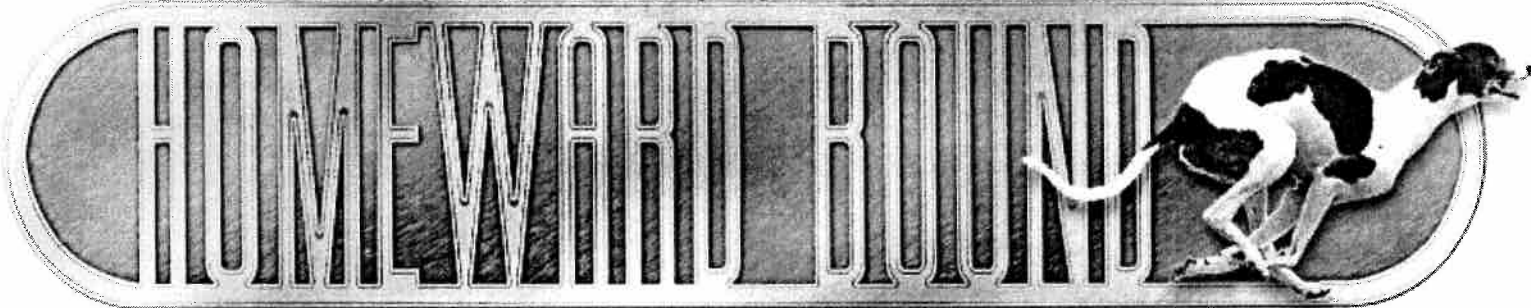


GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/ FALL 2010



By Maryann Tolliver

Dear Greyhound Lovers and Friends,

Hard as it may be to believe, the dog days of summer are just about over. Weather experts are already saying that the summer of 2010 is one of the hottest on record in West Central Florida. I know I am speaking for many people (and our greyhounds) when I say that we are more than ready for some relief from these blistering temperatures and humidity—as well as soaring electric bills!

As we turn the corner into fall, the Greyhound Pets of America / Tampa Bay chapter picks up the pace. We have scheduled our Second Annual 5K Fun Race/Walk for Sunday, November 7th (see below for more information). Our Annual Picnic will be held on Sunday, November 14th at Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park (see page 2).

Finally, in December, we will be doing our yearly Photos With Santa fundraiser at several PetSmart stores in our area. Check our event calendar for dates and times. This event contributes significantly to the important work we do and just as importantly, it's a lot of fun.

Our meet and greet events at Petco and Petsmart stores, as well as other locations in Tampa Bay, continue to be successful not only in teaching the public about how wonderful greyhounds are as house pets, but also how our group works closely with Derby Lane to find forever homes for retired racing dogs. (See related story on page 3) Many people employed at the track have greys at home, including Derby Lane's spokeswoman, Vera Rasnake.

As always, you can visit www.greyhoundpets.com to confirm event information.

If you have questions about GPA/TB activities and events, feel free to contact me directly at maryann@greyhoundpets.com.

SECOND ANNUAL FUN RACE OR WALK 1 MILE

Help support the retired greyhounds from Derby Lane by Running in our 5k fun race or 1 mile walk

When: November 7, 2010 at 8:00 AM

**Where: Lake Seminole Park 10015 Park Blvd. (74th Ave. N) Seminole, FL 33777
(Shelter #9)**

**Entry Fee: \$25 Before Oct 29, 2010 and \$30 After Oct 29, 2010 for 5K and
\$10 Before Oct 29, 2010 and \$15 After Oct 29, 2010 for 1 mile walk**

**Registration: Event forms available online at <http://www.greyhoundpets.com> or at
<http://www.active.com>**

This is a dog friendly race/walk so bring your four legged friend!



ABOVE: Lisa speaks with a couple who are adopting Gracie, age 7, as their second greyhound.



Vera Rasnake with Hessian Soldier, aka "Razz". He's a track dog now, but this pretty boy will retire to Vera's house when his racing days are over.

Greyhound Pets of America/Tampa Bay – Annual Picnic

Lots of new events make this year's picnic a "must do"!



LOCATION: Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, Pavilion B, 10500 Wilderness Blvd, New Port Richey, FL (Pasco County). We'll be there from on Sunday, November 4th from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Starkey Parke is just off Starkey Blvd between DeCubellis Road and State Road 54. For directions see www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation and look for Starkey Wilderness Preserve or call Rita at 352-397-8014 or Brenda at 727-809-0975.

