

# GRF



# NEWS

*Designed by Sally E Calder*

April 2013

*Changing the world  
one greyhound at a time!*

Well, hard to believe but this is the last issue before our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual GRF Dog Show - anyway, it's a busy edition so let's get started!

Firstly, we would like to congratulate Celia on being presented with her BEM. Celia had a marvellous day in Dunfermline, being presented with her medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Fife and the Provost of Fife. Celia and Jimmy were very well treated indeed, making it a day that they'll never forget.

Celia would like to thank everyone who made it possible, over the years, to be presented for the award, and especially to the people who secretly nominated her. In her opinion it was wonderful to get the award but she never imagined, when she started the rescue, that anything like this would happen. In **OUR** opinion Celia, it was hugely deserved. Here is Celia with her medal:



Secondly, everyone at GRF would like to wish Celia a speedy recovery following her recent hip operation. Celia is now back home convalescing, although she is still in a lot of pain, and being looked after by Jimmy.

We know you will be anxious to get back to the Kennels, but you will just have to be a patient patient ... !!

Get well soon Celia Fernie, BEM ... ☺

Update from Alex Morrison ...



**6th Annual Greyhound Fife Dog Show – sponsored by Moffat, the Catering Equipment Company**

At the time of writing, there are only two weeks to go before our 6<sup>th</sup> Dog show.

The organisers are busily putting together the finishing touches, behind the scenes, to ensure another successful show. The purpose of the show has always been to raise awareness of the plight of the greyhound under the auspice of a fun dog show, which also allows us to raise much needed funds to keep our ever growing kennels going. Greyhound Rescue Fife has come a long way since its inception 8 years ago, having saved, and found forever homes for, nearly 700 dogs! This is an amazing number but, unfortunately, it is only the tip of the iceberg and, as quick as we re-home one dog, another arrives. Being one of the largest greyhound sanctuaries in the UK we depend on donations from all of our supporters, with every penny that we raise at this show going to ensure a better quality of life for our current incumbents until they find their forever homes. We hope that, once more, we can count on your valued support. Tickets, at the cheap rate of £3.50, are on sale at our kennels and at the next dog walk with the walk-in price, on the day, being £4.00.

This year's show also has a real local independent feel about it with more stalls than ever attending, many of which come from the Fife area, so why not come along and not only support GRF but also your local communities. At the time of writing we still have a couple of opportunities to get involved, even if you cannot make it along. We have two dog classes still looking for sponsorship, **Best Junior Handler & Family of Dogs (£50 each), as well as our Trophies & Rosettes (£100 each)**. See our forum for full details.

Finally, just a reminder that doors open at **11:00** on the day, with the first class beginning at **11:30**. Remember, we are getting the use of an **indoor** facility on a working farm - please respect this by ensuring that you do not drop litter, and that you clean up after your dog. There will be plenty of rubbish bags available, dotted round the room, so please use! We will have plenty of parking, but please park considerately, and where our helpers show you. We also have use of a large field, where your dogs can be walked before, during or after the show (ensure you wear your wristband at all times which will allow you freedom to go in and out).

Please note that **DOGS MUST BE ON THE LEAD AT ALL TIMES** - it will be the owners' responsibility to ensure this, and be aware of their dog at all times (especially as there will be a lot of nice tasty snacks at head height !!!).

All that remains for me to say is that I hope to speak to as many of you as possible on the day - let's make this another roaring success for our cause :o)

## Thank-you's ...

### **Thanks to Scottish Water:**

Recently we had a group of volunteers from Scottish Water, who kindly chose us for their volunteering 'Make a Difference Day'. The group gave us a great hand, making life a lot easier for us. We hope that they enjoyed their day, and we thank them for choosing us to help. We also thank Scottish Water for allowing them to come.



The group consisted of: Lauren Gamble, Kirsty Connell, Sean Anderson, Andrew McAulay and Andrew Thomson.

### **Sponsored Walk:**

A very determined group of people made a huge effort, and walked the whole of the 115 mile Fife coastal path, collecting sponsor money totalling ..... an absolutely mind blowing **£1,735.85** for our homeless dogs. This goes a huge way towards covering the running costs of the kennels.

Celia, Jimmy, all at GRF, and especially the homeless dogs would like to say a mammoth thank-you to the group for their immense effort. We all hope that their feet have recovered!

The group who did the walk were Graham Smart, Evelyn Scobie, Jane Sanderson, Irene Duncan, Angela Campbell and Morag Laing.

Thank you one and all.



The photo shows: Celia, Jimmy, Graham, Jane and Evelyn, with Indi the greyhound.

### **GRF Community at Heart Video / Thanks to SSE:**

We had a group of film-makers, from Scottish Southern Electric, up at the kennel recently! They set up their cameras and took footage, throughout the kennel, for the day.

The end product arrived, and it is absolutely fantastic. They really captured the essence of Baltree! Everyone who has watched it, so far, has had a lump in their throat. If you haven't see the completed piece, please do check it out on the forum.

