

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

November 2012

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*



A DOG IS FOR LIFE, NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS ...

There has been much written, recently, on the GRF Forum about dogs being re-homed and then, sadly, returned to the kennels.

I am not judging **anyone** - we do not know what circumstances cause people to return dogs - some of them will be 'last resort', I am sure. However, returning a dog because it barked during the night, chewed your best shoe, or simply didn't fit in with your schedule is no excuse whatsoever.

When you think about adopting a greyhound, or any other animal for that matter, think very carefully about the impact it will have on your life, because your life **will** change. Be **absolutely** sure that you can offer a dog the love and commitment it so deserves, long term - he/she will be a part of your family for, God willing, many years to come.

It is all too easy to get caught up in the sentiment of the season, and think that taking on a homeless dog would be a great idea - be certain, before you adopt a dog, that you know what you are taking on - it is very unfair to the dog to do any less.

Appeal for Christmas donations ...

On the subject of Christmas ... can I repeat my appeal, and ask that when you are preparing to pamper **your** pet this Christmas, you give a thought to the homeless hounds at Baltree. Perhaps you could spare a little extra time, during the holidays, to help with some walking, give a little cash donation (every penny matters to us) to help buy some extra treats for the dogs' Christmas or, the next time you are at your local Pet Shop, buy an extra couple of cans of food. This would be a great Christmas present, not only for the greyhounds, but also for Jimmy & Celia who, as ever, will be spending their Christmas Day at Baltree.

2013 Calendar ...

The 2013 wall calendar has now sold out, but there **are** desk calendars left - cost £5.00. Please contact Michele if you haven't got yours yet!

Thank you to everyone who bought, and sponsored, the 2013 calendars - they have been a huge success, with the wall calendar selling out within days, and a re-print having to be ordered 😊 All monies from the sale of these calendars goes directly to help the ongoing work at Baltree.

Thank-you's ...

Recently, we've been very fortunate to have the kind assistance of several groups of people giving up their time helping us out at the kennels.

Celia, Jimmy and all at Greyhound Rescue Fife would like to thank them all for their assistance, which was much appreciated. We'd also like to thank their employers for allowing them time off in many cases.



26 October, from SSE: Neil Arnott, Gordon McIntosh, June Gregor and Scott Leslie.



2 November from SSE: Hamish Myles, Becky Myles, Declan Myles, Mandy Robson and Mike Brown.



11 November from St Andrews University (not in order): Students - Neil, Katherine, Helen and Becky.

Greyhound Rescue Fife would also like to thank Katie Grant who collected almost £8 by making cookies and selling them to her friends. Katie your £8 paid to feed Flash for a week! Thank you very much for thinking about our dogs.

November Walk in Kirkcaldy's Beveridge Park ...

The November walk saw another large turn-out on another cold, crisp, sunny Sunday morning.



Lucky Numbers Draw:

Having sold 56 numbers this month, there was a prize fund of £112.00. This was split as £67.20 to GRF, and £44.80 to the winner. Celia drew the winning number at Beveridge Park - this was No. 63 which belonged to Irene McCurdy - congratulations Irene!

Fiona tells us that the Lucky Number Draw is now entering its fifth year - hard to believe. She thought you would like to know that from November 2011 until October 2012 a total of £1,294.00 has been raised. The winners received £296.80 and due to 5 of the winners donating their cheque to GRF, GRF received a total of £997.20.

Fiona would like to thank everyone who takes part for continuing to support this, and helping raise some much needed funds for the homeless hounds.

GRF would like to thank Fiona for organising this for us!

Raffle:

Thanks, as ever, to Kate & Rab Conn for organising the raffle at each of our walks - again, this brings in much needed funds.

Any donations of raffle prizes would be gratefully received.

From the Dog House

Dogs in since October Newsletter:

Maisie (2), Crystal, Lassie, Sue, Joey, Rosie & Jade.

Dogs out since October Newsletter:

Maisie (2), Boaty, Susie (black), Lady, Jack, Susie (white and black) & Jade.

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?

Moe



Moe is an exceedingly friendly black boy with beautiful eyes. He is a delight to be with. When he knows that he is going for a walk, he gets very excited but soon settles down to be a good walker on a lead. He is a very good traveller, and loves being with people.

Sue



Sue is a very nice black girl. She is a very friendly dog who just wants to go out with you and enjoy life. She is an easy girl to walk on a lead. She gets on fine with the other greyhounds and is no bother. A good traveller in a car.

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

Vet's Corner ...

This month, we are taking a look at dental health.

As puppies, greyhounds grow 28 'baby' teeth between three and six weeks of age. These, as in humans, are later replaced by the adult teeth, premolars & molars - this happens around four months of age, and the final count of adult teeth is 42.

It is highly unlikely that your rescue greyhound had any form of dental care prior to retirement from racing.

Did you know, however, that dental disease can have a significant impact on your dog's life span due to its affect on the heart, kidneys, liver and respiratory system. It starts with saliva, food residue and bacteria creating plaque on teeth which builds up along the gums, infecting the gums, bones and ligaments that support and anchor the teeth in the jaw. Some studies have shown that 80% of dogs over the age of three have dental disease. One of the 'hallmarks' most of us are familiar with is doggy breath (halitosis). Periodontal disease is progressive, usually starting as gingivitis, an infection of the gum tissue. At this point the condition is reversible with proper care. It progresses to gum recession, and eventual loss of teeth. Bacteria enters the bloodstream and can travel to your dog's vital organs.

