

# Collecting Peace™ by Peace

By Jacqueline Greenwood

A thousand-plus  
Ty®-Dye Beanie™  
bears creates  
a colorful  
accumulation...  
and a crowded  
house!

With rainbow sherbet always a stocked item in her freezer and tie-dyed pillows tossed on her sofa, Carla Gaughan from Fort Worth, Texas, is up to her neck in Peace™ Beanie Babies®. She has fallen so deeply in love with this colorful bear that she intends to dedicate a special room in her next home to display her extensive collection. But the room had better be enormous! Gaughan already shares her two-bedroom home with her husband, Michael, a teacup poodle named Bailey and 1,009 Peace Beanie Babies! While she admits the couple has no immediate plans for children, she is not through expanding her family of Peace Beanie Babies.

"I am not a Jerry Garcia fan and wasn't around for the '60s movement," said Carla. "So the peace sign does not hold a significant meaning for me. Each Peace Beanie Baby™ is just so different. I just love the colors!" While some people allocate a certain part of their paycheck for food, fuel and other necessities, Carla budgets for

her Peace habit. In fact, she has never purchased any of her Peace Beanie Babies on credit.

Carla learned about Beanie Babies in 1997 when her mother and friends were trying to hunt down Teenie Beanie Babies™ they needed for a complete McDonald's set.

It was during this time that Ty® Inc. retired Garcia the Ty-Dye Beanie Baby bear and introduced Peace on May 11, 1997. But it was not until Spring 1998, when Carla picked up her first Peace bear at Brown's Pharmacy in Irving, Texas, that she got hooked on Beanie Babies. She had gone into the pharmacy to buy a soft drink but a pastel Peace Beanie™ caught her eye instead and immediately became part of her purchase.

"The pharmacy hid Beanie Babies throughout the store so customers would discover a Beanie treasure while shopping for something else," said Carla. "This helped them avoid all the headaches other retailers complained of during the Beanie Baby craze."



Soon Carla began hunting Peace bears wherever she went. Her favorite Ty retailer is Catillac Designs. Last year, when she discovered a retailer in her mall that had a reputation for hoarding Beanie Babies had begun to put out retired styles, including Peace, for just \$5, she purchased every Ty-Dye bear in the store.

"The retailer let me buy these bears on a layaway schedule since he had a bounty of 500 Peace Beanie Babies," said Carla. "After I received my paycheck, I ran over to his store and purchased 50 Peace bears from him at a time until all 500 bears found their way to my home."

Many of Carla's Peace Beanies came from sellers with a high feedback rating on the eBay Internet trading community. But she never won an auction for one of those super-elusive Peace bear oddities missing its embroidered peace sign. On February 17, 2001, a Canadian Peace Beanie Baby missing its peace sign sold for \$430 on

eBay, which greatly exceeded the price Gaughan was willing to pay. The only oddity Peace Beanies that grace Carla's collection are one with one leg shorter than the other, one with a Valentino tush tag and one that has solid white fabric on the back of one leg.

### The Right Price for Peace™

The most Carla has ever spent for a Peace Beanie is \$50. "It was at a Beanie show and this lady had a lot of rare and valuable Beanie Babies," she said. "The Peace I purchased was so pink that it could almost be mistaken for a Sakura™ Beanie Baby." This pink Peace Beanie, along with a few others that have a dominant color, are the ones Carla has chosen to display. Due to space limitations, the majority of her Beanies are stored in plastic containers piled high around her desk. She admits, "I do take them out every once in a while and play with them."



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**Carla Gaughan is submerged in a bathtub overflowing with her 1,000-plus Peace™ Beanie Babies®.**



## Bits and Peace™-s

Carla Gaughan has cataloged her huge collection of Peace™ Beanie Baby™ bears based on the styles identified by Susan Sternberg, who wrote one of the most popular Beanie™ articles, *The Many Colors of Peace*, available on the Web at <http://www.smartcollecting.com/beanies/peace.htm>. According to Sternberg, there are six distinct variations of Peace, all due to fabric changes. When Peace was introduced in 1997, it looked very similar in color to Garcia and wore a fourth-generation heart tag until the fifth-generation heart tag was introduced later in the year. This style of Peace is often referred to as Old-style or Vivid.

