

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E. Calder
Issue 3

First of all we would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year. As we go into 2009 we look back at last year and give a review in this months issue along with many of our favourite articles. As you may see from above we also have another new newsletter banner! This one was designed by Sally E Calder and was the winning entry in our banner competition and will now be our regular newsletter header, so congratulations Sally. We hope you enjoy this issue and always welcome any comments or inclusions in future issues.

THANK YOU

GRF would just like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for the superb response over the last couple of months to raise funds for the kennels.

In last months newsletter we told you about Sebastian, Myles and Alistair efforts to raise money for the kennels by organising a raffle for a doggy hamper. The winning ticket was owned by Holly Roberts and a fantastic £123 was raised !! Well done boys.

Pat Senior and friends would like to thank every one who bought Christmas cards to help raise funds for the dogs. A grand total of £233.50 was raised. We just need to

Keep this momentum going all year round now !!!

Karen has also been busy over the last few months raising much needed funds for the kennels. First of all she set up a couple of festive quizzes the first relating to Carols and the other to Christmas items. In total £171.50 was raised from the sale of these.

The Carol sheet winners were:

- 1st Mrs M Graham, Auchtermuchty
- 2nd Mrs V Fenton, Letham

The winners of the Christmas items quiz were:

- 1st V. Herd, Grange of Lindores
- 2nd Mrs I Stewart, Strathmiglo

Congratulations to all.

On top of this Karen has also been dealing on e bay on behalf of GRF, Selling various items donated by evryone. To date she has raised an amazing £196.13, well done Karen and thank you to all those who donated items for sale.

Our 2nd lucky number draw also took place at the beginning of December, 51 numbers were sold in total giving a prize fund of £102 (£61.20 to GRF and £40.80 to the winner). Gary Wilson picked out the lucky number 4 which was owned by Gordon Smith !!!!!. Gordon donated his winnings to GRF thus the hounds received the whole prize fund this month of £102.

Another successful fundraiser in December was "buy a dogs Christmas Dinner" many people rallied round this cause to ensure that the main ones at GRF also had a lovely Christmas as well. Thanks to all for your donations.

Dog of the month

My name is Freya. I'm almost 9 years old and came from the Retired Greyhound Trust in Glasgow. I've lived with my family for 7 years.

Likes: I love beaches. There's something about sand between my toes that makes me want to run about like a puppy.



Dislikes : Being left alone. I like to know what my family are up to all the time and hate being left alone. I was bought a DAP last year which has helped me cope a bit better.

Worst thing done: Chewed and destroyed a variety of furniture in the house and a few car seat belts. (I warned them not to leave me alone!)

Biggest achievement: I learnt to sit at a dog training class, after the trainer told me greyhounds weren't able to sit.

Favourite food: I love leftovers from my family's plates. I'll eat anything except banana which, I'm able to pick out from everything else and leave on the side!

Oddest thing: If there is a puddle in the garden I will always pass my bowl of fresh water to drink the puddle. There's nothing better than puddle water!

Like doing best: Having a snooze after a long walk. Usually upside down with my legs in the air!!



If you think your dog could be included here then why not e-mail us with answers to the questions above along with some pics to grfnewsletter@yahoo.co.uk

The year that was (2008)

January 2008 started with the introduction of our now very successful monthly meet and greet walks which saw an amazing turn out of dogs and it was great for both Celia and Jimmy to see so many of their previous "in-mates" and how well they looked. In total a further 4 dogs found forever homes. However, as they were going out another was being rescued. Glen was extremely ill when he first came to the kennels. He was in a terrible state with a badly injured leg. He was unconscious and suffering from septicaemia. He was put on a dialysis machine and his life was in the balance. The vet estimated he was hours from death.

February not only saw us host our second walk but also saw Glen appear and walk with his own kind, something that wasn't expected when he was first rescued. He was staying in foster care with Catherine and family who are looking after him and providing him with a stable environment. His leg is dressed every two days by the local vet who intimated that his leg could still require amputation owing to the necrotic tissue. On the credit side he is looking much happier now



Glen all plastered up!

