



GRF

NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

July 2014

***Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!***

Welcome, once again, to the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter. Lots of news to cover this time including our recent, hugely successful, annual dog show so let's get going ...

The first thing I want to do is make a heartfelt plea for homes for our resident greyhounds.

During the past few months, we have re-homed only one or two dogs per month ... this is a lot lower than our previous numbers, and it is a worrying trend. We also have a waiting list, so each dog that is re-homed actually saves two dogs - the one that is re-homed AND the one who replaces that dog in our Kennels.

We all know what wonderful pets greyhounds make, and we need to 'spread the word'. Just look at that beautiful hound on your sofa / bed ... don't all rescue greyhounds deserve the chance to be part of a loving family? They have so much love to give, they just need to be given a chance.

On a more positive note, Jimmy & Celia would like to thank all of you who voted for them recently. Support Adoption for Pets had a video competition, for re-homing centres throughout the UK, to win a grant of £50,000, and GRF entered this competition. Voting closed on 4th July, and we are now on a short list of 36. We finished 6th out of 139 in the UK voting! It would be a major achievement to win one of these grants, which would be used to update the Kennel building by changing it from wood to stone. Fingers, and paws, crossed - keep an eye on the Forum for updates.

Check out our Vet's Corner this month, and read the very interesting piece by Bob Hesketh from GRF vet, Vetrica.

Enjoy the Newsletter, and if you have anything you would like to see included in the next issue please contact me at bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com

Finally, with the schools now having broken up for summer, enjoy your summer holidays and keep yourselves, and your greyhounds, safe in the, unusually, hot weather we are currently experiencing.



Susan Mitchell, Editor

Greyhound Rescue Fife 7th Annual Dog Show ...

Our annual dog show took place on Sunday 11th May and, although attendance was slightly down on past years, we crashed through previous totals, making a grand total of **£3,418!**

As ever, an enormous amount of organisation went into the show beforehand and we owe Alex & Lynne Morrison a huge debt of gratitude for their continued hard work and support. Of course, Alex had assistance from many others, and we must single out Michele & Nic, and also say a big thank-you to all the others who helped out both in the run-up to, and on the day of the show. Below is a list of winners, and runners-up, of the various classes:

Junior Handler: *(Sponsored by Paws & Claws)*

- 1st Cameron with Indy
- 2nd Beth with Queenie
- 3rd Lewis with Brisa

Best Male Greyhound: *(Sponsored by Chris Mathewson (aka Bootsie's Granny))*

- 1st David with Bhan
- 2nd Pat with Ace
- 3rd Liz with Django

Best Non-Greyhound: *(Sponsored In Memory of Penda)*

- 1st Linda with Kelsey
- 2nd Claire with Troy
- 3rd Catherine with Alfie

Best Family of Dogs: *(Sponsored In Memory of Malbay, Bonnie & Ruairi Elder)*

- 1st Heather with Jen & Jackie
- 2nd Callum with Billy & Muck
- 3rd Catherine with Stevie & Lulu

Most Loveable Face: *(Sponsored In Loving Memory of Isobel McMillan ~ Smile)*

- 1st Finlay & Eilidh with Tilly
- 2nd Susan with Ruby
- 3rd Jack with Jasper

Best Female Greyhound: *(Sponsored on behalf of the Polish Friend of Greyhounds)*

- 1st Michala with Pepper
- 2nd Linda with Chloe
- 3rd Catherine with Sue

Best in Show: *(Sponsored by The Moffat Catering Equipment Company)*

- 1st Michala with Pepper (Best Female Greyhound)
- 2nd Cameron with Indy (Best Junior Handler)
- 3rd David with Bhan (Best Male Greyhound)

Many congratulations, once again, to all our winners and sincere thanks to all those who sponsored Classes, Rosettes, Trophies, Bandanas and Prizes. Overleaf are a few photos from the day - to see more photos, from the Show, check out the GRF Forum ... thanks to George Petrie for doing our photographs once again.



Monthly Walks ...

Thanks to Jess, who led the May walk in Perth - 19 greyhounds, and assorted humans, attended and the raffle raised £42.00 for the Kennels - thanks to Christine for looking after the raffle.

Our June walk was held at Tentsmuir, and the July walk was held at Loch Leven. Unfortunately, we don't have any reports or photographs for either of these walks and, unfortunately, Bootsie, Moira & I have been unable to attend a walk so far this year.



We hope to see you all at the next walk, which is on 3rd August and will start at 11:00am from the car park at Lochore Meadows Country Park.

Lucky Numbers Draw ...

