

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

March 2009

In this month's newsletter we update you on recent events at the kennels as well as bring you some of our regular features and update on our dog show, with details of a ski jumping competition!. Also in this issue we bring you part 2 of the history of greyhound racing along with an article on what to look for and ask for in pet insurance.

Kennel update

Following on from last month's shock news of having our lease terminated at Seafield kennels (Although we don't have a written lease/agreement as such to terminate, we have been advised that we have a "tacit" agreement as we have been there and paying rent for 4 years) We can report that although the situation at the kennels is now in the hand of our lawyers it is not ideal and we desperately need to find a new home.

Over the last 30 days we have made great strides in trying to obtain new facilities and have followed up possibilities the length and breadth of Fife. Unfortunately, without too much success. Having done this one would have felt that we were trying very hard indeed. However, it would appear that we are not trying hard enough according to Mr Robert Ness (Seafield farm landowner). We committed the cardinal sin of saving three greyhounds recently, who would have been put to sleep, and brought them to the Seafield kennels while we were trying to find alternative accommodation.

Thus it would now seem our land lords are also counting our dogs when we are not about.

After a recent heated discussion about this matter Mr Ness and his girlfriend Mary McLaughlin left us in no doubt they did not want us there for the full year (which we believe in law we maybe entitled to this length of notice) and although we have never defaulted on any rental payment and are paid up to date, Mr Ness informed us that we were no longer welcome on his grounds!

The sad outcome of this is that we have now been put in a position whereby we now cannot stop any new greyhound's from being put to sleep until we find that elusive alternative accommodation.

We are sure that all our friends know how this makes us feel, not being able to do what we set up to do which is basically, at the end of the day, is to save greyhounds. As stated our immediate future is now in the hands of the lawyers.

Kennel update cont.

If anybody out there knows of anybody who maybe able to help then pass details on to Celia and Jimmy and they will investigate. You can contact them by e:mail FERNIEJIMMYF@aol.com or by phone **01592 890583**

Ideally we would probably be looking for a small house with about an acre of land but we are keen to investigate all options at the moment.
Thanks to all of you who have tried so hard to help us.

Given the trial and tribulations these animals have to endure in their life's, it would seem that there are people out there that do not want us to carry on the job of giving these majestic animals of the canine world a caring and loving forever home. What must this particular breed think of us? A nation of dog lovers, somehow I think not.

Lucky number

February winning number was 65 and was held by non other than yours truly!! (Alex Morrison). In total 45 numbers were sold, giving a prize fund of £90 which was split as £54 to GRF and £36 to winner. The next draw will take place on Sunday 2nd March at our Kirkcaldy walk. This has been a great fundraising idea and we would urge as many people as possible to participate it costs only £2 a month, as the saying goes "you've got to be in it to win it !!!"

From the Dog house

Although GRF has some lovely dogs at the moment (and hope to in the future !!), one that could benefit from finding a forever home is BARNEY



BARNEY is a black boy with a very nice nature. He lived in a family home for a long time but his mummy has had a baby and he is now up for adoption. He is friendly, walks well and is housetrained. He is lost in a kennel without a family home and he is pining for a new mummy and daddy. He has not had the luckiest of lives and the poor boy has had part of his tail removed. Can you give BARNEY a forever home? Then contact Jimmy/Celia on **01592 890583**.

Dog of the Month

This month's dog of the month is Corky, so called as he comes from Cork in Ireland ! Although he is not sure who he really is/was !! as his ear markings are not "correct lets say !!!" He is a 3 year old brindle boy who successfully found his forever home via GRF

Likes: Loafing about on my large cushion bed next to the radiator and playing with the

various toys my owners have got me. I love throwing it in the air and then pouncing on it.

Dislikes: Laminate floor, although Jemma can trot along on it I just can't seem to get a grip and slide every time

Worst thing done: By accident I hasten to add ! and that was bite off part of Jemma's ear !!! I don't think she has forgiven me as she still doesn't let me on the sofa's. There was also the time I bit her leg ! but then she did jump on me when I was sleeping !!!

Favourite food: All types of fish particularly that one they call tuna mmmmm!!

Oddest thing: I don't think it is odd but I do lot's (and lot's and lot's !!) of circles before collapsing onto my bed !!