In total 6 further greyhounds found forever homes.

March - saw another character brought into the kennels that of Rory. When he first arrived he was in a bad state and treated by the vet who helped him out. The only problems are his fur has still a month or two to grow in fully and he has a wee nick on his leg. Fortunately a very kind lady saw him on our site and asked if she could give him

a home. She was aware of his problems and was capable of giving him the TLC that he requires until the fur grows back.

A further 9 greys also found homes in March.



Rory not looking at his best

April - After many appeals, posters and several weeks of searching the fields of Cupar in Fife a young female greyhound called Gypsy was eventually saved and re-homed via the GRF web site.



What's all the fuss about !!!

Despite re-homing a further 9 dogs, the month ended in a an extremely low point for all at GRF with Glen losing his marvellous fight for life)0:

May - saw the kennels reach a remarkable milestone by re-homing it's 150th greyhound !! A total of 9 also found forever homes this month. However, a freak accident that saw "big Bud" run into a tree and unfortunately die from his injuries was extremely upsetting for all involved.

June - started with a bang as we hosted our first ever dog show there were 7 classes in total culminating in a best of show final which was eventually won by "Duke". We had a fantastic turn out, re-homed 2 dogs on the day and raised a magnificent £1500! Such was the success that plans are already underway for next year's event. In total we re-homed 10 dogs in total in June

July - After the success of the previous month and the publicity it received we found forever homes for further 11 greys. July also seen the introduction of our first ever dog picture show another great success with many sending in pics and paying to vote for their favourite

August - Saw another momentous occasion in GRF's short career the opening of our second set of kennels at Union Farm, allowing us to now save many more abandoned greys and give them the chance of life. Something that GRF holds dearly. During all of

this we also managed to find forever homes for a further 4 greyhounds.

September - saw a very successful sponsored day held for us at Thornton racetrack and 5 more dogs were re-homed.

October - saw the beginning of our "festive" season which started with the "Pet Shop Girls" holding a sponsored walk. Pat Senior made our lovely Christmas cards and donated to us her beautiful paintings. 7 greys also found forever homes

November - was a big month for all at GRF which saw not only the introduction of our first newsletter but also our first "lucky number" draw organised by Fiona and Gordon on behalf of GRF. On top of this we re-homed a further 11 greyhounds and hit another momentous target of now having re-homed 200 greys in total. A magnificent achievement considering the resources and the short time we have been in existence.

December - was a magnificent month for all at GRF (see thank you column) which also saw a new record for all at GRF with an amazing 14 dogs finding forever homes !! a new monthly record !!

Unfortunately this month little Jess lost her fight against cancer and passed away.

All in all there were some lows throughout the year but these were over shadowed by many of our highs and generally it was a very successful 2008 with 99 greyhounds finding their forever homes. In total we have now re-homed 222 dogs!!.

Lets hope that 2009 brings us many more highs and preferably some less lows. But we are sure that if we all pull together we can make this another successful year.

Medication

This month's novel medication/remedy is taken from the GRF and greyhound muses web site and was written by John Ratcliffe our web administrator. It is the use of Essiac as an alternative treatment.

I have never believed in alternative medicine. Although I do not support the enforced testing of drugs on animals, even if it is in a veterinary capacity in order to treat animals, nevertheless I have always believed that the scientific method is the only reliable one to live by. As a scientist myself this is how I was taught.

In September 2005 one of our Greyhounds, the beautiful Katie, (see picture below) was diagnosed with cancer. A lump about the size of a walnut appeared in her throat. The vet opened her up and after taking a

biopsy to send away for tests immediately sewed her up again. The tumour was in far too dangerous a place to operate, close to the jugular vein and the windpipe. After a few days the biopsy results confirmed what the vet had already prepared us for, Katie would probably have about six months to live, though he couldn't even be sure of that. Sadly, we took Katie home.

