

GRF



NEWS

*Designed by Sally E Calder*

**November 2015**

*Changing the world  
one greyhound at a time!*

**!!!!!! HOLD THE FRONT PAGE ... BREAKING NEWS !!!!!!**  
**... and unlike most headlines, this is a happy one ...**

**GREYHOUND NUMBER 900 HAS BEEN RE-HOMED, ALONG WITH  
GREYHOUND NUMBER 901 ...**

Welcome to the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter.

For those of you who are regular readers ~ welcome back, and for those of you who are joining us for the first time ~ welcome!

We start this Newsletter with the WONDERFUL news that greyhounds number 900 and 901 were re-homed, together, on the 28th October 2015! Dot (number 900) and Harry (number 901) made a wee bit of GRF history - every landmark is a cause for celebration, and a cause to reflect on all the incredible work done by Celia & Jimmy.

We wish Dot & Harry, and their new family, every happiness together ...



*(Dot on the left, Harry on the right)*

I would also like to mention both Evelyn Robinson, and our very own Jimmy, who have both had hospital stays over recent weeks. On behalf of all your friends at Greyhound Rescue Fife, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you both well, and continued improvement.

**Susan Mathewson**  
**Editor**

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

### **Alan Bruce:**

Firstly, we must say an ENORMOUS "thank-you" to Alan Bruce who, as many of you will know via the Forum, has been renovating old bicycles and then selling them on, with all the profits going to the homeless hounds at Baltree. It is a wonderful thing that Alan is doing, and we really cannot thank him enough for his kindness, and generosity of time.

If you do have an old bike in your shed / garage, that is no longer in use, please contact Alan via the Forum. Below are a couple of photos of Alan, and the bikes which have already raised several thousand pounds for GRF:



### **Steve Dowd:**

A big "thank-you" to Steve Dowd. Many of you will know Steve from the monthly GRF walks - he takes the super photos, which then appear on the Forum as a reminder of the day and, subsequently, in the Newsletter! Of late, however, Steve has been photographing our homeless hounds, and putting them on the Forum, in the hope of finding them the forever home that has, so far, eluded them. It can be no coincidence that, since featuring these dogs on the Forum, some HAVE found their forever home!

So impressed were we with Steve's photography, that this year's GRF wall calendar will feature some of the homeless hounds that Steve has captured so beautifully.

### **Michele:**

Once again, we must thank Michele for all her hard work on the GRF calendars ~ sponsorship has gone well this year for both the wall and desk calendars. As mentioned previously, the wall calendar will feature our homeless hounds. The desk calendar will feature re-homed dogs. For further information, or enquiries re. sponsorship, please contact Michele via the Forum.

### **The Scottish Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue:**

Yes, you did read that correctly! Many thanks to the Rescue for donating food to us ~ it is hugely appreciated, and gratefully received.

### **Moira:**

Once again, Moira is selling plants to raise funds for GRF ~ thank you, as ever, Moira for all your efforts. Anyone interested in purchasing plants, from Moira, should contact her via the Forum.

### August Walk ~ Loch Leven ...

The weather held up for our August walk at Loch Leven.

Below are some photos, from the day, taken by Steve ~ enjoy!



### September Walk ~ Tentsmuir ...

Sadly, this walk had to be cancelled due to Jimmy being in hospital.

### **October Walk ~ Silver Sands, Aberdour ...**

Due to Jimmy still being indisposed, Steve led this walk. The October walk was supposed to have taken place in Falkland, however, the November walk was brought forward, and we visited Aberdour instead.

It was a beautiful day, but a slightly disappointing turn-out. Again, some of Steve's excellent photos, from the day, below:



The November walk was cancelled due to the roadworks / restrictions on the Forth Road Bridge.

December's walk will take place on Sunday 6th December in St. Andrews ~ hopefully Jimmy will be fit to join us on, what will be, the last walk of 2015 ~ keep an eye on the Forum for details, and let's aim for a bumper turn-out!

### **Lucky Numbers Draws ...**

Thanks, as ever, to Fiona for organising the Lucky Numbers Draw ~ it raises much-needed funds for our homeless hounds, and also gives us a chance to win a few £'s ... !!!!

