

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

March 2010

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

In this issue of our newsletter see's us make an announcement on restructuring our business. We also bring a number of our regular features along with the second part of our interview with Celia and Jimmy. Our Greys from around the world this month is from Canada and we give details of how to get to our next walk, which is at a new venue that of Loch Leven nature reserve.

Kennel update

GRF and Union farm kennels have both recently been reviewing our current arrangements for the future of greyhound rescue and have agreed that in the current economic climate and the need to pull our resources together it would be in the best interest of all parties if we pull all our efforts into consolidating our kennels at Baltree farm. This also makes logistical sense in that all our dogs on our web site will be based in the one area, thus making it easier for visitors, travelling and paperwork. GRF would like to take this opportunity to thank Nannete for the support that Union farm kennels have given us since our departure from Seafield kennels. We wish Union farm kennels and all the staff the best for the future. Our aim now is to move forward and consolidate our current kennels at Baltree and to do this we need your support.

We have now re-homed over 350 dogs and have got to know some lovely people as well as some famous ones ! We hope that as this number grows we will continue to have your support. You can help out by taking up some of our offers we currently have on our web site from sponsoring a kennel, joining friends of GRF, getting involved in our lucky number draw and even attending our walks and up and coming dog show. As they say "every little helps" and whatever you can afford is very much appreciated by the dogs. However your support does not have to be financial, promoting GRF, being a home checker, helping out at the kennels or donating food is also much appreciated. With your help and support we can move forward together and write the next chapter that is GRF.

Incomers

QUINCY, SWEETIE, LIZZIE, BOBBY and LUCY.

Outgoing

JACK THE LURCHER, JACK, JACKIE, (confusing isn't it ?) BLUEBELL, DUSK, EDDIE and GALA.

From the Dog house



FRODO is a most unusual colored blue brindle. He is the brother of GISMO and has her friendly characteristics. He is never happier than when he is out of the kennel with you and he walks well on a lead. You must see his unusual colorings.

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

Lucky Number - March draw

65 Numbers were sold this month making a prize fund of **£130.00**. This was split as **£78.00** to GRF and **£52.00** to the winner. At the Glenrothes walk Celia drew number **85** which belongs to Beth Marshall. Congratulations Beth a cheque for **£52.00** will be on its way to you.

Dog of the month



My name is Ace and I found my forever home with Karen and Pat Brundell last July.

When I first went home with them, I was feeling a bit under the weather as I had just had an operation and had an infection in my wound. But they took me to a really nice vet, and although she had to re-stitch the wound, it healed nicely after that.

I got spoilt a lot during this time by my new mum and dad - and I of course milked it as much as I could.

I am now happily settled with them and have gradually managed to re-organize their lives and house to suit me. I now have 3 beds in the house, and forced them to get rid of that stupid coffee table in the living room. It took up too much space for me so I made them get rid of it.



Likes: Sleeping, playing, walking, pinching dad's slippers when he is not looking as well as his electric razor, that's good fun. And going out in the car - I really enjoy that. I can sleep all the way there and all the way back!!

Dislikes: When they go out shopping to the supermarket and don't take me with them!! Oh and I am not too keen on that noisy machine they use to vacuum the floor.

Biggest Achievement: Apart from getting them to get rid of that coffee table, I managed to work my way up to their room and have a bed up there to sleep on at night. Oh and also got them to buy a new car with more room for me in the back!!

Favourite food: Pigs ears!!! Tripel!! Cheese!!! and Sardines!!! Yummy

What do I like doing best!!! Yawn!!! Sleeping zzzzzz

If you would like your dog to appear in this section of the newsletter why not send in an article similar to the one above with a couple of pics to alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

The Big interview part 2



You started off by keeping a few greyhounds at home, how many do you have at home now ?

Ten - abd we love them all.

We have just started a new decade, but what plans do you have for GRF in the next decade?

Getting as many greyhounds in good homes as possible.

Out with the kennels what do you both like to do in your "spare time" ?

