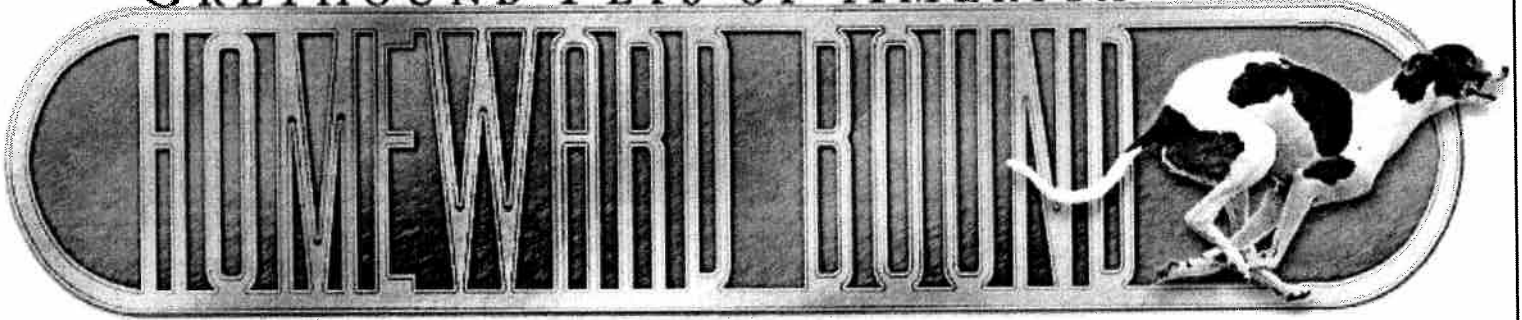


GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA



P.O. Box 8071 🌸 Madeira Beach, FL 33738 🌸 727-595-7852 🌸 www.greyhoundpets.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/ FALL 2009



By Maryann Tolliver

Due to the economy, the past year has been a difficult one for many people. It was because of this that the effort put forth by loving adopters, foster homes, volunteers, the kennels, and Derby Lane has been especially gratifying.

There are many people I'd like to thank, starting with **Joe Muhrlin**, **Paul Hendess** and **Dave Beeler** for making long trips to transport ex-racers for the group.

Thank you to **Susan Hendess** for lovingly caring for our dogs with special needs. Susan is the foster parent that takes in all the ex-racers that have had surgery for broken hocks and other racing injuries. Once the leg is completely healed, the greyhound is then moved from her "rehab" home to our adoption kennel at Derby Lane.

I'd also like to thank **Anne Fisher** for calling hundreds of current and previous adopters in order to update our data base. The reason for this huge undertaking is to prepare for publishing our newsletter electronically beginning in 2010, and sending it out quarterly. Wendy Bourland will be doing the newsletter and accepting ideas, articles, and any other information you would like to share. You can reach her at wenbour@msn.com.

Our Annual Picnic will be Sunday, November 1st—see below for details.

(continued on Page 2)

ANNUAL FALL PICNIC - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

GPA/TB will be hosting its annual fall picnic at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor, Shelter #2. This year we will be raffling off theme baskets to help raise \$\$\$ for the greyhounds. We need items for these baskets. If you would like to make a theme basket or donate items, please let us know so that we can get started. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. It would be appreciated if you would bring a covered dish to share. In addition to the food, there will be lots of activities, raffles, vendors, nail clippings, and a Blessing of the Hounds ceremony. As in the past, we are asking for donations of a large bag of good quality dog food and/or kennel supplies: bleach, trash bags, saran wrap, paper towels, dog treats, canned goods such as green beans, mackerel, pasta or rice. Please plan to attend with your grey for a super fun day!



NEW THIS YEAR: GREYHOUND HAT CONTEST



Does your canine cut it, style-wise? Show off your greyhound along with your creativity by entering the 2009 GPA Hat Contest! We'll be looking for the most unusual toppers ever to rest on a grey's regal head. Your invention can be dignified, artistic, or just plain goofy. Feel free to embellish as much as you'd like—it's all in good fun. There will be two awards given out: Grand Prize and Honorable Mention. Everyone wins! So get started on your doggie's head gear now, and we'll see you and your greyhound at the picnic!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 1)

Please mark these upcoming fundraisers on your calendar:

