



GRF

NEWS

*Designed by Sally E Calder*

OCTOBER 2014

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

Well, here we are again ... it is, unbelievably, three months since the last Newsletter - this has been down to personal issues, so thank-you for bearing with me. There is a lot to cover in this issue, so let's get going!

So many things have happened since I last wrote, that I had a great deal of choice for my front page! However, the £45,000 grant awarded to Greyhound Rescue Fife by Support Adoption for Pets has to be our 'front page' news. On September 10th, Jimmy posted the following on the Forum:

"We received a wonderful phone call today from Amy Wilson at Support Adoption for Pets. She told us that we were narrowly beaten out of the 10 x £50,000 awards, but the panel had decided to re-consider our application. On reviewing our video, they decided to award us .... £45,000 !!!

This is an absolutely fantastic award, and will allow us to go ahead and refurbish our wooden Kennel. We are delighted, since this will ensure that our Kennel will be good enough to be in place many years after we have gone.

Thanks to everybody, too numerous to individually name, who helped us to achieve this and thanks to Amy, Justine and all the staff at Support Adoption for Pets who considered us good enough to give this award to. Without their help we, and many other rescues, would struggle. They are a wonderful organisation who should be very proud of what they have achieved.

Remember - the money used to help rescues comes from your Pets at Home VIP card so please, please use it when you shop there. Thank you all very much.

Celia, Jimmy and an army of greyhounds"

The other piece of news which HAS to make the front page, because it is so unusual, is that Celia & Jimmy enjoyed a well-deserved, and I'm sure much needed, week away from the Kennels in Bridlington :-)



Susan Mitchell, Editor

## **Monthly Walks ...**

### **August - Lochore Meadows Country Park:**

This walk took us right round the loch, and was very beautiful.



### **September - Special new walk at Falkland:**

On Sunday 7th September we made a change to our monthly walk programme, and introduced our most exciting walk yet ... it was in Falkland.

It was a fantastic walk, and we passed the magnificent House of Falkland with its famous chimneys. We then climbed Maspie Den, with its fabulous scenery. Very soon, we came to the BLACK TUNNEL - enter it if you dare !!!!

Next stop was the beautiful waterfall which you had to go behind - stunning. From there, we turned and freewheeled down the hill and into Falkland once more.



### **October - Silver Sands, Aberdour:**

This was the penultimate walk of 2014 - only one more guaranteed.

This walk has absolutely stunning views of the Forth estuary.







*Many thanks, as ever, to Steve for his great photos!*

### **Lucky Numbers Draw ...**

In August we sold 55 numbers, which gave us a total prize fund of £110.00 - this was split as £66.00 to Greyhound Rescue Fife and £44.00 to the winner, who was Jim Alexander with No. 67 - well done Jim!

In September we sold 56 numbers, which gave us a prize fund of £112.00 - this was split as £67.20 to Greyhound Rescue Fife and £44.80 to the winner who, this month, was Beth McInroy with No. 4 - congratulations Beth!

In October, we were back to 55 numbers - our prize fund was £110.00, with £66.00 going to Greyhound Rescue Fife and £44.00 to the holder of the winning number. Fiona was unable to attend the walk in October, so we do not have the lucky winner's details as yet!

Fiona would like to thank everyone who continues to take part in the monthly draw - it helps raise much needed funds for our homeless hounds.

*If anyone is interested in joining us, please contact Fiona at [grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk)*

On the 12th September, we were all shocked and incredulous to hear the news that someone had, deliberately, set fire to the Manchester Dogs Home - at least 53 dogs died, and over 150 were injured during the fire. Many others had to find emergency re-homing. John put a beautiful piece on the website following this disaster, and I am copying it below.

### **Manchester Dogs Home**

There was a special kennel maid  
who visited us that night,  
with hair like golden sunshine  
and wings of brilliant white.

At first we didn't see her  
through the smoke so black,  
but we knew that we must follow her  
our little, faithful pack.

The big dogs, the little dogs  
some with muzzles grey,  
woke from sleepy slumber  
they seemed to know the way.

She led us past the kennels  
up to a distant door,  
an exit that was new to us  
we'd not been this way before.

