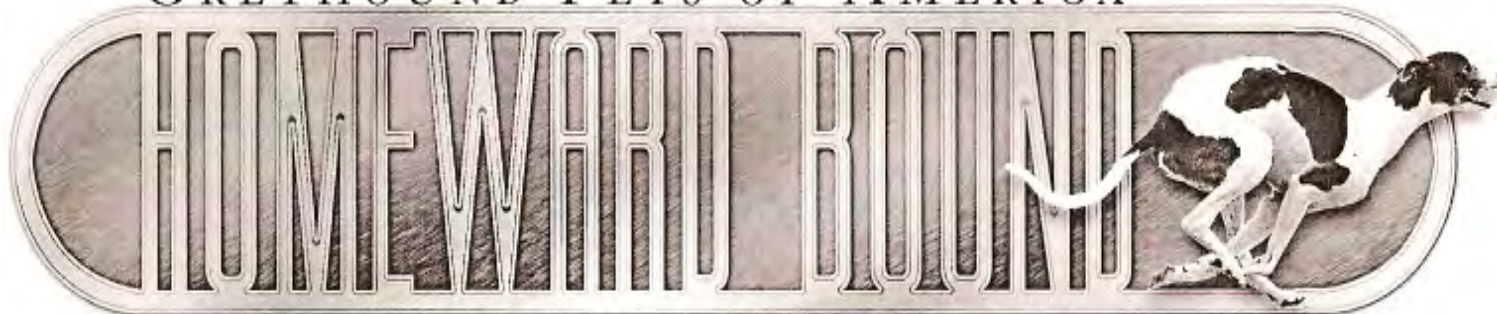


GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/ SPRING 2010



By Maryann Tolliver

Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, GPA/TB was able to accomplish a lot in 2009 despite the difficult economy. We placed 200 greyhounds into forever homes, which is wonderful!

As you probably already realize, we will face similar challenges in 2010. But if we continue to work as hard and enthusiastically as we did in 2009, we'll be as successful, or even more so.

I am pleased to report that our fundraising is off to a great start this year. Our inaugural 5K Run/1K Walk, held at Lake Seminole Park in Seminole Feb. 6, was a big success. Special thanks to Debra, Angie and Dave; and all the volunteers and participants who helped make this first-ever fundraiser a greyt one.

Since GPA/TB is a nonprofit organization, we rely on fundraisers large and small to carry out our work, so please participate and contribute as much as you can.

If you have adopted a greyhound or are considering it, we would love to see you at our events. Come discover the people who help find homes for these wonderful dogs when their racing careers are over. Like the greys, they are intelligent, friendly and welcoming. Our volunteers have made forever human friendships through their work with GPA/TB.

(continued on next page)

**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



**Club/Chapter
Challenge**

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

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**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued from Page 1)

Speaking of the friends we have made, GPA/TB lost two very special volunteers in Barb and Larry Pollak, when they moved to Tennessee late last year. We will miss their appearances at the track every weekend with their greyhounds, Carmel (aka Calypso Sugar); Cosmo (aka Linckia) from Raines Kennel; and Alan (aka Husker Alan) from Abernathy Kennel.

Barb and Larry, I hope you will come back to visit us for the poker run in April. You worked tirelessly on behalf of the greyhounds, and we miss you very much.

As I mentioned before, we generate the money to carry out or work through fundraisers and donations. **Everyone involved with GPA/TB is a volunteer.** Even if you only have an hour or two to spare, you can bring your greyhound to a meet and greet, where we introduce our hounds to the public, answer questions and hand out informational brochures. It's that easy.

Check out the photos on pages 6 and 7 to see how much fun our fundraisers and gatherings can be. Yes, we do work hard. But we also take time to enjoy each other's company at social events like the annual GPA/TB picnic.

In closing, I would like to encourage everyone to help where they can, whether it's working a fundraiser or fostering a greyhound. This year will not be any easier than the last, but I am confident our enthusiasm and motivation will enable us to do an even better job for the greys.

A calendar of events is available at the GPA/TB website, www.greyhoundpets.com.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me directly at maryann@greyhoundpets.com.