1. We will continue to take pictures with Santa in December at our various PetSmart locations. Check with us or the calendar on our website for times and dates.
2. In 2010 we will introduce a new fundraiser, a 5K race. It's scheduled for the first quarter of the year. Check the website for further details.
3. The Fourth Annual Parade of Greys will be 10 a.m., Al Lopez Park in Tampa on Saturday, February 20, 2010. **IMPORTANT:** We will be drawing for our special greyhound quilt at this event. Tickets can be purchased at any of our meet & greet locations, on our website, or at any of our fundraisers including the Parade of Greys, prior to the drawing.
4. Our 9th Annual Poker Run will be in April. This is a big deal. It has grown larger and larger each year, and is now our biggest fundraiser. We need extra people for this event, and are currently looking for volunteers willing to help Annamarie and Mike set up stops, secure vendors, and help solicit large corporations for sponsorship. If you can give us a hand, please call 727-585-0201 for more information.

By the way, we are always looking for new and fresh ideas for fundraisers, so if you have one, email me at Maryann@greyhoundpets.com, or talk to any of our volunteers.

In closing, please keep in mind that any help you can provide will be appreciated. Each year we place more retired racers. Give me a call at 727-343-1444 if you would like to help out.

To all volunteers that make our group a success, I would like to say how much we appreciate your efforts. I'm sure the dogs would give you a very loud and heartfelt group "ROO"!

Due to the continued economic downturn, our annual fundraisers are critical to the success of Greyhound Pets of America—Tampa Bay (GPA). As a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, we are totally dependent on fundraisers and donations to pay for our greyhounds prior to adoption. We hope to see you at our events and wish you all a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous 2010.



"MARK YOUR CALENDARS"



**4TH ANNUAL PARADE OF GREYS WALKATHON FOR
GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA TAMPA BAY AND
GREYHOUND RESCUE AND ADOPTIONS TAMPA BAY**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2010—10:00 A.M. AL LOPEZ PARK IN TAMPA (SHELTER 315)

THIS IS A HUGE EVENT, SO WE WILL BE BEGINNING OUR PREPARATIONS SOON!

OUR SPECIAL GREYHOUND QUILT WILL BE RAFFLED AFTER THE WALK

STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

GIVE A GREYHOUND A STARTING PLACE: Our need for fosters homes is great. Our entire program centers around them, and chances are very good that your hound's retirement began in one. Please consider touching another grey's life in that manner and give us a call at 727-595-7852 for more information.

GPA TAGS: Keep your GPA tag on your Greyhound. It is his ticket home if he get's out. You must tell GPA when you move so we can change your address in our database. We very often find lost Greyhounds that are 20 miles from where they live. Please keep your information up to date so we can help your Greyhound get back home to you.

LOST GREYHOUND PROCEDURES: If your Greyhound gets out, use the emergency procedures on your refrigerator magnet. If you need a magnet, email Bonnie Leazer, bunsy4gr@verizon.net, see your GPA rep, or call the pager at 727-595-7852.

DECEASED GREYHOUND DATA: If your Greyhound passes away, please mail the information to GPA, P O Box 8071, Madeira Beach, FL 33738 or email Bonnie Leazer, bunsy4gr@verizon.net.

PERSONAL OWNER DATA: We are currently updating our Adopters mailing and email addresses and telephone numbers. If your contact information has recently changed, please call or email Anne Fisher, 352-683-4131, afish1@tampabay.rr.com or mail the information to GPA, PO Box 8071, Madeira Beach, FL 33738.

GREYHOUND RETURNS: All Greyhounds adopted through GPA **MUST** be returned to GPA if you cannot keep them for whatever reason. This includes if you move, your life-style changes or death of the owner. Call us at 727-595-7852 if you have any concerns on this issue. You **CANNOT** give your Greyhound away.

CRATES: If you have a plastic or wire crate you would like to donate, please call 727-595-7852. These can be any size. These are for use during hurricane season. We help Greyhound owners out by taking in their Greyhound during an emergency. We often take in their non-Greyhound pets also.

MEET & GREET VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of volunteers to help with our MEET AND GREETs at various pet stores. If you have 3 hours once or twice a month, please call 727-595-7852 or visit our website to obtain a Volunteer Application and mail it to PO Box 8071, Madeira Beach, FL 33738.

RECYCLING ALUMINUM CANS: Please save your aluminum cans for GPA to recycle. You may also take your cans to Tampa Bay Recycling at 525 2nd Street South, St. Petersburg and tell them to credit them to Greyhound Pets of America. Call 727-595-7852 to make arrangements for drop off. Please have a large garbage bag full before calling. Thanks for your help with recycling.

