

GRF



NEWS

July 2016

*Welcome to the July edition of the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter.  
Edited by Kaz and Pat Brundell*

**In this month's issue:**

News from the Kennels  
Sofa News from TH  
P.A.W. – Paws Across the World  
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**News from the kennels**

**Dogs in and out since the last newsletter**

**IN:** CINDY, BOB, SMILEY, WEBSTER, ANNA, BREEZY.

**OUT:** MINNIE, BUBBLES, NUZZLE, DAN, BOB, BARLEY, CINDY, THISTLE

**Funny how often new guys go out quickly and old guys stay for ages.**

Thank you to everyone who has adopted one of these gorgeous Hounds and taken them into your loving homes.



Celia and Jimmy also had the pleasure of our webmaster John Ratcliffe and his wife Marilyn from Lancashire with their three greyhounds on a little holiday in Kinross. They gave us the pleasure of their company on 4th 5th and 6th of July.



**Webster**

A little story about Webster. He was collected from Armadale Stadium in Edinburgh as he was under threat of being put to sleep. Celia received a phone call and immediately went down to collect him. No one knew if he had a pet name so when Celia got back to the kennels she was trying to think of a name for him when she spotted a bag from Webster Building Supplies at Milnathort. Jimmy and Celia are regular customers and Celia thought Webster was as good a name as any as it is a blue dog and Webster's logo is blue. A few days later Celia was in their store and mentioned the story of the Blue Greyhound she had named Webster.

Webster Building Supplies have promised to put a picture of Webster on their website.  
How great is that!!





## **BOARDING**

We now have a boarding license. We are getting an extra 12 kennels. We only want dogs we have rehomed as boarders. We will charge £8 per dog per night. It will be a little perk for people who have rehomed from us. We will only take boarders if there is space unoccupied by rescue dogs.

Sadly, the following dogs have recently left their owners to go over the bridge.

Gip. Shayla. The Handsome Bhan, Sandy and our Big Boy Ace

They will all be over the bridge playing together and looking down on you all with love in their heart.



## Monthly walks

The next walk is on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> at Tentsmuir. We hope lots of you can make the walk.  
Keep any eye on the forum for more details.

Please remember that all dogs must be on leads and to pick up after your dog. There will be a raffle after the walk so bring your pennies and if anyone has any prizes for the raffle, please bring them too. Remember that all walks are weather dependent so check the forum before you go just in case it has been cancelled (which is very rare!)

## Walking Volunteers at the kennels

Celia and Jimmy are still looking for volunteers to walk the dogs, especially during the week. This involves giving up a couple of hours from about 10 – 12 to walk the hounds and occasionally help with the feeding. This frees up other staff to do other duties in the kennels. If anyone can help, please ring Celia or Jimmy on 01577 850393 or 07826 244765 or you can email Jimmy at [ferniejimmyf@aol.com](mailto:ferniejimmyf@aol.com)

## Sponsored Walk

***Karen Reid and partner Neil are walking the West Highland Way to raise funds for GRF.  
Starting out on Saturday 16th July walking from Milngavie to Balmaha 20 miles.  
Sunday Balmaha to Inverarnan 21 miles.  
Monday Inverarnan to Bridge of Orchy 19 miles.  
Tuesday Bridge of Orchy to Kinlochleven 21 miles and finishing  
Wednesday 20th July by walking from Kinlochleven to Fort William 15 miles.***

**If you would like to support Karen and Neil, you can make a donation in any of the usual ways. Please state that it's for their West Highland Walk so that we can make sure your money gets to the right persons.  
Come on folks, they are doing this to raise funds for GRF. We must support them.**

## **CALLING ALL KNITTERS – GRF NEEDS YOU!**



**Michelle has a list of knitting patterns for Greyhound Related items.  
We would like to know how many of you knitters out there would be happy to knit items for fundraising.  
We have a small amount of wool but would need more so if anyone has unwanted wool please let us know.  
You can email us at [kbrundell@btinternet.com](mailto:kbrundell@btinternet.com).**

## Sofa News from TH



### **Hi all. Tippikal Hound here again (or TH for Short.)**

This month I have a tip for all you boys out there (and some of the girls).

1. Do not wee up the two leggers prize rose bush – this may result in incurring the displeasure of a two legger.
2. If you do wee up the rose bush thinking they are not watching and you will get away with it, then getting your stance and balance correct is essential to avoid a painful and embarrassing trip to the vets.

This applies to any plant etc. in the garden which has nasty thorns or stinging hairs!!

More observations next month.

Take care *TH*

In loving memory of our boy Ace. 2005 – 2016





**P.A.W. – Paws Across the World**



There are many Greyhound, Lurcher, Galgo and Podencos rescue and welfare organisations in the UK and across the world and we thought it would be interesting to feature other organisations each month.

