



WELCOME TO THE NEW AND IMPROVED HOMEWARD BOUND!

You will undoubtedly notice a lot of changes from the old newsletters of the past. The board of GPA-Largo, in their infinite wisdom, formed a newsletter committee. They let us loose and here is the result. We have a new logo and have added a lot of new features you will find regularly.

We are confident you will find this newsletter entertaining, easy to read, and overall, FUN. Of course, we want to know what you think of our handiwork! Please write to us at our P.O. Box (Attn: Newsletter) or send an e-mail to lstolliver@aol.com. Enjoy!

Christine Garrison,
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT NANCY BATAILLE

Hello!

It's a brand new year and we hope to continue to place even a larger number of retired greyhounds in wonderful homes as we have done in the past. Your help and support is needed now more than ever, as our organization has expanded so much in the last six years!

Hopefully, most of you already know me — or at least have met me one time or another in the past. If not, let me introduce myself. I'm Nancy Bataille, and I formed this chapter of Greyhound Pets of America Largo in September 1995 with only a handful of volunteers.

In the beginning, my parents helped me spay and neuter our first foster dogs with their donations. My clients from my hair salon filled my donations jars to buy the greyhound's food each week. We had only one veterinarian helping us and only word of mouth to promote adoption! Now after six years of hard work from so many fine volunteers and friends, we have grown to a wonderful (and huge) local organization. We have over 50 volunteers helping as often as they can, and more than five local animal hospitals helping us too.

Even though it may seem that we should have more than enough help, that is never the case. We are always needing foster homes to help house our greys until adoption; we need help at the local pet stores we go to each week; we need help transporting dogs to different locations, etc. **WE NEED LOTS OF HELP!**

Our newsletter has a new look and will be coming to you quarterly. Please take the time to read through it as it is full of helpful information. If you have any spare time at all, no matter how little, please give us a call (727) 595-7852 and leave a message on our voice mail — someone will contact you.

I also wanted to take the time to personally thank each and every one of you for all your help over the years for volunteering for this organization. And also, a thank you to everyone who has opened their hearts and homes to a retired greyhound through either fostering or adoption. You have helped make our dream a reality. None of these great dogs would be in the loving homes they are in today without all of our combined efforts, from picking them up from their kennel owners in the beginning to going to their new families and homes in the end!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Homeward Bound is published quarterly by Greyhound Pets of America — Largo chapter for the purpose of offering continued support to retired racing greyhound owners. This publication is provided free of charge.

Letters, photographs and articles are welcomed and encouraged! Please forward inquiries, comments, suggestions and photographs to:

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Attn: Newsletter

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GPA-Largo is dedicated to promoting and facilitating the adoption of Greyhounds when their racing careers end, and to educate the public about Greyhounds and what wonderful pets they can become. GPA-Largo cares for the animals from the track to their new homes, using our network of foster homes where loving volunteers help them learn the trials and tribulations of life after the track. GPA-Largo is run entirely by volunteers and depends on fundraising and donations for its operating expenses.



FOSTERING FOR BEGINNERS

BY THERESA RACKY-SOLES

Have you ever wondered what happens to a greyhound after he leaves the kennel, but before he comes into your home? Theresa Racky-Soles offers you a crash course in fostering!

LET'S START WITH THE BASICS.

There are four types of foster homes:

1. **EMERGENCY FOSTER HOMES.** The grey remains in your home overnight or a couple of days until a kennel is found.
2. **ONE-WEEK FOSTER HOMES.** A newly retired grey stays with the family to become acclimated into a home setting before moving into a kennel and placed for adoption (we're also looking for weekend homes).
3. **TEMPORARY FOSTER HOMES.** The grey will stay in your home anywhere between a few weeks to a few months.
4. **PERMANENT FOSTER HOMES.** The grey stays in your home until an adoptive home is found.

BONUS: Fostering costs you nothing. Zilch! No vet expenses, no monthly RX expenses and no food expenses. All of this is provided by GPA-Largo, in addition to the crate and blankets. In fact, as an added benefit, GPA-Largo will also provide your personal pet's heartworm medication as long as you are actively fostering.

NOW, SOME MORE FACTS ABOUT FOSTERING.

