCO - ODESSA

Linda DePietto 727.848.2241

PETCO - PORT RICHEY

Burke Barnaby 727.697.2394

PETCO - WESLEY CHAPEL

JoAnn Copertino 813.994.9825

PETCO - WEST SHORE

Cyndi Rennick 727.417.0913
Buddy Holliday & Darryl Gilbert 727.323.6057

GROOVY CATS & DOGS - TAMPA

Jodi Frazier 813.969.1310

PETCO - PALM HARBOR

Karen Powers 727.786.4398

PET SUPERMARKET - LAKELAND

John Sprenkle 863.940.4065

Please see our event calendar at www.great-greyhound.org!



Calls to the GREATLine *by Don Goldstein*

As most of you know, GREAT has a phone number (813-971-4732) listed on our webpage (www.great-greyhound.org). When someone calls and leaves a message, I get an alert on my cell phone telling me there is a message. I try to call right away in case the message concerns a lost or found greyhound, which requires immediate action.

Most often the messages are routine calls about the adoption process, someone looking for volunteer opportunities, or people just looking for general information. On the other hand, we have received calls concerning abuse of greyhounds, or people looking to surrender greyhounds (we got Risky and Buster this way). Those folks get a call back right away, and we take appropriate action as soon as we can.

We also get quite a few “pocket dials,” or people looking to surrender their cats. But the funniest call was last January when a young man left a message wondering if he had to purchase a bus ticket ahead of time or could he purchase it at the bus terminal. I couldn’t resist calling him back to let him know that we had nothing to do with Greyhound Buses, but rather we dealt with the dogs, and the story got even funnier. He had asked Siri on his iPhone to call Greyhound, and our number was what she called!



Greyhounds as Canine Blood Donors (continued)

If you are interested in participating, send an email with proof of heartworm purchase and vaccinations to Dr. Diggers at Deeann.dugger@bluepearlvet.com. If you have any questions about the experience, feel free to contact GREAT member Shelly Hollingsworth at shelly.hollingsworth1h@gmail.com or 813-727-0489.





Adoptions

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

Trish & Rich Armading	Kiowa Hutton	Hutton
Tina & Sam Bubb	Paul Uh See	Paul
DeeDee & Bob Jones	LD Weihl Culprit	Grace
Karen Logar & Joseph Paukst	Jet Set	Jenny
Natie, Robert & Matthew Metnick	VJ Cricket	Romeo
Grace, Mike & Justice Parks	KBJ King Buster	Buster
Connie & Brent Worrell	BW Free to Flee	Free



Exercise and Fund Raising by Carol Chilton

WoofTrax is an innovative fundraising vehicle for shelters and rescues. You can walk with your dog or dogs or a fictitious dog if you do not have one of your own! The Wooftrax app for smartphones is available for both iPhones and Androids.

GREAT, Inc. received the first of its 3 times annually received donation checks from WoofTrax in May 2014 for \$158! GREAT, Inc. is registered as a rescue on the website as Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc. (GREAT, P.O. Box 152407).

For a complete explanation of the program, brief biographies of the folks who are making WoofTrax and the donations available, as well as frequently asked questions, go to their website www.wooftrax.com.

Please download the app to your smartphone and continue walking -- or start walking! It is good for you, your dog(s) and GREAT!!!!

In addition, please remember that when you register and purchase items through Amazon Smile, GREAT will receive a donation from Amazon. So far GREAT has received over \$40.00 in donations. You can get more information and register at www.Smile.Amazon.com. Remember, every little bit helps.





Forever in Our Hearts...

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

Kelli & Steve Chickos	Dulcie
Linda DePietto	Yentl
Trish & Steve Farber	Annie
Carol & Bill Forshay	Isis
Gypsy & Mark Smith	Wanda
Candi & John Sprenkle	Rosie
Lorna White	Chance
GREAT Foster	Uma



Greyhounds Falling From the Sky by Carol Chilton

There are retired racers throughout the state of Florida needing an adoption-rescue group. GREAT's own foster dogs come from a variety of sources, and more seem to appear as time goes on. Although there are now seven greyhound specific adoption/rescue groups in the Tampa Bay area, all are always full or near full.

These seven rescue groups are GREAT, Inc., Greyhound Pets of America Tampa Bay (GPA), Greyhound Gang of Florida, Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions, Bay Area Greyhound Adoptions (BAGA), Greyhound Pets of America Senior Sanctuary, and newly formed GST Sun State Greyhound Adoptions.

GREAT's foster dogs, as noted, have come from many sources. In the 1990s, we received many from small breeding operations in central Florida; from the Humane Society of North Pinellas and the SPCA Tampa Bay; from Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk County Animal Control; and, from the Sarasota, Sanford-Orlando, and Naples- Bonita Springs greyhound tracks. These dogs ranged in age from less than 2 years old to just-retired broods or studs who were sometimes 10 or older.

In the 2000s, the main source was Suncoast Kennel in Dover, FL., though foster dogs continued to arrive from the previously mentioned sources. In addition, there were sometimes call-ins to the GREATline for owner turn-ins when the dog(s) were adopted from out of state (most recently Texas), returns of our own placements due to circumstances beyond the adopter's control (divorce, loss of job and/or home, etc.), greyhounds gotten from Craigslist and similar ads, as well as stray greyhounds who no one claimed and we were unable to identify the adoption group.

In this decade, all of the above suppliers are still sources of retired racers needing a rescue-adoption group. In addition, GREAT has been taking a good number from Derby Lane in St. Petersburg.

As one can imagine, the need for foster homes is always critical. GREAT does not have a kennel; all dogs are in foster homes. If you are interested in learning more about fostering a retired racer, please contact Carol Chilton at caroln.hounds@gmail.com.



Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

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GREAT's Board of Directors:

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Brenda Hodges
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Buddy Holliday
Liz Lynch
Karen Powers



Houndie Tips

From Buddy Holiday:

I have a door charging hound that can't be trusted with a SIT/STAY. I have installed slide bolts for extra security and stapled hardware wire to the inside bottom half of wood screen doors..

Stormy is a door latch flipper with his needle nose. I have found that attaching a small cup hook on the door frame, is a great spot to hang a leash to hold back that "bolter" when a delivery happens.

From Don Goldstein:

Along the same lines, we keep 4 muzzles next to the back door, ready for wear by the hounds on the way out.



Editor's Note: I'd like to make this a regular part of the GREATvine. If you have any tips that you'd like to share, please send them to me at DGGoldstein1@tampabay.rr.com. Thanks, Don.
