

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder
April 2009

Welcome to our April edition of the newsletter and we hope that previous editions have helped keep people informed of not only the going on's at the kennel's but also some interesting facts and stories about greyhounds in general along with various medications and alternative therapies.

This month is a big month for all at GRF as it see's our 2nd annual dog show take place (Sunday 26th April). We hope as many people as possible can support this event which should be a fun day for all family and friends and those interested in adopting a greyhound.

Kennel update

Unfortunately at the time of printing we have no further update on possible new kennels, but this is obviously an urgent priority for us to remedy as the situation is becoming untenable for us to even last out our lawful tenancy.

We have been given a lawyer's letter to be out by the 1st May! Although we can challenge this if we so wish in the courts if we cannot find a new home by then. This course of action obviously would use up much needed funds for our greys and as stated on numerous occasions it is these majestic animals that come first in any of our decision making.



Throughout March we re-homed three dogs HOBBO, BUNTY and CHICO. Unfortunately this was balanced out by STAR (aka STELLA), DAVIE and POPPY coming into our kennels. We also, sadly find that the credit crunch has hit GRF. FLASH and CLEO who were re-homed very happily have been returned, since, their owners have had to sell their house and move into a small flat where no pets are allowed.

Thank you

Recently a cheque for **£384-32** was handed over to GRF from the combined result from our sponsor a kennel scheme (see below), Easter raffle, collection tins and some lovely home-baking by Fiona (which didn't last long by all accounts !!! maybe some of this can be sampled at our dog show).

Thanks to all those who donated.

Sebastian, Myles & Alistair are once again organising another fundraiser, this time it is an Easter raffle for the kennels where you can win a large Easter egg for you and Dog treats for your pet

Tickets are priced at £2 a strip and are on sale now at Union Farm Boarding Kennels, Fife, In the Pet Shop, They are there every weekend, but tickets are available all week from Nanette. A.K.A Granny!

Full information can be found on our web site forum or via the Union farm site.

Lucky number

Number 57 was drawn as the winning number at March's walk. The number belonged to Anne Atkinson who works at the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service beside yours truly !!. Congratulations Anne.

That's 5 months now the draw has taken place and with many thanks to everyone who has participated in any or all of these draws. We have all raised **£285.60** for GRF and handed out **£190.40** in prize money below is a list of the winners to date:

November 2008 - no.72

Ian Wallace (£37.60)

December 2008 - no. 4

Gordon Smith (£40.80)

January 2009 - no. 29

Fraser Smith (£36.00)

February 2009 - no. 65

Alex Morrison (£37.60)

March 2009 - no. 57

Anne Atkinson (£38.40)

If you wish to help GRF and want a chance of winning some money for yourself, please consider taking part in the lottery. It costs as little as £2.00 per month.

Sponsor a Kennel

Some of you may have noticed recently that we have a new link on our web site to sponsor a kennel. As you will be aware the upkeep of our homeless hounds is an ongoing cost all dogs must of course be kennelled, fed, vaccinated, neutered, have cosy jackets to keep them warm, be wormed and sometimes treated for illness, injury, fleas or mange. All of this costs money.

All the instructions of how to donate are on the site. Please remember to e-mail Fiona at harper12a@aol.com with the details of which kennels you would like to sponsor. Remember every penny counts so as little or as much as you'd like.

This is particularly important at the moment considering the situation at Seafield kennels. As you will be aware the upkeep of our homeless hounds is an ongoing cost, all dogs must of course be kennelled, fed, vaccinated, neutered, have cosy jackets to keep them warm, be wormed and sometimes treated for illness, injury, fleas or mange. All of this costs money.

A few thanks must go to Nanette Jackson, Shirley Winton, Jim Stephen, Nicola Barn, Craig Morish, Haven Dog Rescue and of course Sophie, Brogan and Sasha (the Union Farm GSD's) and Jack, Lucki and Kyla (my hounds) who have already donated giving us an early total of **£86.00**. !!

A special and enormous thanks must also go to John Ratcliffe for helping get this onto the website. I think everyone will agree he's done a fantastic job.

Thanks in advance from all the homeless hounds for those who choose to sponsor a

kennel.

Fiona

From the Dog house

CHICO is a very happy, enthusiastic, playful young lad. He takes delight in being with people. He is a good walker and gets on well with his fellow greyhounds. He is neutered and will be an absolutely delightful pet dog.



Can you give CHICO a forever home? Then contact Jimmy/Celia on 01592 890583.

Dog of the Month

This month's dog of the month is GOLDIE who was adopted from GRF via her foster parents. Here is her story.

We first met her at Helen and Dave's when we went to buy some merchandise and fell in love with her. Less than a week later she was living in Dundee with us.