About a year later, during the spring and summer of 1998, the colors on Peace became brighter and numbers were printed inside the tush tag. This style is referred to as Neon. However, during this changeover, some Peace bears seemed to have a mixture of both fabrics. Susan describes these hybrids as "Summer Transitionals." Then, for a limited time, the fabric used on Peace became pastel —

the era in which Carla became hooked on Peace. In fall 1998, greens and browns became prevalent, giving Peace what Sternberg describes as a "G.I. Joe" appearance. This camouflage-looking style was labeled Autumn.

During the six months before Peace retired, the browns and greens seemed to fade away and were replaced with brighter and prettier colors. This last style is referred to as Spring. With all these color variations, Carla still likes the pastel Peace Beanie™ the best. "I just love the baby pinks and blues," she said.

Peace bears were made in China, Indonesia and Germany. "The ones made in Germany seem to be smaller with less beans than those made in China," said Carla. Out of all the Peace bears that Carla owns, not one was made in Indonesia.

Peace Beanie Babies® made in Indonesia with a prominent color are the Peace bears currently selling for the biggest bucks on eBay. An Indonesia-made Peace Beanie™ with an almost an entire red front sold on eBay on May 21, 2001 for \$177.51.



'Mama' and 'Papa' Jumbo Peace™ and their regular, large and extra-large children form the Beanie Buddy™ facet of Carla Gaughan's Peace™ collection.





**Michael Gaughan (with his own collection of Beak™ Beanies™ and Buddies™ in a nest), who helped his wife, Carla, build her impressive Peace™ collection**

Last Christmas, Michael Gaughan surprised his wife by paying off all the Peace Beanie Buddies™ she had on layaway, including two jumbo Peace Buddies. These big Ty-Dye pals hang out in the computer room at home where Carla works as a medical transcriptionist.

Although Carla primarily focuses her attention on Peace, she also owns an impressive collection of other Ty Beanie Babies, especially the bears. She owns all of the Beanie Baby bears except for those she classifies as the "forbidden" bears: the employee-exclusive bears and the old- and new-face colored bears. Because Michael has global contacts due to his job in theatrical lighting, Carla has been able to obtain the international-exclusive bears (with the exception of the May 2001 release, Unity™ the European bear).

Peace is not the only Ty-Dye Beanie Baby bear that Ty has made. Garcia, Goochy™, Sammy™, Groovy™, Mellow™ and the Birthday Bear™ all are made from fabric with a Ty-Dye pattern. However, there were not enough color variations of these

Beanies to capture Carla's attention the way Peace did. "I do have a lot of Hippie™ the bunny and Rainbow™ the chameleon." But her collection of these Beanie Babies does not come close to her collection of Peace.

Though Carla will never part with a Peace Beanie Baby, she and her husband love to spread the "Beanie joy" to others by giving Beanie Babies as gifts. "When we go to a NASCAR race, we like to give Erin™ with the shamrock emblem to the drivers for good luck," said Carla. They also donate Beanie Babies to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, Toys for Tots and to children in the local hospital.


It is obvious that Carla knows her spirits are lifted and her soul is soothed by surrounding herself with Peace, for she is as cheerful as the bear's most vibrant colors.



**Carla Gaughan's favorite is a 'Pastel' Peace™ with a pink head and pink splotches scattered about its middle and limbs.**

**An 'oddity' in Carla Gaughan's Peace™ collection: note its solid white leg.**





Gaughan removes her  
Peace™ bears from plastic  
storage containers for their  
*Bean Bag World* photo op. So  
this is what 1,000 Beanies™  
in tubs look like!





A sampling of some of Gaughan's odd-colored Peace™ bears boasting dominant blue (above), yellow (center) and pink hues.



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