



# The GREAT vine

Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.



## Come Sail Away!

GREAT's Cruise to Cozumel leaves the Port of Tampa on November 30, 2006, arriving back on December 4, 2006, and we are getting more and more excited! For those who have already booked, the rest of your deposit is due by 7/25/06, with final payment of your balance due by 9/18/06.

For those who haven't yet made their reservations, it isn't too late! Just contact Jeff Almoney at [jalmoney@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jalmoney@tampabay.rr.com) before 7/25/06. Travel Beyond will hold a select number of GREAT rooms until Carnival requests their return, but do keep in mind that after 7/25/06, prices will be subject to change. So please make your reservations now!



**Our ship - Inspiration!**

We hope you all will plan to go on this fun trip! As a reminder, your per-person ticket price includes a \$20 tax deductible donation to GREAT and Carnival Cruise Lines will match that donation! Tropical paradise, relaxation, fun, sun... and it all benefits the hounds. It just doesn't get any better than this!

## Gallagher, Literary Hound!



**Gallagher**

Recently Gallagher, adopted from GREAT in 2002 by Doreen and Jim Chonko, became a star on the webpage of the Dunedin Library!

Gallagher is demonstrating the use of their brand new digital books, which are about the size of an MP3 player, and come complete with headphones! Perfect for busy hounds (and humans) who want to stay up-to-date on the latest best-sellers!

Volume II, Issue 3  
July 2006

### Special points of interest:

- Why GREAT says "No" to retractable leashes
- Meet Janet Skinner - our new featured columnist!
- Zoonotic diseases - how to protect you & your pets
- A cool fundraising idea takes root

### Inside this issue:

Retractable Leashes	2
Adoptions	4
Pawsitively Speaking	5
Zoonotic Diseases	6
Rainbow Bridge	8
Sweet Bea, 6/92-6/06	9
Flower Pots for Greys	10



## Retractable Leashes - Hazardous to Your Health *by Joyce McCarthy*

Despite the fact that GREAT, Inc. prohibits the use of retractable leashes in their adoption contracts, I have been walking trails at Lake Park in Tampa with my greyhounds using retractable leashes for many years. The retractable leash was helpful in allowing the freedom of movement that was necessary to jump logs and traverse difficult trails.

I had incurred minor problems before with the retractable leash; trying to brake and reel the leash in fast enough to negate trouble, grabbing the cord and cutting my hand, dropping the leash and having the cord wrap around myself, other walkers or dogs. I knew that the cords when retracting rapidly could cut or amputate a finger or cause eye and face injuries. But I thought that the benefits of allowing my greys to have some freedom outweighed the negatives. I recently learned differently, and learned it the hard way.

I was walking with my greyhound Julie on a main trail and decided to explore a side trail. Suddenly she shot around me and took off at full speed. I realized I was going to get jolted but I did not want her to escape so I held tightly on to the leash. With her strength and speed, I lost my balance. I do not remember the fall.

When I returned to consciousness I was looking up at blue sky. My first thoughts were for my greyhound, Julie. "Was she still with me?" and "Did the retractable leash break?" I looked at my right hand, I had a death grip hold on the retractable leash and Julie was standing by my side. (I realize how lucky I was that this was the case... she could easily have gotten away from me).

I held onto the leash because I had heard stories where greyhounds got frightened as if they were being pursued by the retractable leash bouncing behind them. On home visits, as per GREAT's guidelines, I had informed new adopters not to use retractable leashes and explained the reasons why they aren't safe:

- There is no control with a retractable leash
- The handhold is not secure and can easily break fingers
- The plastic casings can fall apart under stress
- It only takes a few seconds for greyhounds to cover the full range of the lead

Why did I feel comfortable warning others not to use these leashes while I continued to use them myself? I felt this warning was for the safety of the greyhounds in urban settings. I did not realize how badly a person could be hurt, and of course, I thought, "It will never happen to me."

Due to the pain and swelling I had to see a Neurological Surgeon. When the surgeon read my MRI results, he found I had a concussion and multiple herniated disks pressing down on nerves. This explained the lack of feeling of the fingers in my left hand. My left wrist and knee were not broken but severely bruised. Hopefully, surgery will not be necessary but the damage is permanent. These injuries could have been avoided had I not decided to ignore GREAT's guidelines.

