

# Greyhound Rescue Fife

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



## Kennel News

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



## Meet Pinza and Lady

These are our Dogs of the Month.



## 2019 Year of the Puppies

New series following the GRF puppies in their forever homes.

Welcome to the May edition of the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Sheila and Eion.

We are sure you have great photos of your own lovely hounds. If you would like to see them featured as future front page stars, please email them to us.

greyhoundsmc@outlook.com

## Kennel News

Jimmy tells us that there is a high score draw between dogs in and dogs out!

Since the last newsletter

23 dogs have come in. They are:

NELL GLORY DAISY THOMAS SOPHIE EMILY HOPE CEECEE DOTTIE RAZZLE SILVIE COOPER VIPER VICKI LOUIS YOGI BELLE JOE RIO MAC ROSIE PINZA LADY.

and 23 dogs have been adopted. They are:

BARBIE ROSIE RAZZLE NELL GLORY COOPER VICKI SOPHIE SHANNON JEANNIE KATIE VICKI SPARKY FERN CHARLIE DAISY CEECEE MAY HEART LOUIS BELLE FRED EMILY.

We are delighted that long-term resident Sparky has now found his forever family.

## Dog of the Month

We have a special rehoming appeal this month. Pinza and Lady are a beautiful pair of dogs who have sadly arrived back at GRF due to the owner's ill health. We would like to rehome them as soon as possible as they are used to home life and being much loved pets. They are 8 and 9 years old and are in excellent condition with no health problems. They are quiet, easy going dogs who are very friendly. They are housetrained, great on the lead and must be rehomed together as they love each other very much. All the usual adoption requirements apply, please call Celia on 07826244765 if interested.



## Dog Walks

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

Beechraigs Country Park is a huge park covering over 900 acres, set in the Bathgate hills a few miles from Linlithgow. There are a number of surfaced and semi surfaced paths, a playground, a loch and an animal attraction/farm. It's popular with walkers, dog walkers and cyclists – there is a mountain bike skills area and some of the paths to the south of the park are shared use. There are a number of waymarked routes and plenty of variety – you can visit many times and do different walks taking as much or as little time as you want. We tend to use the car parks to the east of the park – there's one at the visitor centre, a smaller one by the animal attraction and two others. There are also two other car parks to the west of the park near the playground.

Follow the link below for a map which shows car parks and pathways:

[https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/1344/Beechraigs-Country-Park-Map-and-Waymarked-Routes/pdf/Beechraigs\\_Park\\_Waymarked\\_Routes\\_map\\_2019.pdf?m=637151314276330000](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/1344/Beechraigs-Country-Park-Map-and-Waymarked-Routes/pdf/Beechraigs_Park_Waymarked_Routes_map_2019.pdf?m=637151314276330000)



## Greyhound Rescue Fife Lucky Number Draw

*Fiona Smith tells us about the Lucky Number Draws which she runs to raise funds for GRF.*

We started the GRF Lucky Number draws in 2008 as a way of raising money to help out with the upkeep of the homeless hounds but with the added bonus of offering a prize to the holder of the "Lucky Number". 60% of the prize fund goes to GRF and the remaining 40% to the winner. The first draw took place at Beveridge Park in Kirkcaldy on Sunday 2nd November 2008 with Celia drawing the winning number which was



number 72 and at that time belonged to Ian Wallace who supported the draw for 6 months. Ian won £37.60 and GRF received £56.40. Celia pictured receiving her first cheque and Ian with his cheque.



In the first year we collected a total of £1338. This was split £802.80 to GRF with £532.20 to the winners. Twelve years later by the end of 2020 we collected a total of £2670 with £1602 going to GRF and £1068 to the winners, a significant increase. Up to the end of 2020 we have collected a fantastic £9899 for GRF and £6608 has gone to the winners. It is amazing how £2.00 a month adds up and being able to collect this money for GRF is all thanks to everyone who takes part each month.

Until the lockdown came into force last year, the draws took place at the monthly walks and for the time being they are taking place by live video on Facebook on the second Sunday of each month using our highly technical machine! (*picture opposite*). After the draw the money is transferred to GRF via PayPal and the winner can receive their winning amount the same way or by bank transfer. We've modernised from the cheques from the early days.



