



The Hounds' Run

See us on the web at www.floridagreyhounds.com

Calendar Year Summaries:

2007 49-Local Adoption - 415 shipped

2006 59- Local Adoptions - 393 Shipped

2005 79- Local Adoptions - 375 - Shipped

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Challenges

by Claire Tyler

GPA Central Florida has had many challenges over the past 10 years. This year we were faced with our toughest. On June 30, the management at Melbourne Greyhound Park decided to take advantage of new legislation. They announced a close to year round greyhound racing at the Melbourne facility. Kennels were given two weeks to find a booking at other racing facilities. What greyhounds could not be moved would be left in the Adoption program. This was done without consulting GPA or concern of the impact on us.

During the first two weeks of July, we were exceptionally busy. We were not prepared for a large number of greyhounds coming into our program. Food, wormers and frontline had to be ordered. A frantic search was also started to get qualified kennel help. (This proved to be our biggest challenge).

Previously when the track was seasonal, we had time to prepare and we had a good idea of how many greyhounds were staying with us. On July 12, we had 325 greyhounds that were in our care. Over 200 greyhounds needed to be profiled and evaluated. While we had several shipments lined up, we had to revamp the schedule and come up with some alternative transport options.

Initially each day was a challenge. All the local TV news stations and the Today Newspaper came and wanted interviews. Our phones were ringing off the hook. Then the biggest nightmare happened. An email was circulated about greyhounds being in jeopardy. It was posted on every rescue list imaginable and we were inundated with phone calls and emails from across the country. Our time was now spent putting out fires. We had to keep emphasizing that the hounds in Melbourne were **SAFE**.

As Kennel operators left, we had hectic weekends of moving greyhounds and compacting them down into 6 kennels. Teams of volunteers came and helped with profiling greyhounds for their activity & personality. Volunteer Cats were used to check out prey drive. Before we could show hounds for local adoptions or schedule hounds for shipment, we had to get an idea of their temperments. Several hounds were also in desperate need of Frontline. In the middle of all this, we even got a few hounds returned.

Adoption weekends were set up and volunteers were kept busy showing greyhounds or doing home visits. One of the kennels was set up as a reception area and "chill out" room. Since the track closing, we have moved out over 20 greyhounds to families locally.

As the news spread, we were also inundated with calls from groups who wanted to help. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Greyhound Community. We received donations and grants to help out with the huge Food Bill. Initially the food cost was over \$1200 a week. Several new organizations pledged to take

Happenings

Special Events - Please mark your calendar. There are several events that are coming up and we know you won't want to miss out. Fall is a wonderful time of the year to get out with your hound and be a part of our Community Outreach program. Your hound can be an Ambassador and help promote adoption for some of their canine buddies who are still in the track kennels. Please volunteer and help us so we can help them. **Contact Brenda Stacy at 321-637-8210 or email her at glassngreys@cfl.rr.com. or Vicki Smith at (321) 632-3502 or greyladie@cfl.rr.com**



Freida's at (321) 637-1008.

November 3, (4-8)- Titus Nights
Our members in North Brevard will be manning an informational Table and informing the public how "Greyhounds Make Great Pets". These evening events are located in Downtown Historic Titusville and a fun street party atmosphere. Contact Vicki Smith at (321) 632-3502 or greyladie@cfl.rr.com

November 3 -Satellite Beach Founders Day GPA will be an active part of this event hosted by the Satellite Beach Woman's Club. GPA will have a sales table and pass out information on

Greyhound adoption from 9:00 - 4:00. This is a fun one day event and a wonderful opportunity for Community Outreach. The event also features a parade through the nearby residential area. GPA will be soliciting the help of volunteers for this event to be held at the David R. Schechter Community Center, 1089 So. Patrick Drive, Satellite Beach, FL. Contact Lori Stewart if you can help at zoomer@cfl.rr.com or 779-9289

Cocoa Village Craft Fair October 20-21 10-5 - and December 1-2 10-5 This is a wonderful event and great opportunity to get your hounds out in the community. GPA will be needing volunteers to greet the public and promote adoption. Please consider helping by contacting Vicki or Brenda.

