

GREYHOUND NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS OF FLORIDA

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Why May is one of my favorite Months By Dione Garnand

May is a great month. It starts with May Day full of flowers; then comes the delicious Cinco de Mayo and of course, Mothers Day and Memorial Day.

May is one of my favorite months because it's time for vacation at Grey Haven! My friend Liz and I spent our second spring vacation in Sparr, Florida. Yep, it's a true hot spot....well, for greyhounds anyway.

Our week started full of excitement and anticipation meeting the new bunch of greyhounds in the kennel. Our week was planned out. We will work in the garden and rid the entire space of weeds. We will scrub the kennels so you can eat off of the floor. We will play, play, play with each of the pups focusing on the precious one-on-one time that we enjoy. Let them romp and play and destroy stuffies....Yes, our week was well planned.

Then, it started....IT was the rain. Nobody wanted to venture out in the rain, neither the humans nor hounds. We decided we would not let the rain get us down. We went to the produce stand to buy fresh vegetables, in the rain. We turned out the kennel dogs...in the rain. We encouraged the house dogs to go out....in the rain. We ventured into Ocala for the Wal-Mart run....in the rain. I will mention that while at Wal-Mart, we were both freezing so we

purchased matching track jackets for \$5 each. No pictures will be shared. We were COLD and this is May in Florida.

Day after day there was more rain. We ditched the umbrellas the first day realizing that they would not help. We got soaked along with the dogs. We did tons of laundry because all of those towels drying hounds and bedding needed to be washed and dried. Last year towards the end of our vacation we kidded each other about weighing the amount of poop that we scooped in a week. This year we should have counted the loads of laundry that were done.

When Marilyn came home, we were all glad to see her. Not only because everyone missed her but because Lake Grey Haven (AKA – the turn out pen) dried up and the skies parted and the sun shone. Marilyn wondered what all the fuss was about and why were we kvetching over a “few drops”.

It was another fabulous vacation with my grey-girl Liz and the hounds of Grey Haven. Liz and I are like the yin and yang at the farm this week in May. We anticipate each other’s moves and know what needs to be done and, boy, are we efficient at what we do. ☺ Hanging with the hounds and knowing that if we didn’t like each other a whole lot, this vacation wouldn’t have been as fabulous as it was.



Marilyn's Page

I love showing visitors around Grey Haven. I am proud of what we do here....all the work that goes into keeping the farm going....all of the physical and financial efforts that help make the dogs blossom just as the flowers in the garden grow and bloom. The connection between the memorial garden and the dogs in the kennel is never far from my mind. The circle of life is never quite as evident as it is here.....every day.

Many of the dogs that come to us are not well. They may have a broken limb or a broken spirit. Whatever the issue, they depend on us to make them well in body and spirit and ready to find a family that will love them for what they are.....for the rest of their lives. Days here are full of dog care, vet visits, kennel cleaning, poop scooping and more dog care.

The garden is cared for by a group of hard working volunteers who get a certain satisfaction out of getting dirty! The weeds are pulled, the mulch is spread, the new flowers planted over space that was taken by a variety of plants that did not thrive. The sprinklers water and nurture the garden daily. The summer rains encourage rapid growth and Mother Nature smiles as “her” garden thrives.

Visitors come often. They love to meet the dogs who greet them boisterously, often leaving paw prints on shirts and muzzle marks on legs! The dogs run and dig and act silly. It's sometimes difficult to get them to stand still long enough to get their pictures taken. I repeat each dog's story to the visitors so they too can feel a connection to that dog. This one came from a shelter.....this one came off a breeding farm.....those two are right off this track or that track.....or this one was no longer wanted in his home. I think people understand that no matter what the dog's circumstance was, Grey Haven is now home. The dog is safe, loved and cared for no matter how long it stays here.

We visit the memorial garden and they are always overwhelmed by feeling of love that envelops you as you walk the paths, surrounded by names and dates and emotions, but most of all, that feeling of endless love for our lost friends. They sometimes recognize a name from a message board or a story they had read.....names of dogs from all over the country and some from

across the ocean. The circle of life has closed for so many but the memory never leaves. The spirit of our greyhounds can be felt everywhere.

