

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

July 2010

Changing the world one greyhound at a time!

This month along with our regular kennel update we have some familiar faces and updates! Including our celebratory grey that appeared on the Hour show! We also look at the difference in blood counts for greys and other dogs in our Vets corner and much more. I hope you enjoy

Kennel update

We are currently building another kennel at Baltree so that we can house another 4 dogs which will take us up to 52 ! including our foster dogs !!! we are getting dog food by the ton delivered every 3 weeks !!!!

Incomers: ROSIE, SPRIGHTLY, RUBY, GALWAY, WILF and MARIAH

Outgoing: CHARLIE, LASSIE, BREEZE, BLUE, SPRIGHTLY and PAL

As of the end of June we have now found forever homes for 385 dogs and thus fast approaching the 400 mark !!!!!!!



From the Dog house

SOPHIE is a very loveable little blue girl. Her grey face makes her look older but she is only 3 years old. She has a lovely nature, taking a delight in being with people. Sophie is a very easy girl to walk on a lead and has the makings of a fabulous pet.

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

Lucky Number - July draw

59 Numbers were sold for our July draw giving a total prize fund of £118. To be split as £70.80 to GRF and £47.20 to the winner.

Jimmy drew the winning number after our walk, which was number 11 belonging to **Alison McDevitt**. Congratulations Alison.

2010/11 Calendars

After the success of last years 2009/10 GRF calendar we are now putting together our 2010/11 one and are thus now looking for pictures of your dogs. So if you missed out on you're hound being a pin up last year why not get snapping and who knows they may be our pin ups for 2010/11

Again we're trying to find a sponsor for each month so if you're interested in getting your business seen in 200 homes (or know someone who could be) please get in contact. Sponsors don't have to be dog/animal related- we'd be very grateful for anyone. To sponsor a month will be **£25**. Last year sponsorship covered the cost of the initial print run ensuring the calendar's financial success.

If you'd like to be involved in anyway (putting forward a photo, getting sponsors, sales...) your help will be much welcomed! Please contact Michele at marfykiwi@blueyonder.co.uk

Sad news

Over the last month we had some sad news that of the untimely death of one of our loved greys Suzy. Suzy came along to Baltree farm along with her friends for their regular play in our well-fenced safe runs. They played in the runs for a wee while with Domino. When returning to the car to go home we noticed that Suzy was in a bit of distress. We took her into the kennels and cooled her with electric fans and wet towels, but, we soon realised she was not well. Celia put her into her car and she and Ben rushed her to the vet but unfortunately she died in the car. AS Suzy and her friends have visited the run on many occasions we can only assume that she may have had some underlying health problems.

Our deepest sympathies go to Lyndsey and Ben, two of the kindest people we've ever had the pleasure of re-homing to.

Run free over Rainbow Bridge beautiful Suzy.

A very sad Celia and Jimmy. 😞

Merchandise

Those of you who have been along to our last few walks will have noticed that you can now purchase an array of GRF merchandise. Including Baseball Caps, Tee Shirts in various colours, Rain jackets, sweatshirts, mugs, mouse mats car stickers/tax disc holders, Christmas and Birthday cards and the very popular 50p doggy treat box! Orders can also be placed if we do not have your size or the item you wanted. So why not visit our merchandise stand at our next dog walk.

Dog of the month

Our dog of the month this year maybe familiar to a few of you as she was our superstar on STV's the Hour show and certainly likes her water !!! What has happened to her since this appearance? Below is Isla's update (formerly known as Wilma)



I don't know if any other 'Fife hounds' have been homed so far a field as me but back in March I made the long trip from Scotland to my new home in Rugby. My 'Mum' Judy had spotted me on the website and made enquiries about me despite not having seen my claim to fame when I featured on STV's evening show - 'The Hour'. Although Celia and Jimmy obviously couldn't arrange a personal

home visit, they did check out 'Mum's' credentials and agreed for me to join the existing Zatonski hounds - greys Phoenix, Jacob, Mimi and Inca plus lurcher Ellie-May.

Being only two years old, I am rather enthusiastic in everything I do but a more loving and affectionate girl you couldn't wish to meet. I have a bit to learn about walking nicely on the lead (yes I do pull) but I am excused by saying my eagerness is just the exuberance of youth! I am quickly learning to become a 'supermodel' as my 'Mum' takes lots of photographs, some of which are used to promote retired greyhounds as pets.

To date, I have appeared in a Rescue Magazine and I will be September's 'Pin-up-Pup in Dogs Monthly magazine. Who knows what tomorrow may bring?

Last Sunday I had the honour of meeting the famous author Jilly Cooper who also has a rescue greyhound called Feather. I posed for lots of photos and behaved almost impeccably until I spotted Jilly's cat !. I had to be kept in check as it was his garden after all and I am pleased to say that apart from being mighty inquisitive and wanting to get a closer look, I didn't blot my

copybook. Like my 'Mum' Judy - Jilly has a real soft spot for greyhounds and they are featured in some of her novels.

