

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

June 2010

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

After the success of last month's dog show we come back down to earth this month with many of our regular articles along with our comments on a recent local newspaper article and a article by yours truly ! on the recent meander along the West Highland Way to raise money for GRF and we also have a new article starting this month called vets corner. I hope you enjoy this month's newsletter.

Kennel update

We start of this month's newsletter by setting the record straight on a recent newspaper article written in the Perthshire Advertiser on 1st June 2010. This article (embarrassing to call it an article) had so many inaccuracies and unfounded statements in it that GRF were contemplating legal action against the newspaper in question.

To clarify some points Graham Hutt who own Baltree farm and whom we purchased outright our kennel block from has no affiliation to GRF. Our kennels plus the local riding school are independent of Mr Hutt.

Mr Hutt does indeed train and is hoping to breed racing greyhounds, this part of the article is true however, the allegation that GRF is intending to breed greyhounds for profit is totally unfounded and untrue and could have a serious impact on future revenue streams for us. The very nature of our business would negate this alone!! We are already aware of the increasing number of abandoned greys so why would we want to add to that!!! We have also spent thousands of pounds over the last few years neutering our dogs to precisely stop this happening and also currently have a an unfortunate long waiting list for dogs to come into our kennels. Although we have increased in size we do not unfortunately have the facilities to take care of as many as we would like without breeding them as well ! Thus I think we can safely put this comment to bed.

One other comment in the article that we would also like to touch on is the so called 24/7 noise of dogs barking. While we will agree that dogs barking will go on at our kennels not to the extent that some may have you believe. Since it's move from Seafield GRF took great strides to find a suitable place that would not be in a built up area were our dogs would cause an inconvenience to households, thus the reason for choosing Baltree farm. Over the period of renovating our kennels we have also taken further steps to reduce noise by adding insulation in our kennels. This not only

helps keep our dogs warm over the winter but also acts at reducing noise. After all it is not in our interest to get peoples "backs up" and we will always be available to listen to constructive comments on how we can eliminate noise further. However we would like to say that our primary focus in the past, present and future will always be what is best for our dogs while we find forever homes for them and hope that people will understand what we are about.

Since writing this article the editor of the Perthshire advertiser has had a barrow load of complaints from our supporters, to the extent that an apology was printed recently with a promise to do an article on GRF and the plight of the greyhound, which we thoroughly applaud. However, this would not have happened if reporters took time and care to research their material before going to print. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our followers who helped us remedy this problem and hopefully it will not impact on GRF financially in the long term.

As touched on above we are still renovating and updating our facilities as and when finances and people are available. Our new kennel block is complete and we have had the surrounding area landscaped and have laid a "red carpet" for visitors to walk on !!! (well pink slabs actually !). Although it is taking time we are gradually getting things knocked into shape, however, we now have 47 dogs ! available to re-home

Incomers LASS, BLUE, SOPHIE, MAX, MEGAN, SALLY, BREEZE, CHARLIE, SANDIE.

Outgoing GRACE, BIRCH, FLASH, CLEO, KATIE, NELLIE, MIKEY SANDIE

From the Dog house



SWEETIE is a well-named little girl. She is quite shy but extremely loving. One of the nicest natured dogs we have ever had the pleasure to have. She loves people and is quite easy to walk on a lead. If you want a great pet, then look no further.

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

Lucky Number - June draw

60 numbers were sold this month giving a total prize fund of £120.00. to be split as £72.00 to GRF and £48.00 to the winner. At our walk in Loch Celia drew out number 83 which belonged to Evan Simpson, Congratulations Evan

Dog of the month



This month's dog of the month will not be unknown to many of you who come along to our monthly walks throughout Fife it is that of BAMBI. Bambi found her forever home in October 2008 from the GRF kennels. AS a lady doesn't like to give her age ! you will just have to guess (it's somewhere between 6 and 8 !!!). Here is Bambi's story

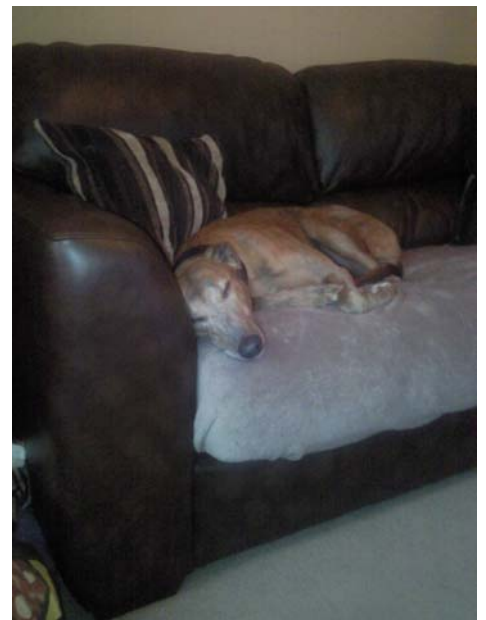
Likes - Sleeping, cuddles, knowing exactly what's going to happen and exactly when!, spotting people I know

when I'm out and doing my wiggly dance to greet them and getting my own way...lol Oh and of course my sofa (s) preferably with cuddles whilst reclining on it!!