October 20 Sat 9-3 Central Middle School "Community Awareness Day" (West Melbourne)

AND November 3 - Harbor City Elementary School (Melbourne) Family Fun Day 10-2

GPA has been invited to these special "Learning Events" and we are in desperate need of volunteers. These are new events for us and it would be nice to have GPA representatives and their greyhound ambassadors participate. We are hoping to be on hand for a couple of hours. If you live close to these venues or have students in these schools, please consider helping out. Contact Brenda at 321-794-9180 or glassngreys@cfl.rr.com

October 28 (Sunday), Village Pet Masquerade Contest (1-4) hosted by Frieda's Pet Boutique in Cocoa Village at the Gazebo in Myrt Tharpe square. There is a \$10 registration fee and a portion of the proceeds will go to GPA. For more information call

November 10, Micco Family Fun Day. This is a new event in the south end of the county. Event is sponsored by the Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department. Event will be held at Micco Park on Riverside Drive from 10-4. Please contact Brenda if you can help out

November 17, Paws in the Park - Wickham Park 9-1. Brevard County Parks & Recreation Department is host to this Educational Program that will host several different rescue groups from around the county. Contact Vicki or Brenda to help.

February 24, 2007 WOOFSTOCK- Wickham Park Main Pavilion 11AM - 3PM Please make sure to mark you calendars for our biggest event of the year. Preparations are under way. The Gilley Dancing Drill Team will be on hand to entertain everyone. There will be pet contests, live music, vendors and special raffles. **Reserve the date now.**

It's Just a Dog"

Author unknown

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make people better people. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks and appreciate the simple things. So for me and people like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. "Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," just smile, because they "just don't understand."

Challenges

Continued from page 1

Melbourne hounds into their adoption programs. Greyhound Friends in North Carolina and Greater Rochester Greyhound Rescue stepped up adoption efforts and took a larger than usual number of Melbourne hounds into their programs. Groups who were out of our transport range were frantic to give assistance of some kind. A "Muzzles for Melbourne" program was initiated and they donated new muzzles to the hounds for transport. We also started to receive "Purina Weight Circles" and used ink cartridges & phones from around the country.

The summer seems like a blur right now. Between shipments, adoption days, ordering supplies, trailer maintenance, cleaning kennels and vet appointments it was hectic. The following gives an idea our our shipment schedule:

- July 12 - shipment 20 greyhound to NY & CT
- July 20 - 10 hounds hitch ride with GPA Daytona up the east coast to MD
- July 21 - 20 hounds shipped to NC
- July 26 - 37 hounds shipped to OH, PA, NY
- Aug 11 - 12 hounds shipped to NC
- Aug 25 - 12 hounds hitch ride with GPA Daytona to East Coast groups
- Aug 25 - 41 greyhounds go to other East Coast Groups
- Sep 15 - 42 greyhounds go to SC, OH, PA & NY groups
- Sept 28 - 19 greyhounds go to SC & NC groups

Shipments planned

- October 20 - 42 hounds up I-95 East Coast
- November 17 - shipment to Buffalo

As you can see from the schedule, we were fortunate enough to utilize free spaces on the GPA Daytona hauler that was

headed north. A Big Thanks goes to Chris Miller for this assistance.

In the middle of all this, our veterinarian Dr. George sold his busy practice on Merritt Island. Knowing our plight, he promised to continue to work with the greyhounds. We managed to relocate his equipment into an office at the track. The ability to provide hounds that are spay/neutered enhances our efforts to transport greyhounds. We are deeply indebted to Dr. George and his vet techs Mary & Natalli for continuing to work with us. Also a big thanks to our VP - Monique Moore (former Vet Tech), Jamie Stewart and Leslie Iodice for helping out with the surgeries. We are still amazed at Dr. George's surgical skills. Typically in one morning we schedule 15 hounds for surgery, heart worm check, shots and teeth cleaning. In less than 5 hours all hounds are done. From what we understand, some vets can only handle 2 surgeries a day.

We still have several hounds that are qualified as "Hard to Place". While they are super friendly and out going with humans, they are not good with cats. Finding homes for the Hard to Place and Special Needs hounds continues to be a challenge

We want to extend a BIG THANKS from all the greyhounds at Melbourne to all those that volunteered. Each and everyone of you are special Vicki Smith, Lori Stewart, Jamie Stewart, Margie Dallas, Michelle Hann, John Bigit, Dave Torgerson, Dave Paauwe, Carol Gfeller, Judy Sellers, Judy Fisher, Nancy Passage, Ron Sparks, Carissa Basil, Leslie Iodice, Renee Geiger, Stacy & Lauren Bauler Jacob Daniel, George Porcella, Sam Hogan and Nick Roche for helping out at the kennels. Also a Big thanks goes to Brenda Stacy for helping out with all the home visits. I hope I managed to remember everyone, please forgive me if I missed mentioning your name.

