



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

NANCY BATAILLE

Hello!

I hope everyone enjoyed our last newsletter. As you can see, it has a great new look and is very informative! Christine and everyone who has contributed to our newsletter has done a terrific job! Thanks.

Our main focus this summer is fundraising, as many of our veterinary expenses have exceeded our adoption fees. We now must concentrate on other avenues to raise funds. This way we can continue the good work we have been doing over the past seven years.

Our picnics have pretty much been our main fundraiser through the years. As you will read in this newsletter, we have a dog wash and three car washes coming up. Entertainment 2003 books will be available at the end of August. We are planning a motorcycle poker run for the fall besides our annual fall picnic.

My plea is this: if anyone has a fundraiser idea or can assist us with our current fundraisers, please help us! Any amount of free time you have would be greatly utilized and appreciated.

We are housing approximately 50 retired greys on a year-round basis between our foster homes and local kennels. We are striving to continue to have this many at all times but we are lacking in funds. Our medical expenses continue to increase, as do our dog food expenses.

Even if you have no free time to volunteer with our fundraisers, if it's possible to make a monetary donation to help us, you would be doing the greys a world of good. Inside, you will find a donation envelope for just his purpose. As you know, we are a non-profit organization and your donation is tax-deductible for you! All of our funding comes from donations. Please do whatever you can to help us and all our retired greyhounds in our program. Every little bit

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matter how small it may be.

YOU LIKE IT, YOU REALLY LIKE IT!

Well, what can I say ... overall, your response to the newsletter has definitely been positive. I admit, I'm glad it has gone over so well! The newsletter committee has put in a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to make it something you find fun and entertaining to read. Thanks a lot!

That being said, we would like to ask you a favor. Well, two actually. The first is, if you have e-mail, please let GPA-Largo know your e-mail address so we can send the newsletter to you electronically. As you know, GPA-Largo is a nonprofit organization and any place where we can save money for the greys (as opposed to spending money on postage) the better.

The second favor is, please provide GPA-Largo with current contact information so we can keep track of how your greys (and you) are doing! The more accurate our records are, the better it is for the greys (yes, it goes back to that postage thing). And the whole reason GPA-Largo exists is to help the greys, so every little bit helps!

Christine Garrison,
Homeward Bound editor

ROAD TRIP! ON THE ROAD WITH GPA GREYS

BY PAUL HENDESS

GPA-Largo had a great opportunity to transfer eight greyhounds from Noah's boarding kennel in St. Petersburg to a sister greyhound adoption group on the north side of Atlanta, Ga. who had adoptive homes, but not enough greys. Plans were made to transfer eight greys to the Atlanta chapter on 2/2/02. Chris Hockett and I volunteered to drive the kennel truck, donated for GPA-Largo use by Bahama Mama Kennels. (Many thanks, Francie.)

The greys were turned out at Noah's between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. by GPA-Largo volunteers and were given no food or water prior to load-up and departure. The greys were carefully tagged for identification (in duplicate) and Maryann Tolliver coordinated the associated paperwork. The greys were loaded, one by one, into the kennel truck without incident. Maryann explained the ideal

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

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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.

ABOVE THE TRACK AND DOWN TO BUSINESS: THE GPA-LARGO DERBY LANE ADOPTION VOLUNTEERS

BY BARBARA GRILLI

Bonnie Leazer may be three stories above the track at Derby Lane, but as busy as she and the other volunteers at GPA-Largo's Derby Lane adoption office are, you'd think they were in the paddock preparing for a high stakes race. For the past five years, Bonnie and her crew of volunteers have been staffing the Derby Lane adoption office, performing a variety of services from answering questions to gathering donations during the track's matinee and evening races. Most of their work is performed with one hand, as their other hand is usually holding a leash. At the other end of the leash is a member of an attention-grabbing group of retired greyhounds, gathered to meet the public.



It's a great opportunity to generate interest in adoption because of the large and diverse crowd that passes by the office and meets the retired racers — often for their very first “up close and personal” greyhound encounter. “We answer all sorts of questions,” says Bonnie. “From how they are with kids and other animals, to how well they adapt to a house, and how much exercise they need. Most people are surprised at how calm and gentle they are and how soft their fur is.”

In addition to answering questions, Bonnie and the volunteers distribute adoption applications, brochures and newsletters. Interested visitors can leaf through the binder that contains photos of greyhounds currently available for adoption, and also holds photos of recent GPA-Largo events. Newspaper articles of interest are posted on the office window.