Prepare yourself — accept the fact that you will fall in love with your fosters! We all know these animals are the most wonderful of dog breeds that we could ever have as a companion. Their intelligence, friendliness, affection and beauty are beyond compare. So, inviting a grey into your home temporarily will most certainly help create a bond. But don't let this deter you. To know them is to love them, but 'tis better to love and let go, than to never have loved! Right!?

The emotional reward of knowing that you have given your foster grey a home with a loving family, even for just a brief period of time, is everlasting — not only for you, but for your children as well. And

what a greyt example you will be setting for them. There is no better gift than to offer your home to these beautiful creatures. They will forever be etched within your heart and you will be forever etched within theirs.

You might be wondering how a grey becomes available for adoption or a foster home. Here's how it works. GPA-Largo picks up the newly retired grey from the St Petersburg Kennel Club. (A special thank you to Randy Floyd Kennels for keeping the list of kennels on a rotating basis for us!



Then, the grey is placed in a boarding kennel to be spayed or neutered, and checked out by a vet. GPA-Largo primarily uses Noah's for the spaying and neutering (and boarding, when necessary), but we also use Bayshore Animal Hospital and Country Oaks. Once this has happened, the grey is available for adoption. Sometimes greys are not immediately adopted out; this can take a few weeks. This is where we need your support. GPA-Largo always looks to place the grey in the best home setting for both the grey and the adopter.

You already know what fabulous pets greyhounds make, won't you consider supporting GPA-Largo by becoming a foster home? This can be as short-term or long-term as you like; the choice is yours. We can't promise you that you won't fall in love with your foster, but we can promise you that you will receive that love back ten-fold!

To become a foster home, please contact Tonya Beader at (727) 595-7852.

ASK THE VET! BY CHRISTINE GARRISON

DR. RAYMOND RAINES, TYRONE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

"Ask the vet!" is a new feature to *Homeward Bound*. Each quarter, a different vet will be featured, addressing everything specific to greyhounds and more. If you have questions you would like to see answered by a vet in future issues, please send your questions to the editor.

This inaugural segment features Dr. Raymond Raines, a vet entering his 22nd year of practice. Tyrone Veterinary Hospital has been helping out GPA-Largo in a reduced fee capacity for about two years.

HOMEWARD BOUND: What types of procedures are commonly performed on greyhounds at Tyrone Veterinary Hospital?

DR. RAINES: We see greyhounds in both fostering situations and permanent homes, and the treatment of these

animals is pretty much the same. We perform altering procedures, give the dogs vaccines, and test for parasites. Some common medical presentations we see in greyhounds are eye injuries and foot injuries.

HB: What is the most common thing greyhounds need vet attention for?

DR. RAINES: Leg and foot problems are fairly common in greyhounds, such as cuts and scrapes. Sometimes we treat greyhounds for joint problems, such as arthritis, due to the wear and tear that is put on their bodies at a young age. Greyhounds are also prone to teeth and gum disease, probably due to diet.

Occasionally, we will sometimes see a greyhound for a seizure disorder.

HB: What are some treatment options available for these ailments?

DR. RAINES: To keep gums healthy, I usually recommend a prophylactic cleaning procedure once a year in the vet office. In the home, there are

Continued on next page

Ask the Vet continued

solutions and gels you can apply to the dog's teeth and gums. These are designed for above the gum line use. I also recommend dietary changes when necessary. In cases where there is joint discomfort, I would recommend use of an anti-inflammatory such as Rimadyl.

HB: What types of doggy diseases do greyhounds seem *less* likely to suffer from?

DR. RAINES: Surprisingly, hip dysplasia is uncommon in greyhounds. There is a misconception that these kids are more prone to this disease based on their body structure, but in actuality lameness in greyhounds is found more often in their feet, joints, and hocks. Also, skin problems are not often seen in greyhounds; they tend to have healthy skins and coats. In this sense, greys have an advantage over the general dog population.

HB: Are there any preventative measures greyhound owners can take to ward off some of these disorders?

DR. RAINES: Nothing breed-specific or age-specific. For the overall health of any dog, I would make certain they receive heartworm prevention medication, undergo parasite control, keep up with vaccines and teeth management. Good-quality foods should keep stomach and gum ailments in check. Get regular blood screenings as the dog ages, to keep ahead of any potential problems.

