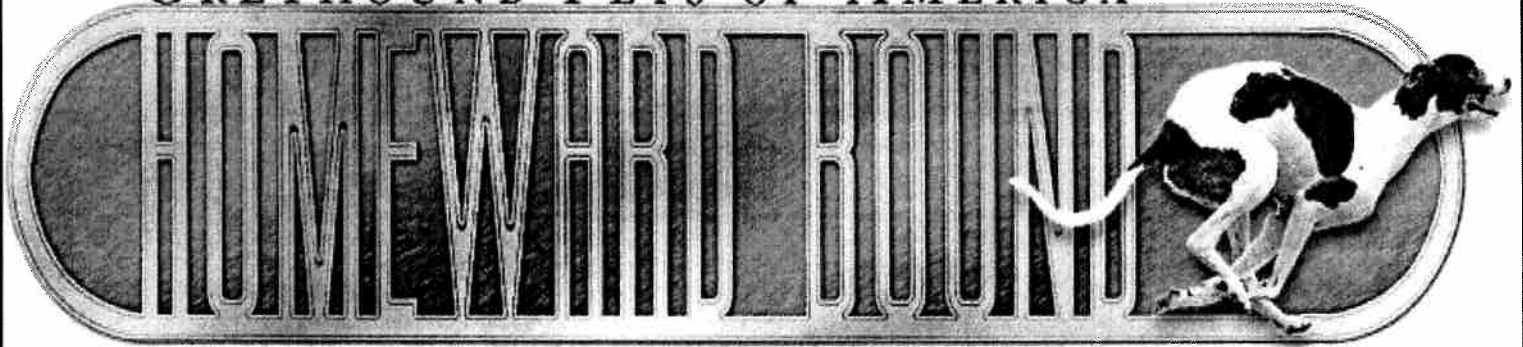


GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA



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



SAVE THE DATES



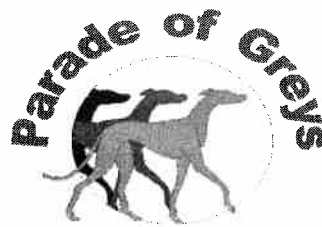
Mark your calendars: Our annual fundraising events are coming up. They are especially important this year because Greyhound Pets of America—Tampa Bay (GPA) is also feeling the pinch from the slow economy. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, we are totally dependent on fundraisers and donations to pay for our greyhounds prior to adoption. We hope to see you at our events and wish all a healthy and prosperous 2009.

Saturday, February 21, 2009 is our **3rd Annual Parade of Greys**, to volunteer call at 727-343-1444.

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - **Adopt a Greyhound Night** at the St. Pete Times Forum. Discounted tickets are \$75.00 (lower level), \$30.00 (terrace center) and \$20.00 (terrace corner) and \$5.00 to \$10.00 of the ticket price goes to GPA so we benefit too. Game Time 7:30 p.m. against the Carolina Hurricanes. Deadline to purchase tickets is Thursday, March 5th. For tickets call Alison Namour at the Forum and let her know you are from GPA so we get our credit. She can also get you a discount on tickets for other events at the Forum—just mention GPA and we'll benefit with a portion of the sale also. See www.greyhoundpets.com for additional information.

Saturday, March 14, 2009 is our **Annual Meeting**—all GPA volunteers and anyone that owns a greyhound is welcome.

Greyhound Pets of America-Tampa Bay and Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay
proudly announce the 3rd Annual...



Saturday, February 21, 2009, From 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Al Lopez Park, Shelter #315

4810 North Himes Avenue, Tampa, FL 33614

A walkathon to benefit retired greyhounds! Rain or shine, come enjoy a one mile walk, fellowship with other greyhound lovers, and learn more about retired racing greyhounds!

Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. and the walk will begin at 11:00 a.m. There will be greyhound merchandise, food, and great prizes—including **37 inch flat screen TV or a 2 night stay at the Tradewinds resort!**

For more information, please visit www.greyhoundpets.com. Come help us make this a Greyt Day!



