

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

SEPTEMBER 2009

Welcome to another action packed newsletter were this month we will give our kennel update and will continue our series of greyhound sanctuaries around the world, with this month focusing on the "Scooby" sanctuary in Spain. We also look at Lucky's story along with our regular fundraising updates and if that's not enough we also have a couple of announcements and a date for the diary! As well as the not so small matter of re-homing our 300th grey (lurcher actually!)!!!! We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Kennel update

This month at the kennels saw the arrival of 13 new dogs - BECKY, MOSS, JACK, PEPSI, BHAN, BILLY, PANCHO, BLAKEY, PRINCESS, BENNY, KRUGER, VAL and VICKY.

However, we did re-home 11 - DAVIE, STELLA, WISPA, LADY, RUSSELL, ICY, SIMBA, BLUEBELL, Carri TED and TIA.

It was with a touch of sadness but also joy that saw one of our longer serving "in-mates" Icy eventually find his forever home in Yorkshire!!! All at GRF send their best wishes for this loveable lad.

As mentioned earlier we reached another milestone this month that of our 300th re-homing!!!! Strangely enough our 300th (and 301!) was actually a lurcher - the friendly Ted who came in with Tia and was re-homed with her too. They are both now living happily together in West Kilbride with their new family.



Ted number 300 !!!!!

Earlier in the month GRF took possession of a baby girl pup that unfortunately refused to suckle from her mother. But despite all our efforts and sleepless nights the wee girl passed away peacefully. Although everyone thought that the little girl had very little chance of survival, we thought as long as she is still breathing we would give her that chance. This just highlights the importance of what GRF is all about and we will always push hard for that little chance for every grey, we don't believe in "lost causes" but it is only down to the generous support from our supporters that we can keep on doing this.

Thank you

A big thanks to all who attended the recent charity race night at Thornton. Especially to the runners of one of the races were the dogs watched the trainers run in fancy dress !!(see below). GRF would like to thank Tam Nicol who organised this event And an amazing total of **£1655.20** was eventually raised for our cause on the night !!!!!



The runners of the 7th race !!

Union farm open day

The wind and the rain managed to abate and all had an excellent time. Nanette and colleagues are to be congratulated on putting together a superb event, which saw probably for the first time (that I know off!!) greyhounds doing the dog "assault" course, although they were not keen to try the tunnel



This event took place half way through the dog show which saw such classes as the waggiest tail, best six legs and loudest bark ! There was also the usual tombola and cake and candy stalls in total an amazing **£450** was raised!! Well-done guys

GRF would also like to say a big thank you to Gordon and Fiona not just for the hard work they put into running our monthly lucky number draw but more recently they put together an application to the Kennel club charitable trust for support in renovating our new kennels at Baltree and what a surprise we got when we seen the cheque. It was for **£4000 !!!!** This has helped us tremendously with our renovation costs. GRF would like to give their sincere gratitude to Gordon and Fiona as well as the charitable trust for seeing fit to give us this money.

From the doghouse

STARSKY is a boy who loves people very much. He has stayed in a home before but his owners were unable to keep him. He misses the home situation and the quicker he is in a home, the better. He is an excellent walker. So can someone out there please bring this big loveable boy the family that he desperately needs.



Do you have it in you to give Starsky a new home Then contact Jimmy/Celia on **01592 890583**.

Greys around the world



This months greys around the world looks at one of the biggest sanctuaries in Spain and possibly Europe that of the Scooby sanctuary

Scooby is a leading association dealing with the rescue of Galgos (Spanish Greyhounds) in Spain and the largest shelter in the country for greyhounds.

Scooby started out in 1987 as a shelter under poor conditions, providing refuge for the stray cat and dog population and the numerous Galgos (Spanish bred sighthounds) discarded mainly by the local coursing fraternity in the area of Medina del Campo, Valladolid. Scooby was founded by its honorary president Fermín Pérez, in daily life a science teacher at the main senior school in Medina del Campo.



Tens of thousands of Galgos are bred annually in Spain in the hope of producing the national coursing champion. Medina del Campo

is the focal point for those with a coursing interest in Spain. Many galgueros (breeders and owners of Galgos) live in Medina del Campo and its environs. For the galgueros it was an annual tradition to kill their Galgos by hanging them en masse in the pine forests in and around Medina del Campo at the end of the coursing season (January/February). After Fermín made the world aware of the situation, the association has grown out through the years The past years has now seen the galgueros starting to bring their unwanted Galgos to the Scooby shelter with the result that on average Scooby houses about **450** dogs, mainly Galgos. Scooby re-homes a limited number of these Galgos and some of the mixed breed dogs via small partner organisations in Europe.