Picture of me and Billy, I'm the one smiling for the camera!

Likes- bedtime because I get my dental chew. I can smell them out from great distances and try to sneak them out of pockets. I leap all over the place in excitement.

Dislikes- jumping into the car! (well I don't really dislike it, i just prefer to be lifted in). I also am not happy when anyone sits in MY armchair. I'll stare at them or try to jump in behind and poke them off with my pointy feet.

Worst thing done- when I first arrived I was a bit naughty chewing things. I chewed my collar and had to be bought a new one (much better colour, suits my fur). I chewed Billy's muzzle and Toby's lead. Now I'm really good.

Biggest achievement- well it's not really something I've done but since I arrived Billy has become a lot more relaxed and chilled out. I think he's really happy to have another hound in the house

Likes doing best- going in the car. It doesn't matter where, I just love being out with the humans.

Oddest thing- I love my teeth being cleaned, you only need to show me the brush and I stand to get them done. Really it's because I know I'm going to get my dental chew next.



"I think Goldie you may find that your in my armchair again !!!

History of greyhound racing

Part 3

In Britain there were around thirty stadiums in operation and several under construction by the end of 1927. It was for this reason that the GRA formed a Racing Committee, which set the rules and regulations and saw they were adhered to by all the tracks, which fell under their direction.

In the first volume of the Greyhound Racing Association Register, the Keeper of the Register, F. Tighe wrote a letter, which was to serve as a preface. Addressed to the Chairman of the Racing Committee, Lord Chesham, it read:

My Lord,

In presenting to you the first volume of the Greyhound Racing Association Register, I feel sure that you will be gratified at the success with which it has already met. The Register was opened on the sixteenth of July, after the racing season had been well started, but it is my pleasure to inform you that 904 dogs have been registered.

Included in this number are 183 lady owners.

It will interest you to know that the first owner to take advantage of the Register was Mr Edwin Baxter, of Sarre, Kent, to whom the first certificate was issued, and by a happy coincidence, the very first dog to be entered on the GRA Register was "Entry Badge" the winner of the £1,000 Derby. The provincial owners were somewhat slow in sending their registrations, but towards the closing of the Register (31 October) a decided improvement was shown.

Now that it is compulsory for all dogs that run on your Tracks to be registered, and as the Register has got well established, and appeals to owners, I feel confident that Volume II will show a marked increase in the number of dogs registered.

Yours faithfully,

F, Tighe,

Keeper of the Register

On 1st January 1928 an independent body was set up to ensure the smooth running of the growing number of racecourses. This came about after many promoters had meetings late in 1927 and decided to set up the National Greyhound Racing Club to regulate the sport, and the National Greyhound Racing Society to take care of administration.

For the next ten years greyhound racing continued to hold its popularity. In 1934 the Betting and Lotteries Act was passed, which allowed stadiums and racecourses to operate their own totalisators. This helped to make the sport even more profitable and more popular.

For a short while, after the outbreak of the Second World War, racing was banned in Britain. When the ban was lifted and racing resumed, much to the relief of the populace of the city who were sorely in need of entertainment, only day time race meetings could be held because of the restriction on lighting caused by the blackouts.

In the post war years the sport gained even more popularity. Millions flocked to greyhound stadiums all over the country, eager to forget the horrors of the past years and happy to be able to go out and enjoy themselves.

This "boom" time lasted right through the 50's and into the 60's, when high street bookmakers and televised broadcasts of live horse racing caused gates at greyhound stadiums to drop by over 50%. The GRA were hit badly by the lost revenue and tried several ways to tempt the public back to their stadiums, including the reintroduction of eight dog races. Nothing could stop the flow of spectators away from the stadiums and into betting shops and bingo halls. A slump in the property market in the mid seventies added further to the troubles of the GRA and the company was on the verge of ceasing to operate.

Many tracks disappeared forever, including the White City's of both London and Manchester, before the slide was halted. Jack Aaronson, renown in the city for saving

flagging companies was put in control of the GRA. It was his act of closing the loss making tracks and taking stringent money saving measures that eventually saved the GRA.

However over this period the public's perception of dog racing being a fun event has considerably changed as stories began to slowly emerge of the ill treatment of these animals and living conditions.

"The sickening side of Greyhound racing"

Edited from the Daily Mail 2007

We're supposed to be a nation of animal lovers, after all. This "love", it seems, doesn't extend to greyhounds where for the majority - a short, miserable life will be followed by a brutal and needless death. Most will suffer a fate similar to those buried in a "mass grave" next to David Smith's bungalow off a secluded farm track in County Durham. The method of execution for those unfortunate animals was a bolt gun, a weapon that fires a metal bar with enough force to shatter the toughest skull. Smith had been providing a £10-a-time canine killing service for sections of the greyhound racing industry for up to 15 years. "

Vet approached to mutilate greyhounds Sunday, 02 December 2007.