If you are willing to help with any phase of the picnic, please contact Rita at the phone number listed above.

To miss out on this year's picnic would be a doggone shame because a Greyt time is guaranteed for all.

Here are the fun and educational activities that will make this year's picnic the best yet.

- ◆ Low-cost vaccinations by Dr. Jennifer Kern of Advanced Veterinary Hospital in Holiday
- ◆ Meet J.M. Taylor, author of *Gulf Winds*, a thriller that features a greyhound named Flash as a major character
- ◆ How-to clinics such as taking a greyhound's temperature, how to properly lift him/her into a vehicle, etc.
- ◆ A greyhound kissing booth
- ◆ Hat/Collar contest—dress your hound from the neck up
- ◆ Vendors for such items as dog beds and collars
- ◆ Raffles
- ◆ Nail clippings for the hounds
- ◆ Blessing of the Hounds Ceremony

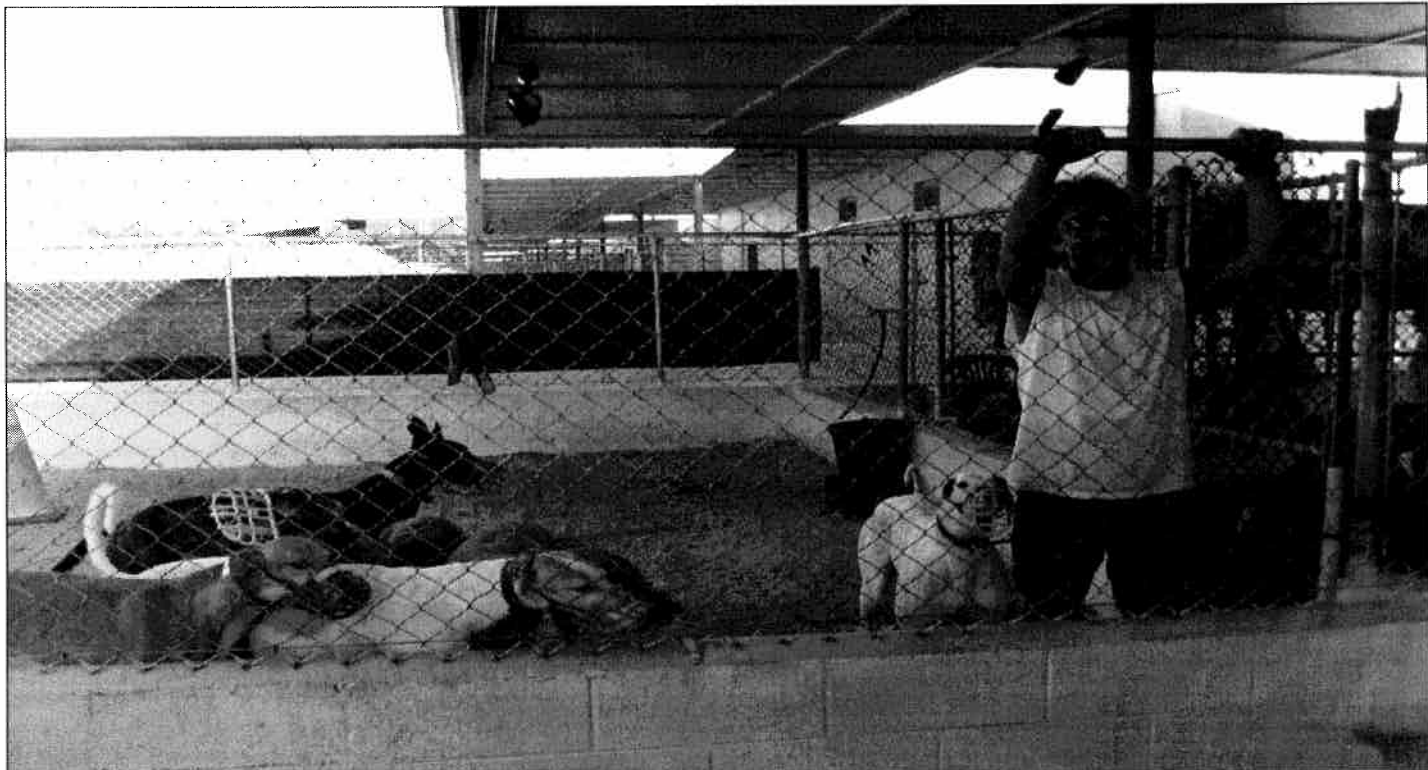
As usual, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Bringing a covered dish to share is appreciated, as are donations of the following items for the kennel: Large bag of high-quality dog food and/or supplies such as bleach, trash bags, saran wrap, paper towels, dog treats, and goods like canned green beans, mackerel, pumpkin, pasta and rice.

