

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

January 2011

*Changing the world
One greyhound at a time!*

First of all a belated Happy New Year to everyone! This month along with our regular kennel update we take a look at the year that has just passed. Unfortunately two of our favourite greys are featured in this month from the doghouse. One of which was our dog of the month in December. We take a look in our vet's corner at "Anesthetic Malignant Hypothermia" and look at the "ten commandments" for greyhounds, before ending with some words from myself on recent forum postings. I hope you enjoy this newsletter and apologies for the lateness in

Kennel update

Over the last few months we have been literally snowed under!!! Although unfortunately not with adoption enquiries which means that our kennels are now bursting at the seams to the extent we now have a waiting list for greys waiting to come in.. Certainly over the last month the weather hasn't helped with our own helpers struggling to get to the kennels let alone potential adoptees. Celia herself has even had to stay over at the kennels so that our dogs can be looked after. Although this has resulted in some sleepless nights, not for Celia but the greys from her snoring!!!! (Ed. Don't shoot the messenger Celia!!!) On the plus side Jimmy has never had better sleeps!!!

We certainly would like to say a massive thank you to all our helpers over this period in helping us keep the kennels running and ensuring dog food being delivered, especially Mike and the Scottish mud club who helped us with our food delivery's. In fact Mike even came back and adopted two of our greys (Bella & Luigi) Thanks guys.

Unfortunately because of all the recent bad weather we have been forced to cancel our monthly walks for January and February but hope to be back again in March when hopefully the weather will be a bit better!!

Incomers: BELINDA, MAISIE (Incomers has had to be reduced due to us having to bring our dogs into our main kennels during this bad weather, thus reducing our capacity)

Outgoing SNOWIE, BHAN, TOBY, JOSIE, SWEETIE, ARCHIE, BELLA, LUIGI, CINDY LADY, LASSIE

As we have decided to cancel our January and February dog walks until the weather hopefully picks up we are now looking for people to look out items for potential raffle/tombola prizes for our dog show in May. These items will then be collected at each of our dog walks hopefully from March onwards!!

Helen is also now looking to collect various items for our white elephant stall at the show as well. If you have anything you can either contact Helen at or alternatively items can be dropped off at the kennels (as can any potential raffle/tombola prizes).

We also hope to have next month, tickets available for sale price this year £3.50 with once again children under 16 free. These will be available from our kennels, or from myself at monthly dog walks. Full details of potential sponsorship opportunities will also be available from next month watch the forum and future newsletters for full details

The Year that was 2010

January Seen a slow start to the year with 3 dogs coming in to our kennels and 2 finding homes. Unfortunately we lost one of our much-loved grey's Precious aka Lily aka Stella who was untimely put to sleep. We also had 30cm of snow and -10oC temperatures (sounds familiar!!).

February seen us having to cancel our monthly walk due to the continuing bad weather. Although better news was to follow this month as we re-homed our 350th dog when Bob and Skippy found forever homes. GRF also went National when Celia, Jimmy and show stealer Wilma appeared on the STV show the Hour to promote greyhound rescue. During the month we re-homed 13 dogs and took in 11.

March was a busy month as we re-housed all our greys from Union farm under "one roof" at our Baltree kennels. During March we re-homed 7 and took in 5.

April seen the first of some new monthly walk venues at Loch Leven nature reserve in Kinross with a good turnout. A back packing at a local Asda store raised a magnificent £562.87 for GRF.

May Seen our 3rd annual dog show and although numbers were down on previous years (possibly due to bank holiday weekend) we managed to raise an amazing £1935.00 !! but more importantly managed to re-home 2 dogs on the back of the show.

Class winners:

Junior handler - Duke/Amy

Male Greyhound - Kell/Steve

Non greyhound - Harry/Fiona
Family - Rocky, Misty, Tony, Harry/Fiona
Loveable face - Grace/Karen
Female greyhound - Star/Graham
Best in Show 2010 - Kell/Steve

Over the month we managed to find homes for 8 greys and took 10 into our kennels.

