

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

February 2010

*Changing the world
One greyhound at a time!*

Welcome to this month's newsletter, well "you can't keep an old dog down" as they say and it is good to be back writing this month's newsletter. I would just like to start by thanking Paula for keeping this monthly newsletter going the last few months while I have been unavailable. It has been an excellent read and I hope I can continue to keep up the high standard she has set.

It has been a busy month at GRF unfortunately starting with the cancellation of our last walk due to bad weather, then there was the small matter of re-homing our 350th greyhound !! we also have a superstar in our mist WILMA, along with Celia and Jimmy they not only did GRF proud but a great advertisement for greys in general when they appeared on the recent hour show on STV. Along with our regular updates we also look at a greyhound sanctuary closer to home in greys around the world, we have further details on the recent Hour show as well as part 1 of our own interview with Celia and Jimmy. I hope you enjoy.

Kennel update

GRF has gone National !! well at least on National TV if you have not already seen our slot on the recent the Hour show on STV then visit the link below

<http://programmes.stv.tv/the-hour/news-gossip/155430-join-the-race-to-rescue-greyhound>

Below is also the article on the STV web site promoting our cause, well done guys you did us proud !!

"Greyhounds are known as racing dogs, but they also make loving, gentle pet, but unfortunately, once they're too old to race at just five-years-old, many are abandoned or put to sleep.

Greyhound Rescue Fife is a sanctuary for unwanted greyhounds in Kinross and Cupar, where Celia and Jimmy Fernie work tirelessly to re-home homeless dogs with new families.

Speaking about why so many greyhounds are left without homes, Jimmy explained: "The specific problem with greyhounds as a breed is they're generally bred not as pets, they're bred as racing dogs, commercial dogs if you like, to make somebody money.



"Sadly if the greyhound is not making somebody money they're not interested in them as pets and there is a distinct possibility the greyhound will be put to sleep."

He added: "Unfortunately there are not enough people re-homing greyhounds to stop that happening universally, so it says to me that in a year maybe 10,000 greyhounds are put to sleep that

would make great pets."

Greyhound Rescue Fife has saved 352 dogs and re-homed 124 last year, but there are many more still needing good homes to go to.

Some people think the dogs will be aggressive pets because they are bred to race and catch animals, but Jimmy explained that this is not the case.

"Greyhounds are bred to race which means they are trained to chase and catch and sometimes they would kill but this is only if they are let off the lead. They then change from being bred to race into a pet, if you like we de-train them and we try and make them good pet dogs."

Greyhounds often have a long and healthy life, and with their career over at just five, they still have many good years to offer their owners.

Celia said: "We have one that's 16-years-old, and (they're) over the hill for racing at five, so the other 10/11 years of their life and beyond, what happens to them then? You've got super pets, loving creatures and that 10 or 11 years when they can be wonderful in someone's home."

An ideal owner for Wilma the greyhound, who Celia and Jimmy showed off on STV's The Hour, would be someone who is home a lot, who has a 6ft secure fence in their garden, to stop the dog from running out and racing. Homes with cats aren't ideal, but Jimmy and Celia have re-homed trained greyhounds to live with the pets before.

If you're interested in giving Wilma or another greyhound a good home, make sure to get in touch with Greyhound Rescue Fife at FERNIEJIMMYF@aol.com

Incomers

LADY, SKIPPY, PADDIE, QUEENIE, TERRY, ASHLEY, WILMA, JET, JACKY, WEE JACK, NIKKI.
- 11 dogs.

Outgoing

BENSON, FONZI, GISMO, TOOTS, DAISY, NEEVA, GEMMA, ASHLEY, KATIE, RASHI, , LADY. BOB and SKIPPY - (13 dogs). The last two on the list going out took us to another milestone that of having now successfully found forever homes for 350 greys (and the number is still going up !)