Well that's all from me - thanks to Celia and Jimmy for allowing me to join the Zatonski household. Must catch up on some beauty sleep now before my next modelling assignment!



Best wishes
Isla (aka Wilma)

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

Vets Corner

In this month's vet corner we take a look at some differences between greyhounds and other dogs Particular with regards to blood! And the various test results.

Greyhound blood work has enough differences from "other dog" blood work to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

CBC = Complete Blood Count

RBC = Red Blood Cells

Hgb = Haemoglobin

PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume / Haematocrit

WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets

NORMAL VALUES FOR:

	<u>Greyhounds</u>	<u>Other Dogs</u>
RBC:	7.4 - 9.0	5.5 - 8.5
Hgb:	19.0 - 21.5	12.0 - 18.0
PCV:	55 - 65	37 - 55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, haemoglobin, and PCV / HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference. Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia - a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction - in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's - low 40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's - low 40's is an anaemic greyhound.

WBC

Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5

Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

Platelets

Greyhound: 80,000 - 200,000

Other dog: 150,000 - 400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total

protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Chemical Panel

T.P. = Total Protein

Globulin

Creatinine

T4

NORMAL VALUES FOR:

	T.P.	Globulin
Greyhound:	4.5 - 6.2	Greyhound: 2.1 - 3.2
Other dog:	5.4 - 7.8	Other dog: 2.8 - 4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal - T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

Creatinine

Greyhounds: .8 - 1.6

Other dogs: .0 - 1.0

Greyhound creatinine's run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values up to 1.6 times as high as the top of the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.

T4

Greyhounds: 0.5 - 3.6 (mean 1.47+/- 0.63)

Other dogs: 1.52 - 3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds - 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs - so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

Urinalysis

And lastly, the good news - greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

If you were interested in this article and would like to read more below is a note of the sources used for the above.

Sources

M.R. Herron, DVM, ACVS, Clinical Pathology of the Racing Greyhound , 1991.

C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, ACVIM, "Managing Thrombocytopenia in Dogs & Cats," *Veterinary Medicine*, May 1999.

J. Steiss, DVM, W. Brewer, DVM, E. Welles, DVM, J. Wright, DVM, "Hematologic & Serum Biochemical Reference Values in Retired Greyhounds," *Compendium on Continuing Education*, March 2000.

M. Bloomberg, DVM, MS, "Thyroid Function of the Racing Greyhound," University of Florida, 1987.

D. Bruyette, DVM, ACVIM, *Veterinary Information Network*, 2001.

Fun zone

Three puzzles to finish the month with, answers will be in next month's issue

- The following puzzle consists of a proverb with all its vowels removed. The remaining letters have been broken into groups. Put back the vowels to find the proverb.
FLND-HSMN-YRSLY-PRTD.
- Reading this message, you will notice some spelling errors. Do not be frightened, however. This is how you must analyze: First, find all of the missing, repeated, or incorrect letters. Second, allow yourself to look at these and look at the word that is represented. Finally, tell me a number that most commonly is associated with the word.

					2	9	6	
	3			6				
6	9	2	8	4		5		
		4		8	3			5
1	2			9			4	8
8			1	2		3		
		6		7	8	2	1	9
				1			8	
	1	8	4					

Dates for the Diary

- **Sunday 1st August** - Our next dog walk will take place at Dunfermline Pittencrieff Park, starting in the car park at **11am**. This walk is being held as part of the Fife Outdoor Access Festival.
- **Sunday 5 September**. Perth North Inch, leaving from Bell's Sports Centre car park on the North Inch at 11am. **N.B. This walk is provisional at the moment.**
- **Sunday 3 October**. St Andrews West Sands, leaving from the farthest away car park at the west sands at 11am.
- **Sunday 7 November**. Kinross. Leaving from the Kirkgate car park at 11am and walking along the side of Loch Leven to the Burleigh sands and back.

And finally



Many people have commented on last month's article on the West Highland Way and I am pleased that many of you enjoyed some of the pics printed. While this was a challenging walk and raised a lot of money for GRF the WHW was only one part of my 3 part challenge of which to date I have now completed 2/3rds !!! My ultimate goal is to have walked the length of Scotland from the most South East part (Kirk Yetholm) to the most North West ending at Cape Wrath a complete distance of approximately 433 miles !! of which I have now completed 236miles so only another 197 to go !!!!! due to the remoteness in many of these remaining miles I will be doing this in various stages. So watch this space

As we are now allegedly into our summer months!!! I would like to do a few article over the next couple of months of peoples holidays with their greys, to include where you went, was it dog friendly? Did you and the dogs enjoy etc? Along with any contact details of the place and some pics