

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

December 2011

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

We start off this Christmas issue of the newsletter with some bad news that of the Pert and Kinross's recent decision on our planning permission at Baltree kennels. We have the final confirmation of our community force appeal and you can read how well we did over the whole UK!. Who is the fastest a greyhound or a cheetah? Find out in our article on Cheetah racing at Romford! We end with our usual dog treat recipes and a festive fun zone for the holidays. I hope you enjoy and a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our followers/supporters

Dogs in

JACK, DILLY, ROB & JAMBO ! (Being better looked after than the current team with the same nickname !!!!)

Dogs out

TONY , SHEP, FRECKLES , and BOSS (Can read how BOSS is doing on our web forum)

Kennel update

This month we have some "good news and some bad news" ! First the bad (always prefer to end on a positive note !). There is certainly no Christmas spirit within Perth and Kinross Local planning committee. The old saying "*good will to all*" may apply to councilors over Christmas but not greyhound sanctuary's ! In case many of our followers do not know about this (as the newsletter is downloaded and read by many who do not always visit our forum) below is the sequence of events since the beginning of the year !

GRF applied in January 2011 for planning approval to build a small 2 bedroom house (not a mansion !) to allow for 24/7 care for our greyhounds. The house itself was also going to be bequest to GRF to allow the sanctuary to live on long after Celia and Jimmy.

It was turned down on the grounds that there was no operational need !!!!!. This, even though our dogs are unattended from 6pm till 8.30am daily !!

We made an appeal to Perth and Kinross Local Review Body and they sent a panel of three councillors on a site visit to the kennels to see the need, on 22nd November. They met to decide the outcome on 29th November.

The first councillor Mr. Gray, SNP had no doubts whatsoever that 50 dogs left every night on their own was an operational need. He voted strongly for us.

The second councillor Mr Campbell, conservative, was of the opposite view and deemed we did not require a house, though his main objection seemed to be on the shape of the house rather than the need !!

Chairman Mr Lyle, also a conservative agreed with his fellow conservative.

Consequently we lost 2-1 on the vote. Should the panel not be made up of three different party members ?

This was all in spite of the fact that we were tying the house, legally, along with the property so that it could not be sold for profit. This was not raised at the meeting by their planning adviser WHY NOT ? This is a major reason for us getting the house. We could not reply since we are not allowed to talk to the panel - even at the site visit.

We cannot go any further on this application - there is no legal recall.

We must now reapply with a different set of conditions.

The dogs must again be left unattended for another winter unless Celia again takes her sleeping bag into the kennels.

The Council have Also neglected to consider the fact that we are not just a greyhound rescue - we are a free facility enjoyed by many groups of people, such as, school children, people with difficulties, youngsters doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, people getting work experience that helps them get employed, people doing animal work, volunteers, even Edinburgh University Dick Vet College.

Without a house, when Celia & Jimmy pass on, we fear that the facility, which we have spent a fortune setting up for dogs and Perth and Kinross community, will die.

Small footnote from their own web site:

"Perth & Kinross Council has a moral and legal responsibility to ensure the welfare of all captive and domestic animals, and all wild animals in so far that its activities impinge upon them. The Council promotes the responsible ownership of pets, and high standards of animal welfare and husbandry at licensed premises, on farms, during transport, and at livestock markets"

Really?????????????????

Can we absolutely stress that we have no intentions of closing GRF but you can all see future danger. Our application has been considered for a year now and still nobody cares about a large group of animals, except all of us. Let your feelings be known!

If you wish to complain you could email:

constituency@gordonbanksmp.co.uk Baltree MP.
Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@Scottish.Parliament.uk our MSP
DevelopmentManagement@pkc.gov.uk the planners.

Any help would be most welcome, lets keep the pressure on and do not let them off the hook.