BY KEITH LYNCH

"Greyhound trainers have approached vets in Co Galway to "mutilate" their dogs in a bid to get them to run faster. The vet, who wished to remain anonymous, said that a greyhound trainer has approached him twice over the

last year in a bid to get him to remove the floating rib from a greyhound. "

Since these stories have emerged many protests and demonstrations have taken place to put a stop to greyhound racing altogether. Particularly at Bellevue, where it all began. With the age of the Internet upon us there are now many sites set up world wide that highlights the cruelty of the dogs living conditions (www.greyhoundmuses.com). However, there are also other sites mainly from the racing industry that would dispute these claims. Along with many who support and enjoy going to dog racing.

Although one question that needs asked is this; approximately 9000 greyhounds come to the end of their racing career each year. Are we to believe that there are 9000 families in Britain every year waiting to give a good home to an ex-racing greyhound?

This 3-part history of the greyhound set out without any pre-conceptions of the rights and wrongs of greyhound racing but merely to give everybody an insight into how it came about. However, there is obviously much debate out there and maybe we can have a debate type article with people's thoughts in future newsletters.

Dog Show update

We are pleased to announce that Dunfermline Football club will be attending this years dog show along with their "accuracy shooting inflatable" prizes will be given for the highest scorers. So why not gets the ball out and get some practice in, all ages and sexes !! Can participate.

We have another company coming along to our show this year that of K9 active who offer a wide range of products for the active outdoor hound so look out for their stand along with our other major sponsor Vodabone who can supply all your pet foods and dog treats.

Such has been the success for this year's show that we are now at capacity for all our stalls. Below is just a list of what you can expect to find at this years event; Tombola, home-baking, Wii sports ski jumping, white elephant sale, GRF merchandise, tea/coffee/snacks, DAFC shooting inflatable, raffle, key rings/trinkets, pet supplies and a chance to meet like minded people, make new friends and discuss doggy matters!!!!

It's not to late to buy your advanced tickets for the show either from ourselves or Celia and Jimmy. Purchasing them in advance not only allows us to pay for the various items we have put on at this years show but also gives you a free entry into our "pre-booked ticket raffle" which will take place at the half way stage.

We are also looking for as many people as possible to do some home baking and bring it along on the day (or Saturday lunchtime when we are setting up) for us to sell.

There is also still time to bring along any items for Helen's white elephant stall, for further info please contact Helen at her new e-mail address helen.taylor019@btinternet.com,

What is Your Newly Adopted Greyhound Thinking?

This breed has never been asked to do anything for itself, make any decisions or answer any questions. It has been waited on, paw and tail. The only prohibition in a racing Greyhound's life is not to get into a fight ...or eat certain stuff in the turnout pen.

Let us review a little. From weaning until you go away for schooling at probably a year and a half, you eat, grow and run around with your siblings. When you go away to begin your racing career, you get your own "apartment," in a large housing development. No one is allowed in your bed but you, and when you are in there, no one can touch you, without plenty of warning.

Someone hears a vehicle drive up or the kennel door being unlocked. The light switches are flipped on. The loudmouths in residence, and there always are some, begin to bark or howl. You are wide-awake by the time the human opens your door to turn you out. A Greyhound has never been touched while he was asleep.

You eat when you are fed, usually on a strict schedule. No one asks if you are hungry or what you want to eat. You are never told not to eat any food within your reach. No one ever touches your bowl while you are eating. You are not to be disturbed because it is important for you to clean your plate.

You are not asked if you have to "go outside." You are placed in a turn-out pen and it isn't long before you get the

idea of what you're supposed to do while you are out there. Unless you really get out of hand, you may chase, roughhouse and put your feet on everyone and everything. The only humans you know are the "waiters" who feed you and the "restroom attendants" who turn you out to go to the bathroom. Respect people? Surely you jest.

No one comes into or goes out of your kennel without your knowledge. You are all-seeing and all-knowing. There are no surprises, day in or day out. The only thing it is ever hoped you will do is win, place or show, and that you don't have much control over. It is in your blood -- it is in your heart; it is in your fate -- or it is not.

And when it is not, then suddenly you are expected to be a civilised person in a fur coat. But people don't realise you may not even speak English. Some of you don't even know your names, because you didn't need to. You were not asked or told to do anything as an individual; you were always part of the "condo association," the sorority or fraternity, and everyone did everything together as a group or pack. The only time you did anything as an individual is when you schooled or raced, and even then, *You Were Not Alone*.

Suddenly he is expected to behave himself in places for which he's never been taught how to act. He is expected to take responsibility for saying when he needs to go outside, to come when he is called, not to get on some or all of the furniture, and to not eat food off counters and tables. Totally without

warning, he is dropped in a world that is not his.