Although there are no “on the spot” adoptions, new owners and their greyhounds are sometimes brought together at the office, after completed applications have been reviewed by GPA-Largo. The promotional efforts of the Derby Lane volunteers sometimes extend

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RAINBOW BRIDGE FOR VOLUNTEERS AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The young pup and the older dog lay on shaded sweet grass watching the reunions. Sometimes a man, sometimes a woman, sometimes a whole family would approach the Rainbow Bridge, be greeted by their loving pets and cross the bridge together.

The young pup playfully nipped at the older one. “Look! Something wonderful is happening!”

The older dog stood up and barked, “Quickly. Get over to the path.”

“But that’s not my owner,” whined the pup, but he did as he was told. Thousands of pets surged forward as a figure in white walked on the path toward the bridge.

As the glowing figure passed each animal, that animal bowed its head in love and respect. The figure finally approached the bridge, and was met by a menagerie of joyous animals. Together, they all walked over the bridge and disappeared.

The young pup was still in awe. “Was that an angel?” he whispered.

“No, son,” the older dog replied. “That was more than an angel. That was a person who worked rescue.”

ASK THE VET!

BY MARYANN TOLLIVER

DR. JOHN SLAUGHTER, NOAH'S ANIMAL HOSPITAL

This segment of "Ask the vet!" features Dr. John Slaughter, who's been a vet since 1978. He has been on staff at Noah's Animal Hospital since 1997. Noah's, as most of you already know, kennels the greys while they await foster homes. Noah's also works with GPA-Largo on a discount basis.

HOMEWARD BOUND: What do you see as a common problem with greyhounds?

DR. SLAUGHTER: Most commonly would be shoulder injuries, then carpal joints, either front or rear. We rarely see any hip problems.

HB: Why do you think this is a common injury in the greyhound?

DR. SLAUGHTER: Nearly 60% of the weight is on the front legs during running. Racing dogs and horses are not all that different. In Europe, for example, we see less injury to the front shoulders because the racetracks are in a straight line. This puts less stress on the animal as it rounds the bends. The injuries are caused by angular motion.

HB: So if we could straighten out the tracks, we would see less injury?

DR. SLAUGHTER: Yes, but the cost of land being what it is would make that cost-prohibitive, so we will have to continue to treat the problem, which usually ends up as arthritis.

HB: Well, today that is very treatable. Can you tell us about some of the products on the market that will help alleviate the pain and treat the problem?

DR. SLAUGHTER: The most common would be glucosamine and chondroitin in combination, which will rebuild the cartilage used in conjunction with an anti-inflammatory.

HB: What kind of anti-inflammatory is recommended, and how long will it be before improvement is seen?

DR. SLAUGHTER: Rimadyl is the most common anti-inflammatory. The amount of glucosamine/chondroitin is approximately 1500mg per day. Generally we see improvement in about 60 days. The Rimadyl is usually two times a day for 60 days, then tapered off to once a day after 60 days. Best to check with your veterinarian on the use of Rimadyl, and we do recommend blood work to check for liver or kidney problems.

HB: Are liver and kidney problems common with the use of Rimadyl?

DR. SLAUGHTER: There is a possibility; however, I have only seen a couple of times when this happened, and these pets had underlying problems. I believe Rimadyl is safe and a good anti-inflammatory when used under the guidance of your veterinarian.

HB: What forms would you recommend for the glucosamine/chondroitin?

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 25: Benefit \$5 dog wash at Noah's! Call Noah's at (727) 522-6640 to schedule your greys' beauty treatment. All proceeds go to GPA Largo and Noah's Angels.

Help raise money for the greys and get your car cleaned this summer at GPA-Largo's benefit car washes. Each one will be held at the Northwest Mobil at 5797 38 Avenue North in St. Pete. Dates: Saturday, June 15; Saturday, July 13; and Saturday, August 10. Times: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. We need both cars and volunteers!

Race season at the Tampa Dog Track begins July 1. Contact Will Shumaker at (813) 971-3114 for information about walking the greys out at the track.

Precious Pets Sitting Service, joining with Laura Allen Studios, is offering pet photo sessions! Photo sessions will be scheduled for Saturday, July 13, with the possibility of a second day, Sunday, July 14. A \$9.95 deposit secures your sitting time. You will receive a FREE 5" x 7" portrait on your choice of backgrounds, including holiday ones. Your sitting includes two different backgrounds, with three poses on each background. Packages are available, ranging in price from \$15 to \$60. There is no limit on the number of pets or people in the photos, so reserve your space today! Please make your deposit check to Laura Allen Studios, and mail to Renee Briggs, 3398 Clarine Way West, Dunedin, FL 33469. Please make your reservation before June 14.