June - After the euphoria/success of the previous month it was disappointing to start June with a poorly written/researched article in a local paper. These false allegations upset many of our followers who knew the truth and complained to the paper who needed to print an apology and a more accurate article on GRF. During the month we re-homed 8 and took in 9.

July - Building began of 4 of our proposed new kennel blocks at Baltree which would eventually increase our capacity at our kennels. Giving us the opportunity to save more of these majestic animals. Unfortunately during the month one of our loved greys Suzie, who visited our kennels/runs regularly passed away. Run free over Rainbow bridge.

August seen us complete 3 of our 4 new kennel blocks and almost as soon as they were ready they were full !! A cheque received from the Jordan bear charity run by Sue and Les Horne of £1350 went some way to helping us upgrade our facilities. During the month we broke even by finding homes for 8 dogs and taking in the same number.

September started with a bang with Sandy becoming our 400th dog to be re-homed. This was an exceptionally busy month with 12 dogs coming into our kennels and 15 finding forever homes. Three of the 12 dogs arriving at our kennels was the result of a combined rescue operation to take in 23 dogs after the death of their trainer. It is good to see that some genuine greyhound rescue centre's can combine their resources at a time of need. During the month we also completed a new walkway around our kennels.

October/November - started with a generous donation of £5000 from Pets at Home under their support adoption for pets scheme.

Group finance capital management volunteers arrived to help out at our kennels for a day, helping us walk all our current inmates and helping lay down new footpaths around our kennels. Over this time we re-homed 18 dogs and took in 18.

December seen the arrival of volunteers from Scottish water who worked and helped out at our kennels for a day helping walk/feed our greys as well as dig some trenches for drainage. This month also seen us introduce our dog database which will allow us the opportunity of keeping all our friends up to date with what is going on as well as helping in alerting of any lost dogs in various areas across the country.

Over the year our monthly lucky number draw has seen us raise **£1530** with **£1,122.80** going to GRF and **£407.20** going to prizewinners.

That was an overview of the year that was and doesn't mention all of our helpers and followers who have devoted so much of their time and resources as well as raise regular amounts of money to help keep our kennels running over the year. From all of our real beneficiaries we thank you very much on their behalf and we will forever be in your debt.

From the Dog house



Unfortunately our dog of the month in our December 2010 Newsletter, BRUCE formerly known, as Rab and his girlfriend Morgan have been returned from their home to our kennels for re-homing.

Bruce is a wonderful big boy with a gentle nature both he and Morgan his girlfriend are so sensitive, they are very unhappy in the kennels they have not eaten their dinner, just sitting in their kennel shaking and totally despondent. They just don't understand what they have done wrong and desperately need a new home.

This is Bruce formally Rab desperately looking for a new sofa.

If you think you can give these dogs a good forever home please give us a call. Positive replies only please.

By Phone: 01592 890583 Please leave a message and we will get back to you if we are unable to answer your call.

email: FERNIEJIMMYF@aol.com



This is Morgan, Isn't she a stunner!

Lucky Number - draw

69 Numbers were sold for the December draw giving a prize fund of £138.00, split as £82.80 to GRF and £55.20 to the winner. The draw took place and number 71 was picked out belonging to Janet McCurdy, Janet has also donated her winnings to our cause and thus GRF will receive a cheque of £138, thank you Janet for your kind donation

Vets Corner

Anesthetic Malignant Hypothermia:

Anesthesia is a term that strikes fear into the hearts of many Greyhound owners. One of the origins of that fear is a condition called malignant hypothermia. Some Greyhound owners may have lost a pet to this condition or know someone who has. Others may think their pet has suffered from an episode of malignant hypothermia when in fact they may have not.

Malignant hypothermia (MH) is a rare inherited genetic disorder of skeletal muscle, which results in the mutation of a calcium channel protein within the muscle cells. This mutation results in muscle contraction and increased metabolism, which leads to the production of not only excess carbon dioxide but also excess heat which results in a life threatening hypothermia (elevated body temperature). The hypothermia, in combination with the other metabolic changes that are occurring, can result in cardiac (heart) Arrhythmias and multiple internal organ failure. MH can be triggered by gas anesthetics (not injectable anesthetics), extreme exercise, and stress. The only treatment for true episodes of MH is an intravenous injection of the muscle relaxant *Dantrolene* in addition to supportive intravenous fluid therapy, immediate removal of the patient from gas Anesthetics, external cooling and respiratory support. Even with appropriate treatment this disease can be fatal.