Although we were so frightened  
we formed an orderly queue,  
and in a golden re homing book  
she ticked as we went through.

The colours were so beautiful  
on rainbow flower beds,  
and then we saw a wooden bridge  
as forward we were led.

Our sore, burnt paws were healed,  
our coats no longer smoky and black,  
a rainbow appeared upon the bridge  
on every wooden slat.

Then we finally saw him  
the Master of us all,  
we all rushed up to meet him  
when we heard him call.

The small dogs sat upon his knee  
the others at his feet,  
welcoming him like a dear old friend  
now our Journey was complete.

He said you are from Manchester  
your tragic story is well known,  
I'd like those to know, way down there,  
you're now re homed.

**In loving memory of all the innocent little souls who lost their lives on  
the 12th of September - RIP**

### **Huge thanks to Sainsbury's, Kinross ...**

Sainsbury's Kinross have chosen Greyhound Rescue Fife as their charitable organisation of the year, which we are absolutely delighted about.

The store has collecting boxes at each till, there has been a charity football match, two boot sales and an 80 mile sponsored cycle run!

We've been given our own notice board, and a special trolley is kept where customers can donate food for our dogs. It has been filled several times already.

We would like to thank the Sainsbury's Kinross store Management and Staff for the magnificent assistance that they are giving to us here, at Greyhound Rescue Fife - it means so much to us and, of course, to our homeless hounds.

Here is a round-up of some of the events to date:

The first boot sale was held on the 24th August - thanks to all who donated, and helped out. Below is a photo from the day, it shows Celia, Kaz and Pat. Thanks to Michele, Nic, Kaz and Pat for organising the GRF 'stall'.



The second boot sale was held on Sunday 5th October, again organised by Michele, Nic, Kaz and Pat. We didn't have as many donations this time, but still made £56.00 on the day.

***Please, if you have anything that we could sell at future car boots, please contact Kaz via the GRF Forum. We would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you.***



On Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September, we held a 'Bag Pack' in-store - again, thank you to all who helped, and those who made this possible for us. On the Saturday, we raised £302.00 and on the Sunday, £360.00 ... great sums, I'm sure you will agree!

Sainsbury's Kinross store staff decided to do a sponsored 80 mile cycle run with all the proceeds going to GRF. The team were absolutely brilliant covering the 80 miles in a very respectable time. All at Greyhound Rescue Fife thank the cyclists, very much indeed, for their titanic effort to help our homeless dogs - well done guys, we're very proud of you!



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

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

#### **DOGS IN:**

Annie, Princess, Tootsie, Murphy, Bess, Daisy, Bomber, Mick, Ruby, Rocky, Spot (black), Spot (white), Tiny, Scholls, Sally, Edie, Bob, Stanley, Hector, Paddy, Tommy, Millie, Mattie, Jack (Staffie), Sully (Saluki) & Charlie (26)

#### **DOGS OUT:**

Jack, Jess, Sue, Dan, Ikey & Iris, Tassie, Ziggy, Zac, Cola, Bess, Philly, Mick, Blaze, Spot (black), Tootsie, Tilly, Sherman, Stanley, Rosie, Hector, Roo, Nina, Paddy, Jimmy, Rosco, Charlie, Lady (black), Sully (Saluki), Jack (Staffie cross) & Bob (31)

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

#### **Coco**



**Coco** is a nice little girl who is extremely friendly towards people. She has a sunny nature.

Coco is a bit strong on the lead, but not excessively so. She gets on well with the rest of the dogs, and travels well in a car!  
Coco likes children and adults, and will make a lovely pet.

#### **Tommy**



**Tommy** is a beautiful dark brindle greyhound boy. He is super friendly, and you get a warm welcome from him! Tommy is an excellent traveller in a car, and walks very easily on a lead. He is going to be an excellent 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 mobile number 07826-244765, or by e-mail at [ferniejimmyf@aol.com](mailto:ferniejimmyf@aol.com)*



### **Happy Endings ...**

I am delighted to be able to report that, after a slow few months, re-homings have picked up again. Long may this continue! Here are a few of the dogs re-homed recently by GRF:

#### **Blaze**



Blaze was featured in the last Newsletter, in the 'Vet's Corner' - she was the lovely little girl who gave a blood transfusion to save a Springer Spaniel. Blaze has now found her forever home, and we wish her, and her new family, a long and happy life together.