On a better note at the kennels over the last month is that after verification of all the votes GRF as we had anticipated had come out top in the Royal Bank of Scotland Community Force Project (Kinross and South Fife area). Further more we were also told our overall position in Scotland. Out of **1069 projects** GRF also came first. Taking in England and Wales as well, out of **6882 projects** GRF came second overall !!!! Which got us an extra £275!! Not bad for a wee rescue.

Thank you all for voting for us. GRF are very proud of you all. But a big thank you must go to Michele and Nic who started us down the road and gave us such a brilliant home page.

We hope P and K Council see how many votes we can poll !!!!



Three young ladies from St Andrews University Pink Links Society came to give us a hand in December. They worked very hard and made it possible for our normal volunteers to catch up with other work.

We would like to thank the ladies for kindly giving up their busy time to help us and the homeless greyhounds. We wish them a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope to see them back at the kennels again.

The photo shows :

Caty Shea (Vermont, USA), Holly Carruthers (UK), Rachel Martin (Texas, USA).

Also over the last month GRF had a very nice group of volunteers from SSE, the electricity generating people. They gave us a tremendous hand with the walking and the feeding and we even got a hand with a small electrical problem, which was rather apt (thanks to Gordon. GRF enjoyed their company and assistance very much and would welcome them back at the kennels anytime. We thank SSE for allowing them to give us a volunteering day.

GRF would also like to say a big thank you to Bert He has just collected £420 for a hamper raffle at the Alexander Dennis works in Falkirk and he also collected £240 from his hidden football tickets. This means that he has donated a marvelous £660 to our homeless dogs !!!!!!!

That is one great Christmas present for the dogs Bert.

Thank you.



The photo shows:

Back row, Sandy Biggar, June Gregor, Gordon Mc Intosh
and our newest volunteer, Calum Parker.

Front row, Valerie Jamieson, Celia and Jimmy.

From the Dog house



RICK is a lovely blue dog who is a wee bit shy, but very friendly. He is very excited when you approach his kennel, then he hides, then he is all over you. Basically he loves people and is so easy to walk on a lead. He'll be an excellent pet.

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

Greyhounds v Cheetahs !



V



Here is an interesting article I recently read on another forum about greyhounds vs cheetahs, thought i'd share it. 😊

By [Mark Barber FT.com site](#);

It started with a Cockney one-liner. By the time I had finished chasing up leads, I had the outline of an episode that must rank among the more bizarre in 20th-century British sport. It certainly shows that sports promoters of previous generations wanted nothing for imagination in comparison with their larger-than-life counterparts of today. Some months ago, a dog-racing acquaintance told me, with a rather smug expression, that he had once won a pony (£25) betting that "a cat had won a race at Romford dogs". Surprised, I asked him how. He informed me that during the 1930s cheetahs had raced against the usual greyhounds at the track in front of a paying audience. What is more, he had seen a photograph in an old local history book.

Intrigued, but frankly unconvinced, I visited Romford Library to try to verify the claim. Sure enough, in a volume called Romford, Collier Row and Gidea Park, was a photograph of a man crouching beside a cheetah. The caption read: "Archer Leggett [founder of the Romford Greyhound Stadium] was always ready to bring some new attraction that would make his race goers sit up. In December 1937 he caused a stir with cheetah racing - the first time in England. The cheetahs were described as tame and from Kenya."

Greyhound racing had become popular in the 1920s, but only gained public recognition with the opening of Manchester's Belle Vue Stadium in 1926. It soon became a popular pastime. Leggett, then a Romford builder, was bitten by the craze and along with others started to race whippets in a field behind his house in Collier Row, Essex. To his surprise, neighbors and their friends would turn up and have a little wager on the outcome of these unofficial races. These impromptu meetings became more popular, and in June 1929 Leggett found a site in London Road, Romford, and the stadium was founded. The track remained for only two years before the landowner, seeing

its popularity, raised the rent. As a result, Leggett bought a rhubarb patch on the opposite side of London Road and moved the track to where Romford Greyhound Stadium still stands. In a short time greyhound racing became part of Romford life, but as with most new attractions, the initial interest started to wane, leaving Leggett in need of something new to spice up the evening's entertainment.

