

# GRF



# NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

February 2011

*Changing the world .....*  
*One greyhound at a time!*

This month's issue once again catches up on what has been happening at our kennels along with some generous donations. We also start the advertising for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Dog show on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and give some sponsorship opportunities for the show!!! In our Vets section this month we look at toe nails! (With some nice pics to look at!) And give notice of our first dog walk of the New Year. I hope you enjoy.

## Kennel update

**Incomers:** FERN, GALWAY, MORGAN, BRUCE, CHOPS, WINNIE, JOSIE, MINNIE, BEN and PILOT.

**Outgoing:** GALWAY, BOBBY, GYPSY, SOPHIE, MICHELLE, JACKY, TONY, TC, MORGAN, BRUCE, TED, MAISIE, PADDY, JOSIE, and TAM.

## Thank you



GRF would like to thank the staff of Wallacetown Health Centre in Dundee who collected **£100** for our cause. Elaine who is one of the staff and her husband Steven even went one step further and adopted two of our greys LAMA and LUCY !!! Look forward to hearing how Lama and Lucy are doing.

**Elaine and Steven with Celia and Jimmy at Baltree**

GRF would also like to thank George Allan and his friends from the BP BRUCE PLATFORM staff for their extreme kindness to our homeless dogs. They raised a massive **£200** !!from their festive raffle. They also adopted every single one of our indoor kennels giving us another fantastic **£150**, then George himself donated us **£150** worth of tinned dog food. That totals a fantastic **£500** !!!!. George and friends - we at GRF cannot thank you enough for your kindness towards our dogs.

Kirsty Leighton, Miss Galaxy Fife, honoured greyhound Rescue Fife recently a visit to our kennels, were she helped walk look after some of our dogs. Kirsty won title recently and will represent Fife in the Galaxy Scotland competition in February. luck Kirsty from everybody at GRF for the competition. However Kirsty is also no stranger to our kennels as she re-homed of our greys FRED, a blue and white boy a years back



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**A Visit From Kirsty at our Baltree Kennels**

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## **Dog Show**

Tickets for our show will be on sale from the beginning of March and can be bought from our kennels at Baltree, from myself at the monthly walks or if you would like me to post tickets out please contact me at [alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com](mailto:alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com) and I will send you back the relevant payment details etc.

Once again this year kids under 16 will be free and adult tickets will cost this year **£3.50**. Full details of the show, program and how to get there will be on our web site shortly. In the meantime we are looking for any items that maybe used as raffle prizes, tombola prizes and even show prizes, these can be dropped off at the kennels or passed to myself at any of the upcoming dog walks (see dates for the diary). So if you have any unwanted Christmas gifts or work/know of some organizations that may wish to donate to our cause then please feel free to approach and my details are above if you need to get in touch with myself.

On the day we will also have a home baking stall (which usually goes down well !!!!), hopefully we can get many people to contribute some of there wares on the day. So look out those favorite recipes now and help raise monies for our cause (as well as increase our waistlines !!)

Once again this year Helen and Dave will be running our GRF stall and white elephant stand. So if you are looking for some GRF merchandise on the day this is the place to go. In the meantime they are collecting items for their white elephant stand. These can also be handed into the kennel or to Helen/Dave at any of our monthly walks.

### ***Sponsorship opportunities:***

To help us maximize exposure and revenue from our annual dog show we once again have some excellent sponsorship opportunities whether for individuals or for companies there is something for everyone.

All sponsorship will be acknowledged on our web site (with any company links) and show program along with any adverts and logos. A thank you certificate will also be sent to every sponsor.

### **Show class sponsorship (£40)**

Classes for sponsor include:

- Best Junior handler
- Best male Greyhound
- Best female greyhound
- Best non-greyhound
- Best family of dogs
- Best Loveable face

### **Hall sponsorship (£100)**

Included in this price is all of the above sponsored items plus any advertisement around the hall and 4 free tickets for guests.

### **Show Sponsorship (£500)**

Ideally we would love to get a major sponsor for our show and for this as well as the items mentioned above we will also give

- All advertising material would carry sponsors logo
- The show would be called "*sponsor name GRF dog show*"
- A full page advert in the show programme
- Sponsorship logos etc around the ring
- Promotional material could also be handed out, (Supplied by company)
- Free stall pitch
- Trophy presentation
- 10 free tickets for guests

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## From the Dog house



LEN is a big confident boy. He is strong and needs to be trained to slow down when walking. There is not a bad bone in his body however and he will be a very loyal pet. Len is also neutered.

If you think you can give LEN 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](mailto:FERNIEJIMMYF@aol.com)

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## Lucky Number - draw

For the January lucky number draw 66 numbers in total were sold giving a prize fund of £132 with £52.80 going to the winner and £79.20 going to GRF. Number 53 was drawn in January belonging to Lynne Morrison well done Lynne ! (*I still haven't seen any of this winnings from Lynne !!!*)

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## Vets Corner

### TOENAILS FALLING OFF

### PEMPHIGUS AKA

### SYMMETRICAL LUPOID ONCHODYSTROPHY

By far, in greyhounds, the most common reason for multiple nail loss from multiple feet is pemphigus-aka symmetrical lupoid onchodystrophy (SLO). In pemphigus/SLO, the nails separate at the base and come off. You may see normal looking nails and more blood upon losing a nail in newer cases and less blood and "funky nails" in more chronic cases. The nails



that regrow are stumpy, crumbly, and misshapen.



