

# GRF



# NEWS

*Designed by Sally E Calder*

September 2012

*Changing the world  
one greyhound at a time!*

☺☺☺ AT LAST ☺☺☺

**THE LONG AWAITED PLANNING PERMISSION, FOR A MANAGER'S HOUSE AT BALTREE, HAS BEEN GRANTED BY PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL ...**

<b>Reference</b>	12/00476/FLL
<b>Alternative Reference</b>	Not Available
<b>Application Received</b>	Thu 15 Mar 2012
<b>Address</b>	Land 270 Metres North West Of Baltree Farm Hatchbank
<b>Proposal</b>	Erection of a manager's house and garage (resubmission of amended scheme)
<b>Status</b>	<b>Application Approved</b>
<b>Appeal Status</b>	Not Available
<b>Appeal Decision</b>	Not Available

**Congratulations Celia & Jimmy** - all your hard work, and determination, has paid off. It really is wonderful news for both of you, and all those homeless hounds.

Celia and Jimmy have asked me to say a HUGE thank you, from them, to everyone who helped make this possible.

Whilst on the subject of congratulating Celia & Jimmy, some months ago they entered a competition run by Kingdom FM and Kingdom Maintenance Services. At the start of September, they were told that they had won! The prize will be the free rendering of the dog walker building, installation of electricity to the dog walker building, the supply of a security light, and the building of a wooden fence - a wonderful prize. Celia, Jimmy and the hounds would like to say a **HUGE** thank you to Kingdom FM, for running the competition, and to Grant Taylor of Kingdom Maintenance Services for providing the prize.

### Thank-you's ...

#### **More Great Assistance From SSE:**

Recently GRF had another group of volunteers from SSE helping out. The group consisted of five very nice ladies: Michelle Blake, Helen Gettinby, Anne Sutherland, Lilian Manderson and Yvonne Taylor-Robertson. The ladies worked like Trojans, and made life so much easier for the kennel crew.

Jimmy & Celia would like to thank these ladies very much, and also thanks SSE for allowing them to assist us. The dogs thank them too, for giving them extra walkies!

#### **GRF spruced up :**



Two GRF helpers were dodging the showers on 16<sup>th</sup> September, paintbrushes at the ready to repaint the kennel walls. One volunteer had power-washed the outside block, and it was spruced up by Sean and Kat (above) to leave us with a ship shape kennel. Protective fashion outerwear (including the bin bags) courtesy of Celia from her tardis of a back room! Thank you.

Celia and Jimmy would like to thank Alan & Jackie for all their help and for donating such a large amount of tins of dog food.

Also, thanks to George Allen for the supply of dog food, and for painting the dog-walker with the help of his brother Jim.

### September Walk in St. Andrews ...

The September walk took place on, as promised by Jimmy, a lovely Sunday morning! Thanks to Ben & Lynsey Aitken, who travelled from York for this walk! Below are a couple of photos, taken by David Davies.



## **From the Dog House ...**

### **Dogs in since August Newsletter:**

Lady, Bertie, Sam, Paddy, Oxo, Jack and Susie.

### **Dogs out since August Newsletter:**

Bunny, Bandit, Billy and Sue (now Grace).

### **Can YOU help one of these dogs ...**

**PLEASE** can you find it in your heart to give them the forever home they so richly deserve?

#### **Eva**



Eva is a nice little girl, who is very friendly. She is a good walker on a lead, and is very happy in the company of people. She travels well in a car and has shown no aggression to the other dogs she has met.

#### **Jasper**



Jasper is your totally laid back, nothing bothers him, greyhound! He is quiet and enjoys walking with you, very easily, on a lead. He is great with people and has not a bad bone in his body. He is beautiful to look at. What a great pet he'll make.

As ever, if you would like more information on the dogs featured above, or indeed any of our other dogs in 'Please Choose Me', please contact Jimmy or Celia on 01592 890583, or by e-mailing [ferniejimmy@aol.com](mailto:ferniejimmy@aol.com)

## Vet's Corner ...

### **Pet Bereavement:**

Following the heartbreaking news of the death of Booker earlier this month, it seemed like an opportune time to discuss this very sensitive subject.

Booker was far too young to die, and we do not yet know the exact cause of his death.

What we **do** know is that sharing the most intimate details surrounding Booker's death has got us all talking and thinking. Writing about the events of the past 10 days must have taken **HUGE** courage on the part of Greg & Nicolai. We know that they are in the most awful pain right now, but we thank them for taking the time to share their innermost feelings at this sad time.