PURINA WEIGHT CIRCLES HELP PAY VET BILLS: Purina has a special plan that helps us pay our vet bills, but we need your help collecting the weight circles. Each circle is valuable and the money adds up quickly! Just cut out the circles and give them to a GPA representative or mail them to GPA, P O Box 8071, Madeira Beach FL 33738.

CASH FOR CRITTERS: Cash for Critters is a recycling program that turns trash into cash. The program recycles used inkjet cartridges for cash. They also recycle old cell phones. This program does have some restrictions. They will not recycle Epson or Toshiba cartridges. If the body of the cartridge is clear, white, or grey, it probably will not be recycled. They recycle only digital cell phones. You do not need to turn in any accessories. Bring these items to the picnic or give these items to your GPA volunteer at your local meet and greet.

STARTING OVER

Jake's death hit Beverly Bucklew hard, but she made room in her home – and heart – for a new greyhound

To most of us, the animals we bring into our homes are family members. Even though we know it will happen sooner or later, it always hurts when we lose a beloved pet.

For more than a decade, Beverly Bucklew of Palm Harbor and her husband, Gary, enjoyed the companionship of Jake, the 18-month-old greyhound they adopted from Greyhound Pets of America/Tampa Bay in 1997, after a meet and greet at the Countryside PetSmart.

Jake traveled with the couple in their RV all over the United States. This lucky dog glimpsed the Grand Canyon; stood on the banks of the Mississippi River; and romped in the surf with hundreds and hundreds of other greyhounds at the national GPA gathering held every year in Dewey Beach, DE.

Because their grey didn't like being left alone in the back of the RV, Gary would drive and Bev would keep Jake company, lying on a couch with Jake during trips. "I had it pretty good," she recalls, laughing.

At age 13, when Jake developed crippling arthritis, Bev gave him pain medication and took him to acupuncture appointments. But six months after the onset of his symptoms, she could see that Jake's quality of life had diminished to the point where keeping him alive would only prolong his suffering. It would be selfish. So through tears and pain, she and Gary said goodbye to Jake – at home with her veterinarian, who agreed to her request that he make a house call because Jake was afraid of the vet clinic.

"He was truly a delightful dog," Beverly says. "He was a really good ambassador for greyhounds."

* * *

Beverly and Gary married later in life. Gary wanted a beagle, but Bev didn't want a hound. Bev wanted a Shih Tzu, but Gary didn't want a "purse dog." Somehow, they agreed on Jake. "I'd never had a dog before," Bev admits. "There were a lot of things I was clueless about."

Three weeks after Jake's passing, Bev missed him, of course. There was more to it than that. I need a greyhound fix, she told herself.

At a recent meet and greet at the Citrus Park PetSmart in Tampa, Bev met Sting, TK and Conch three adoptable greys. Gary, who came with her, sat reading a book about the history of greyhounds. She says Conch (formerly Untouchable Conch of Alderson kennel) "walked right up and kissed me, and then nudged my husband's book closed."

Conch and Jake couldn't be more different, personality-wise. While Jake could be timid and nervous at times,



Beverly Bucklew and Conch

Conch is 100% alpha male.

"He nudges me with his nose and directs me where to go," Bev says. "And when he meets other dogs in the neighborhood, he makes himself taller and raises his tail up over his head. But he's not aggressive. He just wants everyone to know he's the new sheriff in town."

Conch accompanies Bev to her job as an assistant to a disc jockey with a mobile business. She and other employees work from the DJ's home office. The staff came to love Jake, she says, and now they are falling for Conch.

Jake traveled 80,000 miles in the Bucklew RV. Since Conch is so new, they have yet to take him on the road. But he shows promise: "He's been in and out of the RV like he knows what he's doing," Bev reports.

Gary, Bev and Conch will make their first road trip together in November, when they travel to St. Augustine Beach, a favorite family destination.

She thinks Jake would approve.

"I know that Conch is my boy", Bev says, "I had this greyhound-sized hole in my life. I really did need Conch."



When Is The Right Time?

By Anne Fisher

Your close companion of so many years has taken his last breath, and sighed his last heaving sigh. The pain in his body has gone now, he is free. The only thing left to comfort you, are the memories.

There may be years of memories, all very dear to your heart. In this case, you may feel that with the death of your pet, an era has gone. An era during which many milestones were passed, such as college, marriage, you bought your first house, and your children were born. The raw gaping hole in your life seems to stretch out before you, and it's almost unthinkable that you will have to live it without this member of the family.