Retractable leashes come with warnings and disclaimers of responsibility for injury. I found the following on the website for Flexi, the top-seller of retractable leashes worldwide. These are just some of the warnings that they provide for users of retractable leashes.





## Retractable Leashes, Continued

**To avoid the risk of eye or face injury and cuts, burns, and amputations to your body or the body of another person from the leash cord/belt and hook, read and follow these Warnings:**

- **NEVER allow the cord/belt to become wrapped around fingers.** The cord/belt can cut or amputate a finger.
- **NEVER allow the cord/belt to become wrapped around hands, arms, legs or any other body part.** The cord/belt can cut or burn you or another person.
- To reduce the risk of injury from being pulled to the ground by your dog, always make sure you have firm and secure footing and you watch closely your dog's behavior and activities while using the leash. **If your dog starts running, immediately press the brake button and prepare yourself for a jolt.**
- Keep the cord/belt from wrapping around the dog's neck and other body parts,
- **Never hold the leash near your head.** The cord/belt can retract rapidly and the hook can cause eye and face injury.
- If the leash separates from the collar and safety loop during use, immediately apply brake and turn your face away.
- **When near other persons or animals, shorten your leash cord/belt and control your dog at your side.** Never use the leash near or around infants and children.
- **If you lose control of your dog, immediately drop the leash.**
- **Before detaching the leash be sure your dog is under control and the leash cord/belt is fully retracted.** If not fully retracted, the leash cord/belt can retract rapidly and the hook can cause eye and face injury.



Had I paid attention to these warnings when I first purchased my retractable leash, I would have realized that they are not appropriate for walking greyhounds, or indeed, any other breed. They are a **serious** safety concern for dogs and humans. Since my accident I have purchased a six foot leather leash and now feel in control. I deeply regret that I ignored GREAT's advice and I'm incredibly grateful that my dog Julie was not injured or lost that day.

*Editor's Note: GREAT is also very grateful that Julie was not injured or lost, but we are saddened by Joyce's injuries. We thank her for having the courage to "come clean" and tell her story, in the hope that others will be spared a hard lesson. We continue to advise our adopters that the safest way to walk their greyhounds is to use a martingale (sighthound) collar and regular leash, available on our web-site, with wrist through the handle. For more control, wrap the leash around your hand a couple of times. In addition, for serious pullers or for dogs who try to pull out of their collars, the No-Pull Harnesses available on our web-site are excellent. Check them out!*





## Adoptions

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

Debbie Allen  
 Stella & Tim Alterio  
 Jennie & Robert Berman  
 Liana Bray  
 Carol Chilton  
 Ashley & Michael Cole  
 Amy & David Foshee  
 Amy Grabowski & Laurie Kozbelt  
 Vicki Hunt  
 Jean & Gabi Karolyi  
 Joanne Linger  
 Jane Mullins  
 Melissa & James Tiller  
 BJ & Steve Vosburgh

Better Tomorrow  
 M's Jessica  
 Iowa Overboard  
 Tell It to Alice  
 Mohican Toyota  
 Ruby Star  
 Kaias Supreme  
 Coffee Royal  
 CNC Gold Glitz  
 Slammin Abe  
 Runnin Outa Time  
 Tapa Nancy

Amy  
 Jessica  
 Josh  
 Apple  
 Camryn  
 Ruby  
 Sunny  
 Sophie Opal  
 Chloe  
 Abe  
 Soot  
 Nancy Drew  
 Rocco  
 Jasmine



Jet demonstrates "sitting"...



While Elfie says, "What? Without a chair?"

**GREAT Volunteer Orientation**  
**612 South Dale Mabry**  
**Tampa, Florida 33609**

**Saturday July 29 from 10am-11:30am**

If you wish to attend and have not already sent an e-mail to Carol Chilton, please e-mail her at [caroln.hounds@verizon.net](mailto:caroln.hounds@verizon.net) to let her know you will be there! GREAT provides the orientation materials and the coffee, bottled water and fresh-baked cookies courtesy of Palm Bank and baker Cindy Wiehrs!



## Pawsitively Speaking *by Janet Skinner, CPDT*

Welcome to the first in what is to be a regular feature of the GREATVINE – a column dedicated to positive training solutions for you and your Greyhound(s).



**Janet & Annie**

Whether you are a foster parent struggling with the behaviors of a dog fresh off the track or a seasoned Greyhound owner whose dogs are already “perfect,” I hope that this column will be a source of information and inspiration to all GREATVINE readers.