Through Greg & Nicolai's posts since 12<sup>th</sup> September I, personally, have felt a great affinity with two people whom I have never met.

The death of a pet is something that we do not like to talk, or think, about. Indeed death, in general, is something of a taboo subject - it shouldn't be, it is part of life.

Whether your pet dies of natural causes, or you have to make the painful decision to have him/her put to sleep, it is a very emotional time for you, your family, and other pets.

The death of a beloved pet to which you are emotionally bonded is an intense loss, comparable with the death of a human loved one - or even greater in some cases. Your pet has given you unconditional love and companionship throughout his/her life - however long, or short, that life may have been.

According to Pet Plan, 35% of people admitted to taking time off work to either settle new pets into the home, or to care for a sick pet and, according to Direct Line, 1 in 4 pet owners said they had been too upset to go into the workplace when their four legged friend died.

Pet Crematoria are on the increase - many people want to give their pet a dignified send-off. Two I have had contact with are Paws R.I.P. in Fife, and Elysian Fields in Ayr.

For many people, making an album of photos and memories can be a great comfort - I did this when we lost our beloved house rabbit in 2003. I filled it with poems, cards that people had sent us, photos of Bobby, our memories and his cremation certificate. We still have Bobby's ashes.

Some people are embarrassed to show their grief over the loss of a pet and, all too often, non-pet lovers are heard to say "it was only a dog / rabbit / cat / whatever .....". How insensitive - your pet is a member of your family, and it is entirely natural to grieve for him/her when he/she dies.



*Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.*

*When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so that they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.*

*All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing; they each miss someone very special to them, who had to be left behind.*

*They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; His eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to run from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.*

*You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.*

*Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together ...*

Author unknown

**An obituary to Booker - may he run free over the Rainbow Bridge ...**



In February 2010 Eddie & Dusk found their forever home, in Glasgow, with Greg & Nicolai. By the end of that month, Eddie had become Booker and Dusk, Tula.

On the forum, on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010, Nicolai posted that due to the fact the dogs were like two bookends, Greg had come up with the name Booker for Eddie. Tallulah Bankhead, a famous actress from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, was the inspiration for Tula!



Over the months since, Greg & Nicolai have kept us updated on Booker & Tula's socialising, house-training, vet trips, walks and favourite foods - theirs has been a hugely informative and insightful narrative. We have also shared many laughs with them, from the de-squeaking of a new toy (28<sup>th</sup> February 2010) to Booker's fondness of 'doing his business' on a raised clump of daffodils!





From cuddles, new coats, new toys, new places to explore, to being part of a loving family, Booker & Tula were happy and content. Never were they happier, than when the four of them were together.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011, the family set off to live in Portugal, and another move followed, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2012, to Sitges.

Sadly, only 10 days later, on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Greg & Nicolai shared with us the terrible news that Booker had passed away.



## **Booker**

Always loved, and sorely missed, by Greg, Nicolai & Tula

## ROVER REPORTER .....

(aka Boots from Rosyth!)



EACH MONTH, WE ARE HOPING TO HEAR HOW ONE OF OUR RE-HOMED GREHOUNDS IS DOING, IN THEIR FOREVER HOME, BY MEANS OF A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THIS, PLEASE E-MAIL ME FOR A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE, AND RETURN TO ME ALONG WITH A PHOTO.

[bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com)

**THIS MONTH WE ARE TALKING TO ISOBEL & GARY TAGGART, WHO LIVE IN DUNFERMLINE WITH THEIR GREYHOUNDS ANNIE, MIKEY & DILLY ...**

1) **How long have you had Annie, Mikey & Dilly?**

We got Annie in 2004 from the RGT, Mikey in 2010 from GRF and Dilly in January this year, also from GRF.

2) **How has having Annie, Mikey & Dilly living with you changed your lives?**

They are an integral part of our family, we are with them virtually 24/7, everything we do, or plan, has to be revolved around them. I sometimes wonder just who exactly is in charge around here!

3) **What is the best thing about owning a greyhound?**

Unconditional love and devotion. I'm not saying it's a bed of roses, but they give back a hundred times more than they get, they don't ask for much and seem to appreciate their life now.

4) **..... and the worst ???**

Can't think of a 'worst'. Probably the 6 pairs of shoes eaten, food stealing, digging up the garden, 2 bed comforters ripped up, countless paper and toilet roll eating, etc., etc., and that's all Dilly, bless her cotton socks!