It may be that a young, fairly new Greyhound to the family has died, of either an overwhelming illness or accident. If this is the case, you may feel cheated and angry at the loss of a life that could have been. Maybe you have feelings of guilt. Did you do everything in your power to save him? If only you had watched him more closely or taken him to the Veterinarian sooner, could there have been a different outcome?

These feelings are normal. Try not to dwell upon them, be confident that you did all you could. Instead, think how lucky you are to have had such a wonderful buddy, for however long.

Many times, people have asked me whether

they should wait, or adopt another dog straight away. Will it help them to get over their loss? There isn't a simple answer; everyone grieves in a different way. You will know when the time is right for you. I've known people who have felt compelled to adopt another dog almost immediately, and others who have waited years. In both instances, it was right for them.

When the right time comes for you to adopt another of our special breed, enjoy the experience to the full. Look for a dog that will fit in with, and benefit from, your lifestyle and family. Celebrate the fact that thanks to your lost friend, you have gained much knowledge and understanding of the Greyhound Breed. Knowledge that will help you ease your new companion through his first unsettled days as part of your family, and onward through his life.

You will always keep a special place in your heart for friends you have lost. You will always remember their little idiosyncrasies, and fun-loving ways. The look they gave you when they had done something wrong. The wonderful greeting you used to get when you returned home...Now though, you will remember with fondness and love, and take pleasure from the memories. 🐾

The GPA Tampa Bay Forum

is now live. Register today

at

www.greyhoundpets.com

and join the conversation!



ST PETE TIMES FORUM

If you wish to attend an event held at the St. Pete Times Forum (Tampa Bay Lightning hockey games, concerts, family events, etc.) contact Alison Namour at 813-301-6683 or email her purchase tickets. Receive a "preferred donor discount" by mentioning Greyhound Pets of America. Feel free to contact Alison at any time with questions or to purchase tickets! *Subject to availability*



"SUPPORT GREYHOUND ADOPTION" - PLAY BINGO AT OCEAN BINGO, 2150 EAST BAY DR, LARGO, FL. Wednesday and Friday are "Support Greyhound Adoption" days. If you love to play bingo and love the greyhounds, this is a GREYT way to support the cause. Doors open at 11 AM, play starts at noon and goes throughout the day. Call for more information, 727-586-0456.

FINDING NERO

By Wendy Bourland and Pete Barton

A dog lover and a cat fancier in search of a four-legged companion discover they are destined for greyness

WENDY: I've never owned a dog before, only cats. Luke and Leika were my closest companions during some very difficult and lonely years. When the time eventually came to put them to sleep, there was no way I was going to stroll into an animal hospital, hand them over to a stranger, and leave. Luke died with me petting him on a veterinarian's table; two years later, I held Leika in my arms as she took her last breath.

Having my cats euthanized was excruciatingly painful. I was devastated. Some people go out and get another pet right away, but to me, that was unthinkable. Alone at home, I'd cry and cry and cry because I missed them so badly.

In May of 2008, nine months after Leika died, I met Pete. My life was much improved by then, but I hadn't dated anyone steadily for a long time, nor had I brought any pets into my home. We ended up being a good fit for one another, and one year later, after selling the 42-foot sailboat he'd been living on since his divorce, Pete moved in with me. Then he said he wanted a dog – he'd left behind a pit bull, a Husky and a Lhasa Apso.

I understood that Pete longed for his canine friends, but I was hesitant. What breed – if any – could possibly suit both of us? Then in early 2009, we spotted a small classified ad in the *St. Pete Times*: "Greyhounds for Adoption". It listed the Greyhound Pets of America Tampa Bay Chapter Internet address. We visited the website, and found out about the Parade of Greys walk in Al Lopez Park in February.

We went so we could see the dogs close up. Surrounded by 50-plus greyhounds, I was impressed with their regal bearing and calm demeanor. Pete seemed to like them as well.

PETE: Dogs have been a part of my life since I was born. My earliest memories include Rex the German Sheppard, then there was Bonnie Lassie the Collie, followed by Snoopy the Cocker Spaniel

I loved their unconditional loyalty and friendship.

When I met Wendy, I found out she was afraid of dogs because she had been bitten by a Sheltie as a teenager. I missed having the companionship of four-legged friends, so every time I would see a cute dog, I would say to Wendy, "puppy".

