



# GPA Communiqué

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## National Greyhound Adoption Conference Birmingham, Alabama September 5-7, 2003

As you know, our conference is fast approaching and time is limited to book decently priced flight. This year's conference will be probably the best yet, each year we get better and better. We have some outstanding speakers lined up, and of course as always the round table discussions where you get to learn from each other. The business meeting as well should be a bit

more fun than normal. We have some exciting things to accomplish during the business meeting that will both benefit the local chapters as well as the greyhounds we serve. If you haven't booked yet, I encourage you to do so now. If you didn't plan to attend, give it a second thought, you will be missing out on some excellent learning opportunities.

I will personally be in Birmingham early, if you wish to meet with me to discuss some issues please let me know. I will be available all Thursday afternoon and evening for such discussions.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Birmingham September 5th - 7th!

Rory

### GPA National Officers

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### GPA Chapter Proxy Vote

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of GPA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ hereby give my proxy vote for the GPA National Convention to be held in Birmingham, Alabama on Friday Sept. 5, 2003 to \_\_\_\_\_ GPA Executive Officer or to \_\_\_\_\_ of GPA Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## National Greyhound Adoption Conference Quickly Approaching

This conference is OPEN to everyone that is interested in adopting all available greyhounds into responsible loving forever homes.

Plan on getting there Thursday, Sept. 4 to make the start of the Friday, 8 AM business meeting. The meetings, speakers, round table discussions and vendors will be held and located at the Birmingham Greyhound Track where we will have an entire floor to use. Greyhounds can attend the meetings.

**Registration is \$40 with deadline of August 1, 2003.** After that it is \$47. This includes a banquet dinner on Saturday evening and snacks and drinks during meeting breaks. The Friday Night Wine and Cheese Reception will be at the Rime Garden Inn and sponsored by the Greyhound Project Inc.

Invited speakers include "Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies" author Lee Livingood, local Birmingham chiropractic vet, Dr. Paul Symms, Dr. Brad Fenwick, DVM of Kansas State University Vet School, NGA's Gary Guccione, Jacquie Meyer, Executive. Director of the Birmingham Humane Society, Joan Belle Isle, The Greyhound Project, Debbie Cone, GPA South Carolina Prison Program, and Anne Finch, Greyhounds in Need, England. Other Adoption Volunteer relevant topics of interest will be part of the program and meetings as well. There will be a wealth of information and experience there for you to absorb and prosper from.

You must attend to participate and benefit from the knowledge there!

**Silent Auction Donations are a big part of the meeting!** They are fun and are needed to help pay the expenses of the meeting for the host chapter and hopefully they'll make a little money as well. Please send Silent Auction items to Gail Hill at 954 Shady Grove Rd., Adamsville, AL 35005. Identify your package as to what GPA chapter, vendor or individual is donating the item and what the approximate retail cost or value is. If you're a vendor donating an item, please feel free to send cards or brochures to be displayed with your item for attendees to pick up.

There is NO VENDOR CHARGE. Vendors will be allowed at least two 8' tables and chairs for their use. There is 24 hour. security and also places available for you to lock up items at night if you wish.

For other questions you can call Gail Hill in Birmingham at 205-833-6654 or email her at [gpbham@bellsouth.net](mailto:gpbham@bellsouth.net)



### Raffle Drawing for Print at Greyhound Adoption Conference



The frame measurements: 35 1/2" by 48", the print measurements (inside of the frame): 23 1/2" by 35 1/2".

Tickets may be purchased on-line at:

(<http://www.gpaconvention.org/raffle.htm>), via mail or through your local GPA Chapter. Tickets are 6 for \$5 or \$1 each. The drawing will be held at the dinner on Saturday night.

The print will be shipped free of charge to the winner. Money goes to help pay for the expenses of meeting. Tickets may be purchased up until 2 pm on Saturday, Sept. 6.

Tickets can be ordered by mailing Bobbie Wier a check or money order. You will receive a an email receipt for tickets, so **please include your email address with your order.**

GPA - N. AL c/o Bobbie Wier  
505 Chisholm Valley Drive  
Round Rock, TX 78681  
512-255-1163  
[racersaver@prodigy.net](mailto:racersaver@prodigy.net)

# National Greyhound Adoption Conference Registration Form September 5-7, 2003

Registration is \$40 per person. Deadline is August 1, 2003

Late registration is \$47.

