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WEBSITES AND ADOPTION

SPRING 2011

By Tonya Beader



Back in 1998, I was discussing our AOL communities site with our webmaster. A couple of us asked what he thought of getting a more permanent, dedicated site to promote our greys. His reply was “no one will ever use the internet to find a pet.” His opinion was not unlike many of us at the time but the incredible advance of web technology over the past decade and a half has placed instant access to the internet in nearly everyone’s hands, whether it be from desktops, laptops, or most recently tablets and smartphones. People everywhere now have the ability to gain instant access to information, shopping, banking and pretty much anything else

you can think of via the internet—including information about GPA Chapters and our organization as a whole. Our group constantly hears that we were located via “googling” greyhound adoptions. 99% of our applications are submitted online via our website. The upside is that we can reach far more people and more greyhounds are being seen for the first time via our website. We now have the ability to educate the masses, so to speak, about what incredible pets greyhounds are to a far greater degree than ever before.

To this end, are we doing right by our greys in keeping our sites current and up-to-date? Are we keeping our correct information and calendars readily available? Are we taking full advantage of this amazing “instant access” to our programs and our hounds?

A couple of years ago, some of our Board Members attended a Petfinder seminar. They discovered the biggest complaint most people have when searching for a new family pet was out of date information on websites. Other complaints included bad contact numbers, pets still listed that were already adopted, and websites that looked as if they hadn’t been touched in months or years actually DETERRED people from further inquiring about the possibility of adoption. Take a look at our website; do any of the above apply? When was the last time you gave our site even a minor glance? Are we fully utilizing the biggest source of potential adoptions to our advantage or do you see opportunities where we can expand the information we provide? In looking to the future, one thing seems fairly certain: the internet will not go away—it will likely only get bigger. With even more capabilities to easily promote and educate people about our greys..are we doing right by those entrusted to us by giving them the best possible introduction to the public? Are we making our site stand out so that people are encouraged to visit repeatedly when considering their choices for a four legged companion? If not, then are we missing adoptions?

Most likely the answer is “Yes”

At a time when greyhound awareness and adoption is reaching its most critical point ever, please don’t forget how important our website is, and how it presents to the public. It could be one of our very best tools for finding your hounds their forever homes.



THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone that helped out at our picnic and also those that attended. A special thank you to Dr. Jennifer Kern and her staff for conducting a low cost vaccination clinic. Without everyone's help and cooperation, our picnic would not have been a success. We were able to raise over \$2,000 to help the greys. Keep watch on the website for information about future picnics and other fundraising events.



SALE

SAVE YOUR GARAGE SALE ITEMS

5TH ANNUAL HERNANDO GARAGE SALE

Rita Motzny and her volunteers are currently collecting items for their annual garage sale. It will be held some between the end of March and beginning of April at its usual location of Fentress Court in Spring Hill. Watch our website for more information on the exact date.

If you have any items to donate, please contact Rita at 352-397-8014.



ADOPTION FAIR

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

10 AM to 4 PM

Hosted by Subaru Port Richey and Petco

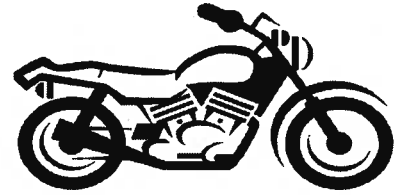
11613 US Highway 19 N, Port Richey (Subaru Dealership)

If you have been thinking about adopting a grey or know someone that has, now is the time to think seriously about it. Subaru will be donating money to GPA for every dog adopted during this event. While we don't do same day adoptions, unless you've already been approved, you have 30 days from the date of the event to complete the adoption.



**SAVE THE
DATE**

SUNDAY, APRIL 17



Save this date! April 17th, 2011. Yes, it's that time again folks, time for our biggest "fun"draiser of the year, the "10th Annual Run With The Big Dogs" Poker Run for the Greyhounds! Can you believe it? Our 10th year of bringing home the bucks for our greys and GPA Tampa Bay. Woo hoo!!

Where? Quaker Steak & Lube , 10400 49th St No. Pinellas Park, 33762

Registration is at Quaker Steak from 10 - 11 am the day of the event

Preregister online through April 13th at www.RunWithTheBigDogsTampaBay.com

This is a rain or shine, all vehicle event and we'll have live music, vendors, 50/50 and drawings for prizes. You can get a professional photo of you and your best friend (4 or 2 legged or on wheels!) for a \$10.00 donation. Feeling lucky? You could be the winner of prizes from \$75.00 to \$250.00. But you have to play to win!

As always, it's the volunteers who will make or break this event and we're sure you'll come through for our greys again this time. What can you do to help? Oh, let us count the ways, but let's start with the most important first! Find those sponsors! Our sponsors are the mother lode of our fundraising efforts! Look for them among your friends, employers, places of business that you know and patronize, total strangers, it's all good! You'd be amazed at how many people are willing to help, once they hear the story of our hounds and how easy it is to help. All you have to do is ASK!

Next, we've got to get the word out! Handing out or posting flyers everywhere possible is one way to help. Tell us about other local news outlets that might help publicize our event. Keep flyers and sponsor letters with you while doing your daily routine and when walking your greys. The dogs sell the program better than anyone, so use them to break the ice and let the flyers and sponsor letters inform. And remember, make sure to let them know this is a tax-deductible donation!

