

Greyhound Rescue Fife

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



Caterpillars Galore

GRF hounds have been getting lots of caterpillar toys. Turn to pages 3 and 4 to see a selection of them.



Welcome to the June edition of the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Sheila and Eion.



Kennel News

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



Meet Bobby

This is our Dog of the Month.



Tales from the Archives

Continuing our series describing GRF's development from modest beginnings in 2005.

Kennel News

Dogs In and Out

Since the last newsletter 29 dogs have come in. They are:

Lassie Gigha Magic Sharon Spike Mermaid Josie Penny Sid Dec Benny Negan Maiden Kinnie Ben Crash Queen Lady Dottie Chip Pixie Lily Flash Isla Fleetwood Dave Morris Jeff Coco.

And 36 dogs have been adopted. They are:

Dior Jet Alfie Gigha Fergie Mambo Josie Johnny Magic Josie Honey Megan Sharon Blaze Sky Benny Sid Kinni Dolly Duke Tara Banner Candy Leo Thomas Rose Flash Indigo Topsy Lark Chief Nettie Pixie Lady Coco Fleetwood Maiden.

Dog of the Month

Bobby is bouncy, bright and ever so handsome. A three year old who is slightly built for a greyhound, not big and macho. He is a dinky soul who is quite portable and won't take up much space. He has a sweet wee face and a gorgeous coat with a white tuxedo bib. As for his wavy ears, they are super dynamic, first flapped down, then forward and then to the side just like a hat. Bobby also has the most stunning eyes, he looks straight at you and you can see he has so much love to give. He is a good walker on the lead and walks well with his kennel neighbour and big buddy Matt. Bobby is sociable with most fellow greyhounds although he can bark when he sights a couple of particular boys from GRF in front of him, however with reassurance he is easily managed. When Bobby went on a walk to the park he was good in the car and settled well. He does have a prey drive and when he saw two cats he wanted to chase them, again Bobby is manageable on a lead and a harness would help with this along with plenty of reassurance. At the park he met two small dogs, who reacted and barked simultaneously with him! He then saw two retrievers in the distance and he didn't react. He could live with a dog of a similar size with measured and slow introductions. If you could offer wee Bobby a loving home please call Celia on 07826244765.



Caterpillars Galore!





Part 2 - The Way We Were

(Continuing our series which looks at the development of Greyhound Rescue Fife)

We finished the article in the previous issue of the Newsletter at the point when GRF had just achieved the adoption of its 500th greyhound but things certainly didn't stop there...

In 2013 Celia received some well-deserved recognition when she was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to animal welfare. News of this honour came as a total surprise to Celia. Some of the volunteers has secretly nominated her. Celia knew nothing of this and when she received a letter from the Prime Minister's Office, she thought it was a wind up and accused Jimmy of playing a prank on her.



Typically Celia modestly said that the medal was not just for her but for all the workers and volunteers at GRF. Celia was presented with her medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife and the Provost of Fife. The photo shows Celia all glammed up, wearing her medal after the presentation.

As GRF became better known as a charity, it was able to benefit from the group volunteering schemes of large private and public companies. The employees of such organisations are typically given one or two days each year when, instead of going into work, they can volunteer at a charity for the day. One of the first groups of volunteers to do this was Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) in 2016 when a team of 20 volunteers spent a total of three days at the Balfour kennels. This was part of SGN's Community Action Plan. The SGN Team Manager had organised a smaller group the previous summer. This had gone so well that when she put out an appeal for volunteers, she was inundated with offers of help. At that point additional kennels were being erected and the volunteers were moving bags of gravel to the area where these new kennels were to be erected.

Helping greyhounds is a gas for volunteers

By Ross Hart

Reporter
rhart@dunfermlinepress.co.uk

A TEAM of 20 animal-loving volunteers from gas distribution company SGN have spent three days at a greyhound rescue centre in Fife, looking after the dogs and helping the centre's owners prepare for the arrival of its newly-donated kennels.

Around 70 dogs that have come to the end of their racing career are cared for at Greyhound Rescue Fife on Balthree Farm, near Gairney Bank. The self-funded centre was set up in 2005 by Celia and Jimmy Fernie, who used their life savings to get the project off the ground and have since re-homed 960 unwanted hounds.