#### **Jack (Staffie cross)**



Jack's previous owner took him to the vet, wanting him to be put to sleep - for no good reason, there was absolutely nothing wrong with this wee chap. It is sick that some people think of dogs as commodities to be destroyed when it no longer suits them to look after a living breathing animal. Anyway, the vet contacted Celia & Jimmy, and they took in little Jack. He was quickly re-homed to a lovely family - all the very best Jack, you deserve lots of happiness and love.

#### **Nina**



I have featured Nina many times in the Newsletter - she is such a pretty little girl. Anyway, on the 10th of August Jimmy & Celia made an appeal to find her a home as she had been in the Kennels for 2 and a half years. Their prayers were answered when, on the 21st August, she was re-homed :-). Have a wonderful life with your new family Nina.

It's so lovely to read these happy endings ... EVERY single dog in the Kennels deserves his / her own 'happy ending', so please please continue to promote Greyhound Rescue Fife at every available opportunity. Thank you.

### **This month, your Rover Reporter is in the Vet's Corner ...**

This month, we are covering two topics - the first is Pancreatitis and the second, tips for the dreaded Bonfire Night.

#### **Pancreatitis:**

Bootsie, your Rover Reporter, as many of you will know from the Forum, has not been well recently.



At first, it was thought that he had Colitis but upon doing blood tests, Bob discovered that he actually had Pancreatitis. This came as a blow to us, because Pancreatitis can be a life-threatening illness. So what is Pancreatitis, and how does it affect dogs? When your dog doesn't want to eat and is throwing up, you hope it's a passing thing. The majority of times it will be, probably down to something he / she has picked up whilst outside - dogs are terrible scavengers! It could, however, be a condition called Pancreatitis and, if so, he / she will need prompt treatment. The Pancreas is an organ near the stomach that helps digest food and control blood sugar, and the condition occurs when the pancreas becomes inflamed.

Pancreatitis can come on suddenly and then pass, or it can stay for longer periods. Your dog may suffer one attack and then no more or, as in Bootsie's case, he / she can have recurring attacks. Symptoms, too, can vary from dog to dog, but they become more extreme the longer the condition is left untreated. The symptoms in Bootsie's case were lethargy, pacing and mucousy diarrhoea. He was never sick, and didn't become dehydrated as some dogs, with this illness, do – we were lucky, as I say, that it was picked up very quickly by the highly knowledgeable Bob. We tend to be a bit over-cautious - something that Bob, at Vetrica, would willingly confirm, I am sure !!!! We took Bootsie to the vet on a Friday night and saw the locum - he pressed Bootsie's tummy and the poor boy just about shot through the roof with the pain. He was given a painkilling injection and antibiotics, on the assumption that this was Colitis.

When things hadn't improved greatly by the start of the following week, we returned to Vetrica and Bob decided to do some blood tests - these revealed that Bootsie had Pancreatitis. He was put on medication and we had to give him a low fat diet - nothing but ID Low Fat Prescription food, which a vet needs to prescribe. This comes in dry, kibble, and tinned form and, luckily, Bootsie wolfed it down! After a couple of weeks on this Bob suggested that we try moving, gradually, on to Chappie tinned & dry food. We did this but, before a week was out, he started suffering the same symptoms as before ... back to Bob! After further blood tests, we were told that the Pancreatitis had returned - this time we were told that Bootsie would probably have to remain on the Prescription diet for life.

Two things I would say:

- 1) Do not become paranoid (like us!) about watching your dog - this is not healthy for you or your pet - enjoy each other!
- 2) We have discussed Pet Insurance, many times previously, both on the Forum and in this Newsletter. Please be aware that Prescription food is not covered by Insurance (certainly not by Pet Plan) in cases of Pancreatitis, and a 12kg bag costs £70 !!!! If you can afford it, as well as your Pet Insurance, it may be a good idea to put a little away each month in case of such an eventuality. I know that a lot of you don't have Pet Insurance, but do put a set amount away each month for any necessary treatment. Nobody said having a dog was cheap, but between vet's bills and prescription food, we have racked up a hefty bill over recent weeks - not that we grudge a penny of it, and Pet Plan did pay for all the medical treatment and medication, barring our excess.