Another way is to volunteer at our GPA "Meet and Greets" or hand out flyers at bike nights or other events that might generate even a few more participants. While the sponsors give their sizeable donations, the participants and their green put us over our goal every year. Without them the event simply won't work! Best of all, happy players and riders will spread the word amongst themselves and others. Remember, if people don't show up, they can't have a Greyt time!

Finally, we need your help on the day of the poker run. Without you, truly, this event will not happen! Those of you who've been here for us year after year already know how much fun it can be. And how rewarding it is to play such a vital role in helping GPA Tampa Bay raise the maximum dollars to support the whole reason we do this every year: our greyhounds. If you're a new member of our greyhound family, then please don't hesitate to pick up the phone or send an email to our event coordinators or visit the event website (runwiththebigdogstampabay.com) for more details. You won't be disappointed!

Annamarie and Mike Sanford

727-585-0201

davidsonwings@aol.com

Val and Don Koppin

941-776-8544

valndon@mindspring.com

Sunday, April 17, 2011

10th Annual

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!*

**Live Music By
"The Edisons"**

1st Best Hand - \$250

2nd Best Hand - \$150

3rd Best Hand - \$75

50/50 Drawing!

Run With The Big Dogs



GPA-Tampa Bay Poker Run for the Greyhounds

*All Vehicles
Welcome!*

*Lots
of
vendors*

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

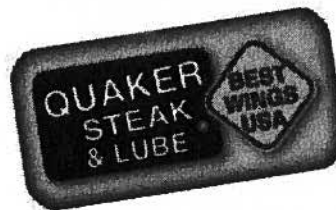
*\$10 per hand
Three hands for \$20*

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 13th
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**

JASMINE THE GREYHOUND

Reprinted with permission from Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary



In 2003, police in Warwickshire, England, opened a garden shed and found a whimpering, cowering dog. It had been locked in the shed and abandoned. It was dirty and malnourished, and had clearly been abused. In an act of kindness, the police took the dog, which was a Greyhound female, to the nearby Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, run by a man named Geoff Grewcock and known as a willing haven for animals abandoned, orphaned or otherwise in need.

Geoff and the other sanctuary staff went to work with two aims: to restore the dog to full health, and to win her trust. It took several weeks, but eventually both goals were achieved.

They named her Jasmine and they started to think about finding her an adoptive home. But Jasmine had other ideas. No-one remembers now how it began, but she started welcoming all animal arrivals at the sanctuary. It wouldn't matter if it was a puppy, a fox cub, a rabbit or any other lost or hurting animal, Jasmine would peer into the box or cage and, where possible, deliver a welcoming lick.

Geoff relates one of the early incidents, "We had two puppies that had been abandoned by a nearby railway line. One was a Lakeland terrier cross and another was a Jack

Russell Doberman cross. They were tiny when they arrived at the centre and Jasmine approached them and grabbed one by the scruff of the neck in her mouth and put him on the settee. Then she fetched the other one and sat down with them, cuddling them. But she is like that with all of our animals, even the rabbits. She takes all the stress out of them and it helps them to not only feel close to her but to settle into their new surroundings. She has done the same with the fox and badger cubs, she licks the rabbits and guinea pigs and even lets the birds perch on the bridge of her nose."

Jasmine, the timid, abused, deserted waif, became the animal sanctuary's resident surrogate mother, a role for which she might have been born.

The list of orphaned and abandoned youngsters she has cared for comprises five fox cubs, four badger cubs, 15 chicks, eight guinea pigs, two stray puppies and 15 rabbits.

And one roe deer fawn. Tiny Bramble, 11 weeks old, was found semi-conscious in a field. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, Jasmine cuddled up to her to keep her warm, and then went into the full foster mum role. Jasmine the greyhound showers Bramble the Roe deer with affection and makes sure nothing is matted.

"They are inseparable," says Geoff "Bramble walks between her legs and they keep kissing each other. They walk together round the sanctuary. It's a real treat to see them."

Jasmine will continue to care for Bramble until she is old enough to be returned to woodland life. When that happens, Jasmine will not be lonely. She will be too busy showering love and affection on the next Orphan or victim of abuse. For more information about Jasmine see:

www.nuneatonwildlife.com.



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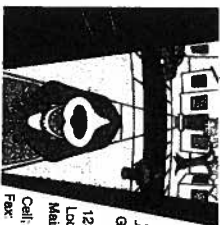
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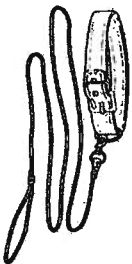
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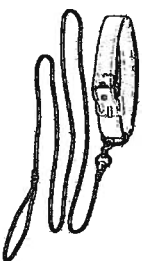


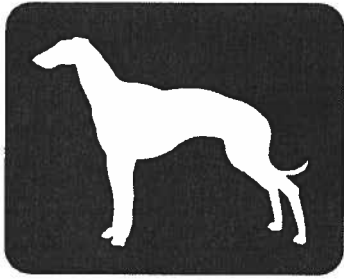
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