Celia, Jimmy, and everyone at GRF are all hugely grateful for your help, and for the fantastic film - very, very well done, and a **HUGE** thank-you to all involved.

Spangle, the star of the film (at the end), was re-homed just days after it appeared! Having spent so long in kennels, we do hope that you are very happy in your forever home with your new Mummy & Daddy.

### **GRF Benefit Night at Thornton:**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April a race night was held at Thornton Race Track, with the proceeds going to the benefit of the Greyhound Rescue Fife homeless hounds.

The meeting was kindly allowed by the track owners, Paul and Sandy, and was organised by trainers George Allan and James Shand. George is employed by BP, who kindly agreed to match any proceeds.

GRF was also allowed a stall at the track, which was run by Bert. A great night was had by all!

George Allan posted on the forum that the total (including the, very generous, matching by BP) comes to a **phenomenal £5,300.00**. This is an amazing boost to our funds and Celia, Jimmy and all at GRF, especially the homeless dogs, would like to thank Paul, Sandy, George, James and BP, most sincerely, for allowing all this to happen for our rescue dogs.

### **Wee Jock / Thanks to Marion:**

Following on from the appeal in last month's Newsletter, we learned that the lovely Marion had taken wee Jock into her home.

Marion is keeping us updated, via the forum, as to how wee Jock is doing, so watch out for her posts.

You have a huge heart Marion - thank you from all at GRF and, of course, from Jock.

## April Walk at Ravenscraig Park in Kirkcaldy ...

The April walk, at Ravenscraig Park, was very enjoyable. The day before had been glorious but, unfortunately, the day of the walk was a bit misty which rather spoiled the usually spectacular views over the Forth.

It was great to see Jimmy walking, and looking so much better 😊

The cupcakes were delicious ... !!

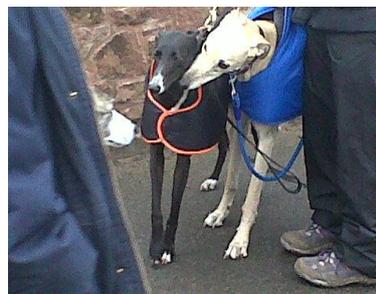
The **Lucky Numbers Draw** was made at the walk:

Fiona advised that 59 numbers had been sold, giving us a prize fund of £118.00. This was split as £70.80 to GRF, and £47.20 to the winner.

Celia drew the winning number this month, which was number 67 belonging to Jim Alexander. Congratulations to Jim!

Fiona would like to thank everyone who takes part, and helps make a little money for the homeless hounds.

Here are a few pics from the day ...



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

### **Dogs in since March Newsletter:**

Knight, Tina, Pam, Poppy, Pippa, Nikkie, Bluey, Benny, Rio, Gloria, Silver, Brett & Blanche (13)

### **Dogs out since March Newsletter:**

Jasper, Jackie, Tara, Spangle, Willie & Myrrh (6)

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

**PLEASE** can you find it in your heart to give one of our dogs the forever home they so richly deserve?

### **Cracker**



**Cracker** is a gorgeous blue and white boy. He is young, and quite strong on a lead but he is a very playful, loving and friendly dog. He is, in fact, a real character and possibly best suited to a man. He travels well in a car, and is friendly towards the other greyhounds.

### **Nina**



**Nina** is a big black girl and, again, quite powerful. She is very friendly towards everybody. She is not bad on a lead, and would improve with training. Nina lives happily with her boyfriend! She is also quite a character.

*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 ...

### **Dental Health:**

*This piece was first published in the November 2012 Newsletter but, due to a recent request, I am re-printing it this month. Hope you find it helpful!*

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, and as in humans, some dogs will have stronger teeth than others.

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 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!

There are various sprays, drops to put in water, and types of brushes available, and it is really down to trial and error to find out what suits you, and your dog, best. We find that a 'finger toothbrush for dogs' is the easiest to use, as you have more purchase on the actual brush, as opposed to trying to manoeuvre a long handled brush. As I say, it very much depends on how willing the individual dog is to have his/her teeth brushed ... any doubts, do check with your Vet.

## ROVER REPORTER .....

(aka Bootsie from Rosyth!)



**EACH MONTH, WE ARE HOPING TO HEAR HOW ONE OF OUR RE-HOMED GREYHOUNDS 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 MARION, WHO LIVES IN UPPER LARGO WITH HER GREYHOUND FOXY ...**

1) **How long have you had Foxy?**

Just over 2 joyous years. She initially sneaked in under that fallacious disguise of ‘foster dog’ for hydrotherapy and tlc to help mend her broken right hind leg. Celia and Jimmy had already done the hard bit of keeping her confined in a 6x6ft cage for 3 months to start the calcification process, and now she just needed gentle, regular exercise to make the leg strong again.

The hydrotherapy wasn’t a great success. I’ve since learnt she has hydrophobia and won’t willingly even paddle in the sea on a hot day, so she did well to put up with it for a few sessions. Then she realized that, if she just ‘dangled’ in her buoyancy jacket, we gave up and fished her out – clever dog! It took her about 6 weeks to crumble my resolve and we became her forever family.