Pemphigus/SLO as it occurs in the greyhound involves the nails only, there are no other systemic signs - though there may certainly be a poor appetite and/or lethargy associated with the chronic pain. All of the greyhound specific texts and articles I've ever read refer to this autoimmune condition as "pemphigus." These sources include *Care of the Racing Greyhound* (Blythe, Gannon, Craig), *Canine Sports Medicine & Surgery* (Bloomberg, Dee, Taylor), and *The Racing Greyhound - Management, Medicine & Surgery* (Herron, Gannon). On the other hand, a biopsy submitted to any commercial lab will be given the diagnosis of "SLO". Properly, as one of the IDEXX pathologists explained it to me, SLO involves nails and so is the correct histopathological diagnosis, whereas pemphigus involves footpads and interdigital skin. So "pemphigus" vs. "SLO" is unimportant and a matter of semantics; we are talking about the same clinical syndrome. While toenail pemphigus/SLO is an oddball diagnosis in other breeds, it should go straight to the top of the list in greyhounds experiencing multiple nail loss. While it is, of course, possible to get secondary infections in unhealthy pemphigus nails, you cannot resolve the problem without treating the underlying autoimmune disorder. Too many people spend too much time and money treating pemphigus as a "fungal" (the #1 misdiagnosis) or "bacterial" infection with foot soaks and expensive oral medications. Common sense will tell you that culturing a nail as a means of diagnosis is quite likely to yield any number of cooties as greyhounds use their nails to walk across the (un-sterile) ground.

Unfortunately, the only way to definitively diagnose pemphigus/SLO is by amputating the whole P3 (end toe bone, including nail, just as you declaw a cat). A pathologist can make the diagnosis only by observing the skin/nail junction. The appearance/course of pemphigus in greyhounds is so classic that I feel it's a real waste of time/money, not to mention unnecessary pain and disfigurement for the poor greyhound, to go through this in the name of proving a diagnosis.

At our Greyhound kennels/surgery, when we see one of these, the adopter gets a bottle of 4 mg chlorpheniramine tablets and a bottle of 5 mg prednisone tablets for treatment as outlined in *Care of the Racing Greyhound*. I do alter the dose at the end so that the dog winds up on prednisone every other day, which is healthier on the body.

- 5 mg pred and 2 mg chlorpheniramine every 8 hours for 5 days, then
- 5 mg pred and 2 mg chlorpheniramine every 12 hours for 10 days, then
- 2.5 mg pred and 2 mg chlorpheniramine every 8 hours for 10 days, then

- 2.5 mg pred and 2 mg chlorpheniramine every 12 hours for 10 days, then
- 10 mg pred every other day and 2 mg chlorpheniramine every 12 hours long term

Once healthy nails have re-grown, it may be possible to wean the dog off of prednisone entirely. Though it takes 4-5 months for new nails to re-grow, often there is a dramatic improvement in comfort within the first few weeks of treatment. My experience has been that the sooner you get on top of these, the better the chance for re-growth of normal nails. Chronic untreated pemphigus greyhounds will always have crumbly stumpy nails, but at least treatment even at that point will stop them from continuing to lose nails. It is also worth checking thyroid levels and supplementing greyhounds that are unequivocally low. Many if not most greyhounds have marginally low thyroid levels normally - I certainly don't advocate putting all of these on Soloxine.

Written by kind permission Suzanne Stack, DVM

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### Fun zone

#### At the zoo (Can you find the hidden animals)

W H A T I S B K O A L A B E A R L  
 A C K A N D W S R E T S O O R S H  
 I T H E A S N D H R E D A H L N L  
 O V A E R T A Z E I B R I A N I C  
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 A Z R R O P O Y T F T F Y B F K C  
 N Z X O N U Q T F Y F R G P E T O  
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 S Y L R B L A C K B E A R T T K R  
 E B J A Z M P O L A R B E A R F Q  
 A E W M M D G N P E A C O C K V F  
 L A N R G A L L Z N L E O P A R D  
 S R Z F L O W S E O G N I M A L F

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|--------------|------------|------------|
| bats         | hippo      | peacock    |
| black bear   | kangaroo   | penguins   |
| cheetah      | koala bear | polar bear |
| deer         | leopard    | rhino      |
| elephant     | lion       | roosters   |
| flamingo     | llama      | seals      |
| giraffe      | ocelot     | turtles    |
| grizzly bear | panda bear | wolf       |

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## Dates for the Diary

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March - will hopefully ! See the resumption of our monthly walks this one taking place at one of our regular venues at **Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline**, leaving the main car park at the park at **11am**

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GRF dog show

## And finally

We hope as many of our supporters as possible can attend our first walk of the New Year and look forward to catching up with old and new friends.

This newsletter is intended for all greyhound lovers and so if you have some information you would like to share with fellow lovers then please feel free to send in and you will get your name in print !! One of our interesting columns was dog of the month but unfortunately we have no more features on this. If you feel your dog could be dog of the month then please forward me some pictures and answers to the greys questions (see previous newsletters for information/style). We are also interested on hearing from anybody who has holidayed with their greys recently, let us know where you stayed and how it was, your experience and we can share this with others.

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