Once she was open to the idea, we thought that we would like a small female dog with a low-key personality, one in need of adoption. We found a website with a Rat Terrier/Chihuahua mix that we thought might be a good starter dog, and I went to a pet store to see him (Wendy was out of town). I liked Napoleon – he was quieter than the rest of the dogs there, plus he was friendly to me.

The next weekend, Wendy came with me to check him out. Sadly, Napoleon was not friendly to her (he actually tried to bite her) and he growled at both of us. We had met our Waterloo.

When we had stopped by the greyhound event at Al Lopez Park, we met the nicest people and the friendliest dogs I've ever known.

I fell in love with them right away, but I have a soft spot for dogs. Wendy liked them too, but she was new to the dog world and still needed convincing. Since GPA holds local "meet and greets", the next logical step was to go to one. At the Tyrone PetSmart, once again we encountered friendly dogs and nice people. When one of the greys leaned fondly against Wendy, I knew we had to have a greyhound.

WENDY: The first thing I did when we got home from the PetSmart that way was hit the Internet to learn more about greyhounds. Then we submitted an application and had our home inspected. Finally, we met Maryann Tolliver, the GPA Tampa Bay chapter president, at Derby Lane in St. Petersburg for an introduction to some of the adoptable dogs.

Maryann brought out seven hounds from the kennel and into a dog run that Saturday morning. As Pete and I stood in the sand, some dogs jumped


Destined for Greytness (continued from page 6)

all over us, while others were meek and submissive. Then she brought out Stormy, this beautiful animal with tan coloring and black markings on his muzzle, eyes and the top of his head. He strolled into the run, stopped at Pete's feet and promptly rolled over on his back for a belly rub. Stormy (TMC's Stormy of Filipelli kennel) then came over to me and did the same thing. Just like that, our dog chose us. After a week in the loving care of foster mom Angie Machniak, we met Angie and Joe Muhrlin at Derby Lane June 13 and took our new family member home.

We are both very happy with Nero, as he is now called. Owning a dog has been a huge adjustment for me, because they require so much care. (To be honest, they are like children, which I do not have.)

After just two months, I can't imagine life without Nero. Meanwhile, Pete can't stop remarking about how well trained he is. Our dog has his quirks, but he's an affectionate creature who gives as much love as he gets.

I renamed our grey because his personality is more sunny than stormy. Nero was a Roman Emperor (and, as I discovered, a CD burning software). I just happened to like the name. Pete could have cared less what we called our new pet, because he was thrilled to have a dog again. He refers to Nero as "the boy" and says things like, "it's time to feed the boy" and "me and the boy are going for a walk".

PETE: It's been many weeks now since Nero adopted us, and we have grown very comfortable with one another. Now, when I look over from where I'm watching TV or using my laptop in the living room, I see Nero lying on his back on his dog bed, with all four legs up in the air, and I realize that our greyhound has found his forever home. Our adventures with this greyt creature are just beginning. 



ABOVE: Nero and Pete Barton at home in Tampa. They are such goofballs. I'm not sure which one likes mugging for the camera more. Pete has nicknamed Nero "Bravehart".

**Rain or Shine!!
Door Prizes**

**SAVE THIS DATE!!!!
Sunday, April 18, 2010
9th Annual**

**All Vehicles
Welcome!!
Vendors
Live Music**

Run starts and ends at



10400 49th St
Pinellas Park



*GPA-Tampa Bay Poker Run for the Greyhounds
RunWithTheBigDogsTampaBay.com*

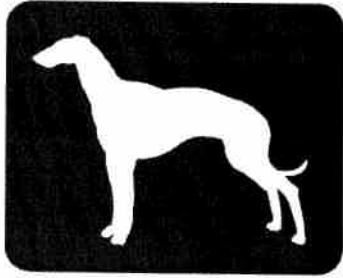
**Club/Chapter
Challenge**

For more info visit our website: www.RunWithTheBigDogsTampaBay.com

All proceeds benefit Greyhound Pets of American - Tampa Bay, FL Chapter

"The Greyhound Retirement Specialists"

**GPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding homes for
retired greyhound racing dogs**



Greyhound Pets of America

Tampa Bay Chapter

Board of Directors

Officers

Maryann Tolliver – President

Joe Muhrlin – Vice President

Mary Haas – Treasurer

Brenda Hoch – Secretary

Board Members

Bonnie Leazer

Adam Horn

Susan Hendess

Rita Motzny

Dana Haverland - Alternate

Tonya Beader - Honorary Member

Greyhound Pets of America Tampa Bay

P O Box 8071

Madeira Beach FL 33738