Dog training has changed a lot over the past 20 years. When I first got involved in training my own dogs some 14 years ago, pet dog owners were pretty much restricted to classes based on drilling dogs for competition obedience events. These classes involved putting a choke or pinch collar on your dog and demanding that he/she perform a variety of behaviors, some of which had questionable value to the pet dog owner.

While great emphasis was placed on “straight sits” and “figure 8’s” most pet dog owners were simply looking for solutions to problems they were facing at home such as housetraining, jumping up on people, pulling on leash, counter-surfing, destructive chewing, or coming when called. It was not at all unusual to see high drop-out rates in traditional dog obedience classes because the needs of the students and their dogs were not being met. These people simply lost the motivation to continue with training that had no relevance for them or their pet dog.

“An important feature of Dr. Dunbar’s philosophy was that dog training should be fun – for both dog *and* owner...”

Luckily for dogs everywhere, this all began to change in the 1980’s when veterinarian and animal behaviorist Dr. Ian Dunbar introduced his style of pet dog and puppy training classes. An important feature of Dr. Dunbar’s philosophy was that dog training should be fun – for both dog *and* owner – and that it should focus more on rewarding good behaviors rather than punishing undesirable behaviors. Based on the scientific principles of learning and behavior, this type of training is not only more enjoyable, but is much more effective than traditional, force-based methods.

Positive, reward-based training is especially useful in training our Greyhounds. In fact, it was my little Greyhound girl, Annie, who taught me the value of positive training. I first started training Annie to heel in a “traditional” class using correction-type methods, jerking the leash when she did something “wrong” and relaxing it when she was “correct”. One night when we arrived at training class, my gentle little Greyhound refused to get out of the car. She had come to hate the classes where she was always being corrected, rather than being set up to be correct and praised for her efforts! That was the beginning of my journey to becoming a positive trainer – a journey that continues to this day.

Through this column I hope to share with you what I have learned – and continue to learn – on that journey. I would like for this to be your column, so please feel free to contact me to suggest topics for future columns. You can e-mail me with your suggestions at [thinkpawsitive@att.net](mailto:thinkpawsitive@att.net).

Until the next issue, take care of those hounds and remember to *Think Pawsitive!*

**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, 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@att.net](mailto:thinkpawsitive@att.net). More information is available on Janet’s website at [www.thinkpawsitive.net](http://www.thinkpawsitive.net).**





## Zoonotic Diseases: The Shared Threat

### How to Protect Your Family and Your Pet

#### What are zoonotic diseases?

Owning a pet can be a wonderful, rewarding experience for you and your family. However, pets can transmit diseases that may be harmful to humans - especially young children and people with certain medical conditions. These are called zoonotic diseases or zoonoses (pronounced zoo-NO-sees).

There are two types of zoonotic diseases that concern pet owners: illnesses that can be transmitted from animals to humans - like leptospirosis - and diseases that infect both people and pets - like Lyme disease. That's why it's important to take precautions to protect both your family and your pet from zoonotic diseases. You share many things with your pet, but disease shouldn't be one of them.

#### Zoonotic diseases that affect people

Cat scratch disease - Also known as 'cat scratch fever', this flea-borne infection is typically transmitted from a cat's scratch or bite. Signs include pimples at the scratch site and swollen lymph nodes that may persist for six weeks or longer.

Ehrlichiosis - Transmitted by ticks, this bacterial disease can cause fever, muscle aches, vomiting and other, more serious symptoms. As many as half of all patients require hospitalization.

Giardia - People become infected when they drink water containing the parasite *giardia lamblia*. You can also become infected by putting something in your mouth that has come into contact with a pet's stool. Signs include diarrhea, stomach cramps, and nausea.

Leptospirosis - 'Lepto' is a bacterial disease spread by contact with urine from an infected animal, including dogs, raccoons, squirrels, and skunks. Lepto can cause high fever, severe headache, vomiting and, if left untreated, kidney damage or liver failure.

Lyme disease - Spread by ticks, Lyme disease can cause arthritis and kidney damage. The number of Lyme disease cases has nearly tripled since 1990 (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Lyme Disease United States, 2001-2002), and the disease is now found in virtually every state.

Rabies - This well-known disease is caused by a virus found in the saliva of infected animals and transmitted to people by bites. It is invariably fatal if not promptly treated.