You may register on line at [www.gpaconvention.org](http://www.gpaconvention.org) or mail in this form to:

Gail Hill  
954 Shady Grove Rd.  
Adamsville, AL 35005,  
205-833-6654

Name 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

GPA Chapter / Sub Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Other Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be staying at the Best Western Rime Garden Inn and Suites? Yes No

What name(s) would you like on your name tag(s) ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Harlingen Haul, April 2003 WE DID IT!

The Greyhound Adoption League of Texas, Inc. ("GALT") received 64 greyhounds when Valley Race Park in Harlingen, Texas, closed for the season on April 6, 2003. Of the 64, GALT took seven of the dogs and the remainder went to adoption groups located from Kansas to Pennsylvania - a total of 12 groups.

But let's go back a little and give a little background. The Harlingen track was not known as an adoption active track. However, this year GALT and its Valley Operations' Manager, Tysh Morgan, succeeded in having an adoption presence at the track.

GALT's Harlingen odyssey began in January 2003, when Tysh Morgan learned that there were some greyhounds at risk at the Valley Race Park track. Tysh has always been an animal lover and animal rescuer, but knew nothing about greyhounds. She sent an email to the adoption groups in Texas, her information being gleaned from the Internet, asking if anyone could help these wonderful dogs.

John and Susie McQuade, GALT board members, immediately stepped up and said GALT would take all the dogs. That was the beginning of GALT's adoption operation in the Valley of Texas. GALT Board Members, John McQuade and Noel Padden, negotiated with the Valley Race Park manager to operate an onsite adoption service. Through Tysh's tireless ef-

forts and with GALT's backing, she made inroads with the trainers, who then began releasing greyhounds to GALT for adoption. Tysh located a greyhound-friendly vet and a greyhound-friendly boarding facility and the rest, as they say, is history. Although GALT received a number of greyhounds from that time forward, it was anticipated that there would be an influx of greyhounds when the track closed for the season.

Having not been through this before, GALT was not sure what to expect. GALT sent the word out to groups all over the country giving them advance notice that it might have a large number of greyhounds in April who would need homes. Although GALT had absorbed most of the released greyhounds up until the time of the track closing, it did not have the kennel capacity to accept a large number of greyhounds at one time.

Through the McQuades' contacts with Alane Shultz of GPA - Springfield, Missouri along with Kate Bressler and Ann Peterson of Greyhound Support of Kansas City, GALT was able to garner support for this mission. Alane, Kate and Ann, along with Cynthia Cash, had experience with organizing this type of haul and were more than willing to help. GALT contacted Roger Robinette

of TLC Express, who owns and operates an air-conditioned and heated bus (like a Greyhound bus) that has been reconfigured to contain space to transport 66 dogs. He was willing to drive from his home in Missouri to Harlingen, Texas, to pick up the dogs and deliver them all the way to Pennsylvania with a two day stop in Abilene, Kansas. There was a delay and complication this year that was somewhat unusual. Because the



David Kinnard and Frank check on the dogs.



Tysh Morgan and one of her special friends.

total trip from Harlingen, Texas to Philadelphia, PA is almost 1900 miles, which translates to over 32 hours straight driving time, it was necessary for the greyhounds to stop and rest for a day or two. Due to an outbreak of a strain of kennel cough, there were some tracks throughout the country that were quarantined and would not allow any incoming greys. However, Gary Guccione offered the NGA kennels in Abilene, Kansas, but because of the Spring Meets, the kennels would not be available until Wednesday, April 30. This delayed the transfer of greys to adoption groups for more than three weeks.

When it was determined the number of dogs that could be transported at one time, that fixed the number of dogs that could be accepted by GALT. Because of GALT's good working relationship with Valley Race Park, GALT was provided space at the track for its use as an adoption kennel.

Shortly after the track closed on April 6, 2003, GALT received 64

greyhounds into its program for adoption. Tysh, her niece Elizabeth and sister Polly, along with GALT volunteers and the hired kennel help worked tirelessly. Every greyhound was photographed and then those pictures along with the statistics on each dog were sent to Kate, Ann and Alane. Kate then put together a spreadsheet identifying all available dogs. Each dog was assigned a number to avoid confusion with dogs of similar names and descriptions. At this point, we were ready to ask other adoption groups who had expressed a willingness to pick the dogs they wanted. This was kind of like a "draft." After the first round of emails and the first draft choices have been selected, a second email was sent out notifying all concerned which dogs had been picked and which ones remained. As always seems to happen, some dogs are picked by more than one group. It's first come, first served, so some groups had to make second round picks and the list was sent to additional groups. Finally all the greyhounds were selected. It's all on paper now, but this is when the physical work really begins.

