



Greyt News

The Newsletter of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida

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FROM MARILYN'S DESK:

New Year Greeting!

Holiday greetings to all of you from Grey Haven! All of us are sending good wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to each of you and hoping that the coming year is kind to our greyhounds...those you love and hold dear and those who still wait for a family of their own.

It has been a difficult year financially for adoption groups all over the country. This year we were able to take fewer dogs with broken legs and fewer that had special medical needs as the money was just not there. Our hope is that 2010 will allow us to help more of these special dogs who otherwise do not have a future.

This week will bring us a new boy who just yesterday broke a leg while racing at Birmingham. The proceeds from last week's holiday picnic will allow us to fix his severely broken hock so that he can run and play with his kennel mates...this boy is only 2 ½ years old. His owner wanted nothing to do with him once the leg broke. We can do much better than that for this dog...thanks to your generosity (Details and pictures to follow on the website)

We are hoping for more participation from all of you out here at Grey Haven. We are going to set aside Saturdays and ask for volunteers to come spend some time with our dogs in the kennel. They would love to have a special person come and take them for a walk, play with toys and even take them for a run out in the play field. Some of these dogs have had very little contact with humans and with your help, they can easily adjust to the world that waits for them....a safe, happy world in a home of their own. Please contact me if you are interested in being part of this special program.

We will need to replace many of our blankets this coming year. If you are cleaning out your closets, please keep the greyhounds in mind before you throw out blankets or towels. We are constantly in need of laundry detergent (High Efficiency for Front Loading Washer, please!), bleach and paper towels. We also have quite a few residents who LOVE to receive dog cookies!!

Our Hope for the New Year

A few weeks ago I went to one of the local breeding farms to pick up an almost eight year old brood. It was time for her to find a home of her own and live the life we want for all greyhounds. I could not help but notice her body was covered in growths..various sizes and in various stages of development. We immediately stopped at the vet, did blood work and scheduled her spay for the following Monday. Once we determined she was healthy, we removed four of the growths at the same time as her spay and dental. Sadly, the results came back as T-cell lymphoma...an eventually fatal disease. Lymphoma is known to respond well to chemotherapy and allows the dogs to go into remission, giving them quality time and happy days. This is what we want for this special girl.

Whisper will be starting chemo after the New Year's Holiday...she runs, she plays, she loves her meals and she loves to have people come and visit her. If there

was ever a greyhound that deserves a chance for a happy life, it's Whisper. Please say a prayer for this girl...she will be very grateful

As we go into the New Year, all of us here send our thanks for all you have done for us....for taking a special greyhound into your home....for supporting our cause...and for keeping Grey Haven a shining example of what can and should be done for these special dogs.

With love from Marilyn and all the kids at Grey Haven



Whisper

My Greyhound-Filled Summer

Alex Landry

My name is Alex and I am a high school senior in Ocala, Florida. Over this past summer I performed a social experiment with some of Marilyn's retired greyhounds. Although it was a lot of fun to spend time with all of the dogs, it was a lot of work too.

It all started with an assignment that I got at the end of my junior year: the extended essay. This is the biggest assignment that students get throughout the IB program at my school. It is a 4000 word essay in the subject of your choice on whatever topic you want. Without this essay you can't graduate. I have always loved biology so that is the subject I chose; that was the easy part. It took me a long time to come up with the experiment with the greyhounds.

My inspiration for this experiment came from a previous dog I had owned. He was a greyhound that we had adopted from Marilyn's Grey Haven. His name was Spiderman and he was the first greyhound we had ever owned. I loved him a lot and he was with us for around four years. Then, without warning, he became very sick and was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Unfortunately, this type of cancer is the most rapid and aggressive in dogs, even though it hardly ever kills in people. Spiderman had a huge inoperable tumor in his urethra that was blocking his bladder. Without warning, we were told we had one day left with him before the vet was going to put him down so he wouldn't have to suffer. It wasn't until then that I realized how much the bond had grown between us. It was a very emotional time for all of us. Afterwards, I felt like I'd never want another dog again. I didn't want to have to deal with the pain that I had to deal with at the end of Spiderman's life. Then I thought this experiment would be a great way to take a closer look at this breed that I love so much, and help me get back on my feet.

The way it happened was that I did a social experiment involving the reactions of racing and non-racing greyhounds to different stimuli when they are asleep. I thought this would be a cool experiment because I've heard of cases where some greyhounds freak out if they are touched while they're sleeping. Plus I thought it would be interesting to see the difference between house greyhounds and racing greyhounds. So for 4 weeks I had pairs of greyhounds at my house. Not only were they at my house for my investigation, but also I was helping Marilyn see how some of them do in a home. For many of the dogs it was their first time in a house. Every week I would bring home two greyhounds, so in total 8 greyhounds were fostered at my house for my experiment. Before this I'd never had more than 1 dog at my house, so having two greyhounds was a decent amount of work! Although there was much work to be done, I enjoyed getting to know all the dogs. My favorite thing about this breed is their personalities. These dogs are very social and all have their own character. I guess that is why we grow so close to them, because we see human-like personalities in them.