Over time the Scooby shelter has expanded in terms of size, (volunteer) workers from several nationalities and a steady stream of voluntary helpers, domestic and from abroad. In turn, Scooby has gradually been able to start tackling another problem, that of factory farming and environment. The overall objective of this project is to construct an education centre at its property. On a very small scale, Scooby has also taken in ducks, geese, battery hens, sheep, goats, pigs, ponies, and more.

Scooby is a privately owned refuge, which means that without the help of supporters from Spain and everywhere around the world, it would not be able to exist.

What began in an old ruin with bed frames as fencing, and an old run down warehouse, both without electricity, heat or water, has moved into a new refuge facility.



In 2001 the land, right across the old warehouse, with a size of 90,000 square meters, was purchased with the help of a great many people in various countries. It was something "in common", we succeeded in acting like the United Nations in order to save the Galgos, which proves that any problems you encounter both as human beings and as animals are international ones. Something that would not have been possible without the wonderful "tool" called Internet.

As mentioned before, we purchased the land, started building on it and are still busy building on it. We have several different free-range paddocks, each with covered sections or wooden houses for during the night and to protect against the elements of nature.

Through the years we were able expand further, depending on new available funds, and we were able to create a proper office, surgery room and warehouses for storage of



food, laundry (blankets, towels, coats, etc.) and medical supplies. Moreover, there are 8 large and 5 small quarantine kennels accommodating the new entries and those dogs requiring special treatment.

There is a fully equipped kitchen, two bathrooms with showers, one for ladies and one for gentlemen, donated caravans to offer the visiting volunteers a free accommodation, a bathroom for the dogs and a recovery room for dogs after medical treatment. And above all the luxury of being able to use electricity and water!



Altogether enough facilities to take care of the 450 dogs that live in our shelter, and to be able to offer them a place to live, a perfect place compared to how they would end up without our shelter and your support.

Vets from all over the world have now come here on a voluntary basis to carry out the castrations for it would be impossible for us to pay the cost for all operations in the local animal clinics. And since we have our own clinic on site, we invite the vets reading our pages and willing to help to come here. They can do castrations and carry out all the veterinary treatments necessary at the time.



Since 2006 we are constructing an education centre at our property, with the aim to offer a small-scale lecture programme and supporting learning materials to schools, the local community and authorities and visitors to our shelter. Our aim is to teach the people about animal welfare and environmental issues. Further expansion of the rescue centre is not possible at this moment, for we have no capacity to take care for more dogs than we already have. We are also gradually refurbishing the existing kennels because hundreds of dogs are able to destroy nearly everything!!!!

Consequently, again we wish to invite all those who feel like helping and working e.g. in the professions of electrician, mason, fitter or plumber. Or the ones who simply have skilful hands and wish to give us a hand for we always have more than enough work. So everybody willing to spend some time with Scooby, not being afraid of hard work, is always very welcome. However, please bear in mind that we have a great number of animals and even if the animal shelter is in a very good condition it may not be what you are used to in other countries, although few of the animal shelters in other countries probably accommodate that many animals. Anyway, you will always find people here who are willing to work and to give a hand and who will support you in everything you may need. However, our most urgent and important task is to find the Galgos a new home. We succeed in finding new homes for the animals gradually

and with the assistance of the organizations we cooperate with in Europe and the USA, but in order to save more, the number of adoptions will have to grow, there still is a great number on the waiting list for adoption. We do not wish for Scooby to turn into a camp of Galgos that will never have the opportunity to move to a new home, and this is why the number of animals entering must not exceed the number of animals being adopted, otherwise we could never handle the work in the years to follow.

For this reason, we must appeal to your generosity and support in our effort to find new homes for a growing number of animals.

http://www.scoobymedina.org/home_en.htm

Fermín Pérez

Volunteers

GRF needs willing volunteers to help maintain a happy and safe environment for the hounds in our care at Baltree farm. Do you think you could help out with any of the following ?

Housekeeping - Cleaning out kennels and runs, feeding, walking and grooming the hounds.

Maintenance - Helping to maintain the kennel buildings and grounds, repair and paint fences, grass cutting etc.

Fundraising - Everyone is welcome to join in any of our events or come up with ideas of their own!

Interested in joining us ?

Call Celia on 01592 890583

e-mail Jimmy at fernijimmyf@aol.com

Visit www.greyhoundrescuefife.com

Friends of GRF

At the time of writing there is only 119 days until Christmas!! So keep an eye on our forum for various fund raising events. In the meantime if you are short of ideas for Christmas or even upcoming birthdays etc then why not think about becoming a "friend of GRF" the cost is only £10 for adults and £5 for children for a 12 months subscription! Friends receive a small thank you pack containing certificate, homeless hound photo, Goldie Greyhound's fun page, fridge magnet and a thank you/information letter. After 6 months they will receive a follow up e-mail with latest news. Their name will also appear on our friend's web page. For further details email friendsofgrf@blueyonder.co.uk. You can pay by cheque / postal order or donate on the web site. It is also possible to join on any of our monthly walks or at our Baltree Farm and Union Farm kennels.