The dogs left Harlingen on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, to be taken to the kennels at the NGA in Abilene, Kansas. There they were unloaded and kept for 2 days to rest. Then they were reloaded on the bus to begin their journey to the adoption groups on their route.

How do you keep up with readying 64 dogs for transport? These dogs had been in GALT's care for approximately 3 weeks -

Tysh, Elizabeth, Polly and GALT volunteers had worked 14 hours a day - we're talking about 64 dogs here - each has to eat, pee, poop, exercise, nap and most of all, get petted, every day - and much more than once a day.

David Kinnard, a GALT volunteer, flew to Harlingen on Thursday, April 24, 2003, to begin his "career" as a kennel keeper. He (along with the rest) just did not anticipate the amount of physical work that entailed and the little amount of sleep he would get. Noreen Reid of GPA Houston arrived on Saturday, April 26, to help Tysh and David. Then Noel Padden arrived on Sunday, April 27, with Susie McQuade and Suzanne Griggs



GALT volunteers Noel Padden, Suzanne Griggs, Susie McQuade and David Kinnard.

arriving on Monday, April 28. Susie and Suzanne went straight from the airport to the kennel - just couldn't wait to see the dogs and the setup - and get to work. And work it was! Arrival time coincided with turn out time.

In this case there were 4 distinct groups: (1) the 4 grumpy guys; (2) the boys, (3) the girls and (4) the brood matrons and girls in heat - all muzzled, of course. By that time Tysh, Frank (GALT kennel worker), Noel and David had already put in almost a "full day's work." There were lots of introductions, descriptions of personalities and petting. BOY, did the girls like to dig in the sand. One would dig for a while and then walk away. Then another one would take up the digging until she got tired. Then another one would come lay in the hole. The sand was

easy to move and lots of fun.

There were so many faces and names to remember but some were unforgettable. Star, small fawn female, was the most scared of them all. Star captured Noel's heart right away. Beach Volley didn't want to do anything, especially go into his crate, unless his next door neighbor, Druid, did, too. Shy Sandra had disappearing tattoos - there one day and gone the next. This is still an unsolved mystery. And then there was: Fargo, sweet white female; big, handsome and proud Marlin (even with his docked tail); the queen, Pilar; feisty Primrose; very sweet boy, CD's Mean Streak, who definitely needs a name change; regal Ritzy, and Tysh's favorite, shy, BIG light brindle male, InkeDinkyDo, to name only a few.

In case you don't know, 62 dogs (2 of the greys that GALT was taking had already been taken to Houston) eat out of 62 bowls, all of which had to be filled on the front side and washed on the back side. Some of the pups had a stomach virus (or were just nervous because they sensed something was going on) so they could not be fed and could only drink Gatorade.

One of the big jobs was taking the final list of dogs to be transferred and checking each dog's ears to make sure the tattoos matched and were correct on the list. Each dog's muzzle and collar were marked with that dog's name - you don't want to take a chance on anyone getting mixed up. Finally, at about 10:30 p.m. the group left to get some needed rest.

Well, yes, rest . . . but later - there was still paper work to

Well, yes, rest . . . but later - there was still paper work to do. Not only was there a list of all the dogs, there was a separate envelope Tysh had prepared for each dog and there was a separate list of which groups were taking which dogs (eleven groups beside GALT). There were, therefore, 12 large envelopes, each one containing a letter from GALT and in the individual dog's envelope all of the papers received on the dogs going to that particular group with a list of the dogs to be received by the group on the front of the large envelope. Suzanne and Susie also wrote on the front of each dog's envelope any additional information that was known about that dog, such as "very shy - needs extra care" or "very friendly" or "Frontlined 4/21/03." Okay, now after midnight, some rest.



Loading the dogs for their long trip.