Thank you area

GRF would like to say a thank you to Sheila MacLagan who not only rehomed one of our greys Baxter, she is also quite happy to knit jackets for greyhounds or supply patterns for these jackets for others to knit. A very kind offer which we thank her for. Obviously at this time of year and especially with the recent weather the greys are very thankful for them, so can you help Sheila out by donating/sending Aran wool, please send to

Sheila MacLagan,

24 Perth Road,

Scone,

PH2 8JJ.

Tel. 01738 550045.

GRF would like to say a massive thank you to Michele, Nic, Dan, Fiona and Ian, for putting together a phenomenal extremely professional calendar which raised a staggering **£650** to help the retired greyhounds. The calendars were bound to be a sell out as they were so good. Dan produced a very professional finished article. DC Thomson added the icing on the cake for us with the finished printed work.

Thanks to all others who helped sell them, etc.

All the photos provided were great. The only thing we would add is Please give us more next year!!!!

We would also like to thank Michele for her painted bags which are in huge demand. They are works of art.

Well done to everybody who helped in the recent Asda bag pack. We raised an amazing **£649:83!!!!** Also a big thank you to Asda, Dalgety Bay and it's very generous customers. We raised such a lot of money in such a short space of time (10am - 4pm).

Anyone who is interested in doing this in their own area only have to write a letter on headed paper from GRF and hand it into customer services at their local supermarket. It's that easy.

Well done again everyone and thank you for all your hard work and devotion and lets do it again!!

Lucky number draw

Due to the cancellation of our last walk no draw was made in January, meaning that there would be a double draw at our St Andrews walk in February. January saw 65 numbers being sold with a prize fund of £130.00 being split as £78.00 to GRF and £52.00 to the winner and February saw 64 Numbers being sold with a prize fund of £128.00 being split as £76.80 to GRF and £51.20 to the winner. At the walk Celia picked out number **22** for the January draw belonging to **Laura Whiteford**, before then picking out number **9** belonging to **Gary Wilson**. Congratulations to both of the above and also thanks to everyone who has supported this draw since it's inception last

year. If you are interested in entering this monthly draw then please e.mail Gordon/Fiona for further details at grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk

Dog of the month

This month's dog is Jemma a 3 year old black female that was obtained from Celia and Jimmy. Here is Jemma's view of how things have gone !



Likes: my lovely soft sofa, a leather settee I believe they call it !!! I claimed early on when I arrived!!

Dislikes: Rain, cold winds and sudden loud noises especially fireworks.

Worst thing done to date ! Nothing!! Unless you consider helping myself to a lovely cooked roast beef joint. I am sure I heard them say something about "that was our dinner !!!".

Biggest achievement: winning best female in the GRF and GAL dog shows, well everybody did say I was gorgeous!! I now have the rosettes to prove it !!!

Favourite food: That fish stuff called tuna mmmmm!!!!

What's the oddest thing you have done? I collect things and hide under my bed blanket such as knives, mobiles, lipstick, perfume, tooth brush, slippers.....

What do you like doing best? Just lazing around on my sofa and hiding Corky's chews ! male dogs have such small brains at times !!!!

Everybody enjoys the dog of the month feature however, it can only continue with your support why not send in your dog's details for our monthly feature. Just answer the questions above and send in a couple of pics and maybe you can be our next dog of the month !!

alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

Greys around the World

This month's grey's from around the world is a bit closer to home and is that of Greyhound Rescue Wales



<http://www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk/about/about.htm>



ORIGINS OF GREYHOUND RESCUE WALES

Greyhound Rescue Wales began in 1993 with a small group of people trying to rescue Greyhounds and Lurchers in the Swansea area. Over the next few years the organisation grew quickly and attracted support from many parts of Wales. Greyhound Rescue Wales became a registered charity in 1996 when it became able to cover the whole of Wales.

Over 1,500 greyhounds and lurchers have since been found permanent homes.

ORGANISATION AND FINANCES

Greyhound Rescue Wales is a membership organisation currently with over 300 members and several hundred more supporters.