Enter one K. C. Gander Dower, a sportsman who - like Leggett - had an eye for an opportunity. Gander Dower had been a regular visitor to Kenya and the Indian sub-continent, and was keen to introduce the British public to the speed, grace and beauty of the cheetah - facets that could be showcased beautifully during an evening's racing at Romford. Having a Kenyan contact that owned part-domesticated wild cheetahs, Gander Dower imported 12 of the beasts into Britain in December 1936. This fuelled speculation that the cheetahs were being imported to course wild game, which in turn prompted questions in parliament. Sir John Simon, then home secretary, was requested to take steps to prohibit "new forms of cruelty". Following an RSPCA inquiry, the true nature of the venture emerged and, with public concern assuaged, the necessary permission was granted. After six months' quarantine and a further six months of training at the Staines and Harringay tracks, the cheetahs were ready to make their debut.

Not surprisingly, training had brought to light a number of difficulties in coercing a fleet-of-foot hunter of the African savannah to chase an electric hare. For one thing, it didn't really work to have cheetahs racing other cheetahs: once one contestant had positioned itself to make the "kill", its fellow competitors would simply stop running. It was also found to be necessary to attach a piece of rabbit flesh to the hare. Other problems included the timing of the release of the cheetah. Too late and the animal would decline to pursue its quarry, believing it was outside its kill zone; too early and it would catch the hare before the first turn.

Amid much publicity and local enthusiasm, the night of the cats versus the dogs arrived at Romford on Saturday December 11 1937. According to 91-year-old retired local builder George Bowler, who witnessed the event and still lives a stone's throw from the Romford track: "It was very crowded and a lot of 'big nobs' from Harringay and Walthamstow [other London dog tracks] packed the commoner's stand." The meeting boasted a full race-card, plus three events that included cheetahs. Officially, no betting was permitted on these three races. According to Bowler, however, illegal punting was rife, although the odds on the big cats were ridiculously short at 8/1 on. The bookies' instincts turned out to be well founded.

In the first race involving a cheetah, a female called Helen was instantly proclaimed "Queen of the Track". As one reporter put it: "Helen raced against two greyhounds but did not appear to like their company a great deal, for she left them far behind and made them look slow. She covered the 355 yards in 15.86 seconds, easily a track record, and at a speed of 55mph." Mr Bowler recalls the crowd's astonishment. "Most people had never seen a cheetah," he said. "At first people were apprehensive, but the moment the trap opened they were amazed by the flash of the cat. They were just so fast and, if you looked round all the mouths were open." In the second of the cheetah races, two males, James and Gussie, went head-to-head over hurdles. Unfortunately

Gussie decided to ignore the track obstacles and instead leapt the inner barrier to cut the corner in pursuit of the electric hare.

Afterwards the cheetahs' trainer, Ruby Henderson (described by the Daily Mail as an auburn-haired Australian) said she had been rather anxious before the racing began but was perfectly satisfied with the way it had turned out. The following Saturday - the last time that cheetahs strutted their stuff around a British greyhound track - even more people ventured out to the then Essex countryside to watch the amazing spectacle. And to make the racing more even, a handicap of between 20 and 40 yards, in favour of the greyhounds, was introduced. It was to no avail: the cheetahs still defeated their canine rivals.

I have been unable to ascertain exactly why cheetah-racing ceased at Romford, although Bowler believes that complaints from local residents and pressure generated by other track owners had some bearing on the decision. The safety of the spectators with big cats on the loose does not appear to have been an issue. Not even Leggett's daughter, Carolyn Baker, could shed any light on the reasoning. "My father never discussed the stadium in the house," she said. "He felt that it was not the sort of environment that we women should be attending." But for Leggett, the purpose of the spectacular had more than been achieved. As a Romford Times columnist put it: "Mr Leggett is in a happy mood, for has not Romford Stadium received one of the most gigantic advertisements in recent years? In more ways than one Mr Leggett and his colleagues have placed Romford on the map."