The difficulty in diagnosing MH is that there is no blood test available. A muscle Biopsy can be taken and a caffeine contracture test can be performed on the fresh specimen. The way the muscle biopsy responds to various concentrations of caffeine is considered diagnostic for malignant hypothermia. Because this test requires fresh tissue, most commercial laboratories do not routinely run it. Your vet may even find it difficult to locate a laboratory that will perform the caffeine contracture test. Because a patient must first be anesthetized in order to collect a muscle biopsy, many veterinarians will not biopsy suspected animals after an episode of hypothermia because of the risk of inducing hypothermia again.

The other difficulty for making a MH diagnosis is that some Greyhounds can have significant hypothermia (>105 degrees Fahrenheit) without having the disease. The same life threatening

clinical signs that occur secondary to the elevated temperatures associated with malignant hypothermia can also occur secondary to non-malignant hypothermia (Non-MH).

Greyhounds are a breed well known for their large muscle mass. Many also suffer from separation anxiety and can become stressed in a veterinary hospital setting. This combination is why, I believe, Greyhounds seem to suffer from non-MH hypothermia more than other breeds. As animals awake from anesthesia, many shake or shiver as a natural response to a mild hypothermia (a low body temperature; this commonly occurs while under anesthesia), pain or disorientation. In some Greyhounds, this response seems to be exaggerated and the shivering results in warming beyond normal temperatures and in excess of 105 degrees Fahrenheit. These animals may respond well to supportive treatment (anti-inflammatory, intravenous fluids, external cooling and respiratory support) without the use of *Dantrolene* if they are caught early enough.

Without a muscle biopsy, how can one tell the true cause of the hypothermia?

Many anesthesiologists believe that if the animal survived and did not receive an injection of *Dantrolene*, MH was not the cause for the elevated temperature. If your pet has ever had a previous uneventful anesthetic procedure, it is most likely not MH.

Animals affected by MH are always affected by MH and cannot have an anesthetic procedure with gas anesthesia without triggering the hypothermia. If your Greyhound was neutered with no report of problems with anesthesia and subsequently developed hypothermia during an anesthetic event, it is unlikely to be MH. In addition, the calcium pore malfunction that causes the muscles to contract excessively results in other changes in the blood that accompany excess muscle activity. If blood work is performed during the suspected MH episode it will show these changes if MH really is occurring.

Why is it important to understand if your dog had MH or non-MH? Because MH is an inherited condition that will reoccur every time your Greyhound is exposed to gas anesthesia. Should surgery become necessary, management with injectable anesthetics only and premeditating with *Dantrolene* may lessen the risks. Greyhounds suffering from non-MH may never again have a similar event and their anesthetics can be adjusted to try to prevent some of the phenomenon (shivering, shaking, etc.), which are known to trigger the event.

The key to manage this disease is to have your veterinarian continually check your Greyhound's temperature before, during and after the procedure, and using an appropriate anesthetic regimen including analgesics (pain medications) as needed. The earlier the treatment is started, the better chance that you're Greyhound will recover if he/she will suffer from an episode of hypothermia (regardless of the cause). If your Greyhound has survived an episode of anesthetic hypothermia (MH or non-MH), I would highly recommend that you and your veterinarian consult with a board certified veterinary anesthesiologist to discuss the best available anesthetic protocols for your pet.

By William E. Feeman

In Memory

Recently a close work colleague of mine Olive Drummond passed away from a short illness earlier this month. Many people on here will not have had the opportunity to Meet Olive, but she was extremely supportive of our cause in particular when we came up with the idea of hosting a dog show to raise awareness of the plight of the greyhound and raise much needed funds. Over the last 3 years Olive has been extremely supportive of our shows and has made a number of anonymous donations both monetary and by way of goods for our raffles/tombola. She always asked after our dogs and kept abreast of what was going on from both our forum and monthly newsletter, even letting me know on occasions what was happening!