But wait - why is the phone ringing? Oh yes, its 5:15 a.m. (Yes, that time really is on the clock) and it's time to get up and go back to the kennel. If you have ever wondered why your dog gets up so early when it has just come from a track that's because those pups get up and out at 5:30 a.m. The bus arrived during the night and parked in front of the kennel. Roger, the driver, and his helper were still sleeping. Tysh and Elizabeth were there at 5:00 a.m. and had already started the day's routine of cleaning out the crates, and feeding and washing more

bowls. All of GALT's belongings had to be removed from the kennel today so it was time to clean house. Before any of the dogs could be loaded, each one was given a dose of Keopectake and a drink of Gatorade. They were turned out one more time in sequence and let back into the building to cool off for a while.

It was determined that the bus could not arrive at the NGA kennels in Abilene, Kansas, before 9:00 a.m. on April 30, 2003. The bus was making one stop in Cameron, Texas, to deliver the 5 dogs being taken into GALT's

care (thanks to Pat and Jim Parker for picking them up and keeping them overnight). Based on that timing, the bus should leave Harlingen about 2:00 p.m.

What a sight the loading was! The bus was running and the air conditioning was going full blast. The crates on the bus were on each side of a single isle, two

high. The males were let outside (except for Marlin and Druid) and one by one were led to the bus, up the steps and into the bus. They started at the back and loaded each male into a bottom crate. Next came the females (except for Pacheco, Easy and Dottie), but each female had to be lifted into the upper crates because there was no room to jump.

Each dog's muzzle was hung on a hook outside his/her crate. When all of the muz-

zles were hung a person had to walk sideways down the isle because it is so narrow.

The 5 Dallas dogs were loaded in the front of the bus last because they were being let out first.

Although the air conditioning was running in the bus, it was hot and humid outside. It was physical work getting the dogs from the turnout pens to the bus, up two sets of steps and into the crates. Just ask Noel, whose job it was to lift the females into the upper crates. It took a little over an hour to load the 62 excited greyhounds onto the bus. There had to be a "goodbye" to each dog and a pat for good luck (and pictures, of course).

There was extra Gatorade and food, which was sent with the dogs on the bus, along with a supply of food bowls and some medical supplies. The bus pulled away from the kennel at 2:20 p.m. on April 29, 2003, loaded with 62 greyhounds headed for a new life. As Noel said, each one had won the best race yet - an opportunity to have a life as a companion pet

Roger called periodically with updates on the progress of the trip. The dogs arrived in Cameron safely and on time. They arrived in Abilene just after 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday with all the dogs in good condition.



Ready to depart on the first leg of their journey to their forever homes.

After resting for

two days, the greys (plus a few from Kansas) were loaded back on the bus for their final trip to adoption groups located from Kansas to Pennsylvania. GALT's heartfelt thanks goes to Kansas City ReGAP, GPA-Missouri, Rescued Racers, Shamrock Greyhound Placement, St. Louis ReGAP, Peoria GH Adoption, Greyhound

people to thank for making this possible - Tysh, Elizabeth, Polly and other GALT volunteers, Alane, Kate, Ann, Cynthia, Carla Myers, and many, many others.

WE DID IT! - GALT IS making a difference - one greyhound at a time - or in this case 64!

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www.greyhoundadoptiontx.org

Editors Note:

I would also like to add my thanks to all the people across the country who were so willing to help our Texas greys. Everyone involved already had their hands full with dogs in their area, but when the call for help went out, they were ready and willing, Greyhound people are the best!

## The Return of the Dancing Greyhounds By Kathleen Gilley

2002 is a year the Gilleys will pretend to forget. Pasta Ann left early for a better world. We almost lost Gil to cancer. Sweetness, my heart and soul, the last original Team member, said good-bye. Beauty made medical history: The first dog at the University of Florida with a corneal fungal infection; she almost lost the eye. Chey (Mousetail) got her tail stepped on by Safire or Beauty while walking down the motorhome stairs. We are still fighting to heal the compound fracture. MsME! cut her shoulder. So much happened I decided to serve the folks we canceled last year and make 2003 our last.

Our first 2003 shows lacked passion. After a few more, I started to come to. The whole family got a dose of shock treatment when we played GPA-Emerald Coast's Howliday in March.

The day following, Prez Ann Bolens, who has wanted to get a dog on the Team and me out of my slump, innocently asked if I would accompany her to the Pensacola track on business. A trainer asked what kind of dogs I liked. I said, "Blacks or brindles only! They must be monsters, maniacs and

muggers." Suddenly, I heard crashing behind me.

