



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

NANCY BATAILLE



Happy New Year to everyone and all their adopted greyhounds!

It is hard to believe that this is our eighth year of greyhound adoption! We have come a long way, and plan to continue to grow even more. I'd like to take a brief moment to stress how important each and every one of our volunteers is – no matter what they do to contribute to our cause. Every little bit makes a huge difference in helping our greys find homes.

Do you ever think about the process to place a greyhound in his or her new home? It is a tremendous amount of work for all involved, and extremely rewarding. That is why I am asking each and every one of you to add to your list of New Year's resolutions. I am not just asking, I am pleading: look into your hearts and the faces of your beloved greyhounds; perhaps give Greyhound Pets of America a little portion of your free time this upcoming year.

Greyhounds can be wonderful pets, and there are several ways to raise awareness and be vital to our adoption process. It all starts with fostering one of our greys awaiting adoption. We supply all the food and medical care and (of course) the foster dog. There is no set time you must house your foster dog. The length of time you wish to foster is up to you. For more information on fostering, call Tonya at 727-347-5059. We also walk our greyhounds at Derby Lane during the live season to promote adoption. If you're interested in helping GPA-Largo at the track, call Maryann at 727-343-1444.

Our adoption locations are spread out over four counties. We are in Pinellas, Pasco (East and West), Hillsborough and Hernando county practically every Saturday or Sunday – in every location, all at the same time. That gets pretty tricky, trying to be in so many areas at the same time with greyhounds to show, but we feel it is necessary to be available as much as possible. Just because you aren't fostering doesn't mean we don't need your help at our meet and greets!

We also need help in planning fundraisers and locating new places to take our greys to show them off! If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please call Nancy at 727-430-0456. No matter how much time you have (or think you don't have), it would be enough time to help in a very meaningful and rewarding way. Tonya, Maryann and myself will be anxiously awaiting your calls!

IT'S A NEW YEAR, AND HOMEWARD BOUND IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS!

Is there a special greyhound tale you've always wanted to tell? Do you want help GPA-Largo out, but can't foster a dog? Or are you just looking for a creative outlet to showcase your writing skills? Well, *Homeward Bound* can use your help!

That's right – *Homeward Bound* is looking for volunteers to write for the quarterly newsletter. Ideally, you would be able to contribute a minimum of one story per quarter to the newsletter (subject to editorial and board approval). This requires no long-term commitment, just a few hours every three months. We promise, it's virtually painless – and you'll be helping to raise awareness!

If you're interested in helping GPA-Largo out in this way, please contact Maryann Tolliver via e-mail at LTolliver@aol.com, or call Nancy Bataille at 727-430-0456. We look forward to hearing from you!

Christine Garrison
Homeward Bound editor

TENACIOUS TINA FILLS NEW OWNERS' HEARTS AFTER LOSS OF SISTER PEBBLES

BY BARBARA GRILLI

You may remember the story of Tina, the courageous little greyhound who continues to surmount

the many hurdles that have come

her way in her five years

of life. When Tina

was less than six

months old, her

mother accident-

ally sat on her

and injured her hip

so badly that young Tina retired from racing. Though

Tina was soon adopted, curiosity got the best of her and



Continued on page 3

ASK THE VET

BY KELLY CROGHAN-FORD



This quarter's "Ask the Vet" segment addresses the issue of bringing your new grey home. We asked Dr. David Danielson, of Ehrlich Animal Hospital in Tampa, to share his expertise on introducing your grey to your home, as well as to family members of both human and four-legged varieties.

A graduate of the University of Florida, Dr. David Danielson has been practicing at Ehrlich Animal Hospital for eight years. Prior to graduating, Dr. Danielson completed internships at the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Howl Wildlife Center in Seattle.

HOMEWARD BOUND: What is the best way to introduce your greyhound to his new home?

DR. DANIELSON: It's best to take things slowly in order to make it more comfortable for your new pet. Allow your dog to explore the home at his pace so he can become accustomed to the surroundings. Physical attention is okay; just be careful not to let family members overcrowd the dog while he is adjusting. Instead, use lots of verbal encouragement and praise. Treats and toys can also be used during this time.

Anxiety can arise when a dog comes to a new home. A tucked tail, cowering, and dilated eyes are all signs of fear. Show your new dog his crate and allow him to retreat there if he is fearful. Again, taking things slowly is key in helping your dog gain confidence.

HB: If you already have a dog (or dogs), how can you best introduce your new grey to his housemates?

DR. DANIELSON: Bring your new dog into your home while your present pets are not there. The new dog will still be able to pick up the scents of the animals already living there. Let him walk around and watch his reactions, taking note of any signs of fear or aggression.

Then, take the new dog out of the home and bring your pets back in, letting them smell the scent of the new dog. Again, look for any signs of aggression.