We both enjoy bowling but Celia tends to win too much for Jimmy's liking !!! Jimmy's other love is watching his famous Fife flyers ice hockey team allegedly the best team in the world (ed. Me thinks you need to get these tinted specs off !!!!).

If you had you choice of celebrities to invite to dinner, who would you invite and why?

All the world's leaders and introduce them to greyhounds. Greyhounds are not political or religious or profiteering and live peacefully and happily with all people. Maybe the dogs, being more intelligent, will tell them the secret one day.

If you where to win a £1 million in the lotto how would you spend the money?

Build bigger and better kennels !

Give us an interesting fact about yourselves that not everybody knows?

Celia once cycled to a youth hostel in bucketing rain. She took her wet clothes downstairs to the drying room and touched a live wire. (Shock #1). Coming upstairs she stood on a climbing boot nail which went right into her foot. (shock #2). At the top of the stairs she was introduced to a guy called Jimmy (shock #3). Things were just getting worse and worse!!!!

How do you find out about abandoned greyhounds?

We were given our first abandoned greyhound TIGGY and we found out about abandoned greyhounds from that point. We loved that dog beyond belief. In a way he founded GRF.

How would you like to be remembered - what would your epitaph say?

" We were maybe not very good but we did try absolutely our hardest to help the greyhounds ".

Out with greyhound rescue what has been your biggest achievement to date?

We've stayed married for 44 years - some achievement, eh ? (From Jimmy - I was married at 3 years old).

They say "there is no such thing as bad dogs, just bad owners" what would be your main advice to potential greyhound owners.

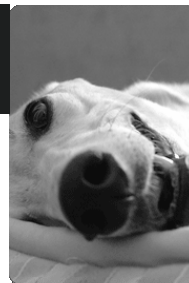
Please listen to our advice, it is not just talk, it is genuine. We've been doing this for a long time and have met most of the pitfalls. Keep the dogs leashed in public places. The dogs don't understand safety - you must.

We hope you enjoyed this short insight into the lives of GRF founders and may continue this type of article in future issues.

Greys around the world

WELCOME TO GRA CANADA
GREYHOUND RELOCATION & ADOPTION CANADA

<http://www.gracanada.com/index.html>



This month's greys from around the world looks at GRA Canada an organisation run by Bill Cowan from rural kennel facilities near London in Southwestern, Ontario. It is committed to finding loving family homes for greyhounds retiring from the racing industry and service Ontario as well as other areas of Canada and Northeastern United States.

They provide private families the opportunity to visit our facilities and socialize with the Greyhounds available for adoption. Come and see which greyhound wants to adopt your family!

There's no need to wait months for your pet; we usually have **15** to **40** beautiful greyhounds awaiting their forever homes. Your new family pet will be spayed or neutered, have their teeth and ears cleaned, toenails clipped, rabies and 4-way shots updated, will be de-wormed, treated against fleas and ticks, and they receive a complete physical examination and a veterinary certificate of good health. Your greyhound comes with a new "Martingale" collar and leash. Retired racing greyhounds usually range from two to five years of age, but occasionally we may have some older or younger dogs who are in need of a family to love.

How it began !

Bill's first close-up encounter with Greyhounds was at a Home Show at Daytona Beach in March, 1992. He went to the track the next day and volunteered to foster a shy, brindle female called "Nuffy" aka *Getum Fasta Nuff*. Like many first time foster folks, he failed the course and returned to the track the next day and filled out the adoption papers. Nuffy became his "guiding light". When he moved back to Ontario in the fall of 1992 he decided that he needed to find a companion to Nuffy."

He finally found his second Greyhound in Kentucky in July, 1993. Bandit was a big 85 pound "nut" who continually disqualified himself from races at Wheeling Downs for interference. His misbehaving turned out to be our gain. These were wonderful animals who adapted to apartment, and city life quickly and without problems. He then decided that everyone in Ontario should have at least one greyhound on their couch. He began researching the breed and Greyhound racing. It was obvious that there was no shortage on supply of greyhounds available for adoption. Two people who provided us with loads of information were Susan Netboy and Louise Coleman.