Happenings!!!

Celebrating Greyhounds 2008 Calendars

GPA Central Florida has just received its supply of CG Calendars for 2008.

There are a few familiar GPA CF faces in the calendar. Bennie who owns Lorie & Bob Stewart will make you chuckle during the month of August.

Calendars will be on sale at GPA local events and can be purchased by mailing a check to GPA CF at 3525 Manassas Ave, Melbourne, FL, 32934. Cost for the Wall Calendar is \$12.00 and Desk Calendar is \$7.50. Shipping and handling will be \$3.00

Purina Weight Circles - Thanks to everyone who has donated their Purina Weight Circles to GPA Central Florida. They add up to big savings for our group and help to reduce the cost of food for greyhounds in

our kennel. We can accept weight circles for Purina Dog or Cat Food.

New Purina Programs - Purina Give a Bowl.

Purina has initiated a new program for adopters. By going to website www.giveabowl.com and filling out a pet related survey, adopters can download a \$4.00 coupon for Purina Dog Food. Adopters are asked to select GPA Central Florida as their rescue group and food bonus points will be rewarded to our group.

Pets for Seniors - This program is designed for adopters 60+. By signing onto www.PurinaPetLover.com and filling out a questionnaire, adopters can receive a \$50 rebate on their adoption fee.

In Memoriam

A TRIBUTE TO FRIENDS WE HAVE RECENTLY LOST

Native American Prayer

I give you this,
one thought to keep,
I am with you still,
I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken
in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars
that shine at night.

Do not think of me as gone-
I am with you still,
in each new dawn.

SPEEDO HOT ROD
BELOVED PETS OF
DAVE & DEBBIE DOBSON

Y-KNOT-UNITED (DUTCHESS)
BELOVED PET OF
VIRGINIA CALDWELL

TWIGHLITE KISS
BELOVED PET OF
JOHN & DONNA CLARK

CUZZIN MONZEL (ZEKE)
BELOVED PET OF
BOB & LAURIE STEWART

MISS LUANN
BELOVED PET OF
LUANN MANDERVILLE

PENNY
BELOVED PET OF
MAGGIE & TOM MITCHELL

Race the Wind- Finally

by Brenda Stacy

For the last three years, we have wanted to go to the home of greyhound racing in Abilene. This year we finally made it! John and I packed up the van, collected our 22 month old granddaughter and headed to Orlando. We picked up our daughter, Amanda, and headed to Kansas. We made a stop in S. Carolina and Oklahoma to visit relatives and soon we were in greyhound land.

Abilene is a nice, laid back small town in the middle of nowhere. Surprisingly, there is quite a lot to see and do there, but we came to see greyhounds. After registering at Sterl Hall we discovered we were too late for the tour of the Crystal Farm. Bummer! I want to see puppies! We had to make do with the vendors that were set up at the hall, and visiting with others that didn't go to the farm. The evening had a costume contest and other fun games with greyhounds. The costumes were very ingenious and the greyhounds were very patient.

Friday morning dawned sunny and clear but not the heat I was dreading. In fact, we had wonderful weather the entire trip. Today we were going to a farm, the Flying Eagle Farm. It was very interesting learning about the farm routine, the raising of the pups, schooling of the juveniles and I got to play with the puppies. At Sterl Hall, there were speakers and other activities throughout the day.

Saturday, we toured the NGA headquarters. I learned more than I wanted to about the paperwork side of racing and breeding. We then went to the Hall of Fame. It was very interesting showing the history of greyhound racing, and about the people and dogs involved. We also got to meet "The Talented Mr Ripley". He retired from Derby Lanes last year and seems to be enjoying his second career as a greyhound ambassodog. I spent some time and money in the gift shop. Items are also available on line. Then onto The Strong Farm, it was my favorite. We all got to play with the puppies! Bailey was determined to smuggle out a 2 week old puppy. They were so adorable. After getting the puppies all accounted for, we went back to Sterl Hall for the famous Chicken Dinner and auction. The bidding was fast and furious. It quickly became apparent that it was also out of our purse limits. They were able to raise a lot of money for the adoption group in Wichita.

