

# GRF



# NEWS

*Designed by Sally E Calder*

January 2010

*Changing the world  
one greyhound at a time!*

*Welcome to this month's newsletter; hope everyone had a great Christmas. This month we have our dog of the month, Lucki. We also have a familiar face in our "from the doghouse" article. A little heads up on how to keep your hound safe while out walking. We have a few interesting facts about greyhound's as well. And lots more! Hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.*

## **Kennel update**

Very quiet at Baltree this month!

## **Incomers**

Blackie, Katie and Zoe

## **Outgoing**

Dingo and Rafa

The kitchen units at the kennels have been installed and the roof of the kennels is being extended to overcome some dampness, which has come in.

Nothing much else to report except that the extreme weather has meant that walking the dogs has been extremely curtailed. We have over 30cms of snow and temperatures down well below -10 degrees C. Roll on summer!

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## Precious

Saddest point is that Precious aka Lily aka Stella was put to sleep by her owners.  
RIP Precious.



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## Thank you area

Greyhound Rescue Fife would like to thank, most sincerely, Jane Stirling, Course Tutor, and Sabrina Tilt and fellow students of the Animal Care Course at Elmwood College, Cupar, for collecting and donating £722.83 towards the welfare of our homeless hounds.

Your efforts over the year are most appreciated indeed by GRF and will help us care for our homeless dogs.

We thoroughly enjoyed your visit to our kennels and we wish you all every success in your pursuits.

Greyhound Rescue Fife would like to thank everyone at Carnegie College who dropped a tin of dog food in the GRF Christmas boxes. The picture shows the Scott family, Alan (who works at the college), Angela and Samara with FONZI, with the tins collected for the dogs at Christmas.



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## Dog of the month

This month's dog is Lucki, rescued from Greyhound Awareness League by Fiona, even though she is a whippet cross!



Likes: Training, cuddling in under the duvet

Dislikes: Rain, Kyla stealing my ball

Biggest achievement(s): Being the boss of Jack and Kyla, Gold Good Citizen Award

Favourite food: Sardines and yoghurt



What do you like doing best? Chasing a ball over and over and over again!

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## Lucky Number - December draw

66 numbers have been sold this month giving a prize fund of £132.00. This will be split as £52.80 to the winner and £79.20 to GRF.

Celia drew the winning number, which was number 22, this month which belongs to Laura Whiteford. Laura got a cheque for £52.80 and GRF got a cheque for £79.20. Thanks to everyone who participates in this.

Congratulations Laura.

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## December Walk

Hope you all enjoyed the Kirkcaldy walk. Probably the only nice day we've had for ages. Imagine no rain on the walk!

We again thank Gordon and Fiona's lucky numbers for raising £79.20.

Thanks to Michele whose lovely hand painted GRF bags raised £50.

Kate's scrumptious liver cake sold for £16.

The raffle raised £43.12 🍀

Calendars, cards, pencils, stocking fillers and donations contributed £63.50.

A whopping great £100 Christmas donation for the dogs which we thank Graham and Jenni Jones most sincerely.

This gives a most fantastic Christmas total for our homeless dogs of £351.82.

We most sincerely thank everyone who helped raise this fantastic total.

Thanks to Kate, Samantha, Samara and Mary for selling our goods at the walk.

Thanks go to David Campbell for some absolutely superb donations for the raffles.

Very special thanks goes to George, Morag, Karen and Ian who held the kennels together while we were all having fun.