She almost ripped the door off the kennel and launched herself at the nearest person. Everybody ran. She made it to me. I grabbed her and held her. She French kissed me (pardon my English). Her body felt oddly familiar in my arms. Her trainer got her off but she kept throwing herself at me full force. She was so wonderfully horrible, so wildly enthusiastic, so "mustangy." After watching her bounce shoulder high while her trainer put all her weight into keeping her on the ground, I knelt down and said, "OK, if you look me straight in the eye and tell me you love me, I guess I'll take you home." She stared me all the way through, then gave me another one of "those" kisses.

The Prez was in total shock. A white dog with brindle patches and covered with ticking; everything I never go near in color? Moon Mountain Casey. We made it KC on her uniform. She turned three in March. AbsoROOTley fearless! Gil is equally taken with her.

It was scary because I really thought we were going down.

She means there might be a future. Being back on the road has done wonders for everyone, especially Gil. Things are beginning to happen fast! We are picking up most of last year's dates. See our Tour Page at [www.geocities.com/petsburgh/8332](http://www.geocities.com/petsburgh/8332). June is full. July and August we will work for the Forest Service. September is busy. We must wind down in October to get ready for Gil's next tests.

The motorhome has been quiet for so long. Now the Silly White Dog (donated by GPA-EC) is learning to talk. I don't know if we will be taking many new dates in 2004. Most on this year's schedule have been waiting three years; one for four. Safire (by GPA-FL SEC) and Chey (by GPA-GO) will be nine next year. MsME! (by GPA-CF) and Beauty (private donation, sponsored by GPA-CF) will be seven. We are taking one day at a time and nothing for granted. Thanks to all of you for your massive support.

## ANATOMY OF A MELBOURNE SHIPMENT

### By Claire Tyler

What exactly does it take to put together a shipment? It's easy to look at the numbers and see our group relies heavily on the ability to transport. GPA Central Florida does 14-15 shipments each year. Our shipment on June 25, marks the 95th shipment we have done. Loading the greys on the trailer and waving good-bye to the driver is the culmination of a lot of hard work. The real relief comes when all of the greyhounds have made it to their destination without incident.

Each shipment actually starts out approximately 2 months prior. E-mails are sent out to groups along a designated route. This is usually a heads-up to as many as a dozen groups. The groups are informed of our target dates for a transport and a request to see if they can keep us in mind for taking greys. Dates may have to be changed if groups are having special event on our planned date. This can get rather tricky, when dealing with so many groups. It can take up to as many as 2 e-mails for each dog. With luck, requests come in and then the "Match-maker skills" are put into effect. Selecting the right grey for the

right home environment can be a challenge. Lets face it, it can be really tough to find a Calm but slightly playful, outgoing tuxedo greyhound, cat friendly and gets along with small children. Several groups give a synopsis of requirements. It's a blessing when we get a request that comes in for 4 greys, 2 male, 2 fe-

male, not color specific and two greyhounds can be "no cat" greys. It usually takes at least 2 e-mails or phone calls per greyhound.

A large majority of groups want all the Veterinary work done up front. Three to four weeks prior to shipment greyhound transport candidates are taken to local vets for spay/neuter, teeth clean, shots and heartworm testing. When you are talking about a 40-44 grey shipment and 38 greys needing vet care, it becomes a huge undertaking. In one week, there can be up to 4 vet runs.

Prior to shipment the trailer needs to be checked out and prepared for shipment. Even though we have a new trailer, we ran into trouble on the May 10 haul. It returned with only three of the four wheels. There was a major problem with a modification to the axles on the trailer made when the trailer was built. The manufacturer shipped new axels, bearings, brakes and the missing wheel. It became a marathon work effort to get the rig ready for a haul on May 17. Work was completed on May 16 at 8 PM.

During the week before a shipment, days are spent going over the greys. Stitches need to be removed, ears cleaned and sometimes a reapply of Frontline. Since greys are loaded 2 to a compartment, traveling companions are often tested out just to help insure a safer transport. A

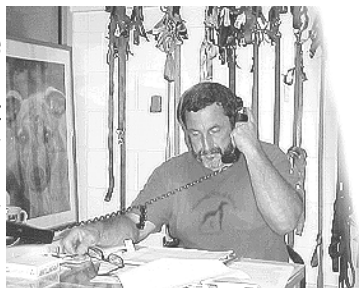
trailer-loading chart is put together. The loading chart helps organize compartment placement in such a way that as deliveries are made, greys are singled out. By the time, the trailer

reaches its last stop, all greyhounds on board will be in separate compartments. Each grey gets a color-coded flag put on their collar.

