

# GREYHOUND NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS OF FLORIDA

Publisher: Marilyn Varnberg Volume: One Issue: Three September, 2008 Editor: B. Pietrangelo



## **JUDY'S STORY**

*(See Page Two)*

## **Our Cover Girl**

### **Judy's Story: GAF to the Rescue**

By Marilyn Varnberg

I saw her as I drove away from a breeding farm after picking up some dogs. I caught a glimpse of something odd looking and turned around to check it out. What I found was a lovely 9 year old brood that had been walking around with a huge mass of mammary tumors hanging from her underside. I promised her I would be back for her in a few days. And I did keep that promise.

She went to the vet as soon as she had a chance to settle in. No one had ever seen such a mass of tumors on one girl. After extensive testing, Dr. Lee Kierstein decided it would take a minimum of two surgeries to remove all the masses. The first surgery was difficult. She was spayed and the largest of the masses was removed. (You can see that one in our cover photo, it is upfront, behind her front leg and a bit different in color from the rest.) After weeks of rest and recuperation, our girl was ready for another surgery. This time, Dr. Kierstein was able to do a dental and remove the rest of the growths at the same time. You can see from the "after" photo that the surgeries were a great success.

Formerly named Miz Judy Dee, she is now known as Jenna and is living happily with Stan and Lynne Perry in Cuba, New York.

### **Jenna's Story: Judy goes home**

By: Lynne Perry

It was the eyes....In March we received an e-mail from Marilyn with a picture of Judy (now Jenna). She had tumors that went to the ground but she had a spark in her eyes. It was then that we fell in love with her and knew that she would become a member of our family. There was just something about this beautiful black girl that touched your heart. I followed her progress after surgery and was so thankful that those tumors were not malignant. This incredible girl came north the weekend of July 4<sup>th</sup>.,thanks to all the dedicated volunteers that made this happen. My husband picked her up on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July and called and told me I was not going to believe how beautiful she was...both inside and out. Jenna walked into our crazy home filled with 7 greyhounds and 5 cats and made herself at home. She has a zest for life that fills your heart. The first night she slept in our bedroom woke us up to let her out around 6:30 and went back to sleep for about 15 minutes. She then decided she wanted our porch doors opened so she could smell the air and bark at the small critters we have in the country. To do this, she had to get in my husband's face and bark until he got out of bed and

then she ran to the doors that led out to the porch. She knew what she wanted and she is very good at letting us know exactly how she feels about everything. She is a crazy girl who dances because she is happy, plays with toys and loves to steal slippers. Her tail has become a weapon of mass destruction because it is always on the move. She is a joy and fills our home with so much love. This girl has no baggage, no thoughts of what happened to her yesterday...she has today and every day will be special to her.

I can't thank Marilyn enough for seeing what could be when she first saw this girl in the field. Jenna is almost 10 but her age is not important to us. We have her with us on this earth as long as she wants and we hope it is a long, long time but she already has an incredible place in our hearts. We celebrate her life every day....Thank you Marilyn and GAF...

### **JENNA/JUDY NOW**



**EXTREME MAKEOVER – GAF STYLE!**

*Speaking of Makeovers.....*

## **Coming soon: GAF Web site gets a makeover!**

GAF's Website - [ahome4greys.org](http://ahome4greys.org)- will unveil an entirely new look and feel this fall.

We'll adding a bunch of new features including:

Video  
Photo Galleries  
Events calendar  
Greyhound rescue news  
Dog profiles  
What We're Rooing About Lately blog  
Grassroots fundraising activities  
Site-wide search  
Bulletin boards  
Social networking

On the new and improved [ahome4greys.org](http://ahome4greys.org), you'll be able to share your stories and pictures of your greyhounds and connect with the GAF community online.

We're aiming to launch by the end of September. You'll know when we flip the switch and the new site goes live. Our URL, [ahome4greys.org](http://ahome4greys.org) remains the same.

When the new site goes live, have a look around, become a registered user (free), jump in on the forums and let us know what you think of the new site.

Want to help?

We're looking for an event calendar editor (knowledge of Google calendar, basic online savvy helpful) as well as "citizen bloggers" who want to contribute stories, photos, tips and advice. Contact Dave McGurgan [dmcgurgan@gmail.com](mailto:dmcgurgan@gmail.com) or 302-367-4023.



## My Spring Vacation By Dione Garnand

I took a vacation with my friend Liz this year. We didn't go on a cruise or to the beach or to the mountains. We went to Sparr, Florida. I got some interesting comments when I said I was vacationing for a week in Sparr!