Greyhound Rescue Wales is a democratic organisation managed by a board of trustees, the "Executive Committee" members of which are elected annually at an Annual General meeting of members.

All members and supporters are kept in touch through the twice yearly magazine "Greyhound Express" and can also subscribe to a free monthly e-newsletter.

Those who wish can help the charity by volunteering for some of the important tasks such as raising funds, visiting prospective owners, transporting dogs, fostering dogs etc. We do not employ paid staff so all of this vital work depends on volunteers.

We have to raise all our money ourselves and we make sure it goes a long way. We pride ourselves on our cost-effectiveness and this is only possible because of the dedication of our volunteers.

OUR WORK

Our work is focused on rescuing and re-homing greyhounds and lurchers. Below is some of our current Greys looking for homes at Greyhound rescue Wales

ROGER



Roger is a lovable, affectionate, 3yr old black and white boy and stands at 26.5" tall. Roger is good on the lead and is good around larger dogs rather than small ones and is not cat friendly. Roger responds much better and is much happier in a calm environment whereas noisy and busy environments can make him a little excited. Because Roger is only 3yrs old he will thrive in a home that can show him more of the outside world so he can gain and understand new experiences.

JAFFA



Jaffa is a lovely friendly 3yr old black boy who is 29" tall. Jaffa will make a wonderful addition to a family with older children or couple and as the only dog. Jaffa can be a little exuberant at times in play due to his strong build but he listens extremely well and is more than happy to absorb all new information given to him to help him adjust to living a life as a family pet.

Jaffa loves his trips in the car and is eager to please you.

Jaffa is not cat friendly and care to be taken when in the company of small dogs too. Jaffa is currently in a foster home



POPPY



Poppy is a beautiful fawn 1yr old lurcher girl who is 24.5" tall. Poppy is looking for a new home only because of her family's increased hours at work and Poppy is spending too much time on her own.

Poppy is a little on the timid side until she knows you and does worry about new things and places around her. Poppy is good on the lead and is a friendly girl who loves the company of calmer children.

Poppy can be left for short periods only as she gets worried when shut in one room on her own too long.



Poppy will make a super pet for a family either on her own or with another dog but not with cats. Poppy is currently in a foster home

JACK



Jack is 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old and stands 28" high.

Jack at first can seem timid and wary of situations and things unfamiliar to him, but once he has overcome this he is quite laid back about it. He is a gentle boy who is gaining confidence and learning how to play and take things in his stride. He is good with other dogs large and small but is very inquisitive of them when out on his walks. Jack is good with children young and older but a little overcome by very young active children. Jack walks well on lead and after some time and trust built his recall is good. He loves cuddles and fusses and will quite happily stand for ages being smoothed and



stroked, and is a real gentleman. Jack is clean in the house and can happily be left for reasonable lengths of time alone Jack is currently in a foster home.

Adoption process

We pride ourselves on finding the right home for the right dog and to enable us to do this we have an adoption procedure that we adhere to.

Before you are hopefully successful in giving a dog a home there are some things we need to do first. Below is a step by step guide to homing a dog from GRW.

1) You can contact GRW either by;

Email info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk Your enquiry will be passed onto the GRW representative in your area so please give both a contact phone number and the area where you live.

Phoning the national rescue line 0300 0123 999 Your enquiry will be passed on directly to the GRW representative in your area. You will be asked for a contact phone number and the area in which you live.

Finding a GRW representative for your area in the Contact Us page on the site. The regional representative will be able to answer any questions you may have on the criteria needed to home one of our dogs, general care of the greyhound etc. Although they may not be able to chat specifically about a particular dog you may be enquiring about, they will arrange a home visit with you.

2) The home visit. The home visit by one of our regional representatives is both very informal and very important. The home visit enables you to ask as many questions as you like about the greyhound as a breed and general care of the hound etc. If you have a list of questions prepared your home visitor will be more than happy to answer them. There are a few things that we do insist on when looking for homes for our dogs.