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## Merchandise

### *GRF hand painted cotton shoulder bags*

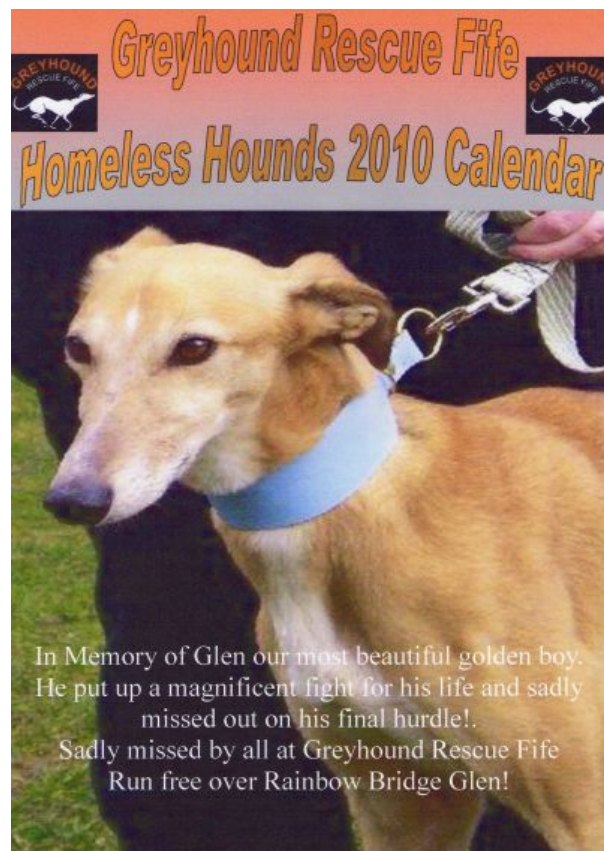
If anyone still wants a shoulder bag please let me know and I will do you one- £5 all proceeds to the homeless hounds.

I'm also going to do some cotton drawstring rucksacks (kids' PE bag). They will have a roller blading greyhound cartoon drawn especially for GRF by Simone of Nellie's Blog fame.

George's Homeless Hounds calendar 2010 is now available for you to print off. It is a really lovely calendar, just as was the one that George did for 2009. This time it's even better as it gives an overview of the work that goes on at GRF and also the cover page is a lovely tribute to Glen who sadly died in 2009 after heroic efforts on his part and everyone involved in his rescue.

### *Homeless Hounds calendar*

The picture to the right just shows the cover



page, so to see all the rest of this great calendar you will have to print it off, it may take a while to download it to your computer, depending on your internet speed as it's a large file, but I promise you it's worth waiting for. To give you an idea it took about 50 seconds on my computer to download. Just copy the link below into your browser to download the calendar and you will be very pleased that you waited.

<http://www.greyhoundrescuefife.com/calendar2010.pdf>

If you want to make a donation to GRF for the calendar that would be wonderful.

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### Why choose a greyhound as a pet?



Every year around 9,000 greyhounds are retired from racing, usually only aged 3 or 4 years old. There are always greyhounds looking for their 'forever home' and many people simply do not realise that they make excellent family pets.

**Gentle** - they are used to being handled by many different people and once settled in a home are outgoing and confident without being dominant.

**Lazy** - contrary to popular belief they do not need a lot of exercise and are happy with two twenty minute lead walks per day.

**Size** - although a larger dog, they are quiet around the house so appear to take up less room than many smaller lively dogs.

**Cats** - some greyhounds can live very happily in a home with cats.



*They are magnificent-a true companion-unconditional love.*

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## From the Doghouse!

This month we have a familiar face from a previous newsletter. **JACKIE** is a three year old gorgeous boy who is unfortunately still waiting for his forever home.



**JACKIE** is one of the most beautiful looking greyhounds we have ever seen. He is a happy-go-lucky guy who absolutely delights in

human company and he is housetrained. He is a very friendly boy who would be happy to play the entire day! When he is hungry he will certainly let you know, in the kennels he barks constantly to make sure you don't forget about his dinner! When he is going his walk you have 15 seconds pandemonium and then he settles down to walking nicely. He is neutered and gets on well with other dogs. He will make a super, beautiful pet greyhound.

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



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## Greyhound facts



- Greyhounds are the fastest breed of dog in existence; they can reach speeds of up to 45 miles per hour over a short distance.