Although it was shown that cheetahs are faster I certainly know which one I would prefer cuddling up to me on the sofa at night !!!

VETS CORNER

Greyhounds are very unique dogs and are much more than just fast racers. They are typically quite calm indoors and display good manners, making them excellent house pets. There are many Greyhounds that have lived the "racing life" and are retired, waiting for new homes to spend the rest of their lives in. A person that is going to get a new dog should always educate themselves about the breed beforehand. Having a pet is a serious commitment and one that should be made for the life of the pet, whenever possible. Some things that are very important to know are the health problems that the breed you are considering is prone to. The following are some of the most common health problems that Greyhounds, and their owners, have to deal with.

Bloat- Bloat is common in deep-chested breeds and occurs when the dog's abdomen becomes twisted. This traps the contents of the stomach, including gases, resulting in swelling that is very painful for the dog. It can easily result in death, so treatment should be immediate if you notice the dog is swollen, salivating, gagging without vomiting, acting restless and unable to get comfortable, or making retching noises.

Osteosarcoma- This is a type of bone cancer that most often begins in the limbs, although it may also originate in the shoulder, and have secondary tumors in other areas. Amputation and chemotherapy may be necessary to save and extend the lifespan of the affected dog. The Greyhound is one of the breeds that is often affected by this cancer that seems to be most often seen in large breeds with long legs.

Anesthesia- Although this is not a medical condition, one of the things that owners of Greyhounds and the veterinarians that treat them must understand is the trouble that Greyhounds can have if they are given too much anesthesia. Because of their low body fat, they do not require the same amount of anesthesia that other breeds of the same weight do. A 70 pound Greyhound, for example, will not have the same response as a 70 pound Border collie will to equal amounts of anesthesia. If your Greyhound needs to be anesthetized for any reason, you need to be sure that your vet is aware of this.

Overall, the Greyhound is a very healthy breed of dog. Due to their use in competition, they have been bred very carefully to ensure that they do not have the same propensity for many of the musculoskeletal conditions that other large breeds do.

One of the jobs of a responsible pet owner of any breed or species is to ensure that the animal is kept in the best health possible. This includes regular vet checks and vaccinations, as well as watching for and attending to any signs of illness as soon as possible. Your Greyhound deserves to have the most comfortable and happy life possible. He or she should be kept healthy and given plenty of love and attention. This will make for a very contented dog. When in good health, the Greyhound can live twelve to fourteen years.

RECIPES

Bad Breath Banishers

Ingredients:

- 2 cups brown rice flour
- 1 Tablespoon activated charcoal (find this at Chemist, not the briquets!)
- 3 Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh mint
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 2/3 cup low fat milk

Preheat oven to 400F. Lightly oil a cookie sheet. Combine flour and charcoal. Add all the other ingredients. Drop teaspoonfuls on oiled sheet, about 1 inch apart. Bake 15-20 minutes. Store in airtight container in the refrigerator

Chunky peanut butter treats

- Mix together two cups whole-wheat flour and 1 tbsp. baking powder. Add 1 cup chunky peanut butter and 1 cup nonfat milk. Blend thoroughly. Turn onto a floured surface, and roll out to 1/4 inch thick. Cut out using a bone cookie cutter or knife. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Store the same way you would people cookies.

Vegan dog treats

- Mix together 9 cups flour, 1 cup nutritional yeast, 1 tbsp. yeast extract and 1 tbsp. salt. Add about 3 cups water until the dough is smooth and pliable. Roll out on a floured board, and cut into desired shapes. Bake on greased cookie sheets at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Turn off the oven and leave the pans overnight so that the treats get crunchy.

