

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

January 2015

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

Happy New Year to all our friends, readers and hounds. I hope that 2015 will be a healthy, and happy, one for you and yours.

In the last Newsletter, October 2014, I reported on the sad death of Leo (Droopy's Lion) who lived with his Mummy (Liz), Daddy (Richard) and girlfriend, Carrie.

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)

Liz and Richard were totally distraught by the loss of their beloved boy, however, after much thought and angst ... greyhound No. 800 was re-homed (and No. 801!!) ... Squeek and Spot, who have now settled into their new home with Liz, Richard and Carrie. We wish them all a long and happy life together.



Susan Mitchell, Editor

Whilst on the subject of the loss of one of our four legged friends, I also have to report the sad losses of:

MILLIE



On the 2nd November 2014, Celia & Jimmy posted on the Forum with the following sad news:

"It is with great sadness and broken hearts that we have to report that little fawn Millie, rehomed on the 4th October, to a lovely lady Anne McIver, was taken to the vet after being very sick. The vet diagnosed terminal stomach cancer, and she had to be put to sleep. She was the loveliest natured girl you could ever wish to meet, and very beautiful. The kennel staff are gutted. We cannot believe such a thing could have happened to a dog born on 8th February 2011.

RIP dearest Millie - you should have been with your very caring Mummy so much longer. Deepest sympathy Anne, from all of us.

Run free over the Rainbow Bridge dear wee Millie."

LASS



On the 12th December, Celia & Jimmy posted the following on the Forum:

"We are very sad to report that yesterday wee Lass, our 17 years old lurcher, had to be put to sleep. Everyone who came to the kennels met her, ancient but still able to get about and try to steal the young dogs' food. The most amazing thing is that she met all 860 of our greyhounds, including Tiggy the founder dog of GRF. Over the last couple of years she was failing, but still up for her beloved wee walks and her dinners. Most people will hardly recognise Lass from the photo but, in her prime, over 50 yards she could take any of the greyhounds on!

Mummy and Daddy can never replace you wee girl. We loved you so much. Take those greyhounds out again over Rainbow Bridge darling Lass."

On 12th December Marion advised us, via the Forum, that her lovely **DYLAN** had crossed the Bridge, early on the previous Thursday morning, following a massive seizure that couldn't be stemmed. Our thoughts are with you all Marion.

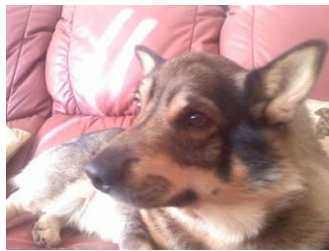
And, if I may be indulgent for a moment, two other dogs who sadly died in early December:

HARVEY

Harvey was re-homed from Second Chance Dog Rescue by our lovely dog-minder, and his wife Tracy. Harvey died after a sudden, and short, illness. Morgan Brown, aka the Dogfather, is a supporter of our annual GRF calendar (November in 2015).

Our thoughts are with Morgan & Tracy as they come to terms with the loss of their beloved boy.

BARNEY



Barney lived with my Mum & Dad in St. Andrews. He had been with them for 11 years, and was a very handsome Swedish Vallhund. Barney died suddenly, after a very short illness, on the 8th December and has left a huge void in my parents' lives. He is greatly missed by us all.

So to all the foregoing, and the dogs not mentioned here ... run free over the Rainbow Bridge ... until we meet again.



Sadly, following the Christmas and New Year period, three of our dogs came back into the Kennels.

One case said that it was not the dog's fault (indeed, that dog has already been re-homed!), and another said that the dog had been vicious towards a smaller dog. In these two incidences, the dogs were returned safely to GRF's care.

The third case, however, chose to plead ignorance or ignore Articles 5 and 13 of our Re-homing Agreement stating that dogs should be returned safely to us when a re-homing breaks down. They stuck the dog on Gumtree, where anybody could have obtained him for free - do you feel your heart chilling? This is the third occasion on which one of our dogs has ended up either in the dog pound or on Gumtree. How often does this happen that we do NOT know about? Luckily, a very observant lady, from Dundee, spotted the advert on Gumtree, and contacted Celia & Jimmy ~ Michele & Nic went to collect him, and returned him to the safety of the Kennels. He too has, happily, since been re-homed.