- In 1014 AD the English Forest Laws stated that only noblemen could own and hunt with greyhounds. To kill a greyhound was punishable by death.
- Racing greyhounds are bred for their speed, they are therefore not susceptible to the congenital defects or temperament problems of many other breeds. Only the fastest, healthiest and best tempered animals are generally used as breeding stock.
- Queen Victoria and King Henry VIII kept greyhounds.
- Generally, greyhounds are unable to sit. Some can manage to sit, but for most, it is physically impossible or at the very least extremely uncomfortable. In most cases the legs are too long and "muscled up" for a sit position to be achieved.
- The structure of a greyhound's short and almost odorless coat, which only molts (coats in greyhound language) to a small degree means that greyhounds can be suitable to live successfully with people who are otherwise generally allergic to dogs.
- Greyhounds are commonly known as "45mph couch potatoes". They can sprint very fast, but are equally as happy to snooze the day away.
- A greyhound has stereoscopic vision. This means that it is best suited to seeing moving objects. They often don't see stationary objects - so when calling your greyhound back to you, you are best to be moving around. That way they can see and hear you.
- The greyhound is the only breed of dog mentioned in The Bible. Proverbs 30, verses 29-31.

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## Greys around the world



### **National Greyhound Adoption Program**

<http://www.ngap.org/>

National Greyhound Adoption Program was founded in Philadelphia, PA in 1989. Our main goals are, and have always have been:

- To help find loving, adoptive homes for former racing greyhounds
- To provide superior knowledge and support for greyhound adopters and other adoption groups
- To educate the public and spread awareness about the plight of the greyhound
- To provide specialized medical care specifically geared towards the greyhound

NGAP's first few adoptions took place in the early 1990s. Greyhounds were flown a few at a time from Florida to Philadelphia and adopters were often met at the airport to pick-up their new dog. We later began hauling greyhounds up from Florida in a large truck. Because we were now driving the greyhounds instead of flying them, more could be saved - often up to 30 at a time! Of course, along with more greyhounds came the need for more space.

This being so, in 1992, NGAP built its own kennel facility to accommodate this growing number of rescued racing greyhounds.



## Meet our Models



Both Sabrina and Queen are former racers. Sabrina came to NGAP when she was 4 and Queen was 7.

**Sabrina's** second career is that of a registered therapy dog. She spends several days a week at places like Abington Hospital, nursing homes, assisted living facilities or hospice centers. Her love of children engages her in reading programs at the YMCA where she reads to preschoolers or is read to by elementary children. The kids delight at crawling under Sabrina in a game of "Greyhound Bridge". Sabrina's owner delights in providing her with a career wardrobe of fancy martingales for every occasion.

**Queen** spends her days as our office greeter where her owner works. She enjoys trying out all new bed styles to make sure they are just right. Her weekends are usually spent raising money for NGAP at flea markets. Stuffed toys and treats are her weakness and she can be found searching the office and stealing treats from the adoption packages.



## Meet Our Tester Cat Stuff

Located in our kennel is a sunlit room filled with carpeted tunnels, ramps and cat trees. Here you will find the NGAP official tester cats romping, playing or just plain lying around enjoying treats and catnip.



At any given time they are introduced to greyhounds. Their job is to help profile the dogs. Our family of cats has been selected based on their personalities that we feel best represent household cats.

Many of our adopters have cats. Our extensive profiling includes exposing every greyhound individually to our resident cats numerous times to determine their response to cats.

## Available hounds

Here are a few of the hounds still hoping to find their forever home through NGAP.



Vanna is a very happy girl. She loves to socialize and is very receptive to attention. She will go to anyone. She adjusts well to new environments, likes toys and plays nicely. She will make an excellent family dog.



Ruben is extremely sweet and loving. He is already well-trained and will sit and give you his paw. He loves to interact with people and will do best in an active home. He loves to run and play and needs a home with a good-sized yard.