We started off with 90 numbers but after a number of years the lucky number draws have gained more supporters and we now have an additional 90 balls, these new balls being marked with an X from 1 – 90, but with just as much luck as the others. The original balls have been replaced. A couple got chewed by Mistie and were fortunately spat out which saved me having to wait for them to reappear, although they were a little rough around the edges, the bingo machine has lasted for all these years!

If you wish to take part in the draws and help raise some money for the hounds awaiting their forever homes the rules are fairly simple. Each number costs £2.00 per month. You can choose a number(s) from the spare numbers on the list and your name will be added next to the number of your choice. You can pay for these numbers by monthly standing order directly into the GRF Lucky Number bank account or by paying for a few months in advance or even just one month, every £2.00 is very welcome as the more numbers sold the more money is raised for GRF.

Fiona can be contacted by email at [grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk), on Facebook or Messenger when you can choose your number. Bank details will be sent privately.

## 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.*

Last time, I explained how my little lurcher girls became known as 'The Operatives'. My mother and daughter duo are Ashy the brindles mum, and daughter Misty a blue merle. In this episode I relate how Ashy made a bid for freedom, just days after moving in to my home.

Ashy was the trouble maker and always instigated any mayhem on offer. During our home visit it was noted that my fencing needed some help to be totally secure. I called in a fencing company to install a 6 foot fence and two gates, however because of the weather, there was a delay of 10 days before the work could be completed. I was in the habit of putting a lead on the girls when letting them out for their toilet, but on one occasion, Ashy slipped out of the back door in a bid for freedom. She sniffed at the hedge and then took one look at my pathetic four and a half foot gate and cleared it with a standing jump. Some feat as she was only 23 inches at the shoulder.

I should explain that we are a mile from any road, so I wasn't concerned about that. However, she had gone into our adjacent 9-acre field, the home of six ex-race horses and I was concerned about her being either trampled or kicked. Luckily the horses were at the far end of the field, and Ashy was in sight although it was starting to get dark. All the time I was calling her and thinking "I've only had this dog a few days and I've lost her already!" This is where I learned about Ashy's quirky personality. She would let me get to within a few feet of her, and then bound away through the snow drifts, a big grin on her face and leaving me to stumble after her. After 15 minutes of this she finally allowed me to catch her, put on her lead and take her home, but not before performing her own version of a 'snow angel' . She thought this was a great game and I guess that the score was Ashy 1, Phil 0.



The Fence

## 2019 – Year of the Puppies

*Until 2019 GRF had not had any greyhound puppies but this was all to change in the autumn when not one but two dogs were handed in which turned out to be pregnant. Over the next issues we will be featuring each of the puppies and how their lives in their forever homes have developed. We start with “Scary Mary”.*



In August 2019 Doloris came into the kennels. She had been used for breeding in the past so the skin around her belly was a bit loose but other than that she seemed happy and had settled into her kennel that day alongside a male dog. Jimmy took her out for the toilet that night before turning the lights off and letting the dogs go to sleep. Nobody had any idea that she was pregnant but the following morning, there was a beautiful puppy cuddling into her. There was no signs of water, blood or afterbirth and the beautiful puppy, Mary, was totally groomed, yet both dogs were muzzled. Nobody has any idea how this happened. It was a little miracle.

Amanda Wells, Mary’s human Mummy, takes up the story.

We kept the name Mary as it meant a lot to Celia and Jimmy. Although it was “Mary the Miracle” because of how she was born, we’ve come to know her as Scary Mary or “Wee Scary”. We love her name and it really suits her. The Mary part as well as Scary!

I was at the kennels a few days after our dog Nick died. We had lost both Nick and Patch within a few months of each other which took us down to just three greyhounds. Celia and Jimmy were very keen for mum Deloris and Mary to be rehomed together and they saw two spaces in my home! Within days, Deloris and Mary were in my car heading back to Dalkeith. I never expected to have a greyhound pup so it did take some adjustment. I’ve had 15 greyhounds over 20 odd years and never actually had a pup so it was strange! Having mum was really special too.

It was like having a toddler around where everything had to be moved up high. Initially we had to limit the time she had with the other dogs because they just weren’t used to the whirlwind pup – despite the number of dogs here, it had been a quiet calm and peaceful home! I didn’t want anyone getting fed up with the chaos.