SAVE THE DATE—SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2011—10th Annual Poker Run

Watch Website www.runwiththebigdogstampabay.com for more information

Beyond The Finish Line

Derby Lane staff and GPA volunteers work together to transition greyhounds from racing to retirement



Greyhounds are bred for one purpose: to win. Many succeed, while others do not. But regardless of how they perform, all of the dogs will one day be retired from racing, usually between the ages of 3 and 5.

At Derby Lane in St. Petersburg, FL, is where volunteers with the Tampa Bay Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America step in. Their job is to find homes for these powerful yet gentle creatures. The GPA kennel building for adoptable greys can house up to 62 hounds at any one time. Two full time Derby Lane employees oversee the dogs' care, including feedings, turnouts and vet visits. GPA/TB members know them well. Together with the GPA/TB board members and other longtime volunteers, they strive to keep the dogs happy and healthy while they transition from racing dog to family dog.

Vera Rasnake, Director of Public Relations and Marketing for Derby Lane and a former trainer of greys, points out that GPA is the premier greyhound adoption program in North America. "A greyhound is first and foremost an athlete," Vera says. "We work with Greyhound Pets of America because of their credibility and their accountability regarding our retired athletes."

Derby Lane helps sponsor fundraising events, like the first annual GPA/TB 5k fun run/walk (Run With the Big Dogs) back in February. Quite a few dog trainers, kennel owners and track staff take retired hounds home, Vera says. And while she is the first to acknowledge that no industry is perfect, including her own, she says the majority of individuals who work in dog racing treat greyhounds humanely and respectfully.

As the Director of Public Relations and Marketing at Derby Lane, Vera's days are busy. She publishes a newsletter, updates the Derby Lane website, and posts a steady stream of daily updates on Twitter about real and fantasy greyhound races. But Vera spends plenty of time behind the scenes, including at the GPA kennel, where on a recent visit, she offers to fill in for Dennis or Lisa over the holiday weekend. Clearly it's all about teamwork because helping greyhounds find their footing after they sprint across the finish line for the last time, is everyone's business at Derby Lane.

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 contact Tonya Beader at tonya@greyhoundpets.com.

PERSONAL OWNER DATA: We constantly update our Adopters' mailing and email addresses and telephone numbers. If your contact information has recently changed, please email Tonya Beader at tonya@greyhoundpets.com.

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 Annual Picnic Nov. 14, 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 in the Tampa Bay area is greater than ever. Our entire program centers around them, and chances are very good that if you own a grey, his or her retirement began with two-legged foster "parents". Please consider opening your heart and home to a hound in need. It's a great way to learn about the breed.

Call 727-595-7852 for more information.

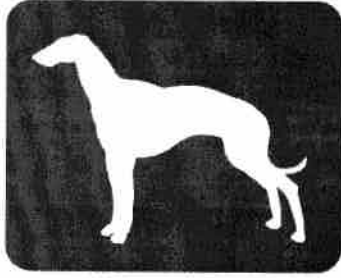
Greyhounds (and mastiffs) speak volumes without making a sound

RIGHT: There was quite a turnout for the Sunday Meet and Greet at the PetSmart in Citrus Park Aug. 22. A number of people stopped to see and pet the greys, including the super-gentle Penske (above right). Some folks were interested in adoption, including a mom-to-be (above, center). As usual, the hounds were quiet and calm, and the small dogs did all the barking!

(The previous Sunday, there was a similar excellent turnout at the Gateway PetSmart Meet and Greet in St. Petersburg.) Thanks to GPA / TB's dedicated volunteers in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties.

BELOW: If you've never seen a brindle mastiff before, behold! This 120-pound fella was almost as handsome as Penske, here seen up for adoption at the Countryside PetSmart in Clearwater on Sept. 4. The mastiff was as friendly as the greys, sniffing Boggs, a fawn hound, while Penske looked on. Boggs was adopted by a loving family minutes after this picture was taken. No worries, Penske—your foster moms and dads know your turn is coming!





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