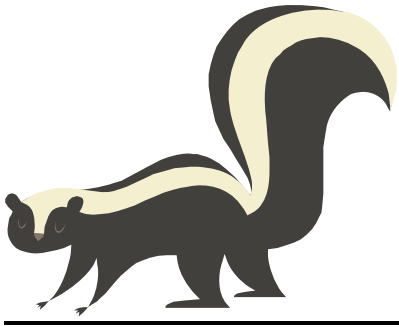
Life for so many begins here.....and for some it ends here. We nurture their bodies and their minds and send them off for years of love and joy. Then we nurture their memories and keep them alive in spirit. It's the way it should be here at Grey Haven.



FREE WAYS TO HELP GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS OF FLORIDA

Help GAF raise much needed funds – every time you shop at any of the 700+ stores in the IGive network, a portion of the money you spend benefits GAF. It's a free service and you'll never pay more when you reach a store through IGive. In fact, smart shoppers will enjoy IGive's repository of coupons, free shipping deals and sales. To get started, just create your free IGive account. And, when you search the web, do it through ISearchIGive.com where each search means a penny (or more) for our cause! Start IGiving at:

www.ISearchIGive.com/GAF and www.IGive.com/GAF



SKUNKED!!!

By Holly Priestly

Rufus and Shine went out and chased a skunk through our gate – their faces and noses were hit by horrible smelling stuff (that did NOT smell like a dead skunk in the middle of the road). The house soon filled up with the awful smell, also.

I got the peroxide, baking soda and dish detergent out and made up the “talked about” solution. It Worked!!! Washed the dog's faces with it (and then rinsed with clear water because of the soap in the solution). We opened all of the windows and turned on all of the fans and now only the bathroom smells “skunky” and the exhaust fan has removed most of that. Torey slept through the whole ordeal.

If you do not keep the “skunk recipe” on hand, I strongly suggest keeping the ingredients together in a handy place-you just never know!

Skunk Smell Remover:

1 quart 3% Hydrogen Peroxide

¼ cup Baking Soda

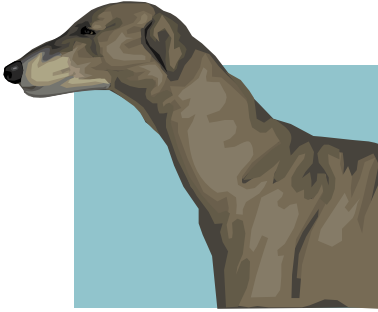
2 Tbsp Dish Detergent (the stuff for washing dishes in the sink, not something for dishwashers)

Mix the ingredients in a large bowl, because it will boil up like Vesuvius. We are, after all making an oxygen generator. Wash the dog with this while it is still foaming, because it is the oxygen that reacts with the thiols in the skunk stink to neutralize the odor. If it sits around, it will lose its efficacy because the oxygen boils off. Don't try to store it in a container, as it will blow up. The brew also works for clothes, humans and unlucky cats.

WARNING

Ed. Note: Be careful of the hydrogen peroxide percentage that you use – do not use over 3% peroxide. I learned this when I turned a grey Weimaraner into an orange Vizsla by using a Peroxide percentage meant for bleaching hair. Oh my! Also keep the mixture out of the eyes-yours and your dogs. Living as I did, on a farm – I used this recipe for many years – and used correctly – it really works!





Understanding the Emotions Surrounding Your Pet's Death

By: Dr. Susan Wagner

Kinsey had dropped dead in the backyard. As I sat and read the words in the email from my client, I couldn't believe it. I saw the message entitled Kinsey and thought perhaps she had experienced another seizure. I should have noticed the time – just after midnight – a clue that something was wrong.

As I stared at the screen, my usually calm demeanor felt a shock wave go through it. Kinsey had a pacemaker. She wasn't supposed to collapse and die. It seemed like an eternity before I could get up and call her guardian. After a morning of sadness talking with her cardiology group and shifting from a veterinary to a spiritual perspective, I knew that as in every beloved pet's death, it was time.

Many people don't understand the emotion surrounding a pet's death. Our friends mean well when they tell us to go out and get another dog or cat. But we know it's not that simple. We have to grieve the part of us that's gone. Many clients have told me that they grieved more over the loss of a pet than over a human relative's death. They talk about the guilt they feel from these emotions. From a spiritual perspective, those humans were loved, but they weren't part of them. They weren't on earth to walk life's journey with them. Their animals were.

All of our pets teach us something as they travel through life with us. Sometimes the journey is difficult; sometimes it's nothing but joy. In either case, a pet's passing can take us to our knees.