One evening the end of August, 1995 he received a phone call from Harold Fisher, a dog farmer from Florida. He had two 10-years old brood moms who needed a home. Could he come for them? He wasn't ready but felt this was either a test or fate. He rented a cargo van and left for Florida. He had six crates in the van and asked Harold if he had more greyhounds needing homes. The next morning he loaded up two 10-year old brood moms, two 7-year olds, and two 6-year old greyhounds. The trip that usually took 23 hours was a lot longer this time. Since he was completely green at this, he stopped every three hours to let the dogs stretch their legs and get some fresh air. An hour away from home, I asked my wife "What have we done?". We lived in a one bedroom apartment on the sixth floor with two greyhounds. Here we are now with six more dogs and no home for them to go to. We stopped and phoned the local TV and newspaper and arranged for them to meet us when we arrived. We made the 6:00PM and the 11:00PM news on TV, and the front page of the morning edition of the newspaper. One of the local vets offered to board the dogs free of charge. The dogs were also fed, bathed, and checked out by these great people. By 5:00PM the next day all six Greyhounds had found homes. This was our first trip, and it is the one we will never forget!

After six months "working" out of the apartment and bringing in 6-12 Greyhounds each trip, we realized that if we were going to do this "adoption thing", we had to re-group, re-organize, and do it right. We took a year off, moved to the country, and set up our temporary kennel operation. Now we were able to bring in 24 Greyhounds at a time. Three years later the farm was sold and we had one month to relocate. With 8 Greyhounds and a Great Dane sharing our lives as pets, and

31 Greyhounds in the kennel, we had NO FUN finding a new home. However "the Man Upstairs" once again came to our rescue and we found our present location.

Bill is well established at his current location and things have gone well. He averages 20-21 adoptions a month and has not had to advertise for several years. His adopting families and their greyhounds do our promotion. He receives 6-8 phone calls and e-mail inquiries each day. Greyhound families in many cities arrange to have "Greyhound Awareness Days" at local pet stores, vet clinics, or malls to spread the good word about these wonderful animals. Since that memorable weekend trip to Florida in September 1995, Bill has made many dozens more trips to the US and has brought back about 3000 of these wonderful racing Greyhounds to their retirement couches.

GRA Facilities

The Office

Our facilities are located in Southwestern Ontario, near to Mount Elgin, on a 3 acres grass/farm land. We have our office building, and our home separated from the kennel, the kennel yard, and the exercise yard. A laneway of 1/4 mile leads to the back of the property where there is a large,



and beautiful 50+ acres lake hosting several species of wild birds such as ducks, and Canada geese, and other wild animals. It is quiet, and peaceful yet it is only about 10 minutes away from Canada's busiest express freeway, Highway 401. In the nice weather many families from London, Ontario, and the surrounding area come out on weekends to walk their Greyhounds, have a picnic, and just to relax.

The Kennel and the Kennel Yard

The kennel building is a barn. About two thirds of the building has been partitioned off, insulated, and painted. A center aisle separates the crates of the males from the crates of the females. It also makes turn-outs very easy. There are eleven "stalls" in total, and each stall can house up to five Greyhounds in individual crates. The stalls are six feet wide, and eighteen feet deep with cement floors for easy cleaning. The crates are located at the back of the stalls which allows us to use the front part of the stalls to turn out the Greyhounds for visitors to see, and pet before deciding on the ones they wish to take out into the yard for a walk. This part of the barn is

heated, and air-conditioned for the comfort of all. Large exhaust fans keep the air moving when heat or air-conditioning isn't necessary. The kennel is a room the full with of provides us with a quiet place to entering the kennel. On the left the refrigerator, freezer, food



area, water heater, and pressure system. On the right is the laundry area with 2 washers, 2 dryers, bathtub, and storage area for the blankets, and towels. It also includes an electric furnace, and air-conditioning system. This area also contains 4 large wire crates for borders or for Greyhounds that are going to or coming from the vet. The area front of the kennel is fenced,

the comfort of all. Large when heat or air-front entrance to the 40' by 15' deep. It talk to visitors before as you enter the room is storage, and preparation

and leads to the large exercise yard placed at the side of the kennel. A cement pad at the front door provides a pleasant area to sit, and relax with the Greyhounds. Flowers planted in the flowerbeds bordering the kennel and the exercise yard provide wonderful colors, and fragrant, and the Canadian and American flag represent our bond, and friendship.