**ANNUAL MEETING
GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA/TAMPA BAY**



SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2009

1:00 PM TO 3 PM

PHILIPPE PARK, SAFETY HARBOR, SHELTER #5

BRING A DISH TO SHARE

GREYHOUNDS WELCOME

R.S.V.P. to 727-809-0975 or 352-686-4699 BY MARCH 7, 2009

Sunday, April 19, 2009

8th Annual

**Live Music By
"The Edisons"**

1st Best Hand - \$250

2nd Best Hand - \$150

3rs Best Hand - \$75

Rain or Shine!!!

*Pre-register online
and receive a event t-shirt.
See our website for
further details!*

*Get a
professional
quality photo of
you and your ride!*

*All Vehicles
Welcome!*

*Lots
of
vendors*

Run With The Big Dogs



**Hot breakfast
buffet from 9-11 at
The Lube!**

50/50 Drawing!

**\$10 per hand
Three hands for \$20**

**Poker "Walk"
for Prizes**

GPA-Tampa Bay Poker Run for the Greyhounds

Registration: 10:00 - 11:00 AM

1st Vehicle Out: 11:00 AM

Run Starts and Ends at

**10400 49th St N
Pinellas Park**



**We're looking for
sponsors!!!
Give us a call!!**

**Stay tuned for
updates regarding
this year's card stops!**

**For more information visit:
or call 727.585.0201**

www.RunWithTheBigDogsTampaBay.com

***CLUB/CHAPTER CHALLENGE - Trophy awarded to official group
or organization with most "paid" participants***

***Pre-registration runs thru April 14th
See our website for further details***

**All proceeds benefit Greyhound Pets of America - Tampa Bay, FL Chapter "The Greyhound Retirement Specialists"
GPA is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding homes for retired greyhound racing dogs**

The Differences Between a Racing Greyhound and a Show Greyhound

By Anne Fisher

This is such an interesting subject, and one that has been discussed and argued over in many forums of the dog world, for many years. The carvings of dogs found in the old tombs in Egypt, dating back to 2900 B.C. resembled Greyhounds, but it was England that played a major role in the development of the Greyhound breed, and they regard them as a native breed. The first illustrations date back to the 9th century, and show that Greyhounds were used to hunt many different types of game such as deer, stags and foxes. However, the hare is its natural prey, and formal coursing events were held over two hundred years ago. They came to the USA in the early 1500's, probably brought by Spanish Explorers, as hunting dogs. The Greyhound breed was one of the first breeds to be shown here in the States, and there were eighteen entered at the first Westminster Kennel Club show in 1877. I would have loved to have been there to see them. Greyhound racing didn't become popular until the 1920's, and it was 1925 before the first official race was held in Florida. As we can see, Greyhounds have a long history compared with the short capsule of time that they have been raced and shown.

Today we have a single breed with two distinct roles: the Greyhound bred for racing, and the Greyhound bred for show. Inevitably the two have evolved to a greater or lesser degree of the original breed. Each breed that is registered for showing by the various Kennel Clubs around the world has its own 'Breed Standard'. This is a written description of the optimal dog for that breed. When a Judge enters the ring they judge the dogs against their own 'Breed Standard', not the dogs against each other as many people think. The dog that, in the Judge's opinion, is closest to their 'Breed Standard' should be placed first, and so on down the line.

The following is my opinion of the most common differences between the two types:

The show Greyhound is an inch or two taller and should have a long head with a flat skull. The stop (the area between the eyes where the muzzle meets the skull should be hardly detectable. The neck of the show Greyhound should be long and slightly arched, which gives it a graceful appearance and should still be muscular. The show Greyhound has a somewhat deeper chest and the upward curve of the underside of the body is therefore more pronounced. They should have muscular loins (the area on either side of the spine, between the last rib and hindquarters), powerful and slightly arched. Their thighs and hindquarters should be well muscled.

On the other hand, the racing Greyhound tends

to have a shorter head with a deeper, more noticeable stop. Their neck is shorter and muscular with obvious strength. The racing Greyhound undoubtedly has remarkable depth of muscle on the loins, thighs, and hindquarters. It is these muscles that propel him forward at tremendous speed.

Although there doesn't appear to be many differences between the two types, the disparities that exist, change the overall picture. The show Greyhound looks balanced and graceful. The racing Greyhound looks exactly what he is, a dog bred to race, a powerhouse.