April, May, June & July saw the sale of 56 lucky numbers - the total of £112.00 was split, each month, as £67.20 to GRF and £44.80 to the winner.

In April, Sandie Young was the lucky winner with No. 13. In May, Kaz Brundell won with Lucky No. 52 and then, in June, Celia picked Kaz's, very, lucky No. 52 again - Kaz generously donated her June winnings to the Kennels. In July, Elizabeth Stirling won with her Lucky No. 19. Congratulations to all our winners



Thank you to everyone who takes part in this and, as ever, a big thank-you to Fiona for organising it.

The Great British Greyhound Walk ...

GRF also took part in The Great British Greyhound Walk, which was held on 22nd June at Riverside Nature Park, Dundee - thanks to all who attended.

From the Dog House ...

Since the last Newsletter, dogs in and out of the Kennels are as follows:

DOGS IN:

Jess, Ziggy, Zac & Bess (4)

DOGS OUT:

Blanche, Star, Angus, Trixie, Jake & Misty (6)

Can YOU help one of these dogs ...

Roo



Roo is a lovely black boy with a very friendly nature. He gets on fine with the other greyhounds, and loves to be with people. He is good to walk on a lead, and travels well in a car. Roo is castrated, vaccinated and microchipped.

Rosie



Rosie is a beautiful, quiet, black girl. She is very friendly, and loves people very much. She is good on a lead, and an excellent traveller in a car. Rosie gets on very well indeed with all the other greyhounds, and will be a wonderful pet greyhound.

As ever, if you would like more information on the dogs featured above, or indeed any of our other dogs in the 'Please Choose Me' section, then please contact Jimmy or Celia on their mobile number (07826-244765), or by e-mail at ferniejimmyf@aol.com

Vet's Corner ...

The following piece was written by GRF vet, Bob Hesketh. Bootsie is a patient at Vetrica, and we get a weekly newsletter from them ... this was the subject of a recent one, and Bob has kindly agreed to let me reproduce this here.

Blood Transfusions:

Meet Blaze



Blaze is a young greyhound, currently being cared for by the very good people of Greyhound Rescue Fife. Like so many ex-racing dogs, Blaze is looking for a good home and, here at Vetrica, we'd very much like to help him find that new home. This is why ...

Mia is a Springer Spaniel who came to us having been in labour for three days (yes that's right, three days). She was exhausted, so we took her into theatre right away.

The operation went reasonably well, although as expected the pups had passed away some time before the surgery, but our priority here was always to save Mia's life. She was a little slow to recover, and this was made worse by some serious blood loss ... and this is where Blaze comes in.

Mia needed a blood transfusion or she was going to die, and greyhounds make excellent blood donors. Greyhounds are different from other dogs in many ways. They've been very heavily selected for speed, and one of the things that makes them fast is that they have more red blood cells in their circulation than other breeds. This naturally gives them more oxygen carrying capacity.

When we're transfusing blood into dogs, we don't usually have to worry about blood types. Dogs do have different blood groups, but the serious reactions to transfusion that are seen in people are quite unlikely, at least the first time it's done in any one patient, so we basically just need a healthy donor that's large enough to fill the blood bag without endangering their own life.

We've had a close relationship with Greyhound Rescue Fife for many years, and when I asked them if they could help us out, they were only too happy to oblige.



Blaze was brought to the surgery, and he very kindly gave us some blood, which we immediately transfused into Mia. Since then Mia has not looked back, and is well on the way to a full recovery.

Blaze saved Mia's life, and we owe him a real debt of gratitude, so we want to do everything we can to help him find the loving home that he deserves. To speed things along, we're going to pay for a year's Pet Plan Insurance for him, and give him a year's membership of our Health Plan protecting him against fleas and worms, and a booster vaccination at the appropriate time. We're even going to microchip him as well. So if you're thinking of taking on a new dog, spare a thought for Blaze. All you have to do is feed him, and give him a loving home.

Now a greyhound isn't for everyone, and our friends at the rescue won't let just anyone walk away with a dog, but they are generally great with kids and don't need an especially large amount of exercise. If you're interested, just let me know and I'll put you in touch with Greyhound Rescue Fife.

News Update ...

John & Marilyn Ratcliffe ...

We had the great pleasure, on Thursday 15th May, of entertaining John and Marilyn Ratcliffe at the Kennels. John, as we all know, is our webmaster and what a fine job he does of it! Thank you for visiting us, and we all hope you had a safe journey home to Cornwall - we hope to see you again soon.

Bark at Riverside Park was held in Glenrothes on Saturday 17th May ...