This flag identifies the group the grey will be going to and the compartment on the trailer that they will occupy. Color-coded tape is and generators are tested and checked for fuel and oil. The day before shipment fresh hay is put in each compartment. The morning of the shipment each compartment also gets a bucket of water with stress-dex added (gator aid for greyhounds). During hot months, ice can also be put into the buckets. A few hours before transport the 2 AC units are turned on to get the temperature down and plugged into shore power. A half hour before loading, the generators are started and all four AC's turned on.

Packets are also made up for each Adoption Group. The packets contain a listing of greys that they will be receiving and all of the Vet records. We also require a release that the groups sign to indicate that they are accepting transfer of the grey. Canadian groups also need a letter for crossing the boarder stating the greys are of no \$\$ \$ value.

When the trailer leaves, each group is given a courtesy call to let them know



the shipment has left the compound and the time of departure. Incidentally shipments usually leave in the evening and proceed driving throughout the night. Drivers alternate shifts and only stop for fuel.

A shipment to Maryland would mean 15 hours on the road one way (traffic and weather permitting). A shipment to Buffalo, New York means 24 hours.

When the trailer is returned the hay and buckets must be removed and the inside must be sanitized with soap and bleach and the rig must be inspected.

So as you can see, it may be just a number on a report or part of a heading on a newsletter. The bottom line is that this represents a lot of work.

### ANNOUNCING THE FOURTH ANNUAL PICNIC IN THE PARK SPONSORED BY GPA-NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Day/Date of Event: Sunday, September 14, 2003  
 Name of Event: GPA-NoVA Fourth Annual Picnic in the Park  
 Hours: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
 Name of Group: GPA-Northern Virginia  
 Location of Event: Still Pond Community Center, 12700 Franklin Farm Road, Oak Hill, VA 20171  
 Description: Silent Auction, Raffles, Famous GPA-NoVA Greyhound Store, food, games, costume contest, Reiki Master, Animal Communicator, professional photographer for portraits and more!  
 Contact Persons: Pam Follett (703) 538-4926, PSFol@aol.com, Micky Foreman (703) 830-8216, MyGreyhounds@usadatanet.net

## Priscilla the French Greyhound by Beth Gardener

Two years ago, Kathe Fritz and I were in Paris to celebrate a big birthday for Kathe. We were out one day, doing some power shopping, when Kathe spotted a hotel logo that had greyhounds on it. We went into the hotel (it was a 5-star, very posh hotel). We went to the information desk and I spoke with a beautiful young girl. I told her that we would like to have a picture or copy of the hotel's logo. I further explained that we had several greyhounds between us and that we were very active in greyhound adoption. All of this was being done in French. The young girl said that would be no problem and that she, too, had a greyhound! In the midst of all this back and forth, translating for Kathe, Elodie said "Oh no problem! I speak English!" Pictures were whipped out, hands were shaken, and stories began! This gorgeous young woman was educated in England and Switzerland. She had gotten into volunteer work with greyhounds in England. She begged her mother to adopt a

dog. She tried for a year. No luck. Her mother went to visit her in England. Elodie took her to the kennel to see the dogs. Well, as we all know, this is all it took. Just one look in those eyes did it! Mme. Calvet returned to France with Priscilla, a lovely little brindle bitch from Ireland. We left the hotel with lots of copies of the hotel's logo and Elodie's address. She lived two streets from where Joe and I had lived in the early 80's! We promised to keep in touch.

Last month, we were all going back to Paris. I e-mailed Elodie to see if we could get together and meet her Priscilla. She was thrilled to hear from us and we planned a meeting. We met her and Priscilla one afternoon in (where else?) a cafe! Dogs are welcome in most cafes and brasseries! Yeah! Priscilla was the hit of the place. We loved up on her and told her we were giving her hugs and kisses from her Ameri-

can cousins. Everyone in the place wanted to know about her. One of the waiters, an Algerian, said that his family had Salukis in Algeria and they used them for hunting! He had never seen a grey. It was a great afternoon. We all went back to the hotel covered in hair and dog spit! Wonderful.