Olive took early retirement in September and her main aims were to get her garden back in order! And then get in touch with Jimmy and Celia to see if there was anything that she could do at the kennels. Unfortunately she didn't get the opportunity to get that first hand experience of greyhounds that we all know she would have enjoyed. RIP Olive your generosity will be sadly missed by all.

Donations

Don't have room in your home for one of our beautiful hounds? There are other ways you can help!

Wherever you go there seems to be someone asking for money these days. At the weekend in most towns you find someone collecting for their chosen charity. At GRF the Greyhounds in our care are completely dependant on us for their very life, and we are completely dependant on you to help us to keep helping the dogs. That's why we appreciate any support that you can possibly give to us.

Below is a breakdown of some of the things that we can do with any kind donation that you can make to us.

£10 will buy a 15kg bag of food which will feed 5 of our dogs for a week.

£10 will buy a cosy jacket for one of our dogs for the cold Scottish winter.

£15 will buy a special, non-slip Greyhound collar.

£20 will pay for one week emergency boarding for a dog rescued from the track if our kennels are full.

£24 will pay for a dog to have a full course of vaccinations.

£3 will pay for a dog to be treated for worms.

£7 will pay for a dog to be treated for fleas or mange.

£50 will pay for a dog to be neutered.

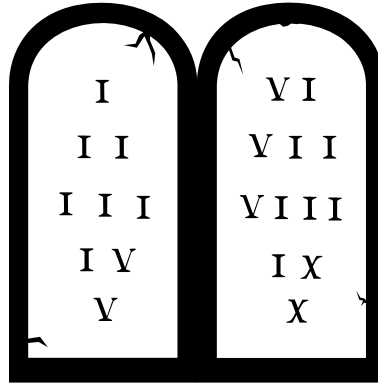
£80 will pay for a bitch to be neutered.



You can make a donation at either Baltree or Union Farm kennel. Also you can donate via our website greyhoundrescuefife.com

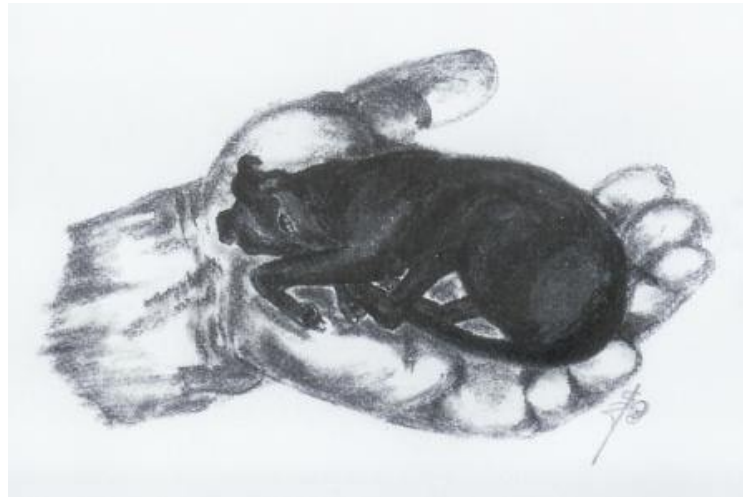
Any donation whatsoever would be greatly appreciated by us and most of all, by our dogs!