These include:

- A well fenced garden min height of approx 5ft.
- Time the dog is left alone:- We understand that people have to work so if you do work full time we will still consider homing a dog with you as long as you can provide a dog walker or someone to pop round in the day to take him/her out for a walk. If you do work full time and you have someone in mind to help keep your dog stimulated during the time you're out of the house they will need to be present at the home visit.

We will not home any of our dogs to someone who wants to work the dog for either racing or working etc. The dogs in our care are rescue's and are rescue's for a reason, they've probably already failed in their predicted careers hence them coming into our care to be rehomed as a pet.

All of your circumstances i.e. small children in your home, cats and other pets present, your working hours, your garden etc. will be taken into account at the home visit so we can then try to find a dog to suit your needs.

3) After your home visit, the regional representative will contact Sandra Morris who is Chair of kennelling to discuss your home circumstances. Sandra will then phone to chat with you about the dogs in our care. Between you and Sandra, you will probably decide on a few dogs that could be suitable for you. Sandra is aware of all the dogs in our care and she will be able to guide you in making the right choice for both your family and home circumstances along with the greyhounds' needs.

4) Once you've decided you'd like to meet some of the dogs Sandra will contact either the foster home or the kennel coordinator and arrange a visit time. If you have a dog already it's important to bring your dog along to either the foster home or the kennels. You will have the opportunity to

go for a short walk with both dogs. If you have children it's also important to bring the children along so they can feel comfortable in the dogs presence before you take him/her home.

5) If all goes well and you, your family and your own dog (if you have one) feel the dog you've met is the right one for you and the kennel coordinator feels the same you will be able to take the dog home with you. You will be asked to fill in some paperwork to say you've adopted the dog.

- If you are going on holiday very soon but would like to offer a home to one of our dogs, then as long as your holiday is within 2 weeks of your enquiry we will keep the dog in our care until you return. If your holiday is booked for a month away, we will ask you to come back after your holiday although we cannot guarantee that the dog you would like has not already been homed.

6) When you return home with your dog, should you have any problems or just a general question please feel free to phone either Sandra or your home visitor. After 2 to 3 days your home visitor will give you a ring to check all is well with you and after 2 weeks or so your home visitor will do a follow up visit with you to check again that all is well. We will then leave you alone but please do not hesitate to phone if you want to discuss something about your new dog.

Hopefully we'll all meet up again at a fundraising event or street/store collection where you can meet other proud greyhound and lurcher owners.

DOGS WHO NEED A HELPING HAND

Sometimes we have dogs in our kennels who need a bit of TLC before they are able to be homed. These dogs can be in our kennels for weeks before being well enough to be homed or a foster home is available to take them and give them their much needed care and attention.

All of these dogs have been seen by the vet and treatment prescribed and carried out by GRW whilst in kennels, now these dogs need to recover in a home environment which can only help to speed up their recovery.

These dogs can be taken in either as a permanent pet or fostered until ready to be rehomed.

If you feel you can help any of these dogs be assured that you will receive full and continuous support in the form of advice while the dog is in your care. All prospective homes will need a home visit first to fully discuss the dogs requirements from you.

For more information on any of these dogs phone **Sandra Morris 01646 651262**

Ray and Ruth from Swansea took in a dog from us who needed a helping hand, here is what they have to say about their experience;

"A year or so after losing both our beloved greyhound and lurcher we finally felt ready enough to offer another dog a home. We rang the national phone line and we were put in touch with Sandra Morris. Almost immediately Sandra told us of a lurcher bitch that had been recently found and impounded. Sandra had already been to see this girl at the pound to assess both her physical condition and temperament. The photo and Sandra's description of her temperament sealed the deal of not only a dog needing a home but a beautiful animal that needed stability in her life. From our past experiences with 'dumped' dogs we knew that with care and affection, patience and the help of GRW, she could, quite deservedly be given a good life and become a great pet.