If there's one thing that shines out from both types, it's the temperament. As a breed, they are intelligent, gentle and peaceful; they make excellent family pets, which is where we hope the majority of them will spend most of their lives.



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED

Are you interested in fostering a recently retired Greyhound? We need foster homes to place the greyhounds in for a few weeks before they are placed into their forever home. All food and medical care are provided by GPA. We particularly need foster homes with children (6 & older), cats, and small dogs. If you have been thinking about fostering or would like more information, please let us know by contacting a volunteer or call 727-595-7852.

Think about it! It's very rewarding to help a new Greyhound find his forever home.



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.

Cowboy/ Kiowa Okiecowboy

By Anne Fisher

As I write, Cowboy is lying by my chair, our companion and friend, our gentle giant, who has come to share our lives. How right, Rita Motzny, the Hernando County Co-coordinator for GPA/ Tampa Bay Chapter was, when she said that in her opinion, he was the grey for us.

It was all such a positive experience. I'd phoned Rita and explained to her, that my husband and I were hoping to adopt a retired racing Greyhound for a pet. Rita asked many questions about our family and lifestyle. While we chatted, she explained that we would have to fill in an application to adopt, and also to have a home inspection. I, in turn, gave her more of an insight into our lives. We are retired dog breeders and dog judges from England, and are spending our retirement in Florida, near our son and his family.

Rita told me that several of the Greyhounds came to mind, who she thought would be suitable for us. She mentioned Cowboy, and there was Peter, Viv, and Lazarus too. She told me a little about each one, but kept coming back to Cowboy, I sensed there was something special about this boy.

There was to be a 'Meet & Greet' at the 'Pet Supermarket' in Spring Hill the following Saturday, where we could see them all, we were so excited, what a great opportunity to see them together. The foster parents would be there with not only the Greyhounds in their care, but also their own Greyhounds. Rita put me at ease, she is a true Greyhound lover and I instinctively trusted her knowledge of the Greyhounds under her wing. I couldn't wait to meet Cowboy.

When Saturday came, there they all were, each and every one outstanding ambassadors of this special breed. Laura, one of the foster parents introduced herself; she had Lazarus and her own two Greyhounds with her. A lump came into my throat; it was such a privilege to be able to see so many of them together, all of them looking in the peak of condition. They were milling around nudging and greeting each other not one aggressive stance or growl, just a gentle, sensitive, coming together of kind. I felt a sleek head slide gently into my hand, and when I looked down, a pair of liquid brown eyes melted my heart.

I know what you're thinking, that dog was Cowboy and we rode off into the sunset. No, Cowboy had his head firmly tucked under the other dogs, only his back could be seen. I'm certain he was thinking, "If I can't see them, they can't see me." He knew exactly what was happening, dogs sense these things. He

was more than happy living with his foster parents Debbie and Jim Nastelli, who had loved and cared for his every need for over five months since he left the kennels, he didn't want to go anywhere. Debbie gently lifted his head so that I could look into his soft, expressive eyes, then Jim told me what a great dog he was at home, but that he didn't show himself well at the 'Meet and Greets, echoing the same words that Rita had already told me. I didn't make a lot of fuss of Cowboy, I just watched him. I knew the things that Rita, Debbie and Jim told me about him had to be true, it wasn't in any of our interests, and especially Cowboy's to be anything but truthful. They wanted a loving permanent home for him, just as I wanted the right dog for us.

A few minutes later, Jim came and took Cowboy for a walk around the store. There was Cowboy as bold as brass, leading the way, the shrinking violet had gone. What an actor! There wasn't any doubt in my mind; he was the boy for us. I filled in the application to adopt form, giving two references. There were a number of questions about our home, family and circumstances. Reasonable questions that anyone should expect to answer when taking on the responsibility of a dog.

I could have willingly taken any of those Greyhounds home, they were all in such wonderful condition, with the gentle temperaments so typical of this amazing breed. They were a credit to their foster parents, and all involved in their care. Rita and all the foster parents are volunteers, they give freely of their time, energy and love, in order that these wonderful dogs can have the chance of a new life, with a smooth transition from racing kennel to home and family. They have to teach them the simplest tasks Debbie explained, such as going up and down steps, and they have to learn that they can't walk through glass doors

The home inspection was arranged for the following week, those few days really dragged. Rita came first and immediately looked around the house for any potential dangers for Cowboy, then we went out to the yard where she cast an expert eye around the six foot fence, looking for any nook or cranny where he might escape, or any poisonous plants that would need to be removed.