Dates for the Diary

Dog show !!!

Our 3rd annual Dog show will once again take place at Caldwell's farm near Collessie on **Sunday 2nd May 2010**. We aim to build on the success of this years show especially now that we have re-homed over 300 greys!! And so are giving everybody plenty of notice of the event. Look out early in the New Year for full details.

Sponsored Bridge walk

A sponsor Forth Bridge walk has been organised for **SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER AT 12 NOON**. We hope as many people as possible can support this event, which should create a wonderful sight with scores of greys

parading across the bridge and promoting GRF cause. So if you fancy the walk then why not come along. Keep eyes on the forum for full details with regarding parking etc.

October Dog walk

Our next dog walk will take place on **Sunday 4th Oct 11:00** at Pittencreiff Park, Dunfermline. Meet at the car park

Lucky's story

Although not greyhound related we thought we would end this month with a heart warming story which has also been in news recently and that is the story of Lucky a crossbreed girl who was found when she was only 5 months old (approx) and is now just over 5 years. Here is Luck's story

We first saw Lucky on a road several miles out of Argostoli in Kefalonia. This was completely by accident as we had taken a wrong turn and found ourselves on a road used only by lorries that were too big to use the more direct route. She was using an old metal bridge as shelter from the heat and to hide from the lorries that crossed over it.

When we first saw her she was standing at the side of the road, it was immediately obvious something was wrong. She was skeletal and ghost like. She looked straight at us as we approached in the car and made her way into a very small gap just under the bridge.

Stray dogs are a common sight in the towns of Kefalonia but she had no access to food and water and we were at least 5 miles from the nearest village in whichever direction you

travelled. Clearly no one was feeding her and she looked close to death.

She had found herself a good hiding spot under the bridge amongst the rubble and broken glass and as there was no way she would allow us near her we decided to find some food and water and return later. We returned with supplies and put the water at the entrance to her hiding place and moved away so that she could drink it. She obviously had not seen water in some time judging by the way she drank it - it must have been approaching 90F in the sun.

We returned daily - all the while on a mission to get her into some sort of care. The local authorities simply were not interested, but the vet did put us in contact with a lady who runs the Kefalonian Animal Trust (KAT), she in turn also arranged some help from people she knew that ran riding stables/dog kennels.

Because Lucky was so traumatised we could not get close to her so we had no option but to sedate her. This wasn't difficult as she was still very hungry. The problem was she went to sleep under the bridge so it was not easy to get her out.

After a successful rescue we decided she was coming back to the UK. We made arrangements with the local vet and the kennels to obtain a Pet Passport and she served her time before being cleared to come home.

Lucky had been with us for about a year when she finally managed to put all her terrors behind her and today she is a happy, confident, loving dog.



SAVED: Couple bring home Greek puppy

Stray Lucky all set for a new life



Janet Lindsay with Lucky in Greece

As election fever gripped the country this week an asylum seeker with a difference arrived in West Kent.

by Chris Hunter

A WOMAN who fell in love with a stray dog during a holiday in Greece was this week set to be reunited with her new canine friend.

Janet and Phil Lindsay, of Stockland Green, Road, Speldhurst, were driving through mountains on the Greek island of Kefalonia in September when they discovered the starving dog under a bridge.

Nicknamed Lucky, the seriously ill animal was at first difficult to approach. "She was absolutely petrified", said Mrs Lindsay. "We couldn't get near to her so we took water up to her over three days while we tried to contact the Kefalonian Animal Trust.

"When we found her she was

just skin and bone - she had been left for dead on the mountain side."

Lucky was rescued after Mr and Mrs Lindsay contacted boarding kennels at Kefalonia's English Riding Centre, and the neglected puppy has since been nursed back to full health.

Lucky, a fawn-coloured bitch, is thought to be about one year old, and having successfully undergone blood tests and eight months of quarantine was due to arrive at Gatwick under the Pet Passport Scheme on Thursday, May 5.

Discard

Bemused as to why anyone could abandon a puppy, Mrs Lindsay said: "They seem to have a different attitude towards animals in Greece. It's quite common for them to discard young dogs."

Mr and Mrs Lindsay now hope that Lucky can enjoy a long and comfortable life as a pet in their home at Speldhurst.

If you have any story's you would like to share with our readers or suggestions for future articles for the newsletter, then do not hesitate to get in touch with us at alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com