Many veterinary schools have grief counselors and pet loss support groups. These caring professionals and volunteers have an understanding of the human-animal bond, and can guide us through the grief process. If your loss is overwhelming, or you would like to talk about your beloved pet, reach out to someone who has experience with human-animal relationships.

And don't hesitate to reach out to your pet. Sound strange? Science tells us that matter is neither created nor destroyed: it only changes form. All of life is energy, and your pet hasn't gone anywhere. His physical presence has shifted to a different vibration. Your spiritual paths together are still intact, but you can't experience this new part of the journey together unless you know it exists.

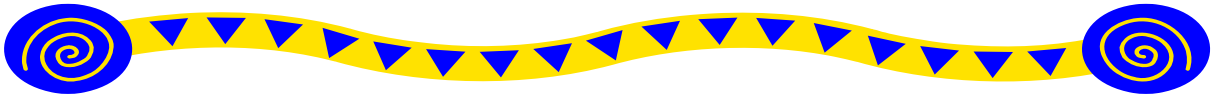
You may want to try this simple exercise. Think of your beloved pet, and open your heart. Feel the joy of her life, or the grief caused by her loss. While experiencing this feeling, ask for greater understanding. It may take time, but if you continue this process, the wisdom of the situation will come through.

A word of warning is in order: Pure grief is a positive energy state created by the loss of something precious to us. It is not: Why did this happen to me or what did everyone, including myself, do wrong? It is not blame. Those thoughts are coming from a negative place. Having said that, you may want to ask for clarity surrounding them. They can illuminate other areas of your life that are being influenced by these beliefs.

Negative thoughts don't connect us to the help that is available. On the contrary, they block it from finding us, and create more drama in our lives. So bringing awareness to these negative emotions is one more way your pet can help you create a more joyful life – even in his absence.

Today is dedicated to Kinsey, whose joyful wags and slobbery kisses taught us all about staying positive in the midst of life's challenges. I thank you for being you and for all you have taught us.

Dr. Susan Wagner is a board certified veterinary neurologist whose pioneering work acknowledges the bioenergetic interaction between people and animals. She is an advocate for change in the area of interpersonal violence and animal cruelty, and works toward a greater understanding surrounding the health implications of the human-animal bond. Dr. Wagner is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Ohio State University Veterinary College and a Level IV Healing Touch for Animals practitioner.

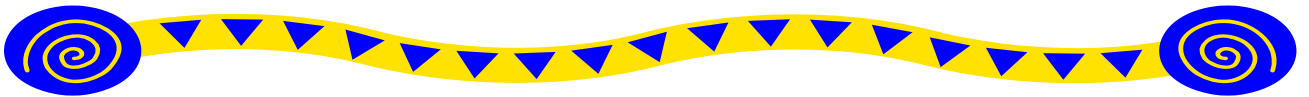


THE HOUNDS OF ANCIENT EGYPT

By
Joyce Carta

The World's Longest Civilization Valued Its Dogs.....

And it does seem like today all the lean, fast sight hound breeds are determined to trace their specific breed's lineage directly back to Ancient Egypt. Chances are we'll never get an absolute answer to Which Breed is Closest to the celebrated dogs of Egypt. What is almost certainly true is that every one of these modern day dogs: Basenjis, Ibizans, Salukis, Pharaoh Hounds, Whippets and our own Greyhounds, carries DNA that links it to the time of the Pharaohs.



7,000 years ago dogs were found buried in the Egyptian desert side by side with their people...the first irrefutable evidence of the important role dogs played in human civilization. Fifteen hundred years later, around 3,500 BCE, a sight hound type of dog starts to appear on dynastic monuments, in painted artwork and in carved stelae. #1 is one of the earliest known artistic renderings of man's best friend.



1. Four Dogs Palette, Louvre Museum Dated to around 3500 BCE. These types of palettes were used for grinding cosmetics and only the noblest animals were selected for this application. The body type of the dogs is undeniably greyhound. The "Mickey Mouse" style ears may have been a concession to the difficulty of working the stone material to edge the sharper angles necessary to carve ears as we know them, and also maybe to provide carrying handles.