2) **How has having Foxy living with you changed your life?**

I lost a beloved lurcher, Charna, back in 2008 (see In Memoriam), and my other two hounds were boys (Kim & Dylan) so I really wanted another girl. Then Celia and Jimmy had ‘boy overload’ at the kennels and we ‘fostered’ darling Bryn, who is very much a ladies’ man and lost no time in making his position permanent. Now, finally, I have another girl in the family. In some ways she couldn’t be more different from Charna, who was very much the lady dog, albeit with some dodgy habits, while Fi Fox is a clown and a tomboy. She makes me laugh every day and she looks after the boys, just like Charna did.

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

To be honest, I struggle to remember life without one. I had a wonderful golden retriever before I discovered hounds, and my first three were lurchers. They were all wonderful but, somehow, more self-contained than a greyhound. Maybe, because greyhounds only have humans and other greyhounds during their first formative years, they become specially attached to us and their vulnerability brings out our protective instincts. I love dogs / ...

I love dogs in general and I've often wondered why I'm so drawn to greyhounds. There's probably an element of desire to make amends for the human exploitation of greyhounds, but that applies to most rescue dogs.

Of course, they are beautiful, soft, loyal, loving, forgiving, challenging, exasperating at times, and just fab.

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

Where to begin?! They pee and poo in elephantine amounts (mostly outside, unless there's reason for a protest), break wind, especially when you have visitors, steal food (including bird food, the butter from a dinner party table, and sandwiches from unsuspecting picnickers), scavenge the most revolting things on the beach, prefer sofas/armchairs and my bed to their own comfy dog beds, want to chase anything that moves (rabbits, squirrels, deer, the neighbours' chickens, cats and small dogs), the list is endless, and still I love them!

5) **What 3 words would you use to describe Foxy?**

My wee darling.

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

What are you waiting for, and why only one?? Just do it! You'll never look back.

7) **Any funny hound stories?**

Too many to mention - I've probably shared most of them on the forum and I've taken up enough of your newsletter already. Steve does a good line in funny stories, so I'd target him for the next Rover Reporter slot 😊



***Yes, I KNOW it's not a REAL hare ..... BUT these ARE real rabbits !!***

## Sad News ...

We were very sad to hear, on the 5<sup>th</sup> April, that Goldie Greyhound had had to be put to sleep. Goldie had been limping quite badly and, after many tests, the vet diagnosed advanced osteosarcoma.



Run free dear Goldie - you will never be forgotten by your Mummies, Billy, Toby or your many friends (including Bootsie).

### *A Dog's Last Will & Testament*

*Before humans die, they write their last will and testament , give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same thing this is what I'd ask ..*

*To a poor and lonely stray I'd give my happy home; my bowl and cosy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur; and the sweet voice that spoke my name.*

*I'd will to the sad, scared shelter dog the place I had in my human's loving heart, of which there seemed no bounds.*

*So, when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again, for the loss and pain is more than I can stand."*

*Instead, go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope, and give my place to him.*

*This is the only thing I can give ...*

*The love I left behind.*

(Author Unknown)

## **and, so ...**

Michele & Nic decided to give another homeless hound a place in their family, and Tara, who is a greyhound / saluki cross, is now living in Dundee! Tara is an absolute live wire, and we can report that she is keeping Billy & Toby under her paw - Bootsie is totally smitten ... !

Tara, of course, will never 'replace' Goldie, but we're sure that Goldie would wholeheartedly approve.



## **Good News ...**

We now have our building warrant, and we are ready to start building .... at last !!

## **and finally ...**

### **Our next walk, May:**

Our next walk is scheduled for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May at North Inch in Perth. As ever, we will be leaving at 11:00am.

Any tombola / raffle prizes you may have, for the Dog Show, should be handed to either Michele & Nic, or Susan & Mo at the walk. Also, please bear in mind that advance tickets will be on sale, at the walk, priced £3.50 - the 'on the door price' on the day will be £4.00 !!

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

Do keep your eye on the Forum for any last minute changes.

### **A final word from the editor**

*(Bootsie and Mo say that she does like to have the last word!) ...*

Just to re-iterate Alex's earlier comments about the Dog Show ... if at all possible, please do come along on the day - it is a great fun day out for adults, children and dogs! Everyone, coming through the door, will receive a 'goody' bag, and we have lots of stalls, a tombola and a raffle with some excellent prizes.

Also, this year, in addition to a Trophy & Rosette for the winner of each class, our Rover Reporter has sponsored bandanas for the winners - your dog would be very proud to wear one of these, I'm sure!



A great deal of work goes into organising this show - work started just days after the last show ended! It is a great opportunity to meet re-homed hounds, and their owners, to swap stories and advice, and to make new friends - both canine and human!

**We totally depend on your support, and continued generosity, to make the show the success it always has been.**

I do hope to see you there ... both old friends, and new ☺

Susan.