Glo is a sweet little girl. She likes her toys and has a gentle disposition. She will pee upon meeting new people and will need time to get acclimated. Children under six may be too much for her. Glo would make a good pet for an apartment dweller or someone with a small home.

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## Greyhound collar security

Have you ever noticed that your Greyhounds' head is narrower than his neck? Most other kinds of dogs' heads are wider than their neck and that keeps their collar secure when out walking. However, it is very easy for a Greyhounds' collar to slip over the head with potentially fatal results. I discovered this first hand one day when I was out delivering door to door. One of our Greys, Katie, likes to come with me when I am doing this and as we were walking along I thought that the lead felt a bit light. I looked behind and discovered that I was dragging an empty collar and lead along the ground with Katie trotting along a few yards behind. The collar had slipped right over her head. I was lucky this time, there weren't any cats about, if there had been I may never have seen Katie again, as with all Greys, she would have been off so fast that by the time she realized she was alone she would have been lost.

What is the answer to this? Well it is certainly NOT to over tighten the collar. Obviously it should be reasonably secure but if it is too tight your dog may choke or be unable to breathe. Certainly he will be very uncomfortable. The first thing is to always be sure that you are behind your Greyhound. Don't get in front or he will be able to simply back out of the collar and leave you holding an empty lead like I was. Better still use a Halti. Even if your dog doesn't pull on the lead a Halti is also the answer here as well. Most dogs soon become accustomed to them and accept them happily; however, if yours doesn't and is not a problem with pulling, then you could try a body harness instead. Whilst these are useless to correct pulling, indeed, they make it worse because the dog has his whole body to pull with, not just his neck; nevertheless, they are better than just a neck collar for security. If you don't want to use either of these methods then please stay at the rear of your precious Greyhound. If he backs out of the collar you may never see him alive again.



Since I wrote the above I have learned of a non-slip collar for Greyhounds. It looks a little like the choker collars, which we certainly would never advise you to use, but these are different. They can't over-tighten as can choker collars, but if your dog starts to pull back the collar tightens just enough to stop his head slipping through. The material that they are made from is a non-slip type that seems very secure to me. The best way for you to see what these collars are like is for you to see one yourself so below is a picture of one. There is also a very good range of collars for Greyhounds at [www.kitschcollars.co.uk](http://www.kitschcollars.co.uk)



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## Fun zone

### Answer to last month's issue

#### *Question*

There was a burglary in the Silver City jewelry store again on Tuesday. A famous jewel was stolen. Three suspects: Robert, Scott, and Tommy were caught and questioned.

Robert said: I am innocent.

Scott said: Tommy did not steal.

Tommy said: I stole it.

Later on, the police found out two of them lied. Who stole the jewel?

#### *Answer*

Since Scott and Tommy contradict each other, one of them lied and the other told the truth. Since according to police, two lied, then Robert must be one of them. Robert told a lie, he stole it.

To verify, if Tommy was the one told the truth, then Tommy should be the thief rather than Robert. In this case Tommy and Robert both told the truth which conflict with what police said. Therefore, we know Scott told the truth only.

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### Dates for the Diary

The following is a list of the first of the greyhound walks for 2010. The weather has been so dreadful recently that I've decided to use "known" walks for the first three months. If anyone is up to the waist in snow they will remember the road back! After these walks I am introducing new venues.

Sunday January 3rd at 11am, Dunfermline Pittencrieff Park

Sunday February 7th at 11am, West Sands St Andrews

Sunday March 7th at 11am, Riverside Park Glenrothes

Sunday 4th April at 11am, Loch Leven Nature Reserve Kinross

Sunday 2nd May the Third Annual GRF dog show at Caldwell's Farm Collessie

Sunday 6th June at 11am, Lochore Meadows Country Park Lochore

Sunday 4th July at 11am, Ravenscraig Park Kirkcaldy

More specific details will be given for each event nearer the time.

Hope you enjoy them!

### And finally

*HAPPY NEW YEAR! ALL  
THE BEST FOR 2010*