When Cowboy arrived with Debbie, he looked just wonderful, and we all spent a few minutes greeting each other. It was a very sad day for Debbie, and my heart went out to her, but it was time for her and Jim to lavish their love and knowledge on another charge, time for Rita to open that big heart of hers a little wider to en-

Cowboy/ Kiowa Okiecowboy (cont'd)

By Anne Fisher

compass yet another ex-racing Greyhound and start them on their journey of love to a permanent home.

The dates and times of the 'Meet and Greets' in your area are on the GPA's web-site, www.greyhoundpets.com. I can only urge you to go and meet these Greyhounds and their foster parents; it really is an opportunity not to be missed.



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.



AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

In August 2009, There will be an auction to benefit the greyhounds through Carpe Canem. If you have any greyhound items that you would like to donate, or anything else that can be easily shipped and would raise some money on the auction sight, please bring it to the picnic or to a meet and greet closest to you. All items should be in good conditions. If you don't have anything to donate and would like to purchase a new item for donation from one of the many greyhound sights that would also be appreciated.

Local Free Ads Have an Impact

By Ellen Briggs

I live in Gulfport where the Gulfport Gabber is printed weekly. In our little community it really is the important news of the week even though it repeats itself quite a bit. Someone higher up (probably Mary-ann!) gave me the idea to try to get a free ad in a few of the local papers so I tried the Gabber. At first it was hit and miss: One week the photo and blurb, the next week nothing, the following week just the blurb. But I kept sending it in and when it didn't get in I asked why, just in case I had submitted it wrong. After a while it became a regular weekly thing.

It's really fun because I often meet people who see me walking our greyhounds and they'll tell me about having seen the ad. I proudly tell them that I'm the one who submits it. I'm not sure what direct impact the ads have on adoptions but I do know it has people talking because I hear about it. Now when I submit the weekly ad, I let the Gabber people know what people have said. It became very quick and easy once I got into the routine of writing a blurb and submitting that along with a picture from our GPA website. I only went into the Gabber office a couple of times to set it up and now I don't even have to go into the office any more.

So, I'd like you to think about whether you could set up a similar thing with your local newspaper. There's even a Pet-of-the-Week ad in the bi-weekly edition of St. Pete Times' Neighborhood paper you could try. After getting the go-ahead from a paper, you could either create your own ad and download a picture from the GPA website, or I could send you my weekly ad content.

Since I'm unable to volunteer for the GPA in more vigorous activities like working at the Derby Lane kennel, this makes me feel good that I can volunteer in a way I can handle. If you'd like to give it a try either call me on (727) 327-2028 or email: elleninfl@earthlink.net.

■ Ellen Briggs and her husband Trevor live in Gulfport with their two greyhounds Brutus and Margot and current foster dog Tad.



"Support Greyhound Adoption" - Play Bingo

OCEAN BINGO ** 2150 EAST BAY DRIVE ** LARGO FL 33771

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.

Fostering: a personal perspective

By Ellen Biggs

Whenever I talk to people about fostering greyhounds, inevitably they say that they couldn't bear to give up the foster dog. My initial response is, "Suck it up! We desperately need foster homes."

Now, I'd like to tell you the softer side to that retort. Our experience fostering is one of joy. We are given the opportunity to meet all these different characters and introduce them to the comforts of our home. Each dog's personality is unique, and fostering gives you the opportunity to meet and live with more dogs than you probably ever could if you owned them full-time. Although we don't treat our dogs as people, they are still our family, and foster dogs receive all the same benefits as our own dogs. Daily walks usually at Clam Bayou or Wood Ibis parks, car rides when time is short, and trips to Pet Smart. At my husband Trevor's insistence, we usually end up taking our foster dogs along to Fort Desoto dog beach. His reasoning is that they may never get the opportunity again, so how could we deny them this experience?