If you wish, you can also allow the dogs to smell each other through a closed door before they see each other. If there have been no overtly aggressive reactions to this point, you can allow the dogs to see each other in a controlled setting. (A controlled setting means the dogs are on leashes and humans are present. Many also suggest using muzzles.)

HB: What about introducing dogs in a neutral setting?



DR. DANIELSON: If there is a concern that one of the dogs may react aggressively, you can do this. Keep in mind, though, that a dog may not behave the same way in a neutral setting as he would in his own territory. Letting the dogs react to scents in the home is a better gauge of how they will respond to another dog.

HB: What about smaller animals?

DR. DANIELSON: Even though they are bred to chase, most or many Greyhounds can live with small animals. It is best to follow steps similar to those listed when you introduce your greyhound to smaller pets. During each of the steps, look for signs of aggressiveness or predatory behavior in your grey. (These behaviors could include: actively lunging at the small animal, growling or barking, crouching as if to pounce and not being able to take their eyes off the smaller pet, regardless of the distractions you offer.)

The controlled setting approach also applies if you have a Greyhound and want to bring a new puppy, small dog or cat into the family. Don't just let a new puppy run across the room. Taking things slowly is better for everyone involved – resident pets, the new pet and the humans involved.

HB: How should you introduce your new grey to children in your home?

DR. DANIELSON: An introduction to children should be made in the same controlled way you introduce a dog to other animals. Slowness is key here. Children should approach a dog very slowly and calmly. Another possibility is to allow the dog to approach the child when he is ready. Words of praise, toys, and treats can be used as motivators for a shy dog. Children must of course be taught how to safely and kindly interact with animals.

HB: If a dog initially reacts aggressively to a new housemate, is there a chance that things will eventually work out?

DR. DANIELSON: Aggressiveness is difficult. If active aggression is shown during an introduction, don't try to force things to work out. I have seen many families try to make things fit with unfortunate results – puncture wounds and other injuries.

That being said, it is important to be able to distinguish true aggression from play. A dog may bark and growl, but if his posture is hunched with lowered shoulders and a raised rear, then he is really giving an invitation to play. If a growling dog stands with a firm posture, holds his head erect, has fixed eyes and bristles, then he is reacting aggressively.

Homeward Bound thanks Dr. Danielson for his time and expertise.

LILY THE GREYHOUND SAVES OWNER IN HOUSE FIRE

BY BARBARA GRILLI

On a hot sticky night last June, Steve Bumpus and a friend were doing their best to keep their cool in his St. Petersburg home. The air conditioner was having problems, and though the house contained only two humans, a Greyhound, and a Dalmatian (Steve's mom Barbara was out of town), things were getting as stuffy as a crowded elevator. In hopes of getting some sleep, Steve turned the air conditioner back on, along with some ceiling fans. He then went to bed and Outlaw, his Dalmatian, and Lily, his five-year-old fawn-colored Greyhound (adopted through GPA-Largo six months before) followed along as usual and settled in beside him on his waterbed.

In the early hours of the morning, the ceiling fan in the kitchen overheated and the thick smoke from the electrical fire quickly filled the house as everyone slept. Lily woke Steve by continuously jumping on the waterbed as Outlaw assisted by barking and jumping. "I woke up and went to open my bedroom door and got a blast of smoke in the face," recalls Steve. "I yelled to wake my friend and broke a window. I lowered the dogs out of the window and then crawled out after them." When the household members were all present and accounted for outside, Steve hooked Lily and Outlaw's collars together and waited for the Fire Department.

Aside from some minor smoke inhalation, both humans were unhurt – thanks to some fast thinking from a couple of heroic firedogs: one who looks like he'd be right at home posing on a fire truck, and one who bears a more striking resemblance to a certain logo on a bus!

Tenacious Tina fills new owners' hearts after loss of sister Pebbles
continued from page 2

she escaped from her home and was hit by a car. This second hurdle left Tina with a broken leg, which was repaired to almost good-as-new condition. Unfortunately, Tina's third hurdle nearly cost her her life.



Just one year after her second injury, Tina escaped again and was struck by a car. This time her injuries were more extensive. Her owner could not afford the surgery necessary to repair her two broken legs and decided to have her euthanized. Fortunately, the Vet Tech at the PetSmart where Tina was taken contacted GPA-Largo. Tina's owner relinquished ownership, and GPA-Largo helped Tina over hurdle number three and nursed her back to health. True to form, the beautiful and spirited Tina never stopped wagging her tail and giving kisses throughout her difficult rehab.