Dislikes - Dogs that find it necessary to run!!! Rainy, icy or slightly cold weather (although I do like the snow when it is fluffy and I can use my muzzle to pick it up and throw it around preferably at people!! 🍷) Those strange small 4 legged creatures that are never on a lead - I think I've heard them called cats?!

Biggest Achievement - I hope it will eventually be to get all the silly dogs in Dundee to listen to me and stop running but in the meantime I think my biggest achievement has been my scarily accurate walking poodle impersonation when I managed to walk half way along the road on my hind legs!! (I was wearing my bright red coat at the time and so I managed to get as many people as possible to notice my grand achievement!!) Also I was February's calendar girl in the GRF calendar!!

Favourite Food - Definitely that cold meat stuff that comes in noisy packets so that I can hear it from far away when it is opened!! And I do like toasted things of any shape or form! Apparently I won't be getting much of this though as



apparently I'm on a "diet" whatever that is...

What I like doing best - I do like to make humans laugh and have a wide variety of tools for doing this. I also am fond of stealing obscure items including carrier bags, which are great fun to tear into little pieces!!

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

Alex around the world (well the West Highland Way !!)

Over the period I have been involved with GRF there have been many charity walks and events unfortunately I have not managed to get to many and have often thought of doing something myself. Thus when it was suggested a year ago (after a few refreshments!!!) why don't we walk the West Highland Way (WHW) I thought why not make this the one!

Once we had finalised details and booked accommodation (the days of roughing it in tents and campsites have long gone !!) it was into training. Within no time the day was upon us and on an unusual hot



Just 95 miles to go now !!

sweltering day (we do get in Scotland now and again!) we set off from Milngavie to embark on our 95-mile trek. Apart from the heat day one was pretty straight forward with not too many climbs as we headed through Mugdock park past the Drumgoyne distillery to our eventual first night stop over at Drymen

After our first day, day 2 was to be slightly more strenuous as we walked the 14 miles from Drymen to Rowerdennan starting with a climb up Conic hill (1175 feet) which many had said was the hardest part of the route (having completed the walk I would disagree with them !), but the peak presented us with some magnificent views down to Balmaha and across Loch Lomond. After having lunch here we started on our descent which I have to say was much tougher than the actual ascent !!! At Balmaha we started the first of our 2 day stint of walking the shores of Loch Lomond.

There was many up and downs on this part, some for no reason !. Having a nurse in our party was not only good for ourselves but also other walkers as we treated several walkers already suffering from blisters !! It was on this day that I also took over the map reading as our current guide at one stage said we had a mile to go. An hour and a half later and a further 3 miles down the road and still not at the end suggested to the rest of the party that they couldn't read a map (or words to that effect !!!). Although the day was only a mile longer than yesterday it certainly felt a lot longer probably with the various climbs we had.



Lunch time ! Top of Conic Hill

Day 3 was our final stretch along Loch Lomond (14 miles) and the one I would say is the hardest but in a strange "boyish" way was also the most exciting. Basically the walk consisted of walking along some narrow cliff top paths, clambering over rock faces and over and under fallen trees, at times I think we had slowed to about a mile an hour !!! Which made for rather a long day! Eventually arriving at Inverarnan some 8 ½ hours later were we had dinner at the Drovers inn and bumped into a young couple holidaying in Scotland with their rescue greyhound a beautiful 5 year old white and grey female called Leya. We told them about GRF and the work they do and obviously at the same time took the opportunity to plug our dog show!! So maybe next year we may have some International competition (albeit from England).

Day 4 seen us start were we left off yesterday and was the first of our 2 long stints (18 miles and 21 miles) ending at Bridge of Orchy. We had a "cunning" plan for this day and split the walk into 3 x 6 mile segments were we would stop and have a decent break and then head onto the next, stopping at Crianlarich and Tyndrum. Unfortunately for us this is were it went wrong for one of our party when trying to negotiate a rather muddy part pulled down some bricks from a wall which landed on her foot. After a few choice words ! and a break we decided to try and get to Tyndrum and reassess her injury. Once the boot came off it was obvious that she would not be walking any further today, as the toes were very swollen and black. Fortunately for us we had transport following us throughout the journey, which was able to take us onto the next hotel. This was probably fortunate for her as the last 6 miles while relatively flat and easy to walk



Just under here !



Breakfast time at Ardlui B&B

poured down with rain and sleet with the wind getting up as well !!! By the time we reached our hotel we were all tired and wet had a quick wash, dinner and bed. We set off very early the next morning leaving at 7 as we had 21 miles ahead of us including the Devil's staircase climb ! As the weather forecast was to be good today I went to the car early and changed my boots (mistake !!) we made good early pace to today's walk and in no time were crossing Rannoch Moor which is surrounded with some of the most highest mountains in the Highlands, some still covered

with snow at their peaks ! Walking along here a mere blot on this fantastic landscape and realising just how insignificant we are in this valley of the mountains.