A farewell breakfast was scheduled at the Hall of Fame on Sunday. We did not attend but hit the road.

We drove about 3800 miles in 12 days. We were all glad to get home to our own beds and hounds.

Race The Wind was a lot of fun and well worth the trip. It is a worthwhile adventure for anyone interested in what life was like for your pup before retirement.

Looking for Homes



Kiowa Kimmie is a special girl. She has retired from being a Brood Momma. Kimmie is 8 years young. She has a sweet personality and is a real lover. This red hound is cat friendly



Boldndaring or "Roxanne" is a five year old retired Brood Momma. She is friendly and outgoing brindle girl. Roxanne weighs 63 pounds and she is cat friendly



Hucks Lady Luck is 5 years old. She is calm and wams up to most people. She suffers from Megaesaphagus and requires her food blended to a puree form and needs an elevated feeding dish.

For more information on any Special Needs Hounds call 242-9010 or check www.floridagreyhounds.com/spneeds.htm

Martingale Collars and Leashes for Greyhounds Not Just a Fashion Statement

By Lorie Stewart

The unique collar and leash sets used by greyhounds and sight hounds are not just to make a fashion statement. While they come in many fabrics, patterns and prices; the Martingale or gentle choke collar sets are actually a safety necessity for your beloved hound.

The premier collar set provided at adoption by GPACF contains three items, a tag snap collar, a gentle choke collar and a standard 6-foot leash.

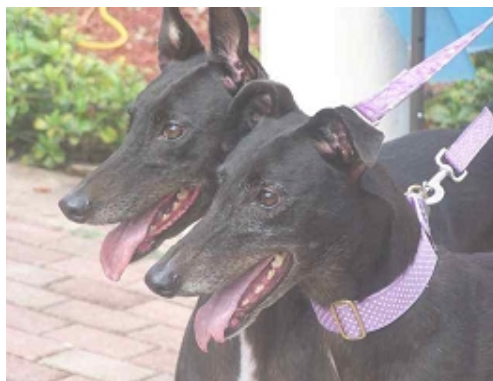
The tag collar is intended to be worn at **all times** with the dog's GPA identification tag and other tags on it. If the tags make too much noise for you, consider getting a rubber ring put around the tag to act as a buffer. There are also options on many of the fancier collars for tag pockets or silencers. I happen to like the sound and it helps me to locate a black dog in the backyard after dark.

The Martingale or gentle choke collar is your pet's stepping out, going for a walk collar. This collar is to be attached to the leash anytime you have your dog outside a secure fenced area. The design is especially made to accommodate the greyhound's unique neck and head structure. It provides the means to control the dog without injury to their neck and prevents the possibility of the dog slipping out of the collar. When properly adjusted it should slide easily over the greyhound's head when you slip it on or off, and when pulled the metal slides should not touch; there should be about 2 inches of fabric between the two pieces. Be sure to leave the tag collar on, the gentle choke collar is designed to work with it.

A word of caution: the Martingale or gentle choke collar should never be left on your hound at all times in place of a regular tag collar. The rings and/or loop could get caught on something and become a choking hazard for your pet when they try to twist out of it.

The leash attaches to the Martingale or gentle choke collar, never to the tag collar. The tag collar does not tighten and is very easy for those small, sleek greyhound heads to just slide right through. The 6-foot leash provides enough play for your hound to do a little exploring, but is short enough for you to control them quickly if necessary. Also, be sure that you have a good grip on the leash; consider looping the end over the wrist and them a quick wrap of the leash around the hand.

Retractable leads are very popular these days but present a special problem for greyhounds. Most retractable leads have at least a 25-foot range; a greyhound can reach their top speed



at three strides and way less than 1 second. Meaning essentially that a greyhound can be doing better than 40 miles an hour when they reach the end of that 25 foot range, in less time than it takes you to sneeze. Do you really think that you will be able to hold on to that small plastic handle and control your dog in these circumstances?