WE NEED SPONSORS for "Run With The Big Dogs"! As a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, your donations are tax-deductible. Cash and merchandise for gift baskets are welcomed. Sponsorship categories are Platinum (\$200 and up), Gold (\$125 and up) and Silver (\$50 and up). Your name will appear on the event sponsor board and on the event website for the remainder of 2010. Visit www.runwiththebigdogstampabay.com for all the details, or call Annamarie or Mike at 727-585-0201. Thanks for helping GPA/TB in its ongoing efforts to foster and find good homes for retired Derby Lane racing greyhounds.

A Greyt Day To Be Outdoors

Lots of folks turned out Feb. 6 for the first-ever "Race For The Greys" 5k run and 1k walk at Lake Seminole Park, to raise money for GPA/TB. Breakfast was provided for the participants, along with a commemorative T-shirt, and some terrific prizes were given away.



IMPORTANT HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

GPA TAGS: Keep your GPA tag on your Greyhound — it is his ticket home if he gets 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 get your Greyhound 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 at 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 constantly update our Adopters' mailing and email addresses and telephone numbers. If your contact information has recently changed, please call or email Anne Fisher at 352-683-4131 or 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 us if you cannot keep them for whatever reason. This includes moving away, a change in lifestyle or the 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 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. They will not accept 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. **You may bring these items to the Parade of Greys picnic Feb. 20, or give them to your GPA volunteer at your local meet and greet.**

KENNEL SUPPLIES NEEDED: We are in need of liquid laundry detergent, Lysol, paper towels, clear plastic cling wrap, toilet paper, aluminum foil and peanut butter to put in Kong dog toys. Or, you can donate a Target, Sam's Club or Wal-Mart gift card so we may purchase these items.

GIVE A GREYHOUND A STARTING PLACE!

The need for foster homes is greater than ever. Our entire program centers around them, and chances are very good that your own grey's retirement began in one. Please consider opening your heart and home to a hound in need. Call 727-595-7852 for more information. Thank you!

Hounds help to heal humans

Retired greys aid the disabled, cheer up nursing home residents, and give comfort to patients undergoing treatment in cancer clinics

For many Derby Lane greyhounds, adoption into a private home marks the end of their working careers.

However, not all greyhounds live a life of leisure when their racing days are over. Greys throughout Tampa Bay are making tracks in the community as service and therapy dogs.

A TALE OF CARING

Longtime GPA/TB volunteer Nancy Nessler and her greyhound Meghan (aka Double Numbers from Floyd Kennel) regularly visit the Peninsula Health Care Center in Tarpon Springs.

Nancy is deeply involved with Project PUP (Pets Uplifting People), a program created in Pinellas County, FL, in 1985. Today, the organization has over 150 volunteers and 250 participating pets in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties, visiting assisted living facilities, hospitals, hospices and rehabilitation centers.

Project PUP therapy animals, whether they are dogs, cats, rabbits or ferrets, must be personal pets. They are screened to ensure a suitable temperament for this type of service.

Nancy began visiting Peninsula Health Care, a nursing home where her mother was living, in 1987 with Holly, the Dalmatian she owned at the time. Later, Nancy took her greyhounds. Then she went to Coral Oaks Assisted Living in Palm Harbor, where her mom moved. Nancy continues to visit the facility today.

Hospice of Largo is assisting Project PUP with funding and liability insurance. They also host Project PUP screenings every two months.

LOVE IS GREY

Kristen Triplett, who with her husband Clark owns and operates Pasadena Pet Motel in Pasadena, FL, adopted Panda, her greyhound, from GPA/TB, and had her certified through Project PUP.

When she saw Panda (aka Mystery from Alderson Kennel) on the GPA/TB website, she was instantly taken with the dog. Chapter President Maryann Tolliver brought two greys to meet Kristin, and recommended Panda, whose temperament was a better fit in such an active environment.

Kristen says it took some time for the residents of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) unit at the Veteran's Administration hospital in St. Petersburg to warm up to Panda: "When I came into the ward with her, they looked at me like I had four heads," she says.

Now, the residents welcome the greyhound. One female vet said, "I got to pet Panda and I feel so much better," Kristen recalls.