When I told a friend about this she suggested something I had never heard of, a herbal tea called Essiac. At first I didn't take her e-mail too seriously, herbal concoctions were outside my comfort zone, science was in a grey area here and I rebelled against it. After a couple of days I thought "perhaps we should give it a try, I am sure it won't harm Katie so we have nothing to lose". I looked up "Essiac" on the internet and was surprised to discover a wealth of information in lots of web sites, apparently everyone knew about this stuff except me. My friend gave me a phone number for someone in South Wales who produced it and I rang them. Within three days a little white bottle containing 500ML of Essiac was delivered to our door.

With little enthusiasm we started to give Katie the recommended 20ML of the tea twice a day. We squirted it into her mouth with one of those little

syringes that you get when the vet gives your dog treatment. Having six Greys at this time we had lots of the things hanging around. In less than two weeks the bottle was empty and we had to decide whether to get another one. With the attitude "Oh well, there's no harm, we won't know if we don't go on a bit more", I ordered two bottles this time. When the last of these two bottles was nearly empty we were amazed to see that the lump in Katie's throat hadn't got any bigger, and though we realised that it was probably just wishful thinking, it actually seemed to be a bit smaller than it was six weeks ago. Now we had to go on and two more bottles were soon in our fridge.

As time went on Katie seemed to be winning her battle. She was bright and cheerful and eating well, and though her back legs are a little weak because of her advanced age she still loved her walks. The lovely people who we get our Essiac from in Wales now advised us to cut down the dosage from 20ML twice a day to that amount once a day just before Katie has her breakfast so that her stomach is empty and it will be quickly absorbed into her bloodstream. This meant that a bottle would now last for 25 days. Also Katie had started to drink her tea from a saucer so we didn't need the syringe anymore, clearly she liked the taste.

It is now January 2007, sixteen months since Katie was given six months to live and she is doing wonderfully well. The lump is still there in her throat but it is no bigger than it was in September 2005 and I truly believe that it is even a little smaller. I am now sure that this lump will not be the cause when Katie does eventually die. Katie has beaten cancer and the only weapons she has had are Essiac herbal tea and Gods' love. Though I am still a scientist at heart I now have to admit that there may be something in some of these alternative treatments after all. If you have been told that your loved pet has cancer please don't give up. Try this web site for a start. www.cancer-info.com/essiac.htm That is where I got my information from but there are loads more on the internet as well. Just type Essiac into Google. By the way, Essiac is really a human treatment but it clearly works just as well for dogs. This is the phone number of the really nice people in Wales where we get Katie's stuff from:- Wellspring Herbal Tel. 01239 654458 tell them John in Manchester told you about them, and I wish you as much success as we have had with Katie.



Katie 2007

And finally !!

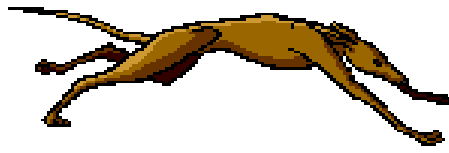
We are now collecting at each of our monthly walk's items for our dog show tombola/raffle to be held on the 26th April. Tickets will be available soon, watch forum for updates. The price will be the same as last year £3 for adults and children 16 and under free. With your support we can make this another successful event.

As the saying goes "many hands make light work" so if there is anybody out there that would like to help in some way either on the day, home baking, selling tickets or sourcing funding/sponsors then please feel free to get in touch by emailing myself at Alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

Next dog walk

1st February Riverside Park, Glenrothes

Fife Greyhound Rescue Dog Show



Date: Sunday 26th April 2009
(First class at 11:30)

Venue: Caldwell's farm near Collessie, Fife

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Classes include:

- BEST JUNIOR HANDLER
- BEST FAMILY OF DOGS
- BEST NON GREYHOUND
 - BEST LOVEABLE FACE
- BEST FEMALE GREYHOUND
- BEST MALE GREYHOUND
- BEST OF SHOW [WINNERS OF CLASSES]

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Entry to this fundraising event costs £3 (+ £1 entry to each class) Kids admitted Free. Advanced ticket sales begin on 1st Feb 2009

Hot/Cold drinks & snacks available

For tickets please contact:

For further info and updates visit:
www.greyhoundrescuefife.com