How did the Egyptians feel about their dogs? There is some good evidence. Dogs were mummified and buried in the most ancient Egyptian royal burial grounds at Abydos, near the section allocated for the burial of women, archers and dwarves. All of these were held in high esteem which might be the common denominator for this shared position in the afterlife. There's not much evidence to suppose that dogs commanded awe, as did cats; dogs' value was in their hunting utility, guarding or military service. There's speculation that the cat's attitude of "you humans exist entirely to serve my needs" may have been seen as noble. Dogs, as we all know and appreciate, have a different take on their place in the universe.



2. Domesticated hunting dogs “Egyptian Hound” type, painting from the 11th and 12th Dynasty Tombs at Beni Hasan, Egypt, from around 2000 BCE.



3. An archer and his buddy in search of game, also from the Beni Hasan Tombs. This collar was elaborate...this particular dog was a respected companion, and we recognize that coat pattern, don't we? Hunting large, swift game like antelope, ibex and Barbary sheep, was a pastime reserved for the king and his court, so the mystique of sight hound alliance with nobility has a long and fabled history.



4. Detailed close up of King Tutankhamun's gold overlaid fly whisk, Egyptian Museum, Cairo. The young King is in pursuit of ostriches which can reach top speeds of 40 mph. These had to be extremely FAST dogs to keep up with the quarry

and the chariots. This particular dog IS very greyhound-like in appearance...note especially the all four feet off the ground in his stride.

The Egyptian word for dog was "iwīw" which sounded like a bark. (Not, unfortunately, like a greyhound roo, which would have added weight to our breed's direct claim to this illustrious history?) Archaeologists have come across about 70 recorded names of actual dogs...and the Egyptian naming convention wasn't too different from our own. Ancient dog names were found inscribed on their leather collars and included "Blackie," "Brave One," "Reliable," and my favorite: "Useless" who must have demonstrated other endearing qualities which went unrecorded ~ !! Maybe this is the first reference to coach potato talents?

The most famous of all the Egyptian dogs may not be a dog at all. The god, Anubis, was one of the very earliest of Egypt's array of deities, and is either a dog or a jackal-headed god. Most likely the deification arose from dogs or jackals gathering around human burial areas and the humans, thinking to appease these animals that seemed to be guarding the sites (but not really...we know better) started the practice of worship. Anubis was celebrated as the god of Mummification and assisted in the all-encompassing decision on where the deceased would spend eternity. The heart of the deceased was believed to be weighed on the Scale of Truth and it was Anubis who reported the results to Osiris, lord of the underworld. A heart that equaled the weight of the Feather of Truth was granted eternal life; a heavier heart was one weighed down with sin and was summarily extinguished...and therefore denied the afterlife. There was no more chilling prospect in Ancient Egypt. (Quite frankly, I wouldn't be too distressed if I thought my dogs would be judging my life on Earth...most likely you feel the same!)



5. The god Anubis with the Scale of Truth, illustrated here from the Egyptian Book of the Dead, British Museum. All of us who live with greyhounds recognize the alert ear position and the steady gaze in the eyes.



6. When Anubis is shown in his full animal incarnation, (credit for this picture to Jimmy Dunn, Webmaster of TourEgypt.net) yes, it is a greyhound type body but the tail is a lot more jackal than greyhound. This debate may never be resolved.

So the next time you give your dog a good ear scratch, you're most likely sharing a common experience with King Tut! We can't imagine life without our dogs...a sentiment we share with so many people over so many millennia. And we also like to think that this is one of the best qualities that make us "human."

This was written at the excellent suggestion of Barb Pietrangelo, our Editor...who suggested that I write on what I know and love best. Besides greyhounds, that would be Ancient Egypt!

---ooOoo---





What we are reading.....

The Modern Dog – Stanley Coren

Coren takes us from human's attempts to change the genetic nature of dogs through breeding to stories of dogs at home in ancient Egypt. A fitting testament to a beloved pet and friend.

Tell Me Where It Hurts – Dr. Nick Trout

A Veterinarian surgeon shares a funny, heartbreaking, and heartwarming day in the life of his practice. I loved this book!

8 State Hurricane Kate: The Journey and Legacy of a Katrina Cattle Dog – Jennie Pavlovic (8 State Kate Press 294 pages 18.95) www.8statekate.net

Dog lovers will love this book, a compelling tribute to how one person can change lives for the better. Pavlovic is donating 50% of the book's profits to the 8 State Kate Fund to help other animals in desperate situations.