Like doing best. Running round the garden and playing chase/tig with Jemma



If you feel your dog is a candidate for dog of the month then why not e:mail us with some details alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

History of greyhound racing

Part 2

It is thought that the idea of track racing evolved from the desire to hold coursing events within smaller enclosures. Smaller than the original three miles of course which was used until then. The idea of coursing within enclosures had the obvious benefit that spectators could easily view the proceedings. A course of fences, complete with holes through which the hare could run, was set up within the enclosure and the hounds were released (or "slipped") in pairs. They were awarded points for the way in which they pursued the quarry and not necessarily for being the dog that caught the hare.

I have found many sources on the internet which tell us that the first Greyhound races, using a mechanical hare, took place in the USA around 1912. Another source quotes the first such race to have been at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, England, when six dogs raced down a straight track in pursuit of a mechanical lure. This event is said to have taken place on 11th September 1876, some 36 years before the opening of the first track in America. Unfortunately the Welsh Harp experiment was deemed to be a failure. The racing took place over a straight course of 400 yards. It is thought that transport difficulties in getting to Hendon were somewhat responsible for the failure of the sport to catch the public's imagination. Indeed, the very fact that the course was straight and proved no test of a greyhound's skill caused the public to quickly lose interest. Despite an enthusiastic review in The Times, which dubbed the new sport "Coursing by

Proxy", interest in the sport quickly waned and died.

Greyhound racing in England would not come into existence again until 14 years after the first American tracks were operational.

In 1912 an American named Owen Patrick Smith invented a mechanical hare which could run in a circular path. Later that year, he opened the first Greyhound Racing Stadium in California.

Such was the success of the new sport that within six years he had opened a further 25 tracks around the USA. Quite how Smith became involved or even interested in greyhound coursing is something of a mystery. He had an intense dislike of bookmakers and was as a matter of fact, totally opposed to any form of gambling. It was after he encountered increasing opposition to his coursing events from anti-blood sport lobbyists that he decided to consider the possibility of holding coursing events using a dummy hare. His first attempts were crude and simple, sometimes involving nothing more technical than a stuffed rabbit attached by a rope to the back of a motor bike. It took almost 14 years for him to refine his ideas and develop a hare which was carried along a rail onboard a mechanical trolley.

refused to allow any form of betting at the first tracks almost caused the demise of the sport before it had a chance to gain a real foothold. Only when Smith allowed bookmakers to operate on the tracks, at the insistence of his partner George Sawyer, did the new sport prove to be a success.

In 1925 Charles A. Munn, a shrewd American businessman, realised the international appeal the sport would have and struck up a deal with Smith and Sawyer for the rights to promote the greyhound racing in Britain.

Although the earlier attempt to introduce mechanical racing at Hendon had died and been almost forgotten, the pastime of coursing in Britain was as strong as ever. Fortunately for Munn, the first person he contacted with regards to reintroducing greyhound racing into Britain was Major L. Lyne Dixson. The Major was a leading figure in British field sports and was quickly won over to the idea presented to him by the American entrepreneur

Finding other supporters proved to rather difficult however. With the General Strike of 1926 looming, the two men scoured the country in an attempt to find others who would join them. Eventually they met Brigadier-General Alfred Critchley, who in turn introduced them to Sir William Gentle JP. Between them they raised £22,000 and formed the Greyhound Racing Association Ltd.

When deciding where to situate their new stadium, Manchester was considered to be the ideal place because of it's sporting and gambling links. Close to the city centre, the consortium erected the first custom built greyhound stadium and called it Belle Vue.

GREYHOUND
Racing Association Ltd.
BELLE VUE, MANCHESTER

OPENING
MEETING
JULY 24TH, 1926
At 7-30 p.m.

SIX RACES
Prize for Each Event—First \$10; Second \$5.

Judge:
Mr. O. A. CRITCHLEY, Major L. LYNE DIXSON, Mr. L. O. BROWN,
Timekeeper: Mr. E. WILKINSON,
Paddock Steward and Starter: Mr. W. SMITH,
Running Secretary: Mr. MURRAY WILSON.

The name of any dog unable to compete in a race will be shown on the blackboard in each enclosure.

ALLIED REFRIGERATOR LTD., PRINTERS, 15/16, GERRARD ST., MANCHESTER.

