

Greyhound Rescue Fife

"Adopting just one Greyhound won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that one Greyhound."



Introducing the New Team

After three years of sterling work, Dylan and Hannah have decided to hand the production of the GRF Newsletter over to someone new. The new editors are Sheila and Eion and the photo shows the associate editors, Angus (4) and Teigan (11) who are both GRF hounds. In pre-covid times Sheila was a volunteer once a week at Baltree and also did the home check visits for the Edinburgh area. Some of you will have met us on the monthly greyhound walks or at the annual show.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and thank you for your support for Greyhound Rescue Fife.



Kennel News

Find out who has found their forever home and who is new at the kennels.....



Meet Fred

He is dog of the month. Find out more about this handsome brindle boy.



The Operatives

The Lurcher Saga begins.....

Kennel News

Even with lockdown, snow and other tribulations, dogs still arrive at Baltree and (thankfully) also continue to find their forever homes.

Since the last newsletter

18 dogs have come in. They are:

JAKY SUGAR BILLY MISSION TITAN CORRIE SUNSHINE PRINCE BOB HAWK FRANKIE FRED MABEL MAY HEART KATIE SHANNON and JEANIE.

and 22 dogs have been adopted. They are:

CONNAL YOLO JAKY LEO MOLLY TITAN SUNSHINE RUBY PRINCE BOB BARNEY FERRARI SNOWIE SUGAR PEPPER BILLY FRANKIE MABEL BARNEY MISSION HAWK and CORRIE

Dog of the Month

Each month we will feature one of our dogs as "Dog of the Month".

Fred is our dog for March.



Fred is a good looking, large brindle boy. He is a happy lad who takes life in his stride. He tries to keep his kennel clean and is non destructive in it. He is good on the lead, making him a fine walking companion and he will make a loving pet.

Dog Walks

Steve Dowd describes a walk in West Lothian which he often does with Julie and their four dogs.

Linlithgow is an historic town in West Lothian, a few miles west of Edinburgh. Linlithgow Loch is hidden away between the High Street and the M9, and there is a circular walk around the Loch. The walk is approximately 2.5 miles, mostly flat easy going walking with just a short part of the walk alongside the road on the pavement. You could probably do this in an hour, but it always takes us longer to try to get the dogs to pose for photographs! There are views across the Loch across to Linlithgow Palace, and usually a variety of wildlife including the swans and ducks that like to get fed by visitors. The swans can be quite territorial and the path is quite narrow in places which can make it interesting getting past them, especially if your dog takes an interest in them. The Black Bitch of Linlithgow is on the High Street – the sculptor used a GRF dog as a model for this beautiful statue. There are various car parks along the High Street that you can use for this walk including the car park at the Palace. Some of these are pay and display, others free. Over the last year during travel restrictions parking has been plentiful, but before this it could be quite difficult to find a space to park, especially during school holidays and at weekends.



A Typical Day Working at the Kennels

Fiona Lole describes what it's like to work at Baltree.

What goes in must come out and so begins our typical day at the kennels.... Once the dogs have given you a warm welcome on arrival they head out into their runs while their kennels are cleaned and disinfected and then they dash back in, in anticipation of their awaiting breakfast! Normally, we would then welcome our lovely volunteers to help with walkies but in these unprecedented times staff enjoy sharing the highlight of any dog's day and there are no more beautiful surroundings to enjoy a walk in than here at Baltree. It's over to walk Jimmy and Celia's house dogs first and they are living proof that one is never enough, having 11 fantastic characters in their household! It's then the kennel dogs' turn and once walked and fed the kennels go surprisingly quiet as the hounds enjoy their other favourite activity of snoozing. There are always many entertaining sights of legs sticking up in the air and tongues lolling out the side of those long snouts! Washing up done and our resident one-winged rook (imaginatively named Rookie) cleaned and fed, there are plenty ground, garden and building maintenance chores to be done when our handyman Murray is on site and there is often time for extra pampering and cuddles for the dogs who all love to be groomed.

It's always very exciting to welcome new residents and this week we welcomed 15 new arrivals who we are enjoying getting to know and will be popping up with photos and descriptions on the Please Choose Me section of our website (www.greyhoundrescuefife.com) so make sure you have a browse to see if you can spot your new furry pal. Of course, the highlight of any rescue is when a rehoming occurs and the best days are when Celia works her magic and pairs new owners with their perfect pooch.

The working day winds up with the dogs heading out for a comfort break while we top up their water, fluff up their blankets and leave them a wee treat to come back in to. It's then lights out time 'til the nightshift come in to walk and toilet all the dogs again and check all is well until it all begins again the next morning.

There really is no more satisfying way to spend your day than caring for these amazing hounds!



New arrival Basil poses for his "Please Choose Me" photo for the website.



The gorgeous Bessie Fernie, one of the "House Dogs"



The walk and the runs.