'Tyger' as we named her, was understandably nervous when she first arrived at our house and it took a day or two for her to realise that this home was indeed hers and that she was a welcome part of this new pack. A couple of minor incidents like trying to look over (escape?) the 6 foot boundary wall, though nothing serious and she began to accept us and her new surroundings. She is a very clean girl so no real problems on that score. Her health was obviously of some small concern, she had worms, fleas, ear mites and slightly underweight. She also needed spaying which thanks to GRW was of no expense to us.

A week or so of basic non expensive treatment and good feeding saw her come on in leaps and bounds, literally a different dog entirely. The sad eyes have disappeared, the tail has come out from between her legs and she's smiling. She's a great pleasure to walk with, walk that is if we can manage to without someone stopping us and asking all about her, she's a real head turner now.

Tyger's confidence and health is building daily and she is unrecognisable from the poor wretch that was found in the street and impounded. We know we've got a good one from GRW again and look forward to many happy years with her. Many thanks to Sandra and the team, you've all done us proud with Tyger and made us two very lucky dog owners."



Before - Tyger in the pound



After Tyger enjoying a day out in Saundersfoot

From the Doghouse

From the doghouse this month is IKE.



IKE is a very laid back fawn dog. He is happy to let the world go by. A fine dog to walk on the lead. He loves lying down beside people or in the back of your car. He is no bother in the kennels.

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

The Big Interview

This month we have the first of a 2 part interview with the founders of GRF, Celia and Jimmy Fernie. We find out a bit more about the couple who have found forever homes for over 350 greyhounds over the last few years, we hope you enjoy.



1. **Tell us a bit about yourselves, what did you both do before starting GRF ?**

Jimmy - a surveying lecturer at Fife College and Napier University.

Celia - originally school secretary then antique shop owner.

2. **Why did you feel the need to open a greyhound rescue sanctuary ?**

Basically we couldn't squeeze any more into our house!! and we saw the tragedy of what happened to ex racers so we just had to do something.

3. What was the most challenging part in starting up GRF?

Possibly finding our own kennels since we originally started it all up by paying boarding fees (nothing changes). 🐶

4. and what has been the most difficult obstacle to overcome since then

Probably finding the perfect spot to take our dogs after the Seafield crisis (the old kennels).

5. Describe a daily routine at the kennels?

9-10am answering 'phone calls. 11am-12 helping volunteers to clean out. 12.30pm to 2.30pm walking the dogs. 2.30 pm to 5pm feeding the dogs and cleaning up. 5pm to 5.30pm removing the poo. 6pm to 8pm (sometimes) delivering dogs/house checking, etc. 8pm to 11pm computer work for the dogs.

6. What has been GRF's highest moment?

Re-homing one of our greys Sapphire to JK Rowling and also appearing on "the hour" on STV.

7. What has been GRF's lowest moment(s)?

The thought of possibly having to give everything up during the Seafield kennel crisis and the day that lovely big Ted took a heart attack and died.

8. What do you enjoy most about the kennels?

Definitely the company of the dogs and our great volunteers.

9. What do you enjoy least?

It has to be lifting poo and discovering that the rubber glove has burst!!!!

10. If you were to find that "magic lamp" !! what would your 3 wishes be?

a. No greyhounds would be put to sleep.

b. They'd all find good homes.

c. The Flyers would beat the Capitals all season. (Ed. Aye like that's likely to happen !!!)

Alternatively People all over the world would live in peace with one another and treasure and respect nature and other species - especially dogs.

Part 2 of this interview will be concluded in next months issue of the newsletter.

Greyhound tips

Each month we will try and bring you tips and advice on caring and looking after greyhounds. This month we look at one important area when you first take an ex racing greyhound home that of separation anxiety.