P.S. Laura Allen Studios is also coordinating a dog food drive. Please bring a bag of food to your session. The studio will be donating the food and a portion of the session fees to both GPA-Largo and another local animal charity.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 8! Take time out from your holiday shopping to come to the GPA-Largo Fall Picnic, at Phillippe Park in Safety Harbor. The Gilleys, with the famous dancing greyhounds, will be back by popular demand. Additional information to come in the next newsletter.

ONGOING EVENTS

Meet and greets: Educate others or adopt another greyhound! Here's where GPA-Largo can be found:

Petsmart: 3993 Tyrone Blvd., St. Petersburg. Every Sunday from noon – 3 p.m.

Petsmart: 26777 US Hwy. 19 N and Enterprise, Clearwater. Every Sunday from noon – 2 p.m. Petsmart: Citrus Park Blvd., Tampa. Every Sunday from noon – 2 p.m.

Pass It On Thrift Store: 9458 US Hwy. 19, Embassy Plaza, Port Richey. Second Saturday each month, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pet Supermarket: 5104 Hwy. 19, New Port Richey. Every other Sunday from noon – 2 p.m.

Derby Lane will be open until June 30. 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.

Be sure to visit the GPA-Largo Web site, and the online store! Choose from an array of greyhound goods, from artwork to trinkets. Remember, all money raised goes to help the greys, so take a look!

GREYT GREYHOUND TALES!

ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD

BY BARBARA GRILLI

Several years back, I was introduced to the wonderful world of greyhounds by pet-sitting Terri (from Bahama Mama Kennels, daughter of HM's Flamboyant). She is about the sweetest greyhound girl in the world, and of course has that classic "traffic cone from the shoulders forward" profile and little tiny ears. I proudly walked her (on her leash) in the common area of our neighborhood and answered questions ("yes, she is a retired racer; yes she is beautiful ..." etc.). Being new to this, and squeamish by nature, I pondered my legal obligation to the sign "Dog owners must pick up after their pets," since her true owners were actually on a cruise ship somewhere. Nevertheless, I mustered up my courage and my plastic bag and performed my duty (so to speak).

Still walking my borrowed dog and swinging my "parcel", I met three young neighborhood boys on bicycles. "Can we pet your dog?" they asked. "Sure," I responded. The boys rolled forward on their bikes and formed a circle around Terri and I. As one reached down to pet her, she jerked her cone-shaped head back. In a split second, I was standing with a leash and empty collar in one hand and a full plastic bag in the other! Terri was amazing the neighbors with her 40-mph sprints through several front yards. Instantly I visualized her owners, Bill and Sandy, at my front door a week later and what I would tell them if I couldn't catch Terri.

So I made the rookie mistake: I ran after her, flat out (as if I was any match for her) with the leash and collar. By this point I couldn't tell where the plastic bag was, and didn't really care. The neighbors were extremely amused by this, but not as amused as Terri, who was three houses away and poised in classic play position with her rear in the air and tail wagging, daring me to come closer. The cat-and-mouse game dragged on for eternal seconds until I somehow leaped forward, fully extended my 5'3" body in mid-air and made a fabulous diving end-zone catch of her back feet in my neighbor's front yard. In my head I heard the "Chariots of Fire" theme. I quickly slid her collar and leash back on, gathered what was left of my self-respect and headed home. Show over. Roll credits.

The moral of this story? *Always* use a martingale/sighthound-style collar on your greyhound (Terri got one soon after this incident) and, should the unthinkable happen, use the voice commands your dog is used to. Don't chase it. You usually can't catch a speeding greyhound ...not even with a tail wind and a supportive audience!

CANDY MAN

BY ROSALIE HANNAFORD

My introduction to greyhound fostering was named "Candy Man." I had never been around a greyhound before, and was therefore amazed at how sweet, docile, intelligent, obedient, and loving he was. He never did any of the negative things some dogs are prone to do; he was the perfect dog! Having him in my home helped to ease the painful loss of my little 9-lb. Buffy. Candy Man became my 82-lb. Velcro® dog and of course stole my heart. In two weeks, a wonderful family adopted him, and I know he's very happy there. When I think of him, some words from a song in "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" come to mind.