HB: Are there any situations you see specifically in foster homes that could potentially cause problems?

DR. RAINES: Most of the issues I see involve aggression problems, usually caused by too many dogs in the house! I am hesitant to prescribe meds in this sort of situation; isolation or removal of the dog from the home is what I would rather see. Occasionally I will see a greyhound for certain behavioral problems, such as separation anxiety. In that case I would recommend meds for a short period of time.

Thanks to Dr. Raines for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with

UPCOMING EVENTS

The third annual **Spring Fling Picnic** will be held Sunday, May 19 at Lake Seminole Park, shelter #9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. People and greys welcome. Food will be served, raffles will be held, and vendors will be there, selling accessories for every greyhound and his family. Noah's will be on hand to administer low-cost vaccinations and nail trims for \$5. GPA-Largo is requesting you help out our fosters and donate a bag of food. Please see insert for map to the park.

The Tampa Dog Track will reopen July 1. The contact for the Tampa track is Will Shumaker. He can be reached at (813) 971-3114.

ONGOING EVENTS

Derby Lane reopened January 2! GPA-Largo continues to walk the dogs at the track between races. We are at the track every day except Sunday for both the matinee and evening races. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Bonnie or Ken Leazer at (727) 398-2127 before going.

Donations — We are always in need of donations. See what we need — “Lend Us a Paw!”

WHAT HAPPENED LAST QUARTER?

ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

What a success! We had a greyt turnout of greys and their humans. A super BIG thank you to all of you who brought dog food for our boarded greys! We truly appreciate your gifts. The silent auction was a greyt success as well. Your bids helped us to raise \$3,000! Thank you!

Costume Contest: Did you see the adorable Greyhound Bus??! This first-place winner was owner Donna Mugavero. The second-place winner was Jennifer Cutro, with the scarecrow; the third-place winner was Terry Baun, with Uncle Sam; and the fourth-place winner was Vincent Collogan, who brought a prisoner with him! Congratulations to all our winners!



The Costume Parade was fabulous. Our greys can sure sport some creativity! We saw clowns, bunnies, Batdog and Robin, we even saw Superdog! Thanks again for your support. We look forward to the Spring Picnic!

GARAGE SALE

Ok, can you say “BowWOW”?! We raised \$1,700 at this event. It was such a HUGE success, we hope to have three in 2002. Thanks to everyone for your donations. Please let us know if and when you have more items for our next garage sale. We'll let you know when the next date is!

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH ARTS FESTIVAL

Any opportunity to showcase our greys is a welcome one! We attend this festival every year and there is always a greyt turnout. Here we get to walk our greys around and share information about fostering and adoption. We also have a booth where we sell some items, like t-shirts and collars. We spoke to many interested adults and children and hope to acquire some new foster and adoptive homes as a result!

LEND US A PAW (727) 595-7982

Ok, GPA is always in need of something. And you can help. Here are some ways you can do that:

QUALITY DOG FOOD! Always needed- we can even pick it up-or you can drop it at PetsMart for us!

BLANKETS! Our greys in foster homes and at the kennel always need blankets to lay on – even old sheets will do! Just call and let us know you have a donation!

STUFFED TOYS! Boy do they LOVE these!

BABY GATES! If you have some of these you're not using anymore, we could sure use them for our Foster Homes!

FOOD BOWLS! Do you have any old dog food bowls? We'll take them!

MONEY! Feeding, boarding and caring for our greys is expensive and it also takes money to raise money. So, any tax-deductible charitable gift you can provide would be GREYTLY appreciated!

YOUR TIME! Volunteer for a committee or to walk our greys at the kennels. Your help is also always needed during our participation in local events to create awareness about GPA and all the greys that are in need of a home. Come share your story about adopting your grey, and bring him or her with you! Just call us at the number above and we'll let you know when and where. There are always lots of activities we're involved in to help us to raise money and awareness!

In addition, keep in mind that if you work or participate in some way with a group that can assist us, we would like to talk with you about getting their support too! This can be working in a vet office, or you are part of a Brownie/Boy Scout troop, or work for a dog food company! So, please, lend us a paw!