Bootsie is keeping much better now - the only food he currently gets is the ID Low Fat Prescription diet - a mixture of the kibble and tinned food. He gets no other treats, whatsoever, now. This is hard, because we all know how much our greyhounds love their treats ... this having been said, I think we feel worse than him about with-holding that toast crust or bit of bacon! Bootsie has adapted amazingly well to his new regime and, hopefully, it will keep him healthy for many years to come.

### **Remember, Remember:**

We are, as I write, well into October and as these things, sadly, appear to begin earlier every year, I would just like to remind our readers about the undesirable effects that the noise of fireworks can have on our pets. Bootsie is terrified of them.



Fireworks can look magnificent as part of an organised display, however, loud sporadic noises, that have no obvious source, can be both terrifying and confusing for your dog. Fireworks can also be extremely dangerous in the hands of people who don't know what they are doing or have, perhaps, had a few drinks.

Panicking animals can, and do, run away thus getting lost and / or injured. Here are a few tips for the coming weeks:

- 1) Possibly the MOST important thing is not to let your pet sense your own anxiety - if he / she senses that you are uptight, then he / she will quickly follow suit. Stay calm, and do not make too much of a fuss!
- 2) At nightfall, close windows and curtains. Put on a radio or TV to help mask the sounds of the fireworks.
- 3) Pets should be kept indoors after dark as much as possible. If you are out in the dark, ensure that you have a good tight hold on your hound's lead(s)!
- 4) If you have any concerns then please speak to your Vet, who will be happy to give you further help / advice.



### **Thank-you's ...**

Firstly, Bert McCurdy would like to say a big thank-you to Mary Millar, and her son, who helped him out at Canine Capers on the 13th of July in Dunipace - without Mary's help, we would have been unable to attend the event. Bert would also like to thank Steve and Elaine, who travelled down from Dundee with their four greyhounds to lend their support. Bess and Jimmy represented the Kennel dogs on the day, and were impeccably behaved! Our team spoke to a lot of people so, hopefully, we will get some re-homings from this. It is crucially important to be seen at these Events, and any help is greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Kaz Brundell, who along with husband Pat, Michele, Nic (and of course Tara & Frodo!) had a table at a Fete held by the Care Home, in Dundee, where Kaz works. £56.00 was raised on the day, which was converted into dog food for the Kennels. Frodo and Tara also went into the Home, and met some of the residents!

Huge thanks to Kevin Cockburn, who generously donated his beautiful glasswork to be sold in order to raise funds for our homeless hounds.



The original cost of this glasswork was £900, but Kevin offered it to us in the hope that it would raise a reduced price of £450. To date, we have raised £110 towards our goal, and we would appeal to anyone who hasn't donated to think about doing so ... any amount would be gratefully received and, of course, goes directly to our homeless hounds - £450 would feed the dogs for a month! The glasswork would be displayed at the Kennels.

We are accepting donations by PayPal, to account [bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com) - this is our personal account, and it will show up as Moira McMillan. Any other donations, by way of cheque (payable to Greyhound Rescue Fife) or cash, can be handed into the Kennels in an envelope addressed for the attention of either George Petrie or Susan Mitchell, and marked 'Glasswork'.

Thank you, in advance, for your support.

## **2015 Calendar ...**

Yes, it's that time again! Michele is looking for sponsors and photos for the 2015 calendars, as you will have seen from the Forum. As you know, for the past six years, we have produced two calendars - a wall calendar, and a desk calendar.

Sponsorship of each page of the desk calendar is £20.00 per page, and the wall calendar cover photo costs £55.00, with each subsequent month costing £35.00. There is room on the months of the wall calendar to include business details, so if you know of a local business who might be interested in sponsoring a page, and doing a bit of advertising, then please contact Michele at [marfykiwi@sky.com](mailto:marfykiwi@sky.com)

Also, please send any photos, of your hounds, that you would like to see included, in either calendar, to Michele via e-mail.