Who can take tomorrow, dip it in a dream
Separate the sorrow and collect up all the cream.
The Candy Man can.
The Candy Man can 'cause he mixes it with love and makes the world taste good.

SOME THOUGHTS TO PONDER....

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's much too dark to read."

— GROUCHO MARX

"If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise."

— UNKNOWN

"Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant."

— UNKNOWN

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot about puppies."

— GENE HILL

"In dog years, I'm dead."

— UNKNOWN

"To his dog, every man is Napoleon; hence the constant popularity of dogs."

— ALDOUS HUXLEY

"A dog teaches a boy fidelity, perseverance, and to turn around three times before lying down."

— ROBERT BENCHLEY

"Did you ever walk into a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives."

— SUE MURPHY

"I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves."

— AUGUST STRINDBERG

"No animal should ever jump up on the dining room furniture unless absolutely certain that he can hold his own in the conversation."

— FRAN LEBOWITZ

"Ever consider what they must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul — chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

— ANNE TYLER

"I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult."

— RITA RUDNER



DENVER'S VACATION

Hey greys, this is Denver. Recently my human family took a vacation to Las Vegas and I thought I would share my story with you. I tried woofing them into taking me with them, but my mom just wouldn't go for it! I even tried the "But, I'm your lucky dog! I always win!" ploy. She didn't budge! Something about being too big to fit under the seat in front of her. Although, I quickly reminded her that I can easily curl up into the size of a hairball. Still ... no budging. Are all humans this stubborn??

Well, I guess she knows best, because she decided to let me vacation at Le Kraeble Palace with my girl Terri and her family, Bill and Sandy. At first I was nervous, not really knowing what to expect. But, it didn't take long to see that this was gonna be a greyt vacation! Boy ... what a spread Terri's got. Her own cozy blanket spot right next to the TV. Her own fluffy pillow. A humongous back yard to run in. A pool. And, all the liver treats a grey could want. And my girl Terri, she's got the nicest family you could hope to meet. They really treat her and her grey friends like royalty. We went for walks almost every day. They gave me nice ear rubs, soft strokes on my back and made sure my tummy was full.

Terri was a real fine hostess too. Not only did she share her cozy blanket spot with me, but she also shared her stuffies and toys with me too. I did notice that all her stuffies' eyes were missing, though. Maybe it's because she doesn't like them looking at her when she's chewing on them? What do you greys think?

After about a week, my family came home from their vacation. This meant that my vacation was over too. You know ... going on vacation is greyt. You get to experience new things, meet new greys and you get treated like royalty. But, I learned something too. I learned that the best thing about going on vacation is that when it's all over, you get to go home. And home, is where a grey's heart is.

Take care all—Denver.

Hey mom and dad ... here are some things to keep in mind when you go on vacation!

- The best place to leave your grey is at home with a friend.
- The second-best place is a kennel that knows how to treat greyhounds (we recommend Noah's, Bayshore or Tyrone, but it is the owner's responsibility to choose the appropriate care for their grey).
- Always leave an emergency contact phone number where you can be reached.
- Always leave the GPA-Largo emergency number and instruct the dog sitter on what to do in an emergency.
- Always leave your grey's veterinarian's name, address and phone number.
- Always leave any medicine and instructions for your grey.
- Make sure your pet sitter understands the dangers posed to greys, including unleashing, heat stroke from being outside too long or left in a vehicle, and the curious nature of the greyhound.



Woofsup DENVER?!

HEY DENVER,

I am an alpha female (human) with two greyt greys. When they are relaxing (awake) on their cushion they make these "Hmmmm" and "harrumph"-type sounds. Are they deep in thought? Is this some kind of canine critique of their last meal? I've never heard other dogs do this. I need a translator.

—NO HABLO GREY

NO HABLO GREY,

Greyt question! Thanks for asking! Actually, it's a little bit of doggie day dreaming we're doing. You see ... we love to chase those wabbits. And, we give *a lot* of thought to it. One of these days ... we're gonna catch one! Now ... it's important not to confuse the "hmmmmmm" and the "harrumph" with the "buuuurrrppp." Cause ... we do a lot of this. This is our way of saying "greyt yummys mom ... keep 'em coming!" Sounds like your pups are as happy as can be. Greyt job! Woof!