We take pictures of the foster dogs to remember them by, but I have to admit to forgetting whether it was Boss or Tough who liked furry squeaky toys so much. To remedy this, we've put together a spreadsheet for noting each dog's quirks. So I can tell you that since 2004 we have fostered 17 greys. The practical side of fostering is that you help teach the greyhound the ropes of living in a house rather than a kennel so that they are able to make a smooth transition into a new adoptive family's home.

Fostering can be as simple as giving a greyhound a place to stay until they find their forever home. The basics include feeding them, getting them used to a potty routine, and learning the rules of the house. It is what you make of it, and of course depends on how much time you have to spare. It's good for a foster dog to learn to climb at least a few stairs. Some do this without any help; others can be more timid, especially if they've had a right rear hock break like our current foster Tad. You learn as you go along. It seems so obvious now, but when we were trying to get Tad up the three steps into the house, we spent a couple months lifting each of his feet up the steps. My back was a wreck. Finally, we started using dog kibble trailed up the steps into our laundry room. It was hilarious and mildly frustrating watching Tad snatch the kibble without actually going up one step. Of course, then he figured out he was onto a good thing and wouldn't come in the house unless we gave him kibble. He did grow out of this behavior.

It is also good to teach your foster not to pull on the leash. Again, some do and some don't. I think it was Tough who was terrible on walks and almost pulled my arm out of the socket. He has improved somewhat over the few months we've had him and walked beautifully with his adoptive family. Go figure.

The other thing that still surprises us is that the dogs often don't know their names. I really made a mess of it one day when I trained the new foster to respond to the name Harvey and later found out his name was Plane.

As for house rules, it depends on you. We're not supposed to let the foster dogs on the furniture and we don't encourage it. The thing is, some dogs will claim the bed or couch without being asked, while others just aren't interested and stay on the dog beds we have on the floors. It's pretty easy to train them to stay off both. We did have trouble with our first dog, Brutus, and bought those plastic carpet runners with the little teeth that grip the rug. Just put that on taboo furniture with the teeth facing up and they get the message.

We thoroughly believe in extra tough, nylabone-type chew toys. If you see your foster with something you'd rather they not chew on, just say "NO," replace it with a chew bone and praise them when they start to chew it. They really want to please you and will get the idea quickly.

The other nice thing about fostering is weekly Meet & Greets at local pet stores. My personal experience is that the chances of getting your foster adopted increases with exposure at the pet stores. If you can spare an hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday you will really enjoy it. Many people have not seen a greyhound up close and other people just want to pet them with no strings attached. It feels good to show off your foster and to kibitz with other greyhound people and get the scoop on questions that come up while taking care of a foster.

As you can see, fostering has many more upsides than the one downer of giving up the dog. Parting is bittersweet because although you're losing a friend, but you know the dog is going to start life with a new, loving family, and there'll be another friend along shortly, because you're going to do it again, aren't you?

Hopefully this account will help you to "Suck it up" and do the right thing.

- Ellen Briggs and her husband Trevor live in Gulfport with their two greyhounds Brutus and Margot and current foster dog Tad.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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, see your GPA rep, call the pager at 727-595-7852, or email Bonnie Leazer, bunsy4gr@verizon.net.

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

PERSONAL OWNER DATA: We are updating our Adopters mailing and email addresses and phone numbers. Please email your current address where you wish to receive your GPA mail/email to Brenda Hoch, hochdb20@verizon.net 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.

SENIOR GREYHOUNDS: If you have a Senior Greyhound (7 and up), please call us before having his shots and/or teeth cleaned so we can update you on new recommendations.

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.

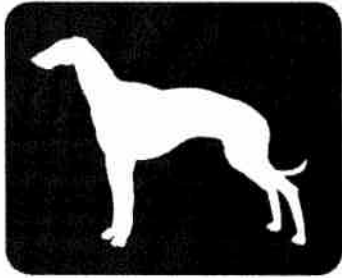
MEET & GREET VOLUNTEERS: We are in need of volunteers to help with our MEET AND GREETs at various pet stores. If you have 3 hours once or twice a month, please call 727-595-7852 or visit our website to obtain a Volunteer Application and mail it to PO Box 8071, Madeira Beach, FL 33738.



"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 to it. 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.



**Greyhound Pets of America
Tampa Bay Chapter
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**Greyhound Pets of America Tampa Bay
P O Box 8071
Madeira Beach FL 33738**