Bert & Irene McCurdy attended with the Greyhound Rescue Fife awareness table. There was a good turn-out, despite the rain, unfortunately, coming on! Mo & I went along with Bootsie, and met lots of GRF friends there - canine and human!)

RIP Aries, the gentle giant ...

Everyone coming to the Kennels knew that Aries had not been well for a few weeks. He had been going blind, and suffering from some kind of motor neuron disorder. Sadly he deteriorated extremely rapidly. Celia & Jimmy rushed him to the vet, on the 2nd June, to have him checked and Bob told them he was dying and in pain. Since they loved him so much, they agreed to the inevitable. Celia & Jimmy are gutted - Aries was one of the quietest, most friendly dogs in the Kennel, and was only three years old. Run pain free again over the bridge you darling big boy. You were very much loved.



On the 29th May, Belinda Jones posted the following ...

"My name is Belinda Jones, in August last year we adopted 2 greyhounds, Mickey and Tiggy, we recently moved house and sadly on 22nd April Tiggy died. She ran from inside to outside but ran straight through our closed conservatory door, she died instantly. Tiggy was only 3 years old, full of life, loved every day, loved everyone, she would jump up and cuddle you and nibble your ears, she was mischievous but a beautiful girl. As you can imagine my family has been distraught by this accident, but because we don't want this to happen to any other dog or family we have set up a Facebook page called Tiggy the greyhounds awareness page. All we ask is for people to join and share her page to warn other dog owners of the dangers and to buy some film to put on their glass doors to prevent the dog thinking the door is open.

Heartbroken mum Belinda."

This is a warning to us all ... particularly when the sun is shining on glass, it is not easy to see whether a glass door is open or closed.

Our thoughts are with Belinda and her family, and of course Tiggy.



Canine Capers on 13th July ...

Falkirk Council have invited Greyhound Rescue Fife to their 6th annual Canine Capers, which is to be held at Herbertshire Castle Park, Dunipace, on Sunday 13th July from 12 noon until 4:00pm.

"I would like to thank Mary Miller for offering to help on the day, meaning that we will be able to take 2 dogs from the kennels and show the public these fantastic dogs.

If you have a greyhound, lurcher or any sighthound please come along and support GRF and, more importantly, these magnificent dogs.

We can all help in rehoming by supporting GRF in events like this - it doesn't need to be all day, even just one hour - please come along and support our dogs.

Bert McCurdy."

Thank-you's ...

St. Andrews University Volunteers ...

For two years now, Greyhound Rescue Fife have had the great pleasure of four volunteers from St Andrews University helping us regularly. They started off as volunteers, and ended up as friends. Unfortunately, for us, their studies at the University have ended so they are going their different ways.

All of us at GRF wish them every success in their careers and hope that if they are ever near the Kennels they will drop in to visit us.

Becky, from Chicago, has one more year to go so we hope that, next year, she will lead a new group at the Kennels.

Thank you all guys for your kind help.

Howard Wallace ...

Not many people know this but Mr. Howard Wallace of Sirius Sports and Leisure Limited gave Susan, Mo and Bootsie a £1000.00 cheque for the welfare of our homeless hounds. Celia and Jimmy, and all at Greyhound Rescue Fife, would like to thank Mr. Wallace for his exceptional kindness - he has gone a long way to help us maintain nearly 50 greyhounds safely.

Evelyn & Anne ...

Celia and Jimmy would like to thank Evelyn, Anne and their friends for their great effort at the Farm Open day event, which was held on the 8th June, when they collected a massive £300.00 for our homeless greyhounds. Thank you ladies ~ your efforts are very much appreciated.

Rachel Gibbon, Michael Rodgers & Brian Berry ...

Many thanks to the above ... Rachel & Michael completed the half marathon in Edinburgh, and Brian the Bannockburn 10k with their sponsorship going to GRF. Thank you so much, and to all your sponsors.

WARNING:

HEMLOCK WATER DROPWORT (otherwise known as Poison Parsnip) ...

There have been reports of dogs dying after eating the above. It is most usually found on marshy areas, or on the banks of waterways. This is a toxic weed, the most poisonous in the UK.

Please take extra care when walking your dog, that he / she does not eat any of this - you can ensure the safety of your dog by not letting it off its lead, and by paying special attention to areas of concern.

There have, so far, been reports from Broughty Ferry and Loch Lomond.

and finally ...

The Rover Reporter ...

... is having a well-earned summer break, and has just returned from a visit to the Lake District!



Bootsie hopes that you all enjoy your summer holidays - he will be back next time!