—DENVER



HEY DENVER,

The other day I was checking out the crate and I found some interesting smelling stuff in the wet room (uh ... bathroom to the human folk). Anydog, I saw some round sausage-looking treats and thought I would have a bite. Turns out, it was something my feline friend Princess left behind. Dog! Was it awful!! So ... maybe you could get the woof out to the rest of our friends to stay far away from the stuff our human friends call kitty litter. The treats left there are far from tasty.

—TERRI

TERRI,

Woof Doggie!!!!!! Human friends, do us a little favor. Hide the litter. We're new to this stuff and don't always know better. Some of us have even lost our taste buds and could end up eating our feline friend's left-behinds and think it's our favorite hotdog. So ... help us out, will 'ya??

—DENVER

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



Ask the Vet continued from page 3

Dr. Slaughter: It comes in tablet, powder, and chewable form. Even the brands for human consumption are acceptable and serve the same purpose.

HB: I currently have a 14-year-old that I have been treating with Adequan. Can you tell us a little more about this product?

Dr. Slaughter: Adequan is the brand name; it is polysulfated glycosaminoglycan.

HB: In layman's terms, what does that mean?

Dr. Slaughter: It is the pure-end product of glucosamine, probably three to four times better. It is given directly into the muscle, which gets into the bloodstream quicker to make cartilage.

HB: So what you are telling me is that glucosamine/chondroitin makes cartilage also, but the Adequan works faster.

Dr. Slaughter: Yes, you get excellent results and generally faster.

HB: How often is Adequan administered?

Dr. Slaughter: Usually weekly for eight weeks. On a maintenance basis, it is used for the life of your pet. It works very well.

HB: How important is the type of food?

Dr. Slaughter: Very. The higher the quality, the better muscle tone, and the better muscle tone, the better range of motion, which results in less pain. Most senior foods have glucosamine in the product.

HB: Should we exercise greys that have signs of arthritis and shoulder/ankle injuries?

Dr. Slaughter: Definitely. Slow, steady walking is good. This will help to improve the range of motion. You will notice your pet stretching more and better movement that's free of pain with low-impact exercise.

Thanks to Dr. Slaughter for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak with *Homeward Bound*.



This isn't going to be a typical Do's and Don'ts list this time around; I want to tell you what happened when I got my teeth cleaned last month. As many of you may or may not know (I am a legend in my own mind), I have been enjoying retirement for several years now. I am the ripe "old" age of nine (in human terms).

Well, my human (the editor of this GREYT new newsletter!) took me in to the vet, and apparently I came through the anesthesia and cleaning fine. However, when I was waking up, I started having some problems. I kept trying to get up and I kept falling down. When my human came to get me, she was shocked to find I had skinned not only my knee, but the inside of my foot as well. (I admit, I am accident-prone by nature, and had just gotten stitches out, and here I was with new boo-boos ... I am a mess!) And after she got me home, I couldn't lift my back legs up; she had to lift me up with a towel under my belly.

Well, the next day, I wasn't woozy anymore, but my leg hurt, and I couldn't figure out why. So my human took me back to the vet (I spend a lot of time there, I am always hurting myself ... I love to run...and I like the staff there so much) and I discover I can't jump up and put my feet on the counter as I usually do. What's wrong with me?

Four weeks, two different kinds of medicine, two X-rays and a bunch of blood work later (to top it off, I got a mystery bruise on my leg! I think it bothered my human a lot more than it did me), it was discovered I have some sort of soft tissue/knee injury to my back right knee. My human bought some "doggy" toothpaste ... she says she has to clean my teeth a new way now ... we'll see about that!

The point of my story is, be aware of how us greys react to drugs and anesthesia as we get older. I was fine last year, but a lot of things can change from one year to the next. I know my human didn't mean to hurt me; she was only doing what needs to be done to keep me healthy, happy, and living in the manner to which I have become accustomed. She has realized the time has come to explore other options when it comes to having clean teeth. I still have all my teeth, and I'd like to keep it that way, but does she really have to BRUSH my teeth?

The saga continues! Don't be surprised if my teeth-cleaning adventures show up in a future issue of this newsletter. Thanks for listening to me.

Above the track and down to business continued from page 2

beyond the boundaries of the state or even the country! The volunteers gladly help interested snowbirds and vacationers alike by referring them to their local adoption group.



This creative bunch walk the retired racers out to the third floor mezzanine between races to meet adoring fans (and cleverly collect a "buck for luck" under their collars). They also sell hats, leashes, cups, paper pads and wood leash holders, all with the GPA logo. GPA-Largo also offers t-shirts for a \$15 donation.