End of story? Not exactly. While Tina was living in her foster home waiting for a forever home, her sister Pebbles was living in Tarpon Springs with her family, Ron and Nancy Nessler. Pebbles was also beautiful and spirited, and slightly larger than Tina. The littermates had actually reunited briefly at a GPA picnic. (See above photo.) Pebbles also loved the great outdoors, but instead of escaping to explore it, Pebbles would bring the



© UNITED FEATURES SYNDICATE,

OUTdoors INside by smuggling rocks into the house and putting them in her bed! This unique habit prompted the Nessler's to write to Brad Anderson, the artist for the nationally syndicated "Marmaduke" comic strip. At the end of Brad's Sunday strip, he inserts a feature called "Dog Gone Funny" that showcases unique and humorous dog behaviors submitted by dog owners. On October 11, 2002 – the day before the Nessler's were informed that Pebbles would be featured in that Sunday's comic strip – Pebbles collapsed suddenly. Although Nancy performed CPR, Pebbles had already passed and "crossed the Rainbow Bridge." The Nessler's were heartbroken at the loss of this special girl, whom they called "too perfect for this world."

Two weeks later, Tina finally found her forever home. You guessed it: the Nessler's adopted Tina to give her, in their words, "the remainder of her sister Pebbles' life," since she has had so many setbacks. Tina is still living happily and safely with the Nessler's. The Nessler's notice many similar mannerisms Tina has that Pebbles had. Maybe someday Tina will develop an interest in rock collecting, but for now a simple life in Tarpon Springs is Tina's dream come true.





WOOF SUP DENVER?!

HEY DENVER!

This is Joe. Doggie, I need your help! My grey Beth is the most well-behaved docile animal I have ever owned; I wouldn't trade her for a million bucks. But I have a little problem I could really use your help with. Every time we leave the house, she becomes a chew-chew monster! She's chewing furniture and anything else she can pull off the dining room table or our bookshelves! We've come home to chewed pictures (what does it mean if my head was chewed off??!!), chewed tables (she seems to like this one corner!), chewed birthday cards, chewed couch pillows and my wife's beloved stuffed bear collection that sits on top of the bookshelf (goodness, Beth's tall!). We love Beth like crazy, but this behavior has got to stop – she's eating our house! What's going on with our Beth?

–JOE

JOE,

Wow! Beth has really put her teeth into the problem, hasn't she??! Woof! Well, the good news is that it's not uncommon, and with a little effort it can be resolved. First thing for you to do, Joe, is to see Beth's veterinarian so he can make sure she's not ill.

Once illness has been ruled out, it's most likely separation anxiety that is causing her to chew. We greys show this by chewing, soiling or whining and barking when you are gone. Here are some things to consider to help Beth through this. My human used them for me and they worked like a charm!

- ❖ Use a crate when away. Dogs are den animals. Crates help us to feel secure. If you don't have a crate, create a den-like area by putting a blanket, some pillows and Beth's favorite play toys all together, preferably in an area surrounded by furniture, kind of like a nest.
- ❖ Most humans think that leaving the blinds and curtains open will help their pet to avoid boredom. But, sometimes it can have the opposite effect. Instead, it's scary to them! So, try closing the curtains and blinds when you leave to create a den-like setting.
- ❖ To avoid panic when you leave, pick up your keys about an hour before you plan to leave. Most greys catch on quickly that the jingle of keys are a sign of your departure. Picking them up earlier and then reassuring Beth during the hour before will help her to relax before you leave.
- ❖ Try leaving and then returning in short increments, lengthening the period of time you are gone each time. When you return, do not make a big fuss. She'll learn that your leaving does not mean you will not return.
- ❖ Don't forget the tried and true: time and exercise. If we greys feel fulfilled in our activities and with the attention you show us, we're less likely to get ourselves into trouble!

Joe, most of all, it's important not to scold Beth if you find a big mess when you return. This will cause her to not only have anxiety about your departure, but about your return as well! If none of the above suggestions work, your veterinarian may recommend medication. Good luck Joe! Woof!

Hey all you greys! I wanted to send out a big Woof-Doggie to all my grey pals at the new Walter Fuller Dog Park! What a greyt way to get some exercise and meet new friends! Come out and see me!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SECOND ANNUAL POKER RUN:

GPA-Largo, in conjunction with Derby Lane, is planning the Second Annual Poker Run for May 2003. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help set up or run the event, please contact Paul or Susan Hendess at 727-797-0078 or via e-mail at phendess@ij.net.

KENNEL TOUR AND LUNCHEON:

Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, Saturday, March 8, starting at 10 a.m. The \$8 per-person ticket includes a race program, admission to the clubhouse, brunch, and a chance talk with several kennel owners and trainers. Reservations are limited. Contact Maryann Tolliver via e-mail ASAP at LSTolliver@aol.com.

MORE GREYT EVENTS TO COME!

Visit www.greyhoundpets.com for the most up-to-date information.

WHAT HAPPENED LAST QUARTER?

The First Annual Poker Run was held October 5, 2002. Over 90 people participated, and over \$2,100 in prizes were awarded! Proceeds to GPA-Largo were \$1,330. It was a smashing success, and plans are on for the Second Annual Poker Run, to be held sometime in May.