GREYT GREYHOUND TALES!

This is another new feature of our newsletter. Each issue will bring you true inspirational, bizarre and comedic stories about GPA-Largo greys and fosters. If you have an anecdote you'd like to share, please contact the editor.

TENACIOUS TINA

BY MARYANN TOLLIVER AND CHRISTINE GARRISON

This is the story of Tina; a most courageous little greyhound who had a very difficult time getting out of the starting box of life.

When Tina was less than six months old, her mother sat on her! Inadvertently Tina's mom injured Tina's hip so badly, her racing career was over before she ever had a chance to start. Shortly after her injury, Tina was adopted out as a pet. Unfortunately, Tina's new parents did not keep close tabs on her and she escaped. During her short-lived freedom, a car hit Tina and her front leg was broken. Her owner had the leg repaired and she was almost good as new.

Approximately one year later, "Houdini" Tina escaped *again* and was much more seriously injured by another car ... both front legs were broken. She was rushed to a local PetSmart vet, who advised her owner what it would take to make Tina whole again. Upon learning of the cost and hard work necessary to rehabilitate Tina, her owner decided to have her euthanized.

Fortunately, a very caring vet tech could not bear to see such a beautiful, spirited young greyhound put to sleep. The vet tech was aware of Greyhound Pets of America-Largo and called our group. Naturally, we said if the owner were willing to relinquish ownership, we would gladly take Tina and do whatever was necessary to nurse her back to health. Knowing full well such an undertaking would set our organization back financially, GPA-Largo took on the challenge. Money is not really a consideration if an opportunity presents itself to provide an animal the chance to live a full life.

The vet assured us that although the surgery would be extensive and expensive, Tina's quality of life would not be compromised. Both of her front legs had to have metal plates inserted. For several months, bandages had to be changed every three to four days, and much rehabilitation had to be carried out to help her regain the use of her legs.

Tina's love and spirit kept us going. She never stopped wagging her tail and covering us with kisses, even when she was in obvious discomfort. She never complained or whined. Needless to say, she holds a very special place in our hearts.

Happily, Tina has recovered now and is doing quite well. She may have to have the metal plates removed in the future, but for now, we are just glad to have been a part of Tina's life and are looking forward to finding a special home for a most special greyhound.

As this issue went to press, Tina was in a foster-to-adopt situation, in the capable hands of Barbara Jessop of Tampa. Barbara is planning to take full ownership of this special-needs girl and adopt her. GPA-Largo thanks Barbara for her willingness to take on the challenges of Tenacious Tina!

GENIE THE LIFE SAVER

BY NEENA DERF

I would like to share a story about our very special baby with you. On a recent Sunday afternoon, I took Genie, our nearly 14-year-old grey, to Noah's for her annual checks, and for blood work. That night around midnight, my husband had a severe problem with internal bleeding. After my husband had made several trips to the bathroom, passed a LOT of blood and passed out three times ... not wanting to bother me with his problem, dear, sweet Genie decided to wake me up.

I thought she might have been feeling bad from all of the tests she took ... but instead, she SAVED my husband's LIFE! She knew he was in trouble, and she got me up just in time to call for help. It turned out my husband lost TWO QUARTS of blood that night. I would have slept through the whole problem, if not for Genie.

My husband spent the past few days in ICU, and is still recovering...and *will* recover, thanks to our beautiful, smart, wonderful little girl, Genie! She's such a gift.

DOGGY DO'S AND DON'TS WITH DEPOT

DO wag your tail when your human comes home. They seem to like that. Also wag your tail when your human says "Let me see your tail," you'll get Meaty Bones and Jerky Treats.

DON'T eat things off the kitchen counter. I know my human tends to make faces and yells "No" at me when I do that. But she hides the best stuff up on the counter! Bananas, Pop tarts, hard candy, light bulbs (She wasn't happy at all about that last one. I didn't like it, anyway ... too hard.)

DO sit when your human tells you to sit. Believe me, I get really tired of hearing her say over and over, "Sit down. Depot, sit down. Sit down, Depot. Sit down. NOW! Sit down."

