

## Remembrance Message from Elaine Oleksa, co-founder of Nittany Greyhounds

I'm sorry that I'm not able to attend today's service for Jo Hoy. Fortunately I was able to spend time with her in April. She was her usual chipper self and had a big smile on her face. She mentioned some back pain, but said that she was visiting the doctor soon to get medication. Jo was still planning to beat this cancer. That's one of her qualities that makes her my hero. She wasn't ready to give up the fight; she still had things to do in her life. Jo was never a quitter. Her upbeat personality always gave strength to those around her.

Jo was an early member of Nittany Greyhounds. She, Ken and Rosie came to help us bathe a few greyhounds that had arrived on a very cold winter night. Jo left that evening with Brandi, a handsome fawn male greyhound. And, they left with Brandi wearing Jo's Penn State sweatshirt.....She thought he was chilly!

Shortly after, Jo decided that Brandi was lonely and needed a companion so Allie, a sweet little greyhound female, joined the family. A second big dog seemed to cause Jo a little vehicle problem. She was driving a BMW sedan whose backseat could easily accommodate 2 greyhounds. But that wasn't good enough for Jo's dogs, so she called the dealership and had them bring her out a new station wagon... she wanted them to be really comfortable in the car. I laugh every time I think of that story. Jo wanted only the best for her 'kids.'

Anytime Jo was asked to help, she was always right there with that big smile. One winter night we drove to Bedford to pick up a few new dogs in her RV. The road was terrible, but we made it and Jo drove her RV like the Navy commander that she was. She never backed away from a difficult situation; Jo always found a solution. In fact, I believe that night Jo backed her RV down the long winding driveway to the kennel; she thought it would make her trip out of the driveway easier. She was one tough cookie.

Jo became my friend through her involvement with our greyhound adoption group. She was a strong advocate for greyhounds and especially for Nittany Greyhounds. She was a remarkable woman, and admired by all who met her. I miss Joy, but will remember her great strength, dignity and fine character.