Almost everything he does is wrong. Suddenly he is a minority. Now he is just a pet. He is unemployed in a place where people expect him to know the rules and the schedules, even when there aren't any. (How many times have you heard someone say, "He won't tell me when he has to go out." What kind of schedule is that?) Have you heard the joke about the dog that says, "My name is No-No Bad Dog. What's yours?" To me that is not even funny. All the protective barriers are gone.

There is no more warning before something happens. There is no more strength in numbers. He wakes up with a monster human face two inches from his. (With some people's breath, this could scare Godzilla.) Why should he not believe that this "someone" who has crept up on him isn't going to eat him for lunch? I really do have to ask you ladies to consider how you would react if someone you barely knew crawled up on you while you were asleep?) No, I will not ask for any male input.

Now he is left alone, for the first time in his life, in a strange place with no idea of what will happen or how long it will be before someone comes to him again. If he is not crated, he may go through walls, windows or over fences, desperately seeking something familiar, something with which to reconnect his life. If he does get free, he will find the familiarity within himself - the adrenaline high, the wind in his ears, the blood pulsing and racing through his

heart once again - until he crashes into a car.

Often, the first contact with his new family is punishment, something he's never had before, something he doesn't understand now, especially in the middle of the rest of the chaos. And worst of all, what are the most common human reactions to misbehaviour? We live in a violent society, where the answer to any irritation is a slap, punch, kick, whip, or rub your nose in it. Under these circumstances, sometimes I think any successful adoption is a miracle.

He is, in effect, expected to have all the manners of at least a six-year-old child. But, how many of you would leave an six-year-old human alone and loose in your unfamiliar home for hours at a time and not expect to find who knows what when you got back? Consider that if you did, you could be brought up on charges of child abuse, neglect and endangerment. Yet, people do this to Greyhounds and this is often the reason for so many returns.

How many dogs have been returned because they did not know how to tell the adopter when they had to go out? How many for jumping on people, getting on furniture, counter-surfing, separation anxiety, or defensive actions due to being startled or hurt (aka growling or biting)? So, let's understand: sometimes it is the dog's "fault" he cannot fit in. He is not equipped with the social skills of a six-year old human. But you can help him.

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Fun Zone

Who Lives Where?

Three children live at houses with different coloured doors. What colour door do they each have, what Number House do they live at and on what Road?

Child: George, Jake, Sophie

Door: Blue, Green, Red

Number: 1, 2, 3

Road: Bridge Street, Cherry Close, Sandy Lane

Clues.

1. Sophie's house No. is 1 lower than Jake's.
2. George does not live at House No. 1, but does have a green door.
3. One child lives at No. 2 Cherry Close.
4. House No. 1 has a red door, but is not on Sandy Lane.

See next month's newsletter for answer

And finally.....

HOW THE LAW CAN STEP IN TO HELP

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act was passed in a bid to tackle animal cruelty and means owners of animals have to ensure welfare standards.

Prior to the Act, owners only had a duty to ensure that an animal did not suffer unnecessarily. The new Act imposes a broader duty of care to take reasonable steps to ensure that the animal's needs are met.

These include providing a suitable living environment and diet, and protecting animals from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

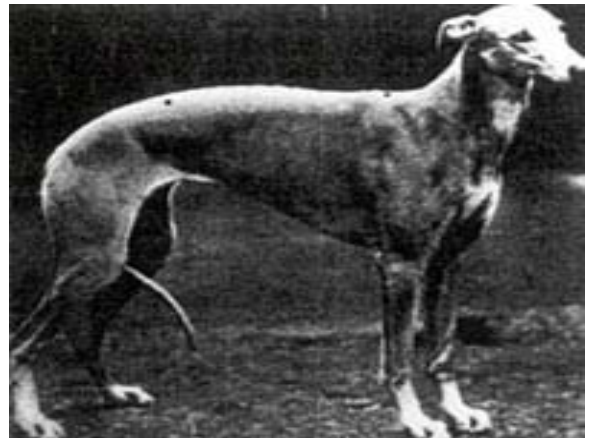
Offenders can be fined, sent to prison, have their animals taken away, and disqualified from keeping pets in the future.

The maximum penalty is imprisonment for up to 51 weeks, or a fine of up to £20,000, or both.

Not before time in my opinion, let's hope the courts don't pay "lip service" to it and hand out lenient sentences.

Dog show Sunday 26th April doors open 11:00
first class 11:30

Next dog walk is not until **7th June** at
Pittencrieff park Dunfermline 11:00



The first winner of best in show in Cruft's was a greyhound (Primeley Sceptre) in 1928