DON'T lean against your human when they're telling you to sit. Most of the time my human is making dinner when I do this. Doesn't she understand that I just like being close to the food?

DO sleep a lot. I love to sleep. And my human has blankies for me all over the house, especially for me. This really makes me feel special.

DON'T get up on the furniture when your human isn't looking. Some of you out there are lucky and are allowed on the furniture, but I'm not. My human doesn't like my fur on her sofa. I think her pillows need some color, personally

DO be happy to see your human when they come home to you. Jump up and lick their face as an added bonus.

DON'T step on their feet when your human comes in the door. My human gets really annoyed when I do this to her. There's this funny beeping sound that starts when she comes home, and she runs toward the noise, and I just want her to stop and pet me. I don't like the noise really, but I'd rather have her pet me!



WOOF SUP Woofsup DENVER?!

Hey, wooffffssssuuupppp??!!! This is Denver, I'm a 3-year-old grey recently adopted into my very first home. My human pals are pretty neat, two pups and an alpha female. I'm enjoying getting to know my new pack. My human asked me to answer questions from other greys and humans relating to non-vet questions. I figured I'd give it a shot. She says there's a bone in it for me! RRRRRUUUFFF!

Here's the first question from a friend still in the pen —

HEY DENVER,

How come I'm still in here, and you're out there?! What's a dog gotta do to get a family??

— — — TINA

TINA,

Hang tight little miss. Our human pals are working on it. Just keep the faith and stay away from those roads! It would also help if you stay behind that big wirey thing human folks call a gate. It's supposed to be good for us! So, no more sight-seeing, got it!?

Hey all you human friends, how about spreadin' the word about my girl Tina. She's ready to settle down. We can't speak for ourselves, at least not to humans, so we need you to do this for us. So, can you get the woof out, I mean, get the word out? Just tell five humans what greyt pals we make. And, if they need help catchin' a bunny, we can do that too. RRRUFF!



HEY DENVER,

What's the deal with the plants in the big crate my humans call a house? These are potty spots, right?! How come my human barked at me for using one?

— — DALLAS

DALLAS,

Yeah, that's a stumper, buddy. Wish I had an answer for ya. My human says it's pretend. Frankly, I don't get it. Why would they want to pretend to have potty spots in the big crate?? Anyhow, the way I tell the difference now is to wait till I feel the wind hit me. Then I know I'm in the right place. Hang in there pal. And, don't forget to feel the breeze.

Well, that's it for today folks. This is Denver, signing out. WOOF!

If you have a question or comment for Denver, e-mail him at WoofsupDenver@aol.com.

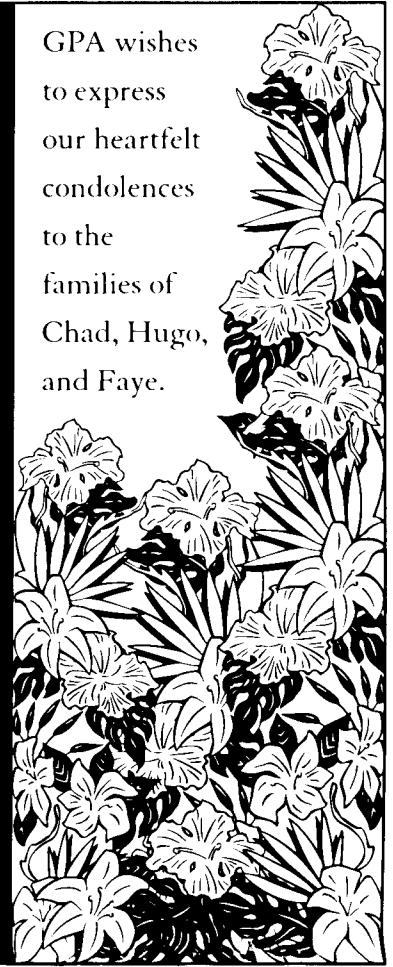
OUR SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

Michael is eight years old and Boycott is seven.
Won't you open your hearts and homes to these special gentlemen? They're waiting for you.



R.I.P. GREYS

GPA wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the families of Chad, Hugo, and Faye.



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We Find Retired Greyhounds Great Homes