Call it what you will, red thread, small world, Kismet... there are kind, giving people out there in the world who are working for our glorious hounds. There is one named Elodie Calvet and she lives in Paris.



## Greyhound Getaway in the Big Easy

NEW ORLEANS – A legally licensed bed-and-breakfast in New Orleans is offering a special weekend rate during summer 2003 to people who have adopted greyhounds or who operate foster homes for greyhounds.

Le Papillon Guesthouse is offering guests the chance to spend a long weekend at \$60 per night for two nights with a third night at no cost. The total cost of the stay is \$120 or \$40 per night when averaged over three nights. Greyhounds are welcome on the property.

The small bed-and-breakfast consists of two two-room suites and is located four blocks away from the French Quarter in the Faubourg Marigny, a neighborhood that also rates historic district status.

The 170-year-old guesthouse is situated behind a Creole townhouse and is nestled between a courtyard and a bricked backyard that contains fountains and plants such as cypress trees, magnolias, oleanders, crape myrtles, ginger, roses, azaleas, plumbago, sago palms, and others. An eight-year-old male greyhound named Rhubarb resides on the premises, as does a cat named Elsie.

"We created the summer special as a way to honor people who have the compassion to rescue these wonderful animals," says Chris Smith, one of the proprietors of Le Papillon Guesthouse. "We also know that it's sometimes difficult to leave your dogs for an extended stay or to find lodging that will accept a larger

dog. And we wanted the cost to be economical for greyhound owners."

The special was originally intended for greyhound owners who live nearby and who wanted a quick getaway to the Big Easy.



However, the special applies to anyone in any location who has a greyhound. A picture of the dog is appreciated but not required. The offer ends the

weekend before Labor Day. The guesthouse is located near a "dog park" and owners also can walk their pets through the pet-friendly neighborhood, along the Mississippi River, or to other dog-friendly venues. The owners maintain a list of veterinarians who are located nearby in case of emergencies.

Each two-room suite of the guesthouse has a private entrance. One room features a queen-sized bed with armoire, television with cable, and writing desk and chair. The second room features a table, chairs, refrigerator, microwave and coffee-maker, as well as a bathroom. Pictures of the guesthouse can be viewed at [www.lepapillonguesthouse.com](http://www.lepapillonguesthouse.com).

For more information regarding the summer special, guests can contact Chris Smith or Kevin Cress, owners of Le Papillon Guesthouse, 2011 N. Rampart, New Orleans 70116; (504) 948-4993; [lepapillonguesthouse@excite.com](mailto:lepapillonguesthouse@excite.com).

Update:

This offer is being extended

through the months of September and October (with the exception of holiday weekends). The owners plan on offering these special rates again next year with a part of the rate going to a greyhound adoption group.

Owner Chris says "If the promotion goes really well, I can leave my boring day job and spend more time at home running the guesthouse and maybe even being a foster parent. Which reminds me, as a result of all this activity, I should be picking up a new girl in about 10 days. She's black and seven years old and her name is Pin Up Girl but that will change. I think I am going to call her Shasta.

If you are looking for a greyhound getaway weekend with your greys, why not consider the Le Papillon Guesthouse.



## New Trailer/Hauler Getting Lots of Use in Florida By Ann Bollens: GPA Emerald Coast



Last year we at GPA Emerald Coast, on the Florida Panhandle, were as shocked and stunned as the rest of the Greyhound world when the news of the Rhodes case in Lillian, Alabama broke. That incident drove home to all of us here, that our adoption efforts were not as effective as we had thought. We met, evaluated our program, and found several areas that we felt needed to be investigated.

We found that we needed to increase our efforts to move dogs from the Florida panhandle to other groups—groups that could help “our” dogs find the loving homes that we could not. One huge problem in meeting that goal was the fact that we are off the large hauler routes. This meant that we would need to move our dogs ourselves. We tried rental trucks, private vehicles, even RV’s; all proved unsatisfactory for various reasons.

The trailer/hauler pictured was our solution to the problem. The members of GPA Emerald Coast re-doubled our fund raising efforts and were able to purchase the pictured trailer from Don Jarreit who re-built it for us. It has four holes, a generator and is air-conditioned to protect our precious cargo from the hot Florida summers. It will hold eight dogs.