In August, September & October, there were 60 numbers in the draw ... this was split as £72.00 to GRF, and £48.00 to the lucky winner. The winners were as follows:

August ~ No. 41 drawn by Celia ~ Jean Gibb (Fiona's Mum!)

September ~ No. 2 ~ Lynne Morrison

October ~ No. 51 ~ David Davies

As always, if you are interested in joining us and raising money for GRF, please contact Fiona via the Forum.

## From the Dog House ...

### **Dogs in since July Newsletter:**

Star, Ginger, Marco, Midnight, Skyler, Sunny, Blue, Bobby, Lily (brindle), Kieren, Mandy, Ed, Odin, Mitzie, Whitney, Lizzie, Harry, Dot, Gabby, Poppy, Jake, Eric & Frank (23)

### **Dogs out since July Newsletter:**

Mattie, Sophie, Dreamer, Bella, Oscar, Freddie, Dandy, Shadow, Rainbow, Alice, Lily (brindle), Dino, Jake, Murphy, Lily (fawn), Barney, Marco, Star, Lizzie, Billy, Skyler, Ed, Rita, Annie, Bobby, Darth, Frank, Sandy, Blue, Rocky, Sheba & Steve (32)

### **A note from Jimmy:**

*"For our older members !!!!! It is interesting to note that in this time band we've re-homed FREDDIE and the DREAMER ... I remember them well. Freddie, in fact, was our hero who donated blood to save a wee dog's life." (See 'The Rover Reporter's Round Up'.)*

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

**PLEASE** can you find it in your heart to give one of these dogs the forever home they so desperately crave, and so richly deserve?

#### **Saxon**



Saxon is a huge black boy, who is very friendly with people. He is easy to walk on a lead, and travels well in a car. Saxon is a great character, and we all love him. He is not at all keen on running little furrries, and would be totally unsuitable for re-homing with a cat! He is a beautiful young dog who would make a great house pet.

#### **Jake**



Jake is a very nice black & white dog, who is quite laid back and very friendly. He loves going walkies with the volunteers. Jake has a nice personality and is, generally, a good walker on a lead, however, if he finds a nice scent he can be a little erratic! He is a lovely boy who travels very well in a car. A nice pet, who desperately deserves a loving forever home following a recent bad experience (see 'The Rover Reporter's Round-Up').

*As ever, if you would like more information about the dogs featured above, or indeed any of our other dogs in 'Please Choose Me', please contact Jimmy or Celia on mobile number 07826-244765, or by e-mailing [ferniejimmyf@aol.com](mailto:ferniejimmyf@aol.com)*

## VET'S CORNER ...

### **Remember, Remember:**

We are, as I write, just a couple of days away from that date dreaded by all pet owners ... Bonfire Night. Sadly, these things appear to begin earlier every year, and go on longer, and I would just like to remind our readers (as if they need reminded) about the undesirable effects that the noise of fireworks can have on our pets. Your Rover Reporter is terrified of them, and we have already had many 'bangs' over the past few nights.



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 days:

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.

There are many things available from your local Pet store which claim to calm your dog ~ these range from diffusers to 'thunder-shirts' ... if, however, your dog is severely distressed by the noises, a sedative from your Vet may help, however, as I mentioned previously fireworks are no longer confined to one night of the year.

Our Webmaster, John, began a new website, last year, in response to messages on the Forum about the distress caused by fireworks but unfortunately, due to lack of interest, it never evolved. The website is still online, and there is just one essay on it. If you want to print this, and distribute it to your neighbours in the hope of kindling some degree of compassion in them, then please do. The site will be live until mid-November - the link is <http://www.fireworkscontrol.co.uk>

**STAY SAFE ...**

## **SAD GOODBYES ...**

### **Kelly Burns:**

Firstly, some very sad news, on 2nd October Jimmy posted on the Forum ...

*"It is with great sadness that myself and Celia have to inform you of the untimely and very sudden death of Kelly Burns, wife of Larry and 'Mummy' to Bluey and Sootie. Kelly was one of the nicest young ladies one could ever have the pleasure of knowing. She was always smiling. Our thoughts, as are the thoughts of all at Greyhound Rescue Fife, are with Larry, his family and the two dogs who Kelly loved so much.*

*Larry you have our deepest heartfelt sympathy and dear Kelly, rest in peace, you were not with us nearly long enough.*

*Celia, Jimmy and all at Greyhound Rescue Fife"*

### **Forth:**

At the end of August, Ben Aitken posted on the Forum reporting the sad passing of Forth, and paying the following beautiful tribute to him ...