When you adopt a dog, the state of his/her teeth is obviously something you have no control over - as said previously, it very much depends on the age of the dog, and the length of his/her racing career.

Of course, if the state of the teeth is particularly concerning you, you should have them checked by your Vet - he/she will be able to advise if any extractions are needed, and he/she will also be able to clean and de-scale the teeth if necessary - the down side of this, of course, is that your dog will need an anaesthetic, to which greyhounds are particularly sensitive.

The answer is to try and look after things yourself - various websites suggest different things ... knuckle bones are recommended - the shape of the bone allows the greyhound to maximise cleaning, and will preoccupy them for hours! **Remember, however, never leave your dog unsupervised with a bone of any kind.** Nylabone offer a large selection of chew products produced to assist dental health.

Of course, most important is brushing. It is important to brush your dog's teeth regularly. This should be done using a soft toothbrush and dog toothpaste (**NEVER** use human toothpaste) - your local pet shop, or Vet, will be able to advise you on this. Pets at Home, for example, give free advice in some of their larger stores. Some dogs are happier, than others, to have their teeth cleaned but it is important to persevere!



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

THIS MONTH WE ARE TALKING TO TOBY, GOLDIE & BILLY, WHO LIVE IN DUNDEE WITH THEIR HUMANS. MICHELE & NIC ...

1) **How long have you had your humans?**

Toby - 12 years on the 7th December;
Billy - 9 years on my 'Gotcha Day', the 3rd December;
Goldie - 4 years.

2) **What do your humans say about having you living with them?**

You're never alone if you have a dog! They follow us around the house and want to be part of everything. The least wee things make them happy.

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

They are very handy for chauffeuring us about, producing our meals, providing ear scratches and tummy rubs.

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

They fart dreadfully and try to blame us!

5) **What 3 words would you let your humans describe you as?**

Goldie: I'm the boss, inquisitive and give the best greetings when my humans come home. (Try instigator and nosiest - Michele)

Toby: I'm the most vocal, cuddliest and unlike the hounds impervious to cold wet weather.

Billy: nervous amongst strangers, loves a snuggle on the sofa, Michele's shadow.

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

Don't hesitate! They really are couch potatoes and spend most of the day asleep. Big dog does not equal always on the go and needing lots and lots of walks. If you meet a greyhound, it is almost certainly a retired racer and they will repay your love a million times over.

7) **Any funny hound stories?**

“He’s not the Messiah, he’s a very naughty greyhound!” Green weed covering a narrow burn, poor Billy tried to walk on water but failed miserably!

Goldie stealing all our bread on a Sunday morning on holiday in an area where the Sabbath is observed.

Having to grab Toby by his tail, the only part of him visible, as he was sneaking out under the side of a tent on a camping holiday.



Other News ...

Misty:

On the 2nd of November, when the kennels were being cleaned out, Misty was looking out of her kennel and wagging her tail. A few minutes later, she was dead. The vet believes she had a catastrophic heart attack, as there was no noise or indication that anything was wrong. This came as a huge shock to all at GRF.

Jess, one of our volunteers who walked Misty, adopted her posthumously.

Run free, over the Bridge, Misty - you will be missed.

Sox:

On the 25th November, Celia & Jimmy posted the following on the Forum:

“Everybody who has visited GRF knows our lovely volunteer Susan Pearson and her great companion Sox, one of the friendliest greyhounds that we have ever had the pleasure of meeting. Sox is ten years old and developed a lump on her leg. The leg was x-rayed, and bone cancer was shown up. Sadly it is in a very advanced stage. It was estimated that Sox did not have long left and would soon be in very serious pain. Brave Susan decided that rather than have her beloved Sox suffer, as she most certainly very soon would, she decided to have her put to rest in her own happy home with her mummy by her side.”

Sox died peacefully, in her Mummy’s arms, in her own home on 26th November - she couldn’t have wished for a more selfless human being than Susan.

Susan & Sox were inseparable, and we know that Susan will be devastated - we hope that she feels the love of the GRF family around her as she comes to terms with her loss.

Run free over the Rainbow Bridge sweet Sox



Boaty:

On the 17th November Boaty went off to his forever home, as reported by Ann. Boaty shares his new Mum and Dad with a girlfriend called Mia, a 9 year old greyhound, who was posed for the photo but decided she preferred her bed instead! A plus point for Ann is that that they live just round the corner from her 😊

We will all miss Boaty at the Kennels - he was a real character, and we wish him loads of happy times with his new family.



Dog Walker:

Our dog walker has now been harled, and has been fitted with electricity, so it is all but complete, and should be finished within days.

This is great news, as it means that our dogs can be exercised no matter how bad the weather outside ☺

Trees:

We've had our trees trimmed before the winter winds to make the kennels safe.

Aluminium Cans & Unsuitable Christmas Gifts:

With it being Christmas, please remember to keep all those used aluminium cans ... there will be loads extra at this time of year ☺

Also, if you should receive any unsuitable Christmas gifts, when the time comes, bear in mind that Kaz & Pat list items on eBay to raise funds for the greyhounds ...

and finally ...

'Top Secret' Walk:

Jimmy has now revealed details of the last walk of 2012, to take place on Sunday 2nd December.

This will take place at Aberdour Beach, and we will be meeting at 11am at the Silver Sands Car Park. The forecast is for dry, but very cold, weather so wrap up well!

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.