PLEASE ... WE CANNOT EXPRESS ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT, IF YOUR RE-HOMING DOES NOT WORK OUT, YOU RETURN THE DOG TO US ... WE KNOW THESE DOGS, WE KNOW THEIR HISTORY, AND WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO RE-HOME THEM AGAIN, AS WE DO ALL THE DOGS IN OUR CARE.

IF YOU ARE HAVING PROBLEMS, PLEASE SPEAK TO US. CELIA & JIMMY'S MOBILE NUMBER IS 07826-244765 AND, REMEMBER, THE FORUM IS ON OUR WEBSITE FOR GREYHOUND OWNERS, OLD AND NEW, TO ASK ADVICE AND SEEK HELP.

Thank-you.

😊 Now for some happy news 😊

Jen & Jackie have finally been re-homed - they are now called Isis and Anuket, and are living happily in Edinburgh with their new Mum, Lisa. Lisa's boys are into the Egyptians, hence the names - they think they look like Sphinxes!. Lisa re-homed Isis & Anuket on the 7th January and, I guess they behaved well because, on the 16th January she also took on Danny, now known as Shu!

Here is a wonderful photo of the three of them relaxing in their new home ... we wish you all many, many happy years together.



More news about dogs who have arrived in Kennels, those re-homed, and those still looking for their 'Forever Homes' on the next page!

From the Dog House ...

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

DOGS IN:

Ozzie, Maggie, Buster, Mila, Lily, Heidi, Pricey, Hendry, Blue, Bonnie, Maggie (2), Shadow, Rosie, Jill, Kaz, Nancy, Danny, Buddy, Jimmy, Bella, Billie, Bob, Gypsy, Rocky, Spot, Bungee, Cara, Bonnie, Blake & Hawk (30)

DOGS OUT:

Lady, Patch, Bob, Julie, Millie, Megan, Edie, Ruby, Thai, **Squeek (No. 800!)**, Spot, Blue, Maggie, Lady (2), Fire, Gaga, Bandit, Billie, Sally, Bonnie, Bomber, Bella, Jill, Tommy, Blade, Ozzie, Bob, Rosie, Mila, Robbie, Daisy, Princess, Gypsy, Bungee, Buddy, Jackie, Jen, Danny & Spot (39)

Can YOU help one of these dogs find their forever home ...

Buddy



Buddy is a nice big black boy. He is easy to get on with, and walks very well on a lead. Buddy is no problem with the other greyhounds and he loves people, especially if they have a car!

Danny



Danny is probably our most beautiful greyhound, a lovely white and blue. He is a bit bouncy, but very playful. Danny is not easy to walk on a lead, but in a car he is great! He would be a suitable pet for someone who is strong and, possibly, has previous experience of greyhounds.

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

Monthly Walks ...

November - St. Andrews:

Ok, ok ... I got the weather forecast wrong, I'm sorry. The BBC forecast DID promise a lovely, bright, dry day ... instead of which, we got soaked! It was still a good walk, and great to see everyone.

Steve took some excellent photos (as usual), and there is a selection below for you to enjoy.



Monthly Walks contd./ ...

Our final walk of the year was, once more, on the West Sands at St. Andrews on the 7th of December. We had hoped to be accompanied by some of the Students in their red gowns but, sadly, they didn't turn-up ... this was disappointing, as Marion had put up posters and 'spread the word'. Perhaps it was too cold for them? Happily, however, the Photographer / Journalist from the St. Andrews Citizen was a hardier fellow, and DID turn up! He got a lovely group shot, which duly appeared in the following week's issue of the Citizen - GREAT publicity for GRF, thank-you Marion, for organising that.

Our own photographer, Steve, took loads of shots too and, again, they are below for you to enjoy. At the end of the walk, Michele & Nic supplied us with, non-alcoholic, mulled wine which was very welcome given the bite of the wind!