Also the dogs adapted well to changing environments. By the end of each week, every dog I brought felt right at home. Even a dog named Polly, who was only a few weeks off the track when she came here. Her manners weren't too good at first. She wanted to get up on the counter and eat stuff from the kitchen. I would definitely consider her the "most improved" of the dogs which came to visit me. And then there was Cole, who Marilyn was worried would be too withdrawn to make it in a home. He was very shy at first, but by the time he left, he was so loving and social - he was like a new guy.

The most positive thing that I got out of this experience was that my family got to adopt two of the dogs I worked with. Now we have an 8-year-old female named Karla and a 7-year-old male named Sammi. When Karla and Sammi came to visit, we fell in love with

them and they fell in love with each other! We love them so much and they have been a great addition to our family.

I would like to extend a special "Thanks!" to Marilyn for sharing her wealth of knowledge about this beautiful breed and allowing me to work with and foster her dogs. My greyhound-filled summer will definitely be one that I won't forget.



Alex's dogs - Karla and Sammi

Alex Landry and his family are the adoptive family of Karla - a long time resident of Grey Haven

GAF PICNIC 2009



Clockwise from top left: Santa's Helper, the Buffet, Marilyn and Patty Melt, the Stuffedie table.



Handmade Wall Hanging on Silent Auction



Grill Masters Curt and Ron

.....and a good time was had by all!

Follow-UP - PCI Gaming and the Pensacola Greyhound Track:

Although the approval to operate a poker room at the Pensacola Greyhound Track has been approved by the county, as of Nov. 25th, construction on the facility had not begun. PCI Gaming has announced that they expect to open the Poker Room by the end of January. The Mobile Track, of which PCI owns 65% (same as the Pensacola FL track - making them the majority share holder of both facilities) is also operating a Poker Room at the track. Both facilities claim that 150 jobs have been created by the addition of Poker. My question is how many dogs will be injured, killed or discarded as the racing continues. I have attempted to contact Buford Roin, the current chairman of the tribe, to question if the tribe will continue racing at these tracks. To date, I have not received a reply. I suggest that we all write to the tribe to question why they wish to continue such destructive and cruel sport that has proved over and over to be a losing proposition. You may contact the tribe at Poarch Band of Creek Indians, 5811 Jack Spring RD, Atmore, AL, 36502. The address for PCI Gaming's Corporate Offices is: 5821 Highway 21 Atmore AL, 36502. 800 # is not available.

From Holly Priestly:

In a press release today. The National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of dogs. This substance, called “Amobacter caninii” has been linked with the following symptoms in females: Reluctance to cook, clean or do housework, a reluctance to wear makeup, good clothes or high heels. Reluctance to spend money on home or car repairs until after “Baby” has new collars, leashes, beds, treats, food, blankets or toys.

“Amobacter caninii” usually results in long hours away from home and exhaustion which may lead to a loss of physical contact with other humans (especially husbands and boyfriends). Amobacter caninii” is thought to be addictive, driving the need for additional sources-this may lead to a “pack mentality” or like the potato chip commercial. “ You can’t have just one”. Beware! If you come in contact with female human infected by this substance, be prepared to talk about dogs for hours.

Surgeon General’s Warning: Dogs are expensive, addictive and may impair the ability to use common sense.

(Editor’s Note: Wink-Wink!)



The Last Word and the Last Look

Reflections on 2009

It's hard to believe that this is the final issue of Greyt News for 2009 and that it is the completion of our second year of publication. I have seen so many wonderful dogs come through the gate at Grey Haven. Some of them are still there and will complete their lives under Marilyn's loving care. Many more are in their new homes, happy in the care of their new owners. Some I knew better than others. Some I met as they piled into the van straight off the track. I can never forget the concern in their eyes as they started off on their journey to a new life. And then, the next time I saw them, the fear and concern were gone, replaced by a look of happiness, contentment, and, yes, mischief.-learning to be dogs, not commodities.

I remember Ranch, whose young life came to an end much too soon, and Karla - crippled for years and now a happy, contented pet with the wonderful Landry family. I remember Mary, whom I took to a meet and greet and who charmed everyone that she met - including me. I remember with great fondness, Olga, now known as Prancer. She stole my heart with her mischievous ways. So many wonderful dogs and so many more in need.

And now, I am making more memories with the latest temporary addition to our family - Conley. Conley is my first foster for GAF and he is a big (86 lbs.) handsome, white and brindle boy who had an unearned reputation for being aggressive. He has lived peacefully here with my "girls" for the past couple of months, without so much as a tiny incident indicating aggressiveness; as he awaits his forever home. Conley is a four year old bundle of love who will stand for as long as you can keep rubbing his ears, belly, neck or chest-whatever you can reach.! Conley enjoys being with girl dogs, and, because of his size, he would probably be too much for small children.

So, as 2009 draws to a close, I wish you all a wonderful new year, filled with good friends, happiness and health, lots of good memories- and greyt dogs!

Barb Pietrangelo
Editor

Conley and his new BFF, Fanny



.....and to all a goodnight