**This month we feature Greyhound Rescue Jersey**



**GREYHOUND RESCUE JERSEY**

The aims and objectives of Greyhound Rescue Jersey are many-fold. Established in Jersey in 1996, the primary objective of the Charity is to find family homes for retired racing greyhounds as pets and companions when they are no longer useful to the greyhound racing industry.

We try to home dogs here in the Channel Islands, but it is a costly business to get them over, have them neutered, vaccinated and treated for worms and fleas. We bring them to the Islands in a private plane having tried every way over the years. Believe it or not this doesn't work out any dearer than the ferry which unfortunately fails to sail a lot of the time and would mean we would have to stay over with a couple of dogs and find somewhere that was willing to take us. We do ask for a donation from the prospective owners but it is less than half the amount we pay to bring a dog over and place it into a home.

As with all charities we are constantly trying to raise funds to cover these costs. We have fetes all through the summer and attend

awareness assemblies at schools, brownies, scouts, W. I's and recently have been

approached by Age Concern to do a talk about our aims. We are already accepting invites for next year to do talks and are becoming very popular with the older community.

These dogs have the most amazing natures and for this reason we have 6 of our own dogs registered as P.A.T. dogs (Pets as Therapy). For the last seven years we have visited local care homes and visit there on a weekly basis to cheer up the residents, many suffering from Alzheimer's and some just very ill or very old. It's heart-warming to see their pleasurable re-actions when the dogs enter the room even the ones suffering from memory loss always know it is Tuesday. On occasions we have also been called upon to visit the handicapped children at Mont-a-L'Abbe School and also children that are wary of dogs often come up to visit the Sanctuary to overcome their fears. The pleasure that these dogs bring to all these people is incredibly rewarding.

Our dogs are often called upon to play an educational roll at school assemblies. Alison, our colleague, an ex-teacher (now paramedic) and I visit schools with four or five of the dogs and give a talk which includes the history of these dogs through the past 5,000 years and their royal connections up to their modern day plight, where they are no longer worshipped, but just a commodity discarded when they are no longer of any use to the commercial requirements of the racing industry.

Our dogs are at the service, day and night, to all of the Islands Veterinary practices as blood donors and indeed are called upon quite regularly to give blood, which in many cases save the lives of desperately ill dogs of various breeds. They are particularly suitable for this duty as their calm nature allows the vets to plunge a huge needle into the greyhound's jugular vein without anaesthetic while they take a pint of blood. Their blood count is 50% higher than that of other breeds making it that much more beneficial.

It is most gratifying to know that, having been rescued themselves, these dogs are putting something back into the community

For us to continue with what we do there are certain aspects that desire attention. For example, the PAT dogs needs to be in good health particularly in respect to their dental hygiene. This comes at a considerable veterinary cost. Transport to the U.K. and back has doubled in cost over the last three years and we are always at a considerable financial loss when we supply a dog. To attend fetes with our trailer and dogs we have a small van, but it is very old now and we are looking to replace it again this requires funding as the van would come from the U.K. We cannot let the old van get to the point when it can't pull the trailer as we would be unable to attend our events.

Needless to say these dogs need to be insured and the costs have risen dramatically over the last few years and it costs us thousands of pounds a year to cover our dogs and make sure they are healthy to attend awareness events. Returns are more so with the financial climate as it is but we still pride ourselves that we have never sent a dog back to the Mainland. If we couldn't rehome the dog has become one of ours at the Sanctuary.

Sadly, I lost my husband last November but am determined to continue with the charity. We don't have loads of homes like in the U.K. and with the world as it is at the moment numbers have dropped over the past few years, but never mind we still keep going. The people over in Jersey never fear to amaze me they are very loyal and my owners are just stars.

I have 15 greyhounds of my own but this goes up and down as I will never send a dog back, if given up, they come to me. This is the lowest number I have had for a long time as recently I lost one of only 8 years old with bone cancer and a beautiful boy only 2 ½ years old I found him dead in the study.



Thank you for including our article in your newsletter. We wish you all the very best.

Gail Hickmott and the gang in Jersey  
Greyhound Rescue Jersey  
[www.greyrescue.co.uk](http://www.greyrescue.co.uk)  
email: [gailmalanddogs@hotmail.com](mailto:gailmalanddogs@hotmail.com)  
Facebook – Greyhound Rescue Jersey

As a footnote to this article, some of you will know that we rehomed Bob from the kennels recently after we lost our boy Ace. His racing name was Lillies Maisi Boy and he was born Feb 2012. According to the Greyhound Breeding and Data website, he had a sister who looked very much like him which was rehomed by Greyhound Rescue Jersey. Her racing name was Rockstown Peggy and she is now known as Peggy and her owner Gillian kindly contacted me and sent a photo of Peggy.



Peggy



Bob

Hopefully we can keep in contact and see how alike these two are over the coming months.

## TAILS FROM THE WILDERNESS

as dictated by Blue Arrigal



A walk in the wilderness is good but it's considerate to let your 2legger stop for a cuppa or cold drink and if you can find somewhere that lets them sit with you all the better.