Nancy Nessler and Meghan at Peninsula Health Care

Last fall, Kristen hired Scott, a newly-discharged Navy medic, to work at the pet motel. Scott had been searching for a job that would let him work with animals.

Scott, who served in Afghanistan with the Marines, suffered a traumatic brain injury and memory loss after his convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. He was diagnosed with PTSD and still feels anxious at times, but he says the animals have a calming effect on him.

While he enjoyed being a medic—in fact, he comes from a family of military doctors and medics — "After everything I've been through, working with animals is preferable to people," he says.

PROJECT PUP AND CANCER CARE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Several dogs, large and small, visit H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa with their owners each week. All graduates of Project PUP, they greet and comfort patients in the lobby area of the clinic.

I met one of the dogs, a beautiful female greyhound, a few weeks ago while I was at Moffitt with my mom, who is undergoing chemotherapy there. Her owner said her grey was getting older and had some health issues, so she probably wouldn't be able to participate much longer. 🐾

Interested in Project PUP? Visit www.projectpup.org or contact Nancy Nessler at (727) 938-1277.

Catching up with Dick and Shuey

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dick Ruddell and his service dog Shuey (aka Forbes Shu Fang from Forbes Kennel) were featured in a *Homeward Bound* article back in the summer of 2007.

A lot has happened to both man and greyhound since then, including a move to the Midwest and back. So we thought we'd give you an update.

For those of you not familiar with this pair, the original article is available in the newsletter archives of the GPA/TB website, www.greyhoundpets.com. Dick, a Vietnam veteran, has Type 2 diabetes and Shuey is his constant companion.

Dick and Shuey moved from New Port Richey, FL, to Wisconsin for a couple of years so he could help his sister, who was having some personal issues.

"My sister rehabilitates animals, so Shuey interacted with baby raccoons, chased wild turkeys, and didn't know what to make of turtles," Dick says.

Shuey didn't care for the climate change. She never quite figured out that when you squat in snow, your backside gets really cold.

"Last January 22, it was below zero and with the wind chill, it was 50 below," Dick says. "Shuey sat with her legs crossed because she didn't want to go out."



Dick Ruddell and Shuey at their home in Seminole.

She may be a working dog, but Shuey has a pretty good life. She eats dry dog food, pot pies and a special meatloaf Dick bakes just for her.

Dick's third greyhound, Shuey was trained by a Seminole woman who once schooled dogs in the Bulgarian Army and trained canines for police departments and dog obedience schools. She now trains dogs for individual owners.

Because of that training, Dick's greyhound gets along equally well with animals and people. She accompanies him to the VA hospital and the deli counter at his local Publix, where the staff give Shuey samples. 🐾

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***

To learn more about
Shuey's Bulgarian Army trainer,
Contact Dick Ruddell at (727) 482-1006.

Visit the GPA/TB website for the latest chapter news, a calendar of upcoming events, dogs up for adoption, photos From previous events, and lots more!
www.greyhoundpets.com



"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.

GPA/TB 2009: The year in pictures

Everyone Had A Greyt Time At the Annual Picnic



**PAUL DOESN'T JUST RUN WITH THE
BIG DOGS – HE SLEEPS WITH THEM!**

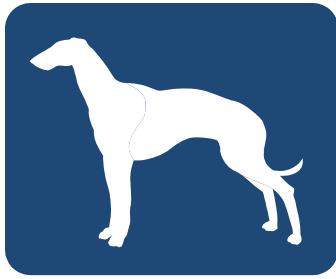
Top right: Paul Hendess delivers the greyhound blessing at the picnic pavilion prior to the festivities at Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. Above: Hounds and owners gather for the hat contest; some had full-on costumes in addition to headpieces. Top left: Sporting a stylish gourd, Big John took first place.

GPA/TB 2009: The year in pictures



Volunteers Worked Many Meet and Greet Events and Fundraisers in 2009. The Santa Photo Shoot Was Very Popular.

BARB AND LARRY, YOU WILL BE MISSED! ENJOY YOUR NEW HOME IN TENNESSEE, BUT COME VISIT US!



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