These volunteers perform a great service and have fun doing it. "We'd love to have full coverage every night and ideally would need 10-12 people to do that," says Bonnie. So if you'd like to "meet and greet" the public, or would just enjoy watching someone's face the first time they are leaned on by a grey, hug a grey, or get a grey kiss, come out to the Derby Lane office or call GPA-Largo and join Bonnie's crew before the season ends June 29!

Road trip! continued from page 1

environmental conditions in the truck kennels for the greys to the drivers. The kennel truck had air conditioning for the greys (for the people too). Water and towels were brought in case the greys became overheated. Maximum air temperature for the greys was to be about 80 degrees, and the minimum temperature was to be 65 degrees. Although our intention was to drive straight through to Atlanta without letting the greys out of the truck, we also had muzzles and leashes just in case we had to take the greys out of the truck prior to delivery in Atlanta. Chris and I departed Noah's at about 6:45 a.m.

The drive up was mercifully uneventful. The weather was cool and mostly overcast, so there was no concern of the greys overheating. On the contrary, it was quite cool, and we had to close the vent louvers to keep the temperature in the kennels above 60 degrees. Chris and I traded driving duties, changing places at the gas stops. The stops become more frequent as the trip wore on and we both became tired. The truck behaved nicely and drove well for the entire trip of 1,000+ miles. Lots of coffee was consumed by the humans while traveling both up to and back from Atlanta, promoting many rest stops. Traffic was light and road construction zones were minimal for the trip. Traffic did pick up in and around Atlanta as expected. Our delivery was to be made on the north side of Atlanta. Since it was Saturday, we decided to drive through the city, rather than take the bypass route. Cell phones kept us in communication with GPA-Largo for routine progress reports during the drive up.

Southeastern Greyhound Adoption (SEGA) operates out of the Lake Side Animal Hospital's new building and has a dozen boarding kennels located there. Directions to SEGA provided by John Parker, the SEGA chapter President, were perfect, and Chris and I arrived about 3:30 p.m. without getting lost. We were met by Joy Riley and eight other SEGA volunteers at Lake Side. Paperwork was transferred and the unloading of the dogs began. SEGA had brand-new blue Premier martingale collars and leads for each grey. Identification was checked and the greys each took a much-needed walk around the Lake Side property with the SEGA volunteers. Although we were unable to get photos of the actual unloading process, a SEGA volunteer did take posed photos of each grey for posting on the SEGA Web site.

Chris and I departed SEGA about 5 p.m. for the return to St. Petersburg. We had decided to drive all the way back without an overnight stop if possible. We both wanted to get into our own beds for the night. Dinner was served by Wendy's and consumed while driving. We arrived back at Noah's at about 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning, a little stiff, saddle sore, and tired, but very glad to have completed the delivery mission.

With our abundance of greys available for adoption, and in keeping with our mission to find loving homes for the retired racers, we hope to transfer additional greys as needed using this same process to our sister GPA chapters.

Editor's note: All eight dogs transferred to SEGA (Gypsy, Tark, Jamie, Hula, Junior, Bandit, Hercules, and Kimby) were adopted out to loving homes ... seven in February, one in March! Information obtained from SEGA's Web site, www.greyhoundadoption.org.

WHAT HAPPENED LAST QUARTER?

GPA-Largo adopted out 62 greyhounds in January, February, and March! We also picked up 45 dogs from various kennels at Derby Lane.

LEND US A PAW

PINELLAS/HILLSBOROUGH:

727-595-7852

NEW PORT RICHEY/PASCO:

727-430-0456

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!



SPECIAL NEEDS SPOTLIGHT

SNAP:

White/brindle male.
New to retirement,
but very laid-back,
loving, calm and
obedient. He is
considered a dog with
special needs because



he has a rear hock that had the Achilles tendon torn. He will use his leg for weight-bearing, but minimally otherwise. This greyt boy is very sweet and loves humans! Contact Tonya Beader, Foster Home Coordinator, for more information about Snap.

R.I.P. GREYS

GPA-Largo wishes
to express our
heartfelt
condolences to the
families of Rita,
Diamond, Jeff,
Derby, Fire,
and Sammy.

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Madera Beach, FL 33738
P.O. Box 8071

We Find Retired Greyhounds Great Homes

**Greyhound Pets
Of America**