5) **What 3 words would you use to describe ...**

**Annie:** Gorgeous, Perfect, Irreplaceable.

**Mikey:** Handsome, Gentle, Aloof.

**Dilly:** Comical, Adorable, Ruffian.



6) **What advice would you give to someone, reading this article, who may be thinking of adopting a greyhound?**

Be prepared to give your all and submit to their charms, but no-one says it will be easy. Perseverance is the key, these animals will be devoted to new mums and dads and don't deserve to be cast aside if the going gets tough. Like any pet, they ain't going to be perfect from the outset, so know what you're taking on - and commit to take him/her on for better or worse!

7) **Any funny hound stories?**

I'm not sure if it applies to all Greys, but I don't think they are very good swimmers.

My Dad had Annie out for a walk one day, and she decided to go for a paddle in the local loch (after a duck, no less!). However, the depth of the water suddenly went from about 6 inches to 6 feet and under she went - but didn't re-appear. Well, I suppose the sight of an 80 year old man on a rescue mission did look a bit strange! Good job she didn't need the kiss of life! Hasn't gone near water since ...



Dilly, the ruffian !!



Annie, Mikey & Dilly

### **Last Month's Quiz ...**

From last month's 'true or false' quiz, all the answers were true with the exception of just these two ...

- 3) Due to a lack of donkeys in a small village in Wales last Christmas, a greyhound was used in the local Nativity Play.
- 7) Greyhounds can spot a moving object up 1.25 miles away.  
*They can see well, but not quite that well ... they can see, approximately, half a mile.*

### **Competition ...**

This month I thought that, instead of a quiz, we would involve some of our younger supporters, and have a drawing competition.

There will be two different age categories, up to age 7 and age 8 and over. There will be small prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category, donated by our Rover Reporter ☺ All entries must be received by the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2012, should be clearly marked 'Drawing Competition', and sent to: The Rover Reporter, c/o GRF, Baltree Country Centre, Gairneybank, Kinross KY13 9JY.

The winners will be announced in next month's newsletter, and the prizes distributed by post, so ensure that you mark your entry with your name, age and address. If you have any queries, please contact me at [bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com) We look forward to seeing those greyhound drawings ... good luck ☺

### **Recipe ...**

Another appeal ... !!

If any of you have tried & tested recipes for doggy treats, or meals, then I would love to receive them for inclusion in future newsletters. Please send them to me at [bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com)

Thank you.

### **Other News ...**

#### **2013 Calendar:**

Thank you, we now have all the sponsors in place for the 2013 calendars - more news next month!

#### **Tin Collection:**

Michele can often be 'heard', on the Forum, asking for your empty aluminium drinks cans, old mobile 'phones, and used ink cartridges. The photo overleaf shows the last lot of tinned dog food, 108 tins, bought with the money received for these, and the club card points raised!



Depending on how many dogs are in the kennels, up to 7 tins of dog food are used every day, so this pile will only last a couple of weeks. We all know that people are feeling the pinch financially, but the recycling doesn't involve your wallet! The dogs can't speak, so Michele is asking on their behalf ... *"please help us"*.

### **Lucky Numbers Draw:**

Jimmy, once again, drew Steve Dowd's number and, once again, Steve generously donated his winnings to GRF. The total, therefore, received by GRF in September was £118.00 - thanks to all who took part.

### **Angela's Wedding:**

On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>, Celia and Jimmy were delighted to be invited to the wedding of Angela Kerr, our great volunteer from Dundee. It was a fabulous evening and although they didn't know many people there, were made so welcome that they almost felt like family members.

Below is a photo of Angela and her mum Denise, also a great volunteer at the kennels, both looking beautiful in their wedding attire.



All at GRF wish Angela and her new husband, James, a long and happy married life.

### **Greyhound coats:**

With winter fast approaching (or is it here already?), Bert McCurdy has left a supply of coats for sale at the kennels.

Greyhound Blizzard coats are available, priced £16.50 - these coats have fleece linings and Velcro fastening around the body. They are available in 26" and 28" in red, blue, black and green. There are also a few in size 30", and one in size 32".

**Please note that these coats are purchased at no cost to the kennels, but every penny of the sale price, £16.50, goes towards the upkeep of our kennels, and the welfare of all the dogs in our care.**

Bert also has other items for sale, so please contact him if you are interested in waterproof dog beds (£20), double fleece kennel coats (£10) or light nylon raincoats (can be rolled up and carried in a pocket).

### **and finally ...**

The next walk is scheduled for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October at Dunfermline Glen. We will be leaving the main Pittencrieff car park at 11:00am.

Look forward to seeing you there, and remember ... doggies on leads, and pickupdapoo ☺

As ever, keep your eye on the Forum for any last minute changes.