Suddenly almost half way along the moors my phone rang and it was from my colleagues wife ! he looked and listened as I spoke to her wondering why she should be phoning me and then suddenly found out as I put my hand in my pocket and pulled out the car keys !!! As we were a good distance into the walk (and we don't do back !!) we decided we would get ourselves to the next stop at Kinghouse and see if we could arrange something. Fortunately for us at Kinghouse 4 Dutch lads who were packing up their tents were going past Bridge of Orchy, once we established with them that we were not looking for a lift and told them what I had done they had a good laugh and took the keys and said no problem. By the time we had finished our lunch and looking to head onwards we got the call that the keys had arrived safely. All we had to do now was climb the Devil's



Top of the Devil's Staircase

staircase and walk down into Kinlochleven !! I certainly felt that the climb was much tougher than the Conic Hill, which many say, is the hardest of the climbs. Once at the top and taken the obligatory photographs we made our way down the long winding road towards Kinlochleven which seemed to appear and disappear after each turn !!! Once there we managed to talk the ladies in to having a take away meal and have a quieter night in the B&B. So we commandeered the sitting room in the guest house switched on the TV and promptly watched the European cup final!

As we sat around the table in the morning the realisation began to dawn that we now only had 14 miles to go until Fort William (only 14 ! just a wee stroll !). So of we headed and as seemed to be

the normal for all our walks we started with an uphill climb !!! We were also joined on the walk by Linda who dropped the stone on her foot, which was good as 4 of us started the walk 5 days ago and thus barring more injuries 4 of us would finish.

Once at the top we headed along Lairigmor a wide-open area which was surrounded by 11 munros



(peaks over 3000ft) unfortunately the large forestry area we should have walked through had been decimated by our harsh winter and disease with most of the area being felled and cut back. After many more ups and downs we finally came into a clearing facing the mighty Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK (4406 ft), which indicated that we didn't have far to go. After a few more twists and turns we eventually made our descent back to civilisation! And onto the pavement for the final 1 ½ miles which was sore and took an eternity, finally as we rounded the bend we

Ben Nevis in the background

could see the finish and picked up the pace and had a little celebration at the end while contemplating on what we had just achieved (without too many injuries!!). What had taken us over a year in planning and training was now over and we can now say we have walked the West Highland Way. Looking back now although difficult and challenging at times I would certainly encourage people to give it a go. The scenery is fantastic, having lived in Scotland all my life you do not always appreciate what we have on our own "back door" and I can now see why so many people visit Scotland to do this walk. Tips certainly make sure you have a good pair of walking boots that have at least been worn for a few months prior to the walk. WE bumped into and treated a few people on the way that obviously didn't heed this warning! The month of May is also good mainly because it has the lowest rain fall!!! And the dreaded midget is not at it's peak !! If you would like a quieter start to your walk then begin mid week everybody starts on a Saturday!! However, having said that we had a great time with everybody helping and encouraging each other on the way and we it was good catching up at night and listening to others stories and woes As I said at the beginning I decided to walk this for GRF and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who supported and sponsored me we raised a magnificent £420 !!! Which certainly made up for all the blisters and sore/tired feet !!



Picture says it all !

Vets corner

We start a new article this month, which we hope you will enjoy. Each month we hope to give you some health advice from various vets. This month's topic looks at lungworm in dogs.

Although it's not a pleasant thought, our pets are constantly at risk of acquiring worms. Until recently our main concern regarding worms have been to ensure dogs (and cats) are protected against roundworm and tapeworms, both of which live in the intestines. In addition, an increasing problem in dogs but not cats is lungworm infestation. Lungworm infestation is caused by the parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum* and is something that all dog owners should be aware of.

Angiostrongylus vasorum can cause a wide range of symptoms - some severe, including coughing, lethargy, fits and blood clotting problems. However other pets may show no obvious signs of problems.

So what is the life cycle ?

In infected dogs *A. vasorum* lungworms live in the pulmonary arteries and right ventricle of the heart. Here they lay eggs, which hatch into larvae and in turn migrate into the airways of the lung. Larvae are then coughed up, swallowed and passed in the dogs faeces. Slugs, snails and frogs act as intermediate hosts, ingesting the larvae. The intermediate hosts are in turn eaten by dogs (often unwittingly) and the larvae then migrate to the heart and develop into adult worms.



The good news is that worms can be prevented by following a few simple rules: worm your dogs regularly, use regular flea control, try to avoid dogs eating snails, slugs and frogs and keep garden clear of faeces. Any local vet can advise you on the most suitable worm and flea regime for your pet.

Dates for the Diary

The next greyhound walk will take place at

Sunday 4th July at 11am, Ravenscraig Park Kirkcaldy

And finally

Just another few pics of the scenery of the WHW