OUT OF BUSINESS

An Editorial by
Barb Pietrangelo

During these tough economic times, we see signs springing up all over stating “Out of Business”, “Closed”, or simply shuttered windows and doors in strip malls throughout our Nation. It is something that we don’t like to see. I often pause to think of these small business people who have sunk their savings in a Mom & Pop Pizza Shop or something similar.

But there is one business that causes me to celebrate every notice of closing. That, of course, is the spurt of closings of Greyhound Tracks everywhere. There certainly appears to be a growing trend in Greyhound Racing. Closed tracks.....

Over the past year we have seen the closure of tracks in Massachusetts, Guam and Colorado. Massachusetts tracks will be out of business on Jan. 1st, 2010. New Hampshire’s two remaining tracks have discontinued racing but continue to operate other types of gambling. Guam Greyhound Track closed in November of 2008. Rhode Island is attempting to keep racing with a 200 day schedule supplemented by other forms of gambling. The antiquated Rhode Island legislature doesn’t want to see more jobs lost in this financially bereft State so they voted to keep racing alive. How many of the dogs will so lucky?

Gary Guccione, executive director of the National Greyhound Association based in Kansas states that the economy has resulted in the downsizing of Greyhound Racing. Guccione says “Downsizing started when the lotteries started to expand– along with the casinos getting a foothold in various parts of the country”. Not that I wish to contradict Mr. Guccione, but it is my personal belief that the actions of many Greyhound advocates has contributed to the public becoming more aware of the atrocities committed against the racing dogs, contributing largely to the closings.

Let’s take a look at what is going on. The number of tracks has dropped from a 1990 high of 55 nationwide to 30. This has been a gradual but pervasive trend over the past few years whose roots go back to when exposés of the throwaway attitude of greyhound breeders, owners, trainers and the industry in general became known to the public. I hate tarring all of these folks with the same brush, but the numbers of horror stories about

mistreatment of the dogs was too prevalent to ignore. Greyhound rescue groups sprang up across the country and the popularity of adopting racers increased exponentially.

And now, in a press release dated August 23rd, 2009, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians (PCI Gaming) has announced that is purchasing an interest in the Pensacola and Mobile Greyhound Tracks. They feel that they “can turn these into profitable businesses”. An official of the Mobile County Gaming Assoc. stated that he felt the sales of the Mobile and Pensacola tracks would be approved without a hitch. He also said that the tribe had long been opponents of the installation of gaming machines at Mobile and Pensacola. But he felt that they would no longer oppose such a move. “It’s impossible for these tracks to compete with the casinos” he stated. So what do you think the message is here? Could we be seeing the beginning of the end of dog racing at these tracks too? PCI Gaming says they will be keeping the tracks operating.....let’s see, shall we?

Florida continues to be the largest purveyor of greyhound racing. Gov. Charlie Christ continues to ignore the anti-racing sentiment of his constituents and takes a non-committal attitude towards the whole mess. But as much as Charlie appreciates the income from the tracks, he now has his eyes set on bigger things, so maybe we can start in on his successor to get the Florida tracks to join the new trend.

Let’s remind our legislators on all levels: WE ARE MANY, WE ARE UNITED AND WE VOTE!

This articles does not reflect the opinions of GAF, et al, and is solely the opinion of the named author

THE LAST WORD:

I apologize for the late delivery of this issue. My computer crashed last Sunday and I have been down for the past week . But we are back – and hope you enjoy this issue!

My thanks to Holly Priestly for her great article “Skunked” and a special thanks to Joyce Carta for her excellent piece on the Ancient Hounds of Egypt. Joyce is the owner of Egypt Magic, a tour company dealing in custom Egyptian tours (www.Egyptmagic.com). You guys are making my job too easy! Keep those articles coming in- this is your newsletter. When sending in a piece or photo, please send it as an attachment – thanks!

Keep watching our website for upcoming events and updates on the dogs of Grey Haven. www.ahome4greys.org Thanks for reading and happy tails.....Information will be appearing soon on our December Picnic and Auction! The Picnic is planned for Sunday Dec. 6th – remember to check around and see if you have anything that you can donate for our baskets, silent auction and auction. Thanks!

Barb P

THE LAST LOOK

Do you remember Karla, our recent Grey Haven Makeover? Well here is Karla with her new companion, Sammy and her new family. Karla has been adopted!



They say good things come to those who wait.....Karla and Sonny waited almost eight years to find each other and the perfect home....we celebrate with them!!



HOME AT LAST!