Eight dogs are nice to move, very nice indeed! But, we wanted more and this time we turned to our grant writer for help. The van you see pictured pulling the trailer is the result. Thanks to generous grants from PetsMart Charities, the American Greyhound Council, and the GPA plus the fund raising efforts and donations of our group; we are able to not only tow our hauler but to carry an additional six to eight dogs with us! So, are our efforts (and the generosity of the above organizations) going to make a difference? Look at the faces of the girls loaded into our van, they were part of our very first haul using our wonderful new equipment—10 dogs from the Ebro and Monticello tracks went on to new homes. Our next trip was twelve dogs from the Mobile track kennel closing to Monticello—the first step of their journey to new homes.

All of us at GPA Emerald Coast would like to thank the PetsMart Charities, the AGC, and the GPA for their faith in us and for helping to make our dream a reality!

Ann Bollens  
GPA Emerald Coast  
PS: If you would like to see our van and trailer we would be

happy to show it to you while bringing your group a load of our lovely panhandle Greys!



Ready to hit the road

### GPA National In Top Ten Among Local Non-Profit Groups

Greyhound Pets of America was ranked in the top 10 charities in the Houston area, based on the use of funds. The percentage of GPA's funds that go for administrative costs and fundraising is among the 10 lowest among charities in the Houston area. More information is available at: [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

### Reminder to GPA National Committees

Committee Reports for this year for the national meeting (typed ones) need to be emailed to Bobbie Wier by Aug. 25. Copies need to be made to hand out to each voting delegate at the conference.

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## Sandy Paws-Greyt Fun in the Sun

Sandy Paws - Greyt Fun in the Sun, what we hope will become an annual gathering for the majestic greyhound and their human caregivers in Jacksonville Beach, Fla, was conceived when several greyhound owners were lamenting about how they wished they could attend the grandfather of all gatherings, Dewey Beach. One thing led to another and soon other local greyhound owners voiced the opinion that hosting a gathering in north-east Florida would be a greyt idea. Hotels and campgrounds were sought out, seminar speakers lined up, goody-bag and raffle donations solicited, and vendors contacted. And in a tremendous stroke of luck, we were able to get a commit-

ment from the fabulous Gilley Dancin' Greyhounds to attend and perform. A high school art student designed our logo of a greyhound reclining in a hammock stretched between two palm trees.

The Sandy Paws Organizing Committee has grown to 15 members diligently working to ensure the event is a success. Sandy Paws -Greyt Fun in the Sun will be held March 5-7, 2004, primarily in Jacksonville Beach, although some events will take place in neighboring Neptune Beach. Three hotels at the beach have agreed to host greyhounds, including our headquarters hotel, which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean shoreline. A campground for tents and RVers is also within a few miles of the

gathering headquarters. Additional hotels within a half hours drive of the activity are also willing to host greys and their families.

Activities will include a blessing of the animals, the Gilley's performance, a memorial service for those waiting at the rainbow bridge, a walk in the park, several planned strolls along the beach, superlative contests such as the greyhound and family who traveled the furthest to attend, etc, and a meet-n-greet pizza party.

There will also be plenty of non-greyhound activities available such as deep-sea fishing, casino gambling, golf, and a waterpark for kids.

Please contact us about Sandy Paws at boomer0150@msn.com. We are currently working feverishly on getting a website established.

### New Ad Running in Texas Papers

The above add was run in the Corpus Christi Texas newspaper as a test market to see if it would generate a interest. The ad will be run again this fall in Corpus and Waco, Texas. Plans are to place the ad nation wide in areas in need of greyhound adoption representation. Many thanks to Mike Gustovich for allowing us to use his design.

### International Vet Symposium

Every year, veterinarians and vet techs come together in Florida for the International Veterinarian Symposium. Two days of the symposium focus on the "Sports Medicine" which of course includes our greyhounds. This year, GPA National and the 7 by 7 committee will have a display set up at the registration table. Our goal is to educate and promote greyhound adoption to the vets and vet techs attending the conference. Volunteers from GPA groups in Florida will be including their own greyhounds in the display. The symposium will be taking place on Jan 17 and 18 at the Gaylord Palms Hotel, Orlando.

### New Poster will be Available at Conference



Our new GPA Poster is back from the printer and will be available for Chapters to pick up at the Conference. It was designed by Jen Howard and depicts the four geographical regions of the United States. We hope that Chapters will find a variety of places to display this poster to promote greyhound adoption.



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