Three teams of volunteers, all from SGN's Dunfermline depot, helped out at the rescue centre. As well as walking, grooming and caring for its canine residents, they also helped prepare the



The SGN volunteers at Greyhound Rescue Fife.

Such volunteering has continued over the years. Some volunteer groups walk and groom the dogs; others do a bit of gardening or painting. Basically the groups will turn their hands to anything that needs done.

GRF reached its next milestone as they celebrated the adoption of their 1000th greyhound in 2017. This was three year old Lorna who had been at the kennels for three months until she stole the hearts of the Roe family. Homing Lorna was a tricky task as she suffered from renal problems. Although treatable, conditions like this can often discourage people from adopting. However greyhound lover Debbie Roe took pity on the lovely girl and she and her husband Stewart took her home to live with their other four greyhounds who were also adopted from GRF. At the time, Jimmy said they were already looking forward to the next milestone – 1500 adopted dogs.

To be continued....

Inverkeithing Community Big Band Concert

On May 19th Phil Piper once again organised a concert by the Inverkeithing Community Big Band, all proceeds of which were donated to Greyhound Rescue Fife. As usual, these talented musicians put on a stupendous show which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. The concert raised £1035 in total (£785 in ticket sales and £250 from the raffle.) Thanks to Phil and the Band.



The man himself

June 2024

An Evening at the Musicals



Freya Riley organised an innovative event on May 26th at the Laurel Bank Hotel in Glenrothes in aid of GRF and the Peacocks in Pittencrief Park. Freya told us why she chose these two charities. “It was important to me that the money made from my event went to two really worthy causes. I decided on the peacocks and greyhounds because I wanted to choose 2 causes which were unique and didn’t often get fundraising like this. I am also a huge animal lover and love supporting any animal charities, and as these two were local to me I felt they were two great causes. Along with that, I felt they were deserving because both organisations are run solely by volunteers and are completely non-profit, everything they do is about the animals and you can tell how passionate they are about them just by speaking to or visiting them. “

On the evening, a large variety of activities took place. Freya tells us more:

- Live music from local young singers - musical theatre songs chosen and performed by individuals from around Fife, with a whole sound system and lights provided by Blue Parrot (Rhys and Mike) free of charge.
- Tombola - lots of exciting prizes were won on this game
- Grand raffle with lots of prizes donated by local businesses - including hair and beauty vouchers, food vouchers, hampers, a ukulele, alcohol and more!
- Wine or dog food game - all dog food from the game was donated to the greyhounds, and all wine was won! We made £48 from this game alone.
- Irish bingo - we had over 40 entries to the Irish bingo, with our winner receiving a self-care hamper!!
- Penny throwing - a litre bottle of vodka was won and £24 made from this game!
- Guess the peacock’s birthday - well done to Niamh Sanchez who guessed the correct birthday of 11th December.
- Mystery prize draw for all ticket holders - there was a child and adult winner
- Crisps, juice and biscuits were available to everyone - including vegan and gluten free options!
- Kids corner with a colouring competition - well done to Grace Black who was chosen as the winner!
- Sponsored leg wax was done by my partner David the day before - he had both legs waxed by Tammy from “Tammy and Laura at Canmore” and raised lots of money from this! It was live-streamed to Facebook where people got a good laugh!
- Thanks to “Leave It To Lou” who provided an easel, sign and balloons to welcome people in to the event free of charge.

The final total raised was £1,225, meaning each organisation received £612.50 each. Freya says she is so happy to have raised this amount for each organisation, which she knows will go towards ensuring all the animals are safe, well cared for, and thriving!

Thanks a million, Freya, for choosing GRF. It is really appreciated.

Party Cannon

GRF were over the moon to receive a visit from Chris, Klaudia and ex-rescue dog, Calypso with a huge donation of doggie items plus an amazing cash donation of £1100 which Chris' band Party Cannon raised at a recent fundraising gig, Chris and Claudia also gave a big shout out to their friend Joseph who wasn't able to come to the rescue with them that day but played a large part in the fund raising.



