

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

September 2010

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

In this issue of the newsletter we hit another milestone in GRF history !! and along with our regular kennel update this month we take a look at greyhound eyes in our vets corner. We also have a tasty recipe for our greys ! and our usual fun zone area were this month we have a number of Suduko puzzles to solve hope you enjoy

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As you will have guessed we have now re-homed our 400th grey !!! not bad from where we first started, by the time you read this we will be well on our way to our next 100 !! Sandy was the lucky dog and he went out to Pamela from Falkirk were he is settling in well. Over the last month we have had a good run of dogs finding their forever homes, fingers crossed this continues.

Incomers: RAJAH, NATASHA, JENNY, ROXY, BRUCE, MORGAN, LARRY, SPARKLE, SUKIE, BART, FERN and TED. (12).

Outgoing: TERRY, SANDY (# 400), MAX, RUBY, LAMA, LUCY, HOLLY, FRODO, LASS, BARRY, JENNY, MORGAN, NATASHA, RAJAH and of course, yes it's true, ARIEL (15).

Giving us a total of 415 !!!!

Three of the dogs who came in - SUKIE, BART and FERN were part of a combined rescue operation involving several rescues to take in 23 dogs left after their trainer died. Two dogs unfortunately were 14 years old and unwell and had to be put to sleep. We believe that BART who is 9 years old may have found his forever home. Watch this space.

Kennel update

Work is continuing at Baltree where a walkway has been constructed right round the property. If you walk the dogs three laps you have covered one mile. The uphill section of the walk ensures that all GRF volunteers are finely tuned and fit. Jimmy thinks the next project should be a chairlift.

The kennels and fences are painted and Bert McCurdy is doing the most fantastic job of renovating the kennels. They are now so clean that we are loath to put dogs in them! Thank you Bert for all the hours that you give us.

Thank you

Our 2011 GRF calendar has been compiled and it is at the printers. Thanks to Michele for your sterling work in once more putting this all together. They will be on sale very shortly

All at Greyhound Rescue Fife would like to sincerely thank Brenda Williams and the Bannockburn Bowmen for extremely kindly organising a competition where **£262.40** was raised for GRF.

Thank you for thinking about our homeless dogs.

GRF would also like to extend our thanks to Bert McCurdy and family for spending two whole days at the recent fair spreading the good word about greyhounds. They also raised the fantastic sum of **£196** to help our homeless dogs. Your very long hours are greatly appreciated

From the Dog house



LARRY is a beautiful brindle boy with a gorgeous nature. He is an unassuming boy who will quietly cuddle up to you. He loves everybody and walks very easily on a lead. A very nice pet dog.

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

Lucky Number - September draw

62 numbers were sold for this month's lucky number draw giving us a prize fund of £124.00. To be split as £74.40 to GRF and £49.60 to the winner. At our Perth walk Celia drew out number 62 which belonged to Gordon Smith. Gordon has kindly donated his winnings to GRF, giving them the full amount of **£124.00** this month. Thank you Gordon

If interested in participating in our monthly lucky number draw then get in touch with either Gordon/Fiona at grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk

And you maybe our next lucky winner !!!

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

Hi my name is Stacey, Foreglen Snowey to my racing friends. My mum and dad say I am eight



years old, although I was there at the time, I don't know how long ago it was, because I have not yet learnt to read a calendar. (One of the 99 things to do before I die)

Although I am not one of Jimmy and Celia's successes, I was rescued in Fife by a lady called Claire Cartmell. My mum and dad really wanted a lurcher, but once they saw my big loving eyes, wagging tail and a few licks later I was on my way

to a forever home. I've learnt how to play, how to insist on a fuss and how to get my own way.

I am a very possessive dog; I rule the roost in my house. Sometimes when my friend Guinness comes around (she's a jack Russell cross) I let her into my house then attack her, we growl and bark for about five minutes then she knows her place.

They say that owners get to look like their dogs, does it work the other way?

I hope not, I don't want a baldhead. It was bad enough having a bald bum, but now after six years living indoors it's beginning



to get covered with hair again. Don't ask me why it's started growing back, it might be the food, grooming or just the fact that I now lie on a sheepskin rug. Ahh! Bliss.



What do I like?

I like walks, if it's not raining

I like sleeping on my settee or if it's sunny, in the garden.

I like my treats, which I insist upon twice a day

What don't I like

Cats, squirrels, small hairy dogs, spaniels especially and big lorries

Tuesdays, my mum and dad leave me all day and go to a place called Balltree Farm and they come home smelling of other dogs, I turn my back on them and go back

to sleep, that's until 5 o'clock, that's my tea time.

I might not be able to read, I can tell the time: Walk 8 - 9 am followed by a treat, then sleep. Tea at 5 pm, even if I have only just finished my breakfast!! Walk at 7 pm followed by a denti stix.

My first walk with all the other greyhounds and their slaves (mums and dads) was in Dunfermline, I was a bit nervous to begin with. I had a real leg trembler going. Once we got going and we all tried to get to the front, I quite enjoyed the company, think I might like to do it again.