You see, Liz came up with this great idea last year and I agreed to come along. Marilyn would be going "up north" for the GAF NE picnic and we would watch the farm for the week. What a GREYT idea! We really knew what we were in for, or did we?

Each morning starts out early with the house dogs' potty break and then they want their breakfast. I currently have 6 dogs and have had as many as 7 in the house but feeding all 12 of them breakfast can be an adventure. Some have a little powder added, some have herbs, some; medicine and some; different foods. Everyone knows where to eat and DeeDee truly enjoys Auntie Dione's scrambled eggs. With two pages of instructions from Marilyn, we became adept at keeping the foods straight, medicines straight and who gets muzzled outside. We also enjoyed the lovely company of Bug, who had surgery to repair her broken leg and needed to be leash walked several times a day. The house was full of chores!



Aunt Dione's Spring Vacation

The kennel dogs stole our hearts. Some of them have been there for quite a while waiting for their forever homes. Liz and I each had a couple of favorites and we had fun having some one on one time with them. The same challenges exist with the kennel dogs. Making sure Nancy gets her eye drops and Bea gets her ear drops. Making sure the girls are turned out together, along with Cisco and then the boys in another area. I even learned to get over my fear of putting a greyhound in a top crate. We also had two lovely girls that we were babysitting for the week with the kennel dogs. Three turn outs a day, cleaning the kennel, doing laundry and making sure we spent time with each dog made the days go by quickly.

The week at Grey Haven reinforced so many things I already knew. I knew I loved greyhounds. I knew I hated scooping poop (oh well!). I knew that Liz and I would have a wonderful, fun, rewarding, frustrating and sometimes discouraging week. But the most important thing I already knew was that Marilyn's dedication to GAF is never ending. She is a pillar of strength and I admire her so much, as many of you do. I was sad leaving Grey Haven at the end of the week. Something I said at Bob's Memorial service rang true as I drove home that day – Some of the happiest times in my life have been spent at Grey Haven. That I definitely knew.

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## CLUB GRUB

Field Trial Brownies- ( for people, not dogs!)

I don't know how these brownies got their name, but the first time I had them was at the North Texas Weimaraner Club Field Trial at the LBJ Grasslands near Rockwall TX. So I just continue to call them by that name. These are brownies that stand up to a three day trial and are as delicious on day three as they were on day one. They are more cake-like than chewy and will stay fresh for days if kept covered.

Makes a double batch:

Spray an 11x13 inch baking dish with non-stick spray

Preheat oven to 350

2 pkgs. of plain brownie mix

1 12oz can of Coke (don't use diet – it doesn't work)

3 eggs – lightly beaten

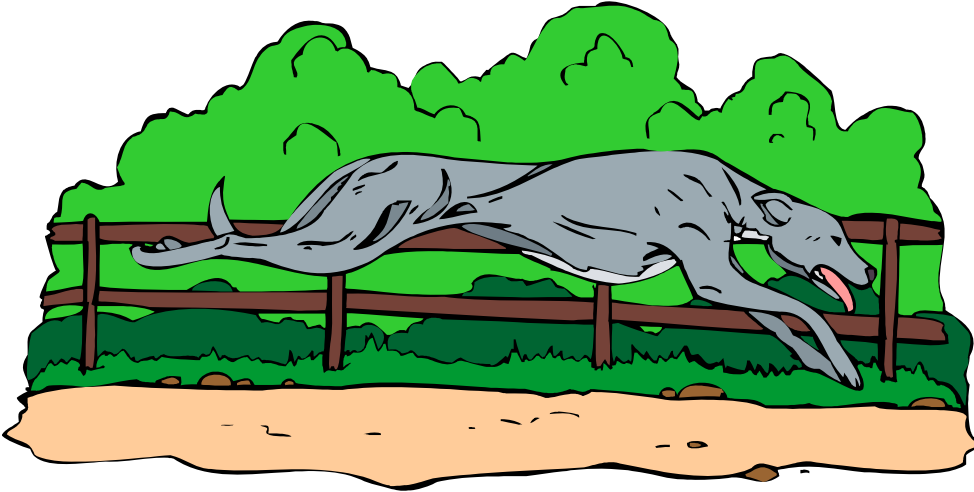
1 can of cherry pie filling

1 ½ cups mini chocolate chips

Combine brownie mix, eggs and Coke in a large bowl, mix until all lumps are incorporated. Stir in can of cherry pie filling. Make sure all brownie mix is moistened.