The Operatives

Many of you will have enjoyed on Facebook the posts about the Operatives and their patrols, contributed by Management aka Phil Piper. Phil has kindly agreed to write a regular column about these delightful dogs and their escapades. In this issue he tells how it all started.

It was February 27 2018 and snowing lightly when my daughter Lisa and I set out to go to GRF kennels in Kinross to collect two wee lurcher girls who had chosen me two days before.

As we approached our destination, the snow became a blizzard and visibility was severely reduced. We met Celia and Jimmy who were surprised to see us as they had phoned and said it was blizzarding and not to come, but as we had already left we didn't get the message.

My new girls were brought out from their kennel and turned their faces up to look at me, "Little angels" I thought, and so our adventure began.

The girls were Flash (brindle, extrovert) mum, and Misty (blue merle) her daughter.

After the formalities we needed to get away before the weather closed in even more and the roads became impassable. The dogs jumped right into the back of the car without any problem and seemed used to travelling as they snuggled together and were calm. And we needed them to be as the journey home took nearly 2 hours instead of the normal 40 minutes, because visibility was poor and it was difficult to see where the sides of the road were.

Having finally arrived home we entered the house via the back garden to let them see where toileting was to be done and were rewarded with the desired results from both of them. With their leads attached we did a brief tour of their new home and again they took everything in their stride. They sniffed the beds which although newly washed, had been previously owned by our rainbow bridge whippets, and immediately crashed onto the larger one and were asleep within minutes.



This is going to be easy I thought, little knowing that at least one of my "little angels" Ashy, was in fact "a pointy nosed demon". Lisa and I made tea to warm us and thought about their names. Misty really suited our beautiful blue merle girl, but Flash did not seem right for my brindle girl. As Flash was aged 4 we didn't want to change her name too much and decided to drop the 'F' and she became Ash or Ashy.

I spent the night on the couch with them and apart from one nocturnal bathroom break they were fine. The next day with snow lying deeply in up to 2 foot drifts in places, we went for our first walk. As soon as they saw the countryside around them, they were both hopping about on the end of their leads like whirling dervishes, tangling me so that it was impossible to move, while they cavorted about. I think they had been town dogs and were quite overwhelmed by the scents of the countryside. They reminded me of children let loose in a sweetie shop.

We took the track leading to a half mile of landing strip, rented from the landowner and used by a local group of microlight flyers. The strip is well tended grass and is bordered on each side by banks of rough grasses, this being the home to many rabbits, voles, mice etc. My two didn't know where to look first and as soon as Misty had found something interesting, Ashy came over and it's like she was saying "what have you got!" They went into "bloodhound" mode which required me to go in two directions at once, and that wasn't going to work, so they were told to calm down and sit for a treat. After about a mile of this frantic investigation of each and every tussock of grass, I noticed a pattern in the way they were quartering the territory and working as a team. Their sudden excursions to first one side and then the other, made me think of old monochrome movies with "G-men" pointing their weapons around corners while

searching for “the bad guys”. With “my guys” it was their pointy noses that were probed into every nook and cranny, and this was done with no less intensity than their human counterparts and as if their very lives depended on it. While walking I thought “this isn’t a walk, we are on patrol”, and patrols are conducted by government agents. This led me to think about my girls as Operatives on a mission to keep their territory free from marauding creatures, and so the legend that is “The Operatives” was born. *(To be continued)*

Information for Volunteers

Due to the continuing Covid situation, GRF is sorry that all volunteering is suspended until further notice. This includes both daytime volunteering and the night shift.

Monthly Walks

Monthly walks are also suspended until the covid restrictions are eased. Keep an eye on the GRF Forum and on Facebook for updates on this.

Easyfundraising

When doing your online buying please don't forget to shop through Easyfundraising. There are new retailers eg Next joining the scheme all the time and specials offers and competitions all the time. Please remember it costs you nothing extra to shop via Easyfundraising but will raise funds for the homeless hounds. We have now raised over £2300.

To find out more and join the other GRFers raising money this way please follow this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/greyhoundfife/>

There is a pinned post on the forum with more information about this.

Curtains

Many of you will know that Sheila and her friend Maria have, for several years, made dog beds from curtains and duvets. We bring the beds to the kennels where they are sold for £8 each – all profit for GRF as we have no overheads. Normally we ask people to hand in their curtains to the kennels but at the moment this is no longer possible. But please don't throw them out. We would be most grateful if you would store them in your house and bring them along when the covid situation allows. (NB Please do not bring duvets as we have an endless supply of these from another charity.)

Contributions Welcome

If you would like to tell fellow greyhound owners anything about your dogs and what you do together, please email us. greyhoundsmc@outlook.com

With Thanks

We would like to thank Celia, Jimmy, Steve, Fiona, Murray and Phil for their help with this issue. And, of course, to Dylan and Hannah for advice on producing the Newsletter.