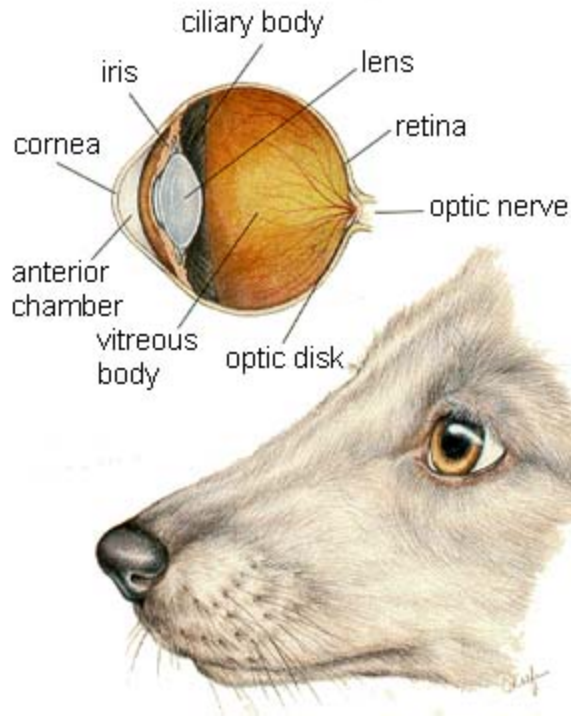
Must dash now it's time for my evening constitutional.
See you all at another walk, woof woof!!

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

The Eyes have it

by Lori Amato



I always had a thing for eyes. Cat eyes always fascinated me. I always wondered what the cats were thinking. Dog eyes were the best of all. My first dog, Tango, had dancing eyes. My Doberman, Ariel, possessed the saddest eyes I had ever seen. Then the first pair of greyhound eyes came along. Sultan had big "Bambi" eyes and classic greyhound eyeliner. His eyes said, "Love me." Those eyes communicated better than any spoken words over the years.

Here I am, an owner of sighthounds. I got to thinking: what makes sighthounds sight hounds? They are hounds that hunt by sight. That means their gorgeous eyes are pretty important.

The eye is an organ with several parts.

The eyeball rests in a cushion of fat that protects it in its bony socket. Seven muscles attach to the eyeball. They stabilize the eye and govern its movements. When you look at a dog's eye, one of the first parts you will notice is the sclera. The sclera is the white area that rims most of the eye's surface. The dog's sclera is much less evident than a human's sclera. Most of the dog's eye has pigment. The pigment is in the iris, which is a layer of smooth muscle that controls the size of the pupil. Both the iris and the pupil have a cover that is a layer of thick transparent cells. These transparent cells are the cornea, or "window of the eye."

The inner eye has two chambers.

The anterior chamber is between the cornea and the lens. The posterior contains a clear jelly and is the larger central cavity of the eye between the lens and the retina. Light enters the eye by passing first through the cornea and anterior chamber and then through the pupil and the lens. The iris expands and contracts, depending upon the brightness of the light. Light then traverses the posterior chamber and the retina receives it. The light converts into nerve impulses that pass via the optic nerve to the brain.

The eye's anatomy is similar in mammals. However, its functional capabilities vary greatly among the species. A dog's eyes are towards the front of its head and are unable to see behind it. This is true of most predatory species. Prey species such as deer and antelopes have their eyes fixed on the sides of their heads. In some breeds, such as the sighthound breeds, the total field of vision is 270 degrees. This is 70 degrees greater than that of humans whose visual field is about 180 degrees. The average dog has a visual field of about 250 degrees. Flat faced breeds such as pugs have a little less. Therefore, sighthounds with their narrow heads can detect small movements over a much greater slice of landscape. If we are out walking and a cat is running some distance away, sighthounds will react and notice it much more quickly than a person would.

We can be walking on the road and see a squirrel sitting quietly — almost frozen, if you will. Yet, the dogs are completely oblivious to that. Although sighthounds have the ability to detect movement at great distances, their binocular vision is only about 70 degrees. Flat-faced breeds such as the pug or boxer have a binocular field of about 80 degrees. In humans the binocular field is 140 degrees; therefore humans have an advantage in depth perception. Both humans and dogs have binocular vision: we see the landscape through both eyes. When looking straight ahead, the images found by the eyes overlap to some extent. Because of the distance between the right and left eye, they will record slightly different images, which allows the brain to estimate distance shape, and texture. The greater this overlap, the greater is the capability for depth perception to evaluate and recognize objects. Without it, the landscape would look almost flat. The canine eye is smaller than the human eye although the cells in both retinas are of equal size. The image formed on the dog's retina is only about 75 percent of the image in the human eye. This covers a smaller number of cells; we lose detail but gain sharpness and depth perception.