The GPA-Largo Fall Picnic was held December 8, 2002. A greyt time was had by all in attendance! Over \$3,100 was raised for GPA-Largo. About a ton of food was collected – literally! And best of all, four adoptions were generated from the Fall Picnic. By all accounts, the Fall Picnic was extremely successful!



My human can be mean sometimes. I thought I had her trained. I've been the only animal in the house (except for an occasional visit from my greyt friend Denver) for three years! Then, last summer, she went and did the unthinkable.

She brought a cat in here.

Well, okay, I have to admit, I was intrigued. It was a furball with something wrapped around one of its back legs. (Editor's note: The cat in question shattered its leg after being hit by a car, and it was recovering from surgery.) My human let the cat stay in her office . . . I wasn't even allowed in her office! What did that cat have that I didn't? Wasn't I cute and cuddly?

Well, after a couple of days, my human let me into the office to take a look at the furball. She made me wear my muzzle at first. The furball seemed interested in me, too. It didn't move around much, though.

That all changed after the first month or so. The muzzle eventually came off when I got the opportunity to poke around and sniff the cat. The cat wasn't moved out of the office – AND INTO MY PERSONAL SPACE – until late October. Let me tell you, I was not a happy camper about that. But I could tell, the furball was moving a lot faster, and a lot of its hair had started growing back. Fast furball = living, breathing playtoy! But I'm very proud of myself: no chewing or biting has ever been involved when playing with the cat.

Grudgingly, I admit, I kinda like the furball. I chase it under my human's futon, where it just sits there and looks at me. The cat actually likes to come up to me when I sleep and sit next to me. Sometimes I let it – when my human's around. Good for the old image.

My human says I'm just mellowing in my old age. Maybe I am. I never thought there would be another animal around here; I like having my human all to myself! Sometimes I get her back for short periods of time (like when the cat's at the vet for the day). It could be worse, I guess. I just hope it just stays the three of us – my human, the furball, and me – for awhile. Change can be hard on an old dog. My human did it right, though – gradual introduction is the way to go.

Sometimes I wish it would go back to the way it was. But I think the cat's here to stay. Grrr ...

JUST KIDDING!

EDITOR: Christine Garrison

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:

Kelly Croghan-Ford, Barbara Grilli
and Theresa Racky-Soles

DESIGNER: Rick Mugavero

PRINTER: Cora Marro

STAFF: Arlene Hess, Gary Hess and
Dana Stevenson

BOARD SPONSOR:

Maryann Tolliver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Nancy Bataille, President
Maryann Tolliver, Vice President
Tonya Beader, Co-Vice President
Mary Haas, Treasurer
Sea Sanderson, Secretary
Harold Aich
Paul Hendess

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:

Christine Garrison
Attn: Newsletter
C/O GPA-Largo
P.O. Box 8071
Madeira Beach, FL 33738

Pinellas/Hillsborough: 727-595-7852
New Port Richey/Pasco: 727-430-0456
e-mail: Lstolliver@aol.com

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.



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!

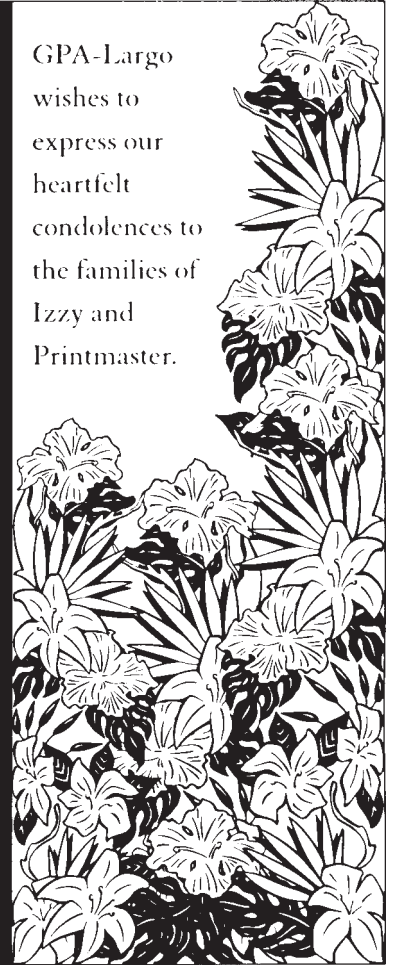
MONEY! Feeding, boarding and caring for our greys is expensive and it also takes money to raise money. So, any tax-deductible charitable gift you can provide would be GREYTLY appreciated!

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!

R.I.P. GREYS

GPA-Largo wishes to express our heartfelt condolences to the families of Izzy and Printmaster.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Madeira Beach, FL 33738

P.O. Box 8071

We Find Retired Greyhounds Great Homes