Deloris took much longer to settle. We fed Mary separately from the others because she wouldn’t stop wandering around and ducking her head in their food bowls. However because Deloris didn’t see her being fed, she started regurgitating her food for Mary to eat so we had to start making sure Deloris saw Mary being fed. Deloris was an exceptional mum so, for example, we had to try to split walks so Deloris was getting out without Mary and vice versa in order for Deloris to relax more which she eventually did to the point where she wasn’t even looking for Mary after a walk. They’re not particularly close now, although they are clearly very fond of each other.

Mary bonded very quickly with Yohann (was Kyle) and they are now inseparable. Deloris has bonded with Georgia (was Dixie). Lola-Rose, who died shortly after Mary arrived, was very taken with Mary but she was blind and Mary didn’t understand when she leapt on poor Lola-Rose, she got a fright.

We booked Mary in for puppy training classes and she started those relatively quickly after arriving. She attended two blocks of training and we’ve had some one-to-ones with the trainer over her on-lead walking – she’s still a nightmare! But she does sit like a real dog and we keep her training going. She’s a bright wee girl and picked things up very quickly at training class. Once restrictions ease, we will be attending the GRF walks with her to help with socialising.

I did worry about a pup and her mum being in the house with three other fully grown dogs but they all seemed to love her from the start and the ones who had never really played before are now just as playful as her. Instantly Georgia took over as Mary’s “pupsitter” and Deloris seemed to be happy to get a rest so let Georgia get on with it! Deloris just settled in as if she’d always been here – she’s such a sweet girl. Mary didn’t have the littermates the others did so she missed out as she didn’t get that rough and tumble so we did feel sorry for Deloris as Mary used to grab her collar and drag her around the kitchen. The other dogs were very good with her – much better than I expected.

Mary is a real character. She's not particularly like the other greyhounds as she's got much more energy and she's quite cocky and confident. She absolutely loves her toys and can usually be found throwing them around and we find her toys in the strangest places! She loves her walks and exploring. She is a livewire and depending on her level of energy, she does like to randomly jump at people and other dogs she meets. She loves her treats so we continually work through this with her but then she forgets so we start again! She likes her own way – all the time.

We take her to Run-Free fields when we can, though Mary has to stay on lead when the others are off-lead because she creates havoc! She loves her walks in the country park where she likes paddling in the river but her absolute favourite is the paddling pool and hose when it's warm outside – she loves water. She loves walking with Yohann who is always on cat alert, Mary likes to bite his face as they're walking along but Yohann tends to just ignore her.

Mary hates it when we go out without her – she starts a howling chorus with the other dogs. It doesn't last for long but she likes to be with us at all times. We're working on this at the moment to get her used to this when we go back to work.

Last month she became a canine blood donor for the first time and swaggered into the vet hospital without a backwards glance! She goes with Yohann and, because she became unsettled when he wasn't in the room with her, they've given special dispensation for Yohann to be with her while she donates. She's negative blood type which means her blood can go to any other dog. She did very well and gave the full pint of blood which will have gone on to save the lives of up to four other dogs.

Sweet beautiful Deloris has unfortunately been diagnosed with Thyroid Cancer. She's not unwell but she does have a fast growing tumour. Deloris is being spoiled and pampered at the moment. We adore Deloris - she's such a sweet and loving girl and this diagnosis is heart-breaking for us. It just seems so unfair.

Greyhound pups. They're something else! I wouldn't change the experience we've had with Mary and her mum for the world. It's obvious Mary's not quite the same as the other greyhounds and I'm sure that's down to having a home environment rather than kennels and racing. She's much more like a regular dog! The puppy classes helped immensely. Finding a good trainer, like Becky from East Coast Dog Training, who understood the specifics of sight hounds was essential. Mary is a very happy well-adjusted girl and she's so much fun. We are so grateful for Celia and Jimmy trusting us with these very special girls.



## Information for Volunteers

As the covid situation eases, volunteers are gradually returning to the kennels. If you wish to know more about volunteering, contact Celia – 07826244765.

## Monthly Walks

Monthly walks are still suspended until the covid restrictions are eased.

The date for the 2021 Global Greyhound Walk is Sunday, September 9th. If covid restrictions permit we hope that GRF will participate in this.

Keep an eye on the GRF Forum and on Facebook for updates.

## 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.) As soon as we are allowed to go into one another's houses we will be starting bedmaking again. So please bear with us and hang on to your curtains a little longer.

## 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](mailto:greyhoundsmc@outlook.com)

## With Thanks

We would like to thank Celia, Jimmy, Steve, Fiona, Amanda and Phil for their help with this issue.