Separation Anxiety

Is a general term that can cover everything from barking and whining to destroying your home when you are away at the shops or at work. I'll try to treat each symptom separately - but the proper introduction of your pet greyhound to your home environment is critical if separation anxiety is to be kept to a minimum. Greyhounds are very intelligent and soon pick up the correct habits if shown correctly. It is a good idea to leave a radio on for comfort while you are away. Most kennels do this as it also reduces the noise when a visitor arrives. As all of your home is totally strange to the retired greyhound then a gradual introduction to everything should be taken. I do recommend that if at all possible the dog should be adopted at the beginning of a long holiday to give time to this crucial introduction. Obviously avoid holidays that may include noisy celebrations. As most of the following symptoms occur when the dog is left alone it is very important to make him confident to cope in your absence. Remember a greyhound has never been more than a few feet from another greyhound in its entire life. Please also remember a change of circumstances may make your dog very stressful and start to exhibit separation anxiety. Examples are - work shift changes - holidays - redecorating or rebuilding to name a few.

AVOIDING SEPARATION ANXIETY

Many adopters are under the misapprehension that because greyhounds spend many hours in kennels during their racing careers they can be brought home and left for hours on end by themselves. This is not the case, Greyhounds love company either human or that of other dogs, and although they can be left for short periods (and longer in time) you cannot expect to bring a dog home one day and then leave them whilst you go to work nine to five the following day without finding the dog is stressed and has probably whined and barked and maybe even had an accident or chewed.

In the kennels greyhounds are normally in pairs (a dog and a bitch) they sleep together, and exercise together. During the day the kennel staff are continually up and down feeding, grooming, paddocking the dogs, so they are used to company, both two-legged and four-legged.

Once your greyhound comes home he or she will usually appreciate all the home comforts, although strange items such as televisions, mirrors and Hoovers may unnerve them at first. They will love the idea of having several rooms to explore and the regular walks in the Local Park or woods. Routine is important, everything is new and depending on your dog's temperament, either an adventure or a little frightening.

Even if you do not need to go out, do leave your dog for approximately five or 10 minutes to build up his confidence, that although you leave you will be returning. If all is well on your return then be sure to praise your dog and give him a titbit, he will not mind your leaving half as much if he

thinks something pleasant will happen on your return - something he will enjoy. Build up the times to be left gradually - increasing approximately 20 minutes more each time.

If you do go to work be sure to arrange for some time off to coincide with the time your dog comes home, this is a new member of the family and needs to be welcomed and "settled in".

If you are leaving a dog for more than three or four hours you should arrange for someone to call in either to let him or her into the garden or take them for a walk, and give them either a meal or a titbit to break up the day. If dogs are to be left for longer periods we do usually suggest you adopt a pair, but, even then a settling in period must be allowed for.

Greyhounds are easier and more adaptable than many other breeds, but they cannot be expected to "know" your return, they need to be guided and taught what is expected of them

Dates for the Diary

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

And finally

In case you do not know by now our 3rd annual greyhound dog show is once again being held at Caldwell's farm on Sunday 2nd May. Tickets will be on sale shortly either from myself or all good greyhound rescue centres !! so watch the forum for details. Within the next few months we will announce the dog classes and will have a dedicated page on our web site giving full details of everything that will be on and available on the day. Tickets will once again be £3 for adults with kids under 16 going free. In the meantime we are now collecting items for our tombola and raffle. So if you have any unwanted gifts lying about or any spare bottles !!!!! then please bring them along at any of the forthcoming dog walks.



May is going to be a busy month as not only do we have the dog show but also both of us (Alex & Lynne) along with some friends will be embarking on a "wee trail" and will walk the West Highland Way to raise money for Greyhound Rescue Fife. People can sponsor us in two ways either by completing our sponsor forms which will be available at the forthcoming dog walks and at the dog show or by going onto our web site and donating via the pay pal button and just enter in the comment box "for WHW walk" We start our walk on the 9th May and hope to complete the 95 miles in 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.