Do you have any recipes that you would like to share with our readers then why not send in to alexmorrisson1965@btinternet.com

Fun Zone

Some festive quizzes to keep everybody from sleeping after Christmas dinner !! hope you enjoy. Answers will be in next month's issue of the newsletter were you can see how you got on

Christmas Top Hit Songs Quiz Questions

1. Who Sang 'White Christmas' in the 1950's?
2. In 2006 Beyonce had a Christmas hit with which song?
3. What was the title of the Band Aid song?
4. In 1961 Danny Williams had a hit with Moon River - in what movie did this song feature?
5. Who sang Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer in the 1950's?
6. The Beach Boys had a winter hit in 1966 but what was the name of the song?
7. Harry Belafonte sang which Christmas hit in the 1950's?
8. What was the name of the 1980's song sung by Paul McCartney & Michael Jackson?
9. -In which Christmas was the Whitney Houston - I Will Always Love You number 1?
10. In which year did Smokey Robinson & The Miracles have a Christmas hit with The Tears Of A Clown?

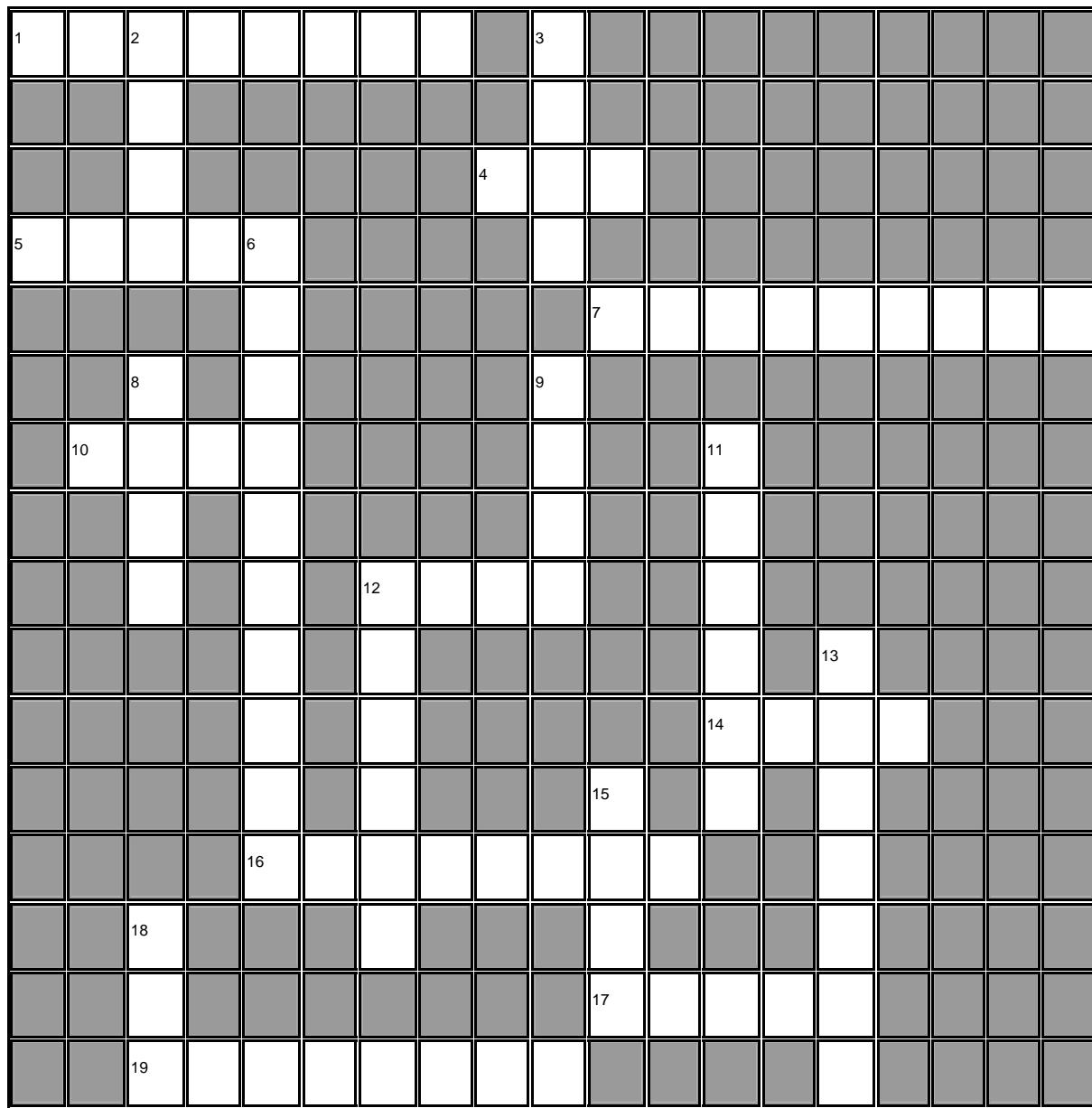
11. What was "Roasting on an Open Fire" Sung by Nat "King" Cole?
12. What type of Christmas did Elvis Presley sing about? (Clue - Color?)
13. Who recorded "Run Rudolph Run" in 1958?
14. Who originally sang "Wonderful Christmastime"?
15. Who first recorded "Jingle Bell Rock" in 1957?
16. Who had a 1991 hit called 'Black Or White'?
17. Who recorded "Driving Home for Christmas"?
18. What Christmas song is featured on the film Die Hard?
19. Who did Grandma Get Run Over By as sung by Elmo and Patsy?
20. Who was Mommy seen kissing in the famous Christmas song?