Ringworm - Ringworm is a fungal infection - not a worm - transmitted by contact with the skin or fur of an infected dog or cat. Signs include a bald patch of scaly skin on the scalp, or a ring-shaped, itchy rash on the skin.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever - A very serious, tick-borne disease that causes fever, headache and muscle pain, followed by a rash. It may be fatal if left untreated.

Toxoplasmosis - This is a parasitic disease spread by contact with cat feces in soil or litter, although the major route of transmission is contaminated meat. It can cause serious health problems in pregnant women or in people with compromised immune systems.

#### Simple Ways to Protect Your Family

- Wash your hands often when touching, playing with or caring for pets.
- Never handle the stool of any animal without wearing disposable gloves or using a plastic barrier.
- Avoid kissing your pet or letting your pet lick your face.
- Do daily 'tick checks' on yourself, your kids, and your pet. If you find a tick, use tweezers to slowly pull it out. After removing the tick, immerse it in rubbing alcohol. Wash the tick bite wound and your hands with soap and water.
- If you are pregnant, ask someone else in the family to



## Zoonotic Diseases, Continued

clean the cat's litter box. If you must do it yourself, wear gloves and immediately wash your hands after changing the litter.

- Wash your hands after gardening or working in soil where pets may have relieved themselves.
- If you are scratched or bitten, wash the area with soap and water right away and administer first aid. If you are concerned, contact your health care professional.
- See your veterinarian and make sure your pet is protected against zoonoses and other disease threats in your area.

### **Proven Ways to Protect Your Pet**

Many zoonotic diseases can be prevented by vaccination. Vaccines are now available for leptospirosis, Lyme disease, rabies, and giardia.

In addition, twice-a-year wellness exams performed by your veterinarian can help detect and treat zoonotic infections before they become serious, or are transmitted to other pets or people in your household.

Don't forget to take these other steps to protect your pet:

- Ask your veterinarian about tick and flea control.
- Brush and inspect your pet for ticks after each outing.
- Don't let your pet drink from standing water outdoors.
- Don't let your pet come into contact with feces or urine of other animals.
- Remove food, garbage, or nesting materials that may attract disease-carrying wildlife.

*This literature presented by:*

*National Pet Wellness Month is a joint initiative by your veterinarian, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and Fort Dodge Animal Health to help all pets live longer, healthier and happier lives. How? By emphasizing the importance of:*

- *Twice-a-year wellness exams to help detect, treat and prevent health problems before they become serious*
- *Disease prevention based on your pet's lifestyle, the threats in your area, and other risk factors*
- *Pet owner education, especially awareness of the pet aging process*

## Monthly Meet & Greets (Please see online Event Calendar for other appearances)

### **DOG LOVERS - TAMPA**

Joyce McCarthy 813.962.7115

### **PETCO - BRANDON**

Susan O'Hara 813.643.7709

### **PET SUPERMARKET - LAKE LAND**

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)





## Forever in Our Hearts...

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

- |                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Judy Boedeker                  | Stella            |
| Devyn & Preston Bokos          | White Walker      |
| Carol Chilton                  | Merlin            |
| Susie & Dan Crowley            | Domino            |
| Renee D'Arcy & Rich Lewis      | Bea               |
| Michaela Dethlefsen            | Kaelyn & Leonie   |
| Bess & Scott Erhardt           | Sampson           |
| Kelly & Melinda Faircloth      | Misty             |
| Joan & John Harris             | Deacon & Guinness |
| Sheila & Tom Hood              | Daisy             |
| Amy Grabowski & Laurie Kozbelt | Alec              |
| Ellen, Rob & Matt Hooker       | Max               |
| Lynne & Mike Mullen            | Stacey            |
| Jane Mullins                   | Eddie             |
| Barbie Oosting                 | Bumper            |
| Karen, Bob & Cliff Powers      | Bailey            |
| Joan Ray                       | Jessi             |
| Pam, Joe & Cat Thomas          | Bones             |
| Melissa & James Tiller         | Skywalker         |
| Kimberly Wolverton             | Rebel             |



## The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together....

*Author Unknown*





## Sweet Bea

Those of you who have been with GREAT for a few years may remember the July 2002 rescue that became known as “the old girls.” 12 brood females from one farm about 2 hours north of Tampa were picked up by several GREAT volunteers and while 5 were relatively young and able to go to the Humane Society of Pinellas for immediate vetting and adoption, Becky, Penny, Kiwi, Kitty, Pearl, Peanut and Ariel went into GREAT’s foster care system. A motley looking crew, they were missing hair, had large fluid filled calluses over their joints from their cramped living conditions, had mouths full of rotting teeth and were eaten up with fleas. We truly thought it would take months if not years to find them homes, and to add insult to injury, all but one were at least 8 years old.