Lucky Number Draws ...

Celia drew both the October, and November, Lucky Numbers at the walk on 2nd November. In October, 55 numbers were sold giving a prize fund of £110.00 split as £66.00 to GRF and £44.00 to the winner. Loraine McMillan was the lucky winner, with No. 44 ... congratulations Loraine! In November, we sold 59 numbers giving a prize fund of £118.00 split as £70.80 to GRF and £47.20 to the winner. Nikky & Willie Miller were the lucky winners of the November draw, with No. 50, and they very generously bought four bricks with their winnings, with the remainder being donated to GRF funds - thank you so much!

60 numbers were sold for December, giving us a prize fund of £120.00 - this was split as £72.00 to GRF, and £48.00 to the winner. Steve Dowd drew the winning number, which was No. 32, belonging to Chris Wilson - congratulations Chris!

Many thanks to Fiona for continuing to administer the draw, and to all of you who take part each month.

Au Revoir to Paraskevi Efstathiou & Blaze ...

On the 26th November, Celia & Jimmy posted on the Forum ...

"It is with some sadness that Celia & Jimmy have to announce that we are losing our lovely Greek volunteer, Paraskevi.

Paraskevi has helped us immensely while she completed her studies at St. Andrews University. She has now gained her PhD in Solar Energy making her Dr. Efstathiou, but always Paraskevi to her dear friends at GRF. She is returning to Athens in a few days time.

She is not, however, returning home alone ... she is taking her beloved Blaze with her! Paraskevi re-homed Blaze recently, so she will always have a wee part of GRF alongside her.

We all wish her the very best for the future, and hope that one day she will return to see us all again.

Good luck Paraskevi and Blaze.

Celia, Jimmy and all your friends at the kennels."



Update on Paraskevi & Blaze from your Rover Reporter ...

Blaze had had a little problem just before heading to Greece with Paraskevi, however, I met her & Paraskevi (along with my Mummies & Granny) in St. Andrews just a couple of days before they were due to fly, and all was well. Both Paraskevi & Blaze were looking forward to their future together, and we look forward to an update from Paraskevi soon

Blaze, as you may remember, was the lovely little girl who gave a blood transfusion, at Vetrica, to save a Springer Spaniel - see the article in Vet's Corner in the July 2014 Newsletter.

Vet's Corner ...

Ticks:

We covered this topic back in August 2013, however, I thought it was worth re-visiting as these really are horrible parasites which can cause your dog a great deal of trouble if not removed properly. Ticks are small blood sucking parasites which measure a few millimetres, in size, before they feed. They attach themselves to dogs and feed from your dog's blood. The tick that most commonly affects dogs in the UK is called *Ixodes ricinus* (also known as sheep or deer tick).

Why treat my Dog for Ticks?

- When the tick is feeding, it is annoying and irritating for your dog.
- Ticks can cause unpleasant skin reactions and lumps that can become infected and sore.
- Ticks can carry dangerous infectious diseases, such as Lyme disease in the UK.

How do I tell if my Dog has a Tick?

Ticks are small brown parasites with rounded bodies that become engorged and swollen after the parasite has fed on your dog's blood.

Preventing Ticks:

- Try to avoid tick prone areas, such as moorland or woods.
- Use a preventative product - most of these products are prescription only, and are generally in the form of 'spot on' medication. Many of them will also cover your dog against fleas. Ask your vet to help you choose the best product for your pet.
- Check your pet thoroughly after walks.

Removing Ticks:

If you find a tick on your dog and are unsure about removing it, take him/her to your vet, and they will be able to remove it for you. **DO NOT MESS AROUND WITH TICKS IF YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING.**

Removing the tick yourself:

- If you have a 'Tick Twister', or similar tick removal device, slide it under the tick and turn anticlockwise. Do not pull.
- If you do not have a Tick Removal device, you can buy one from your vet or pet shop.
- Be careful to remove the whole tick, as leaving legs or mouth parts behind can result in skin reactions.
- Do not handle the tick unless wearing gloves.

Remember prevention is better than cure, so if you have found a tick on your dog ensure that you get preventative medication to stop him/her picking up any more.