When It's Dark

Human eyes and dog eyes work differently in the dark. One night someone had forgotten to put on the hallway light. When I arrived home with the dogs I had a lot of difficulty finding the keyhole. I finally got the key in the lock. I was at the bottom of the stairs with Feather and Tauren. Here I am with my arms full. I can barely see in the dark and I knew the dogs had to get up the stairs. So I just let them lead the way and, sure enough, they got me safely to the top of the darkened stairs. These animals can see and navigate quite well in the dark. They have a significantly higher rod and cone ratio than we humans.

What are rods and cones?

They are two different types of cells that exist in the retina of the eye. The name comes from their shape. Rods will record shapes and general outlines even in very low light levels.

Cones register fine detail in bright light. Rods in the eye are sensitive to light and are useful for black and white vision. Dogs also have a light reflecting layer called the *tapetum lucidum* at the back of their eyes, which acts as an image-intensifying device allowing them to utilize what little bit of illumination is available. Dog eyes that are in the process of adapting to seeing in dim light go through a few modifications. Finger-like projections of the tapetum move forward. They line the inner surface of the choroid to form a reflective layer behind the retina. The light passes through the retina in the dark-adapted eye, instead of being absorbed. The choroid reflects

straight back through the retina by the tapetum twice and has a greater chance of activating the light sensitive rods. In the dog, the tapetum is usually green or yellowish green. Hence the weird dog eyes that greet you when you are shining a flashlight in the middle of a power outage. Cats have this same advantage. Wild dogs tend to become active at dusk. That is the reason why nature allowed this adaptation to occur. Human vision has a higher cone and rod ratio and accounts for us having better color vision than dogs do. The evidence does point to the fact that dogs do perceive some colors. Perhaps they look at the world with rose colored spectacles. This may not be a bad way to live, eh?

Recipe

Below is a recipe which was on our web site a while back and the dogs just love it so if you fancy giving it a try then here are the ingredients.

Uncle Jaimsie's All Natural Liver Cake recipe

Ingredients:

500g liver (ox is cheapest but any will do)
1 cup of wholemeal flour
1 cup bran flakes
1 cup of porridge oats
4 medium eggs
1 clove of garlic

Method:

Blitz liver, garlic and 1 egg in blender until smooth
add 1 egg and oats, and blitz
add 1 egg and bran flakes, blitz
add final egg and flour, blitz (maybe a bit paste like but this ok)
Line a shallow baking tray (10" by 14" approx)
with baking parchment and grease with butter or oil
Spread paste onto tray and smooth
Bake in preheated oven at 180 deg for 20 mins.
It should be spongy but firm turn out onto cooling rack but remove parchment when still hot.

Cut into bite size pieces.

Should make approx 700g of cake

Fun zone

First of all answers to last month's teasers !

1. New password was: Different
Old password was: Out of date !!! (simple !)
2. The dog with Mr Greene was not his !!!
3. CAT

This month we have some Suduko puzzles to keep everyone busy! Hope you enjoy

Each row, column & 3x3 sub grid must contain the numbers 1 to 9

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3	9		4				6	
			9	4				6
9	1						2	8
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				8				4

Dates for the Diary

- **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

Below is a poem from a greyhound's view and after reading it and shedding a few tears made me realize the need for safe sanctuaries like GRF to prevent this sort of thing happening and hope that as many people as possible continue to support our cause in doing so.

"Together we can make a difference"

A Greyhound's Story

It wasn't all that long ago I ran the dusty track for show, Devoted and driven my face pierced the wind as race after race I fought to contend.

Slow at the turn and lacking in grace I did what I could but I never placed.

I loved to run hard and hear the crowd roar; yet those cheers turned to boos when I didn't score.

Folks lost their money when they bet on me, they tagged me a loser, said "Retire number three!!".

I had no idea what I was likely to find as I walked from the track for the very last time.

My person was writing, eyes teared and face so long. I sensed inside the sadness that this time I'd not go home.

I tried to change my person's mind and wagged my mighty tail, but I knew deep down without a doubt, like racing I had failed.

We drove along the country roads till we came upon a town where erected off the main drag was a place known as the pound.

A pretty woman came outside and took me from my crate. My person signed the papers and with one look at my face

Said, "I'm sorry that I have to go and leave you here to sleep".

I felt my heart break into bits and walked with head bent low. I knew that it was over and I had no place to go.

Inside the dingy building I was checked and tagged and weighed, I heard the pretty woman state "Don't look him in the eye - He has that Greyhound Gaze that says, I do not want to die"

They put me in a kennel with the others on death row. I lay down on the concrete and moaned so soft and low.

Morning filtered through the glass, I stretched my weary bones. The pretty woman came to me and said "It's time to go"

The hall was long and dark and cold, I did not cry or weep. I used my eyes and face and soul to halt eternal sleep.

She tried her best to use defence and look away from me; she seemed to know how wrong it was to do this deadly deed.

She bent down close and held my face against her silken cheek, the needle entered my front leg and quickly I felt weak.

I heard the pretty woman sob as she lay me on the floor. I saw the last glimpse of her face and then I saw no more.

*I may not have been the fastest dog to ever run the track; I just wish someone had loved me **so I could have loved them back.***

(poet - Pat Graham)