Pour into pan, bake for about 35-40 minutes (depending on your oven) until brownies are risen evenly. You don't want a moist center since these brownies are more like a cake. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips evenly over top. Wait a minute or two until the chips are soft – spread melted chips over top of cake. Let cool until topping has hardened (in warm weather you may have to refrigerate for a few minutes). Cut into squares, cover tightly with foil or plastic wrap. These brownies will keep for up to a week or more – but you'll find that they are more likely gone by the end of the day!

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### **ANIMALS IN THE NEWS:**

In our last issue, we congratulated 20 year old greyhound, **Genie** on her big birthday. We are sad to tell you that Genie passed on in July. We send our sincerest sympathy to her owners, Neena and Tim.

**Mutilated Greyhound Bodies** found in tributary of the River Foyle. (from the [irishtimes.com/newspaper/Ireland](http://irishtimes.com/newspaper/Ireland)) The bodies of three greyhounds were recovered the week of 8/1/2008 in County Donegal, near the Northern Ireland border. The dogs were judged to be about three years old when they were dumped into the river with weights. The ears were cut off from one of the dogs erasing the identification marks; The ISPCA is investigating.

**World's ugliest dog dies at age 15.** Sam, the 15 year old Chinese Crested had won the title of ugliest dog three years in a row at the Sonoma–Marin Fair. Sam's owner had to have him euthanized after learning his heart was failing. RIP Sam.



### **Books For Fall Reading:**

**The Pawprints of History**, by Stanley Coren-this was definitely my favorite, not only because I am a dog lover, but a history buff as well. I loved the chapter on Frederic the Great and his whippets and the Dogs of the Scottish Writer. The

whole book is a treasure trove of history, the people who made it and their canine companions. Published by Free Press.

**We Give Our Hearts To Dogs To Tear** by Alston Chase. A thinking persons' book – the story of a thirty year adventure with dogs, told with humor, pathos and charm. To order: [www.transactionpub.com](http://www.transactionpub.com)

**Walking Ollie** by Stephen Foster. An adopted dog brings the author to the brink...a funny and amusing tale that every dog owner can relate to, Published by Perigee (a division of Penguin Books).

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Annual GAF picnic and auction at Grey Haven Sunday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> –Pot Luck Buffet- more info to follow. Help Needed- contact Marilyn.**

**Greyhounds Reach for the Beach – the largest Greyhound gathering on the East Coast -Oct. 10 to Oct. 12, Dewey Beach DE. FMI contact [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org)**

**The Villages Greyhound Club – Walkabouts resume on October 23rd– meet under the clock at Sumter Landing, The Villages, at 6:00PM. Everyone welcome to join the group for dinner at Up the Creek Fish Camp on the lake – a dog friendly restaurant.**

### **Online Auction a Huge Success!**

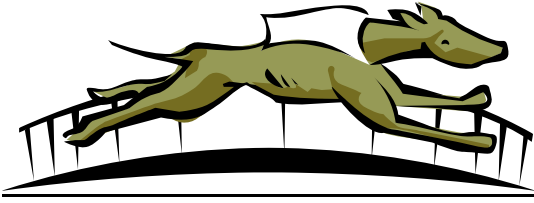
*by Marilyn Varnberg*

With Summer being the slowest time of the year for both adoptions and fund raising-we look forward to having a bright spot in the midst of the quiet. This year, that spot turned out to be our online auction which has been hosted two years in a row by Diane Jackson and Alisha Navarro. This year's auction was an amazing experience for all of us. We had to stop accepting donated items when the number of items went over 120...each of them more exciting than the one before! The bidding was fast, furious and more than exciting. I think we now hold the record for more active bidding AFTER the auction had ended. There was still a bidding war over a English Pub shirt going on at close to 11PM!!

The final total after this record setting auction was \$8600.00!!! Now that is one unbelievable number! Timing is everything in life and this auction enabled us to pay off all our vet bills including what was left over from the last four seriously broken leg dogs we took from the Birmingham Track. Now, of course, it is my job to start all over again with our wonderful vets and all of our new greyhounds.

Our eternal gratitude goes out to each of you whose generosity and support keeps Grey Haven going and hundred of greyhounds alive. Thank you all so very much!

## The Last Word



### **The Commodities Market**

An Editorial

By Barbara Pietrangelo

Playing the Commodities Market can be risky business. Trading in oil, pork bellies, soy beans, precious metals, etc. – is not for the weak of heart. When my husband was a young broker, he had several clients who were commodity traders. I attribute 90% of the gray hairs he acquired before age forty to them. The markets fluctuate wildly and most traders in years gone by spent their days watching the ticker at the brokerage office and now, in the internet age, glued to their computer screen.