Imagine our surprise when these old girls, as they came to be known, were among the first of our foster dogs to be adopted. In fact, within 3 months, all but 2 had been adopted, and by the end of the year, those two had homes as well.

The oldest girl, 10 year old Becky, almost didn’t get to come home with us that day. A favorite of the kennel worker, we had to talk her into letting Becky have a chance at medical care and life away from the farm. The situation seemed especially urgent to us because Becky had a golf ball sized lump on her side. This lump was a blessing in disguise, because not only did it convince the kennel worker to give Becky to us, but it turned out not to be cancer after all – and we were thrilled.

Becky joined the family of Renee D’Arcy and Rich Smith, and they quickly fell in love with this petite little black beauty and decided to name her Bea. One of their biggest fears in adopting Bea was that they wouldn’t have her nearly long enough... we all know that fear, and we know that really there never is enough time. Sadly, we received this note from Renee during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>:

*I fear this is the dreaded email we all hate to see. Sadly our sweet Bea crossed the rainbow bridge last week. Rich came home from work to find her lying under the coffee table unable get up. We rushed her to the emergency vet to find her leg was broken; apparently it had been weakened due to cancer. Of course there was nothing we could do for her but take*

*her pain away forever. Rich and I, as well as her greyhound siblings Halley & Timmie, continue to mend our broken hearts; she is immensely missed by all.*

*Thankfully we’ve had some greyt times with her recently; we got a big old pontoon boat that she truly loved. Every day she would howl for a boat ride and was so ecstatic when the weekend would come and her wishes would come true. At first we were concerned that she would not do well on the boat and would cry her head off, we couldn’t have been more wrong, she was thrilled to go for a dip then lay on the soft cushions in the shade napping the afternoon away. She was so full of life until the very end; it is so sad her little body gave out on her. Rich and I are so thankful that we had four wonderful years with her and gave her a life any dog would love.*

Rest in peace, sweet Bea, and thank you for teaching us once again that senior hounds provide their families with a lifetime of love and joy, no matter how long we get to cherish them.



Bea  
6/1992 - 6/28/2006



# Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

P.O. Box 152407  
Tampa, FL 33684-2407

Phone: 813-971-4732

www.great-greyhound.org

E-mail:  
GREATinfo@great-greyhound.org

## GREAT's Board of Directors:

President

Kelly R. Faircloth

Vice President

Carol L. Chilton

Treasurer

Kobie Pierce

Secretary

Brenda Hodges

Members at Large

Kelly English

Karen Powers



## Pots for Greys by Eva Sosnowska

I started painting clay pots 3 years ago, after we bought our first house, to decorate our house and patio. Then I gave a couple to friends, and they seemed to like them. So I painted more and gave them away as well. I did some for GREAT's picnic, where they were well received. So, I kept it up (I even used them for storing all those TV/DVD remotes)! I found that I was hooked and enjoyed painting too much to give it up, even though I made many more than I could use, so I decided to try to sell them during WestChase's annual community garage sale, and donate any proceeds to GREAT. On May 6th I set up the table with 14 pots and a couple of garden signs. To my surprise, they attracted quite a lot of attention. Since I wore my GREAT T-shirt and had a sign that said "Pots 4 Greys", I had to answer many questions about greyhounds and about GREAT. Our greyhound Pani made a brief appearance, too, although it was too hot to have her with me all the time. She played her part really well. One look in her eyes and people were opening their wallets.



Pani & Eva

The final result of the sale was \$55. I wish it was more, but it was worth the effort. I could do what I like (painting) and spend a few hours chatting to neighbors and strangers, mostly about greyhounds, and of course show off the beautiful Pani. I will definitely do it again. Our garage sales are organized twice a year, with the next one scheduled for October 7th. This time I'm going to advertise it through our neighborhood e-mail list and magazine. I'm also experimenting with other craft projects: garden signs, fridge magnets and so on. I'd better get to work! Should be fun!

PS Jaime: thanks for moral support and buying leftover pots.