Many greyhounds have a wardrobe of stylish Martingale collars and leashes. The fancier ones are usually hand made from a variety of fabrics. If you can't wait for an event or meet and greet to purchase one, please visit one of the following websites. These vendors have a long history of supporting greyhound adoption and a good product at a fair price.

www.silkroadcollars.com www.2houndsdesign.com
For Neena's Collars – contact nderf@tampabay.rr.com

We will be having a small selection of Martingale collars and Premier gentle choke collar sets available at our upcoming meet and greets. The Premier collar and leash 3-piece set is currently priced at only \$25.00, the Martingale collars vary in price. A larger selection will be available at our main events, such as Founder's Day and Woofstock. In any case, if you need a set quickly contact Claire Tyler at 321-242-8282 or greymomcrt@cfl.rr.com

Having a lose dog is a heart wrenching experience for you and potentially a fatal one for your pet. Please take the time to properly collar and leash your beloved hound at all times. A single lost greyhound is one too many. page 6

General Collar and Leash Safety for Greyhounds

- *Never pull or drag your dog with a leash.*
- *If your are worried about you greyhound backing out of the collar, consider a harness. While we have a limited supply of harnesses, we recommend checking out the website of our friends at Greyhounds of Eastern Michigan (www.gemgreyhounds.org)*
- *Keep your leash and collar in good shape, replace at the first sign of wear or loose hardware.*

2008 Membership Is Due

Greyhound Pets of America needs your support to help without many expenses. The fee associated with adopting the greyhounds does not always cover our actual expenses. GPA Central Florida depends on donations to cover all emergency veterinary expenses, foster home supplies and many other costs incurred that are not met by adoption fees. Please consider becoming member. As a member you will receive our newsletter and be informed of events that are happening in our are.

GPA is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the placement of retired racing greyhounds. A copy of the Florida Registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 800-435-7352 within the state. "Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State."

Please take a few minutes to fill in and mail this application to:

Greyhound Pets of America, Central Florida, 3525 Manassas Ave, Melbourne, Fl., 32934

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ e-mail _____

Type of Membership:

- Family \$20
- General Sponsor \$25 receives a Bumper Sticker
- Donor \$50 receives an Adoption Awareness Ribbon
- Senior Hound "Nikki Fund" Donor receives notepad/pen
- Activity Sponsor
 - Frontline Application for 6 greyhounds - \$30
 - Broken Leg Treatment sponsor
 - Donor to cover cost of x-rays - \$75
 - Donor to cover cost to Feed recovering greyhound for 6- 8 weeks - \$60
 - Donor to cover surgery \$200 - \$1,700
 - Special Testing or Treatment Sponsor
 - (member will receive bio on greyhounds who need special testing or help)
 - Donor for Detail Thyroid Testing - \$50
 - Donor for Thyroid Medications - \$75
 - Donor for Tick Titer testing - \$90
 - Donor for Heartworm treatment - \$250

LIVING WITH A GARBAGE HOUND? YOUR TRASH COULD BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR PET!

Does your enterprising pooch have a habit of digging out the edibles—and not-so-edibles—in your garbage can? He may be satisfying his canine instincts, but the ASPCA would like to inform pet parents that the everyday items you throw away could be dangerous to your pet. These include:

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- medications
 - foods harmful to pets, such as chocolate, onions and coffee grounds
 - poisonous plant cuttings
 - household cleaners
 - insecticides
 - batteries
 - bones, plastic, metal and paper, which can cause choking and other obstructions
 - bacteria in spoiled food
 - molds in rotting foods such as cheese, nuts, grains and pasta
-

Here are some practical ways to avoid hazardous

Greyhound Pets of America
Central Florida Chapter
3525 Manassas Ave
Melbourne, FL, 32934

encounters with discarded items:

- Use securely covered wastebaskets that don't tip over easily, and store them in a cabinet under the sink.
- Take your garbage out right away.
- Properly dispose of potentially toxic materials, such as batteries. Your local garbage disposal company can offer advice.

If you think your pet has ingested a potentially hazardous item, please contact your veterinarian or local emergency animal hospital immediately, taking note of any items you might have thrown away. If you can't reach your veterinarian, please contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center's 24-hour hotline at (888) 426-4435 (fee will apply).

Special Thanks

GPA would like to extend a Special Thanks to everyone who has made special donations during the recent track crisis. Thanks also to Uno's for hosting a Dough Raising event to help with recent expenses. Members in dined at the Merritt Island Store on July 31 and a portion of their bill was donated to GPA. A check for over \$250 was donated to GPA.

Frieda's Boutique sponsored a Country style "Yappy Hour" at the Slow & Low Barbeque in Cocoa Beach. Generous animal lovers showed up and between raffles and 50/50 GPA managed to raise over \$713. Super Big thanks from all the greyhounds goes to Frieda's.