Ten Commandments for Pet Owners



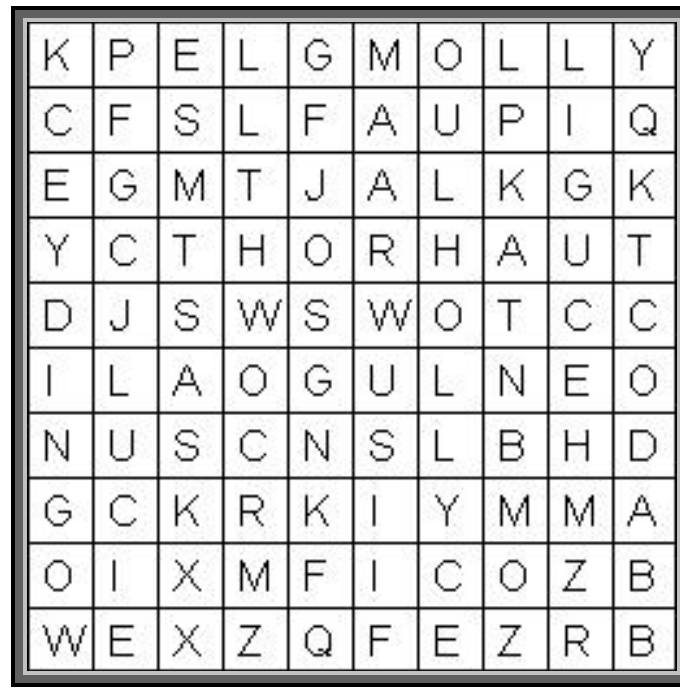
1. My life is likely to last 10 to 15 years. Any separation from you will be very painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want from me. Do not break my spirit with your temper, though I will always forgive you. Your patience will teach me more effectively.
3. Please have me spayed or neutered.
4. Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in all the world is more grateful for your kindness than mine. Don't be angry with me for long, and don't lock me up as punishment. After all, you have your job, your friends, your entertainment. I have only you.
5. Speak to me often. Even if I don't understand your words, I understand your voice when it's speaking to me. Your voice is the sweetest sound I ever hear, as you must know by my enthusiasm whenever I hear your footsteps.
6. Take me in when it's cold and wet. I'm a domestic animal and am no longer accustomed to the bitter 'elements.' I ask for little more than your gentle hands petting me. Keep my bowl filled with water. Feed me good food so I may stay well, to romp and play and do your bidding. By your side, I stand ready, willing and able to share my life with you, for that is what I live for. I'll never forget how well you've treated me.

7. Don't hit me. Remember, I have teeth that could easily crush the bones in your hand, but I chose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I've been out in the sun too long, or my heart may be getting weak.
9. Take care of me when I grow old. For you will grow old too.
10. When I am old, or when I no longer enjoy good health, please do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having fun. Just see to it that my trusting life is taken gently. And be with me on that difficult journey when it's time to say goodbye. Never say, "I just can't bear to watch." Everything is easier for me when you are there. I will leave this earth knowing with my last breath that my fate was always safest in your hands. I LOVE YOU. -
Your Best Friend



Fun zone

Can you find where our lovely hounds are hiding?



JACKIE, TED, SONIC, DINGO, GALA, LUCIE, HOLLY, MOLLY & THOR

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 8th May - 4th Annual GRF dog show

And finally

Once again some of you may have noticed our forum, which is free and open to anyone to offer comments on greyhound wellbeing came under attack from person(s) perpetrating to look after the best interest of our dogs.

I do not normally respond to these sort of posts as I know, as do many of our followers, what kind and enthusiastic people Celia and Jimmy are and how they have always put their "babies" first before anything else and for anybody to suggest otherwise I would suggest do not really know this couple or that they have ulterior motives.

I think it is appalling and disgusting for a couple now in their twilight years! (ed. you know I'm taking about Jimmy here Celia !!!!) Who have put their life savings into this now excellent greyhound sanctuary at Baltree have to read this sort of nonsense on their forum from time to time

To set some records straight, we would never feel jealous of another greyhound sanctuary doing well in fact we would applaud it and if we can we would take on board some of the things they are doing.

We would never put our interests before our dogs and will work tirelessly in the background to ensure a better life and understanding of the greyhound.

We would never be spiteful of another greyhound sanctuary after all we know from experience how difficult it can be.

Enough is enough and while some so called rescue centres tell us they have the best interest of the dogs to hand however, I have always feel that actions speaks louder than words!! So you can keep your words, your jealousy, your spitefulness and we will carry on doing what we do best, finding good family homes and promoting the plight of these magnificent animals.

Alex Morrison

(Note I do not feel the need to hide my identity!)