As in England, the idea of greyhounds chasing a synthetic hare was not taken immediately to the hearts of the public. The fact that Smith totally

On Saturday 24 July, Belle Vue hosted the first greyhound racing meeting. Six races with seven dogs in each race (but after the formation of the NGRC in 1928 the maximum number of dogs per race was set at six) were held in the first meeting. Fifty years later a stand was named after Mistle, the winner of the first race. Running the quarter mile flat course in 25 seconds, Mistle romped home eight lengths clear at 6-1.

After the end of that first meeting, the GRA were horrified to find they had made a loss of £50 on the night, after attracting only 1700 people to pass through the turnstiles. The following week the crowds turned out in force. Over 16,000 people shuffled through the turnstile and "going to the dogs" became the national pastime.

From that first meeting in July to the day the GRA closed for the winter break just three months later on 29th October, over 11,000 racegoers had paid to watch each of the 37 meetings. During those meetings there had been 221 races. The consortium repaid a £10,000 bank loan and shares in the new company rose from their initial value of one shilling to £37-10-00. (That's £37.50 for an outlay of 5p for today's money minded!)

When racing resumed at Belle Vue after the winter break, 1927 saw greyhound racing continue to increase in popularity. By June, the stadium was attracting almost 70,000 visitors a week.

The revenue accumulated from the ever growing crowds made the GRA into an extremely financially viable concern, and it wasn't long before the consortium began to cast their eyes south, with the intentions of taking their ideas to London.

London had hosted the Olympic Games in 1908. Several stadiums had been built especially for the event, but the greatest of them all was the White City. It was here, on the 20th June 1927, that the GRA decided to hold their first greyhound meetings in the capital.

When racing began at Belle Vue the previous year, a dog called Charlie Cranston won his first ever race at the second meeting. A year later, it was to be Charlie Cranston that became the first greyhound to cross the finish line and win the first race at the White City.



Charlie Cranston

Towards the end of the year the White City meetings were attracting an estimated 100,000 people. By the time the season closed in October 1927, the White City had played host to 56 meetings. During that first



Entry Badge winner of the first greyhound derby 1927

short season over £12,500 had been paid out to the owners of the winning dogs and many expensive cups had been presented, the most famous of which had been competed for the very first time that year, The Greyhound Derby. The winner of the first Greyhound Derby was a dog called Entry Badge, and in later years the race's champions would be well publicised by the newspapers until they became household names - Mick The Miller being an obvious example.

It was also in 1927 that the first greyhound racing tracks were opened in Ireland and Australia.



The famous "Mick the Miller"

"The Greyhound Mirror," June 26, 1926

FIRST & FOREMOST! THE PIONEER OF GREYHOUND RACING NEWSPAPERS.

<p>On Top for Sound Business: BET WITH HECTOR MACDONALD 15 Great Palace, St. James Dublin, E.I.C.</p> <p>Phone: FORTY-THREE (3 Lines). To Be Seen Personally At WHITE CITY: Second 2-4 Ring From 10.15 to 12.15 HARRINGAY: 2-4 Ring From 10.15 to 12.15</p> <p>Every Attention & Courtesy BEST ODDS</p>	<p>THE GREYHOUND EVENING MIRROR</p> <p>FORMERLY "THE GREYHOUND EVENING MIRROR"</p> <p>WEMBLEY, WHITE CITY, HARRINGAY, CLAPTON AND WEST HAM.</p> <p>ALL YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE 'DOGS.'</p> <p>OUR POLICY: ONLY ONE SELECTION FOR EACH RACE.</p> <p>The Only Dog Paper That Matters.</p>	<p>BET WITH C. COPPOCK (Camberwell Green)</p> <p>WEMBLEY: 1st 2/4 Ring HARRINGAY: 1st 5/8 Ring</p> <p>S.F. At All Meetings Phone: ROONEY 3421</p> <p>Never Failing Courtesy, Respect and Pleasantness.</p>
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No. 288 (Published Weekly) Mailed: 10th APR. 1926 ONE PENNY

AT WHITE CITY ON SATURDAY.

How Mick Won His Second Derby: Full Story.

Dog Show update

Have you ever fancied the thrill of ski jumping ? but like myself never tried as the thought of breaking every bone in your body on landing just didn't appeal !! Well at this year's dog show you can give it a try and not even leave the ground ! Using the Wii balance board/technology we will be running a ski jump competition with prizes to the one who can jump the furthest.