*"It is with a very heavy heart that I write this post as our big lad, Forth, sadly had to be put to sleep on Thursday evening. Forth was the first greyhound we adopted from Jimmy & Celia way back in May of 2009 (page 35 of the lucky ones) and, because of him letting us know and understand how wonderful the breed are, we ended up with a bustling greyhound pack (Suzy (who passed away a few years ago), Jack, Minnie & Louise).*

*Unfortunately Forth had the dreaded bone cancer. He had been limping for a couple of weeks, and was due to go into the Vet's on Monday so we could have him checked out. Initially we thought it was his corns (he was prone to them in the last year), but the limp was slowly getting worse and we wanted it checked out. He unfortunately slipped (only ever so slightly) when getting up from his bed on Thursday evening and his leg fractured. He was in considerable pain, and we rushed him to the Vets where they x-rayed him and confirmed the fracture and also that there were signs of bone cancer. They then x-rayed his lungs, and told us it had spread to there as well. We were left with no choice but to have the big spotty boy put to sleep.*

*It all happened very, very quickly and came as quite a shock to us. He was such a large part of our life and we did absolutely everything with him from the day we got him. I personally started working from home a couple of months after we got him, and he was my constant companion each and every day.*

*When we first got him (and I believe he would have been one of the last to come from the old Kinghorn site) he was a muscle bound monster straight out of racing, however, he quickly turned into a full on sofa monkey and embraced the retirement life instantly! He was the laziest and most laid back greyhound in existence and liked nothing better than lying in the living room on the carpet flaked out and sound asleep. If not there, it would have been out in the back garden on the artificial grass doing the same thing!*

*His passing has left a massive void in our lives and each of our remaining three greys have all in some way lost a buddy - he was Jack's walking buddy, he was Minnie's overnight sleeping buddy and he was Louise's eating buddy. In truth he never really interacted with the twins (Min & Lou) unless he really had to as they were just a bit too crazy for him and, also, they are too small for him to rest his big lazy head on, they also never stayed still long enough for him to put his head on them! He and Jack on the other hand slowly developed a wonderful relationship together over the years. It was a slow burner but, over time, they became pretty inseparable and often slept next to each other through the day (away from the whirlwinds that are the twins!). As Forth got older we also stopped taking him on a girls' walk, and started taking him on a Jack walk. For the past two and a bit years he would go for a slow, lazy wander with Jack twice a day and loved the easier pace Jack was setting (well we set the pace, they just bobbed along behind!).*

*Forth will always be very special to us. He was the first pet Lyndsey and I had together and he was the dude that led us down this greyhound path that we are now forever on.*

*He will never be forgotten.*

*Rest in peace the big spotty Forth dog,*

*Ben, Lyndsey, Jack, Minnie & Lou"*



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



### **On 3rd August, GRF made the Daily Record:**

A dying puppy rescued from a Cypriot dog pound has cheated death again ~ after receiving a life-saving blood transfusion from a donor dog.

Anne MacFarlane from Fife fell in love with the five-month-old Cyprus poodle when her friend showed her a photo of him crammed in a glass pen at a pound in Cyprus. The pup, who has since been named Harli, was due to be adopted and brought to the UK but, when the agreement fell through, Anne volunteered to take him until she could find him a permanent home.

Harli arrived in Scotland on 20th July, weighing only 5lb, but days later collapsed. Anne rushed him to Vetrica Veterinary Practice, in Fife, where he was diagnosed with pneumonia and as being anaemic. She was told he wouldn't survive without an emergency blood transfusion. Harli's life was saved when rescue greyhound Freddie, who was also checked in at Vetrica, stepped in to donate blood! The Vet 'phoned Greyhound Rescue Fife, and was given permission for Freddie to be a donor.