The Exercise Yard

The exercise yard is approximately 50 feet wide and 140 feet deep. It is enclosed by a 4 foot wire fence. Over forty tons of sand had been spread over the area to a depth of six inches. Trees along the West side of the yard provide ample shade during the hot summer days. Greyhounds come out to the yard in groups of 2-3-4 depending on the number of dogs in each stall. They are always muzzled when released into the yard. Amount of time outside depends on the weather, but



usually it is 10-15 minutes. Morning turn-out starts at 8:00am followed by breakfast. Afternoon turn-out is at 4:00pm followed by supper. Last turn-out of the day is at 10:00pm followed by cuddle time, a treat, and then tucked into bed for the night. When the weather is nice the Greyhounds are let out around noon in large groups for a play time 2 or 3 times a week for about 30-60 minutes. All of these large groups outings are supervised in the yard. During the play

time Greyhounds are given the chance to socialize with each other. It gives us a great opportunity to see "who is getting along with who" famously, and who are the ones that should not be placed, and adopted together. We can observe their personalities, and their social interaction skills up-close and personal that helps us to make decisions in providing recommendations about their adoptions. After a long period of time "tearing up" the exercise yard, the Greyhounds come back from the yard with as much enthusiasm as they had when they went out. This is particularly true on a rainy or cold days.

Fun zone

In this month's fun zone we have a multiple choice quiz on greyhounds! See how many you can get correct. Answers will be in next month's issue.

1. To which of the following animal does "Greyhound" breed belong?	
a. <input type="checkbox"/>	Horse
b. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dog
c. <input type="checkbox"/>	Cat
d. <input type="checkbox"/>	Tiger
2.	Which of the following is the feature of Greyhound dog?

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long, powerful legs
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deep chest
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Aerodynamic build
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	All of the above

3. It can run up to 72 km/h (45 mph) in less than one and a half seconds, or within 3 strides.

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	True
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	False

4. What is the weight range of an adult male Greyhound?

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	10-15 Kg
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	15-20 Kg
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-40 Kg
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-75 Kg

5. Greyhounds have very long hair, which is very difficult to maintain.

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	True
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	False

6. Despite their reputation as racing dogs, they are not high-energy dogs.

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	True
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	False

7. What is the average age of a healthy Greyhound?

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	5-7 years
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	8-9 years
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	10-13 years
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Above 15 years

8. Although they love running, they do not require extensive exercise.

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	True
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	False

9. How many minutes of daily walk is enough for Greyhound to keep healthy?

a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	20-30 minutes
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	5-10 minutes
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	60-75 minutes
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Above 120 minutes
10.	Why should a greyhound eat with an elevated food dish?	
a.	<input type="checkbox"/>	So it doesn't hurt the greyhound's neck.
b.	<input type="checkbox"/>	To make the greyhound eat slower.
c.	<input type="checkbox"/>	To prevent bloating
d.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Helps the greyhound have a healthier digestive system

Dates for the Diary

The following is a list of the first of the greyhound walks for 2010.

Please note that our next walk in April is at a new venue and a link to a google map is inserted below along with a birds eye Google earth map view of the parking arrangements.

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

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?q=56.201118,-3.407736&num=1&sll=56.153512,-3.174607&sspn=0.099297,0.432811&hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=56.200784,-3.407393&spn=0.032515,0.106688&z=14>



Sunday 2nd May the Third Annual GRF dog show at Caldwell's Farm Collesie
Sunday 6th June at 11am, Lochore Meadows Country Park Lochore
Sunday 4th July at 11am, Ravenscraig Park Kirkcaldy

And finally

We now have full details of our dog show on the web site so why not log in and see what classes we are running along with what we will have available on the day. We will also shortly have a poster on the forum to download and we hope as many of you as possible can print these off and advertise our event in as many areas as possible in Fife.