Jollyes Pet Shop



Caroline Reith continues to take homeless hounds along to Jollyes pet shop in Glenrothes. This is a splendid opportunity to raise awareness of greyhounds as pets and to publicise the work of GRF. We think you will agree that Sid is a splendid ambassador for the breed.

Having a jolly time at Jollyes



When Sharon was taken to Jollyes, she was delighted when Neil and Laura Thomson called by with ex- GRF hounds Vickie and Jimmy.

A Sunday in Hell!



Fife Adventure Gravelers
Invite You To ...

A Sunday In Hell

A homage to Paris Roubaix - supported by Kinross Cycling Club

Sunday 31st March 10am
Kelty Community Centre

A self supported ride - 37 challenging miles across Fife
(route provided 2-weeks in advance)

Entry by donation - £10 suggested - all proceeds will go
to Greyhound Rescue Fife

Tea, coffee and home baking at the finish line
Check out "A Sunday In Hell - Fife" on Facebook for more info

Brad Oliver and friends raised over £1300 at the "Sunday in Hell" event in Kelty in March. Unusually after days of wet weather the sun actually shone on the riders, although the off road sections were still wet which made for hard going. Celia and Jimmy went along to Kelty to cheer the riders on.



Greyt Greyhound Gear

Liz Stewart and Greyt Greyhound Gear not only make and sell high quality dog coats but also regularly donate to GRF from their profits. Recently GRF has received £500 from coats sales plus two further donations of £100 and £200 sent via Liz Stewart. In this photo the coats are modelled by Steve and Julie Dowd's dogs.



Blood Donations

We frequently feature in the Newsletter greyhounds who donate blood. Most of you will know that the Pet Blood Bank are particularly keen to get donations of blood from greyhounds because they are “universal donors”, that is their blood can be given to any breed of dog. Each donation can save up to four dogs. To find out more go to

[Can your dog donate blood? | Pet Blood Bank UK](#)



Brodie has given 22 donations to date - what a hero. Dave has given his fourth donation.

Monthly Dog Walks

February

February's walk was at Lochore Meadows near Lochgelly. In spite of a dismal forecast during the week and thick fog over the Forth on the day, the weather was remarkably good for the walk. A total of 46 hounds and honorary hounds joined in and a total of £215 was raised from Laura's bracelets, the raffle, pound-a-hound, a snood and a calendar.



March

In spite of poor weather, the turnout for March's walk at Dysart Harbour/Ravenscraig Park was surprisingly good - 48 hounds and honorary hounds. Between the raffle and Pound a Hound a total of £154.40 was raised.



April

A total of 54 hounds and honorary hounds went to April's Monthly Walk at West Sands Beach, St Andrews. The recent high winds and storms made dropping onto the beach a bit more challenging than usual, and the threat of a downpour cut the walk short.

A total of £264 was raised:

£50 - the auctioned coat won by Neil Thomson for Jimmy

£60 - Jimmy Jazzles - thanks Arual Nosmoht

£56 - pound-a-hound

£87 - raffle - thanks Jemma

£11 - stickers - thanks Mary Rodgers

Jemma also managed to sell some coats at the end.



May

The sun was out for May's Monthly Walk at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline. A total of 51 hounds and honorary hounds joined in, and raised a total of £175 between the raffle and Pound-a-Hound



June

June's GRF walk at Beveridge Park, Kirkcaldy saw lots of sunshine. Sixty hounds and honorary hounds came along, and we raised a total of £324.85 between the raffle, pound-a-hound and GRF Mugs sold by Mary Rodgers.



The next walk will be on Sunday 14th July, starting at 11.00am. The venue will be notified on Facebook.

Lucky Number Draws

Thanks to Fiona for all her efforts in running the Lucky Number Draws which continue to provide a steady income for GRF. The monthly summaries are given below:

February Numbers in draw 309. Amount to GRF £370.80 Amount to winner £247.20

March Numbers in draw 321. Amount to GRF £385.20 Amount to winner £256.80

April Numbers in draw 292. Amount to GRF £350.40 Amount to winner £233.60

May Numbers in draw 289. Amount to GRF £346.80 Amount to winner £231.20

June Numbers in draw 285. Amount to GRF £342.00 Amount to winner £228.00

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.

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 all contributors for their help with this issue.