Poison Plant Alert ...

This article was published in the Herald on 21st January 2015:

Animal owners are being urged to be on the alert for a deadly plant, washed up by the recent storms, which has already killed six dogs who ate it this year. Hemlock Water-Dropwort grows on the edges of streams and at high tide marks on beaches. It has been found along the River Clyde, and is believed to grow elsewhere in Scotland.

The Rover Reporter's News Round-Up ...

Fundraising, and thank-you's:

Evelyn & Ann took a stall at the Kinross Street Market on the 29th November, which raised the fantastic sum of £961.00 ... a HUGE thank-you, from the homeless hounds, for all your hard work and organisation.

Thank-you to Forest Fleece for making a donation from each GRF sale - it is greatly appreciated, and your pj's are just the things for this cold weather ... I LOVE mine!



Thanks to Gemma, at Just Dogs, for making Greyhound Rescue Fife their Charity of the month for January 2015. Gemma is a great supporter of GRF, giving items for our raffle and sponsoring our calendar - August in 2015! Just Dogs is based in Stockbridge, and you can also order online.

Buggs McSoots (aka Buggs & Alison) made these wonderful felt Hounds' Heads for Christmas ... selling for £4.00, a massive £2.50 from each sale went to GRF! Thank you so much. We only had a small Christmas tree, and Mummy decorated it with these lovely hounds' heads ... it looked great.



A BIG thank-you to the 'Fab Four' (i.e. Michele, Nic, Kaz & Pat) who have been doing a huge amount of fundraising, for GRF, over recent months.

As you will have read on the Forum, their 'Buy a Brick' campaign has been set up in order to raise funds for the Kennel refurbishment ~ we gave several as Christmas presents, and they went down extremely well. At £10.00 per brick, if everyone who had re-homed a dog from GRF bought just one, we would soon reach our refurbishment target. This is an ongoing campaign so, if you haven't already, PLEASE buy your brick - details on the Forum!

Apart from putting together the calendar, Michele & Co. organised GRF mugs (we gave a fair few of those at Christmas as well!), GRF doggy bandanas, and GRF coasters in order to raise funds.

Then, of course, there was the 'Super Duper' Christmas Hamper draw, which was drawn on the 14th December.

These things don't just happen - they take organisation, time and planning, and we are very fortunate to have these four wonderful people. So, THANK-YOU on behalf of all at GRF and, in particular, the dogs (past and present) who you raise the money for.

Thank you, too, to every single one of you who has raised money for Greyhound Rescue Fife, or donated items to one of our car boots or raffles, and to those of you who volunteer - Celia & Jimmy couldn't do it without you. So, come on folks - let's make 2015 a bumper fundraising year for GRF.

MASSIVE thanks, once again, goes to Sainsburys, Kinross. They gave us the opportunity to do a bag pack on the 20th and 21st December, which raised the amazing sum of £1,234.00.

Other News ...

On the 8th December, Jimmy appealed for spare wool:

"Fiona Bruce, who is a great friend and benefactor of our homeless greyhounds, is also a benefactor to cats. This wonderful lady does lots of knitting for cats' blankets, etc. Since she is so good with our greyhounds let's help her as much as we can. If anyone has spare wool, please just drop it into the kennels, at anytime, and we can get it to Fiona. She needs as much wool as possible."



and finally ...

I'm proud to tell you all that It's my 3rd 'Gotcha Day' on 26th January ...

I can't believe it, and nor can my Mummies! We've been through a lot together, but they say that they wouldn't be without me, and can't imagine life without me. I have been a very lucky greyhound, and it all started with Celia, Jimmy & Baltree ... without them and you, the people who help to raise funds for the Kennels, I wouldn't be here and I would have missed out on so much love, fun and comfort. I have made SO many human and doggy friends, and have become a bit of a celebrity around Rosyth!

To all you hounds who, like me, are lucky enough to have a loving, and happy, Forever Home, spare a thought for those who are still in Kennels, and waiting for their chance ... may it come soon.

Your Rover Reporter, Bootsie x