Now thanks to Freddie, aged 3, Harli is fighting fit, and will be staying with Anne, who is desperate to find the perfect home for the hero ex-racing greyhound. Freddie, a brindle greyhound, whose racing name was Steeple Road Fred, was brought to Greyhound Rescue Fife in May after failing to perform as he should on the track.

Kennel owner Jimmy Fernie said *"Freddie is a really friendly and docile dog ~ he just loves people, and is such a lovely boy. We are glad he could help Harli and now we're hoping someone can see Freddie for the special dog that he is and give him a loving forever home."*



*Ann and Harli with Kennel owner Jimmy Fernie and blood donor Freddie, who has since been re-homed!*

## **Jake / Gumtree:**

We were all shocked, and disgusted, at the contents of Jimmy's post of 12th October ...

*"On 22nd August a lady named Stephanie, a Council employee from Dundee, arrived at our Kennels. Stephanie already had a little terrier, and was looking for a greyhound to go with the little girl. Jake was chosen since he had a good nature and would probably be fine with the little dog.*

*Stephanie was accompanied by a man wearing a Guide Dogs for the Blind jersey. He said not to worry ~ if there was a problem he could resolve it since he trained dogs, so Jake left to go to his new home.*

*On Saturday night (10th October) we received an e-mail from Alan & Fiona Bruce, our 'bicycle friends' ~ they told us that Jake was on Gumtree. We looked him up, and discovered that Jake and the little dog were not hitting it off ~ Stephanie didn't want him to return to a 'bad place', and preferred him to go on Gumtree ... !! Possibly one of the reasons she preferred Gumtree was the fact that she might get her asking price of £120 for him, a profit of £50 on what she paid GRF for Jake. All this time, where was the dog trainer?*

*We contacted the Police, who agreed that we had the right to 'repossess', and told us that if we had any trouble achieving this we were to contact them.*

*We, accompanied by Michele & Fraser, were at Stephanie's door at 9am on the Sunday, which was eventually opened 15 minutes after our first knock. The last knock could be heard all over Dundee!*

*Jake is now safely home in the Kennels. Having signed the re-homing agreement, Stephanie could not argue that she had breached Sections 5 and 13 which, therefore, allowed repossession to take place.*

*We thank Michele and Fraser for their help.*

*We really MUST try to stop Gumtree advertising live animals ~ dogs could go for vivisection, fighting, or virtually anything through their system."*

There has been much outrage about this story on the Forum so, please, have a look if you want to find out who you can complain / write to, and let's, PLEASE, try to ensure that this does not happen again. We have featured Jake as one of the dogs of the month ~ he so deserves a loving forever home.



### **Kennel Refurbishment:**

Jimmy & Celia are delighted (and, I'm sure, relieved!) to report that the Kennel refurbishment is now complete, and the Kennels are looking great.

### **Happy Birthday Auld Yin:**

Just to get my own back on Alex Morrison for all the slagging he gave my Mummy, at the GRF Dog Show, about her having just turned 50, we would like to return the compliment, and mention that ...

## **ALEX MORRISON will turn the big 50 on Wednesday 4th November !!**

Joking apart, all your friends at Greyhound Rescue Fife join us in wishing you a very happy birthday Alex!

### **Steve (now Stevie):**

And finally, as we started, let's end with a good-news story ... Steve, who has been in the Kennels for more than 3 years, was re-homed on 31st October. Steve (now Stevie) has gone to live with Helen & Dave Taylor who, sadly, lost their loving boy Jakey the week previously. Jakey's girlfriend, Aimie, was missing him terribly and so Helen & Dave brought her along to GRF to find a new companion. When they arrived, they said the words we love to hear ... *"Who is your hardest dog to re-home?"*

They ended up choosing Steve, who has been overlooked for more than three years ... we are SO delighted for him, and he has posted on the Forum already to let us know how he is settling into his new home! Indeed, I am hoping to interview Stevie for the next edition of the Newsletter, so watch this space ...



In the midst of our joy for Stevie, we must remember Jakey who is a huge miss to Helen, Dave & Aimie ~ run free over the Rainbow Bridge sweet friend ~ we know you will be very proud of your Mummy & Daddy for giving another boy a chance.

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, in St. Andrews, for our final walk of 2015!

**Your Rover Reporter,  
Bootsie x**