This year Helen and Dave will be running a "white elephant" stand (similar to a car boot sale) with all proceeds going to the kennels. Therefore they have asked people to look through their garages and attics for any items that you no longer need. If you have any items please contact Helen on helen.taylor019@onetel.com or at future dog walks.

We would like to thank the following companies who have already donated items or sponsored this year's event;

- Vodabone**
- Purina**
- St Clair's Veterinary service**
- Border books**
- Tessie cards**
- Baxters**
- Tunnocks**
- Just dogs**
- Mackenzie & Mackenzie, Solicitors**
- Sanctuary Management Services**
- Celtic Collection, Dundee.**
- Parky's, Dundee.**
- Mica Hardware**

As well as a big thank you to all who have provided gifts for our tombola and who are going to do some home baking !!!!

If you think you can contribute to the dog show in any way then please get in touch with Alex or Lynne at the dog walks or by e-mailing alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

We will also be at each of the walks between now and the show with our "green box" to collect donated items for our tombola/raffle.

Advice/Medication

This month's advice column looks at the important issue of pet insurance. Although greyhounds are not as fragile as they are sometimes made out to be however, there formidable pace can get them into trouble at times, especially in small enclosed areas and thus lead to unexpected heavy vet bills. For an example of this please read Fiona Reekie's column on our web site "*The importance of insuring your dog*"

Today's article does not set out to look at which policy is best, but rather what questions and things to look out for when deciding.

What to look for in an insurance company

Insurance cover should be as comprehensive as required. The policy should have a minimum number of restrictions (normally found in the small print). It should all be provided at the lowest possible premium. The company should have a good track record in terms of claims history, type of claims, frequency of claims it should be a Simple, straightforward processes and good service, etc. This sort of information can usually be checked on their websites or in FAQ's.

What to look for from pet insurance

- Does the cover include all the costs of treating your pet? Check that hospital stays, medicines, anaesthetics, operations, X-rays and laboratory charges will all be taken care of. Also enquire if the treatment of behavioural disorders and complementary medicines are covered.
- Is an allowance made for associated costs such as kennel fees?
- Will there be a lump sum if your dog is lost, stolen or strays? Will the policy contribute to the cost of making missing notices and offering a reward?
- Is the premium affected by your postcode or your dog's age? Some insurers won't insure older pets, and others have restrictions on dogs rehomed from a rescue shelter.
- Is there an excess to be paid for pre-existing conditions? With most pet insurance policies you will be expected to pay the first part of each and every claim. This excess payment, which can range from £65 to as high as £90, will be specified in your policy.
- Are there any restrictions in terms of the number of visits to the vet every year?
- Are there pensioner or multi-pet discounts?
- Does cover include 3rd party costs if your dog causes an accident? You should also check your house and contents insurance, as some policies

cover legal liability for injury or damage caused by pets.

- Will there be payment for holiday cancellation due to emergency pet surgery? Or kennel fees should you need to go to hospital?
- Are pedigrees excluded from certain cover because of the value of the animal? Or do they require an excess payment? Are treatments for certain hereditary conditions excluded?

We hope you enjoyed this brief summary on pet insurance. If you feel that you would like to submit an article that you feel would be of interest to all grey lovers, then please e:mail alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com

Fun Zone

SUDUKO

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the numbers 1 through 9. Don't guess - use logic

	7			6			2	
		3	2	9	7	5		
		6	5		4	3		
	6	8				7	1	
1		7				9		5
	9	5				2	8	
		4	8		2	1		
		1	3	5	6	4		
	5			1				3

See next issue for solution !

And finally....

One day, a wise man was walking on the beach before beginning his workday... As he walked, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He walked faster to catch up. As he got closer, he saw that the figure was that of a woman, and that she was not dancing at all. She was reaching down to the sand, picking up small objects and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out, "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?" The woman paused, looked up, and replied, "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man. To this, she replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

The wise man commented, "Do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach, and there are starfish along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the woman bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, she said, "IT MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR THAT ONE."

Celia and Jimmy's devotion has made a difference in the lives of that one greyhound, and that one greyhound and that one greyhound...one forever home at a time.

Next dog walk will take place on Sunday 5th April at St Andrews 11:00.