But there is a whole new commodity market today that is far more dangerous and deadly than dealing in soy bean futures. It is the commodity market dealing in living creatures. Pure breed dogs and thoroughbred horses are the new living, breathing commodity market. On-the-hoof, or on-the-paw, these animals have become the commodity of choice for many 21<sup>st</sup> century “commodity dealers”.

Let’s take a look at the biggest commodity around at the moment – Big Brown. This year’s winner of the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness was touted to be the sure-thing winner of the Belmont Stakes– thus making him the first Triple Crown Winner in thirty years. Big Brown was originally bought for a mere \$190,000. After his win at the Florida Derby his owner sold an interest in the horse to IEAH Stables for \$5,000,000. The “commodity” brought in another \$50,000,000 with the sale of his breeding rights to Three Chimneys Farm, hours before his start in the Preakness. Of course, as we learned with the crashing last place finish of Big Brown in the Belmont Stakes, there is no such thing as a “sure thing” in the commodities market. It has been reported that Big Brown’s owners, Michael Iavarone and Richard Schiavo, co-presidents of IEAH, are now planning a hedge fund in which the assets are thoroughbreds. A noted Wall Street hedge fund manager states “Never buy anything that eats”. A recent survey of horse tracks by the AP reports that over 5000 thoroughbreds have died from devastating injuries sustained on the track since 2003. Most were euthanized following the injury. That is about three horses per day.

The most recent high profile “commodity” story came to light with the Oprah Winfrey Show’s scathing expose’ of Pennsylvania puppy mills. This wasn’t anything new to those of us from that area – we have been aware of the “Animals as Agriculture” philosophy of Lancaster County’s Amish population for years, and the Amish are not the only offenders in PA’s rural areas. Pennsylvania’s Governor Ed Rendell immediately launched a revision of PA’s Dog Law, leaving legitimate breeder’s reeling in its wake. Input from

the PA Federation of Dog Clubs and the NAIA has resulted in some small revisions of the proposed law. Although the Animal Cruelty issues are well addressed by the proposed revisions, huge gaps exist, leaving the “good” breeders liable to falling through the cracks.

So what hope do we have for the “commodities” known as Racing Greyhounds? What possible hope for those who live under the terrible scythe of “Win or Die”? Must we totally depend on the overworked, overburdened Adoption/Rescue Groups who work their hearts out saving those dogs they can, knowing fully the fate of those left behind?

Do we need a celebrity of Oprah’s stature to speak on behalf of the greyhounds? Can we hope to get the ear of our government officials to review our own states’ Dog Laws and Racing Laws? I don’t know the answers – or even if there are answers to these questions. For years, the controversy between the Racing Community and the Rescue/Adoption saviors has consumed not only print space in the hundreds of yards, but also has generated organizations, web sites, and opinions from every angle. Although divisions between the racing industry and rescue/adoption groups have mitigated somewhat, much remains to be repaired. Where do we go from here? What can we try that hasn’t been tried before? . . . Well, we must work to keep the issues alive; we need to talk and to write and we need to keep the greyhounds’ plight in the public eye. And, of course, we need to continue to raise the funds necessary to save these animals. Quite possibly, the answers are already in our hands.

\* \* \*

The late afternoon sun throws a dappled canopy over the sleeping forms strewn on the back porch floor. As I search for the closing words to this piece, I drop my hand to idly stroke a silken ear. A tiny sigh of pleasure escapes the dog. Her sister cocks her head in our direction, missing nothing. Then she resumes that position so uniquely greyhound; lying on her back, legs in the air, belly exposed, snoring breathily, head at an impossible angle – relaxed, content, and unafraid - a commodity no more.



The Sisters

*The opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author/editor and do not reflect the opinions of GAF, et al.*

For more information on Pennsylvania’s Dog Law Revisions go to [www.doglawaction.com](http://www.doglawaction.com)

From the Editor:

*I hope you have enjoyed this issue of Greyt News. Our next Issue will be the December/Holiday Issue. If you have any Holiday related photos of your dog, please send them to me and we will publish as many as we can. We are always looking for articles and news about greyhounds – if you come across something, please forward it to me. Meanwhile, until we meet again on the pages of Greyt News, stay well and have a great Fall season.*

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### **The Last Look**



**“It’s that Dog Show again on Animal Planet – I don’t see one of *us* winning and we are *sooooo* much better looking than that fuzzy Poodle with the bad hair day....*humphh....*”**

*Photo courtesy of Shirley Decker-more of Shirley’s photos in upcoming issues*