The sponsorship money raised from the calendars pays for the print-run, which means that all money subsequently raised from calendar sales goes directly to helping the homeless hounds at Baltree!

These calendars make excellent Christmas presents, so bear that in mind too!

## **Other News ...**

### **Greyhound Coats:**

These are available from the Kennels, or by contacting Bert McCurdy. They are still at last year's price of £18.00, and we have Red, Blue, Black, Purple and dark Green available in sizes 26", 28" and 30". Postage and packing, per coat, is £3.30. We also have a supply of raincoats, in the same colours, in sizes 26" and 28" - these cost £7.50.

All monies raised, from the sale of these coats, goes to help the homeless hounds at Greyhound Rescue Fife.

### **Harry's Treats:**

You may remember Harry's Treats from last year's GRF dog show. If you happen to be in Dundee town centre on October 18th, November 15th or December 20th please visit the Harry's Treats stand at the Farmers Market - say "hi", and mention GRF. Harry's Treats were created so that Harry, and his friends, could enjoy handmade, healthy treats made with quality ingredients. Many of Harry's friends are sensitive little souls, intolerant to the food colourings and preservatives used in many branded dog treats. Harry's Treats contain no artificial colourings or preservatives, and are made with only high quality, human grade ingredients.

## Starley Hall:

Starley Hall has had GRF in a couple of their Newsletters this year. The following is from their June Newsletter:

"Michele and greyhound Tara, joined the celebrations and the youngsters enjoyed meeting and playing with the dog. We have a long-standing link with Greyhound Rescue Fife, who have provided short volunteering experiences for our youngsters and we very much hope for this to continue. They also allow our young people to participate in a poster competition for the Greyhound Rescue Fife Dog Show each year, which is greatly appreciated."



And this is from their May Newsletter:

## *Greyhound Rescue*

The Greyhound Rescue Fife invited the young people in Starley Hall to design a poster for their Fife Dog Show. A number of fantastic designs were entered but Jim and Celia selected Shaun's poster as the winner. His prize was GRF baseball cap, as well as free tickets to the show however a number of our young people accompanied him on the day.



Shaun, William Fallan and Ewan took the opportunity to visit the Greyhound Rescue to collect his prize but were privileged to get a tour of the grounds. All the other young people who entered, received a certificate and a GRF wristband, as well as having the opportunity to see their poster on display on the day of the show.



## **R.I.P. ...**

### **Pepe:**

On the 18th August, we heard the sad news that Pepe had died. Pepe, who became part of Jenni & Graham's family on a cold, wet, windy day in February 2007, had a bone cancer tumour on his spine. Run free sweet boy - you are sadly missed, but lovingly remembered, always.



### **Leo:**

Also, on the 6th of October Liz Panton & Richard Maguire broke the sad news that their boy, Leo (Droopy's Lion), had died - also of bone cancer, this time in his right leg. Run fast and free Leo - no pain to slow you down now. Your Mummy, Daddy and girlfriend, Carrie, miss you dreadfully.



**Our love, and thoughts, go to all of you who have lost their precious hounds ... it is a day that all of us dread ...**



### **Be Alert ...**

There have been several case of dog theft reported to the Police in Fife and East Lothian over recent months ... sadly, a lot of these dogs are being stolen for dog fighting. In some cases, callers have gone to a house asking if they can do any odd jobs - what they are actually doing is sussing out if you have a dog or not. The individual then marks your gate with a coloured mark of some sort, and an accomplice returns later to steal the dog.

Please remain vigilant, and report anything suspicious to your local Police Force.

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

Our final, scheduled, walk of 2014 will take place in St. Andrews at the West Sands on Sunday the 2nd November.

As ever we will meet at 11am in the car park and, remember, doggies on leads and pickupdapoo!

It would be lovely to see a BIG turnout for this walk - it is a beautiful location, although I may be slightly biased as I was brought up in St. Andrews, and my parents still live there!