Christmas Film Quiz Questions

1. What was the name of the angel that helped James Stewart in "It's a Wonderful Life"?
2. What was the name of the department store in the Miracle on 34th Street?
3. What was the name of the little girl, who later played a leading role in West Side Story, who starred in the Miracle on 34th Street??
4. What was the name of the town which featured in It's a Wonderful Life?
5. Who starred as a desperate dad in Jingle all the Way?
6. What was the name of the Grinch's dog in 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'?
7. What does the character of Frank Cross do for a living in "Scrooged"?
8. What was the name of the character played by Macaulay Culkin in Home Alone?
9. Which actor was central character "Buddy," in the film Elf?
10. In The Muppet Christmas Carol which character was played by Kermit the Frog??
11. Who plays the train's mysterious conductor in Polar Express?
12. In the Nightmare Before Christmas where did Jack Skellington ("The Pumpkin King") live?

13. When did the terrorists seize control of the Los Angeles skyscraper in Die Hard?
14. "There glows the neighborhood!" is the tagline for which Christmas Movie?
15. What was the name of the family featured in National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation?
16. How did the real Santa have an accident in the Santa Clause movie?
17. Who starred as the British Prime Minister in Love Actually?
18. Little Women was about four girls called Jo, Amy, Meg and Beth. What was their surname?
19. What is the name of the famous Christmas song in the film 'Meet Me in St. Louis'?
20. In Toy Story, the final scene takes place on Christmas Day. What were the names of the rivals in the film (the cowboy and the sci-fi action figure)?

Christmas Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Stand underneath to get a kiss. (8)
4. Wrap with paper, ribbon and a ---. (3)
5. If you send some, you will receive some. (5)
 7. Santa's favourite animals. (9)
10. Wishes written on paper make this. (4)
12. Santa delivers these to good children. (4)
14. First word of a famous Christmas poem. (4)
 16. Keeper of the flocks. (8)
 17. Freedom from war. (5)
19. The Christmas Season. (8)

DOWN

2. Bright light leads the way. (4)
3. Flakes that fall from the sky. (4)
6. He comes down the chimney on Christmas eve. (5,5)
 8. Desire. (4)
9. A short word for Christmas. (4)
11. They twinkle and glow.(6)
12. Traditional meat for Christmas dinner. (6)
13. They hang from the Christmas tree. (7)
15. What you do before giving a present. (4)
 18. --- to the World. (3)

And finally!



Merry Christmas to all our
followers and supporters let's
make 2012 another special one
for GRF