Heading to Royal Deeside? Forget the A90 and turn off for Fettercairn and then the B974 to Banchory via Cairn O'Mount. The views are spectacular and en route the Clattering Brig Restaurant has outdoor seating and a large grassy area ideal for reposing hounds. Great value meals and yummy home baking.



In Aberdeenshire World Horse Welfare's Belwade Farm near Aboyne has a large open decking area where dogs are welcome to partake in refreshments along with their owners. There is a wide varied menu and the restaurant looks across the fields down to the Dee. Dogs are allowed to come along on the guided farm tours and if you fancy a longer walk there are several trails.



On the road between Perth and Dundee there is a sign for Cairn O'Mohr Winery. As well as the winery shop with free tasting of potential purchases you will find the AliBob Cafe with great soups and delicious home baking. Dogs are allowed on the decking or if the weather is inclement and you can get your 2legger to run as fast as you there are also a few tables in the cafe porch.





# A WARNING TO US ALL

## ONE LOVELY SPRING MORNING

### **BACKGROUND**

We have been walking at a local timeshare where I swim every morning since 2007 – a walk of about 20 minutes round the perimeter of the driving range and through a small wood. At 8.00am it is often deserted. 'We' are myself, Marion, and my greyhounds and Lurchers.

Currently these are:

Bryn (12), a gentle old light brindle greyhound who has largely lost his enthusiasm to chase and just trots along beside you, hoping for a biscuit. He is the sweetest boy and has been with me for 8 years. \*

Jock (a very young 11), a wonderful black greyhound who came to me a couple of years ago after suffering a fibro sarcoma in his right haunch. Jock is Mr. Self-contained – he gets on with all other dogs but has no real interest in them. He loves the beach.

Foxy (10 this year), is an adorable dark brindle girl, who is full of mischief. She broke her right hind leg while racing and there is still some residual damage. Her chase instinct is strong so she is largely restrained for safety and to prevent further trauma to her leg. She came to me 6 years ago.

Foggy (5), a sweet brindle lurcher, arrived a year ago because he was diagnosed with retinal atrophy, a progressive blindness I had already experienced with my lurcher Dylan, who died in December 2014. Foggy still has some close sight, so I try to let him have as much safe freedom as I can before the lights go out completely. I wear bells on my wellies and talk to him a lot. He has a great memory for places he knows and exceptionally acute senses of smell and hearing to compensate for his lack of eyesight.

### **OUR STORY**

It was a beautiful early Spring morning, Sunday the 13th March 2016, with a slight grass frost but a hint of warmth in the sun. We hadn't seen a soul all the way round the walk and were heading back to the car. Foggy and Bryn were off-lead, as they stay close and their recall is good. As we got nearer the car I let Foxy off too – I don't know why, as I normally keep her on the lead till we get there, but it was so peaceful it seemed a safe thing to do. She stayed with me, checking my pocket, as she knows she gets a 'car biscuit'. Jock was still on his lead because he'd be off into the woods trying to find rabbits and taking the others with him. Suddenly Foggy's ears went up and I turned to see two dogs had appeared at least 50 yards behind us. One was a beagle and the other a tiny fluffy ginger dog later identified as a Chihuahua/Papillion cross (Scrappy). They appeared to be out alone. Foxy was already running towards Scrappy. I think she expected him to run but he didn't. She checked, then grabbed him. I believe he may have snapped at her in fright and bitten her face, but I wasn't close enough to see.

In the meantime, I was running after her, shouting for help. The dogs' owner appeared and got hold of Foxy's collar but it came off and he ended up pinning her to the ground. I put Bryn on the lead for safety as he was becoming agitated. Foggy was scared and had run back to the car. I took hold of Foxy and told the owner to pick up his dog.

It was Sunday and the little dog was clearly hurt. I asked the owner where he was staying but he couldn't remember the villa number so I told him to ring reception when he got back and I

would call my vet on the emergency number and take him there. He left saying that his dog was dying and that he would need a doctor. I waited for nearly an hour but he didn't call so I left contact details and went home, praying that the little dog was just in shock and not seriously injured.

Once home, I bathed the blood off Foxy's face. She had three bite marks, one near her left eye and two on her muzzle. They swelled up over the next few days but healed over a couple of weeks.

I heard nothing more that day but the timeshare owner called me on Monday to say that Scrappy had been taken to another vet and had been put to sleep on account of his injuries. He had been obliged to call the police and they would be in touch. I was devastated.

The police duly called and two officers visited that afternoon. I was charged and cautioned without preamble under the Dangerous Dogs Act and then asked to give my version of events, which I did. I was then told to sign the notes taken without being invited to read them. The officers mellowed during the interview, seeing the dogs in their home environment. The dog warden should have accompanied them but was unable to. It was a further three weeks before she phoned to announce that she intended to issue a Dog Control Notice on Foxy and warnings for Bryn and Foggy. The warnings arrived by post the next day and on 13th April two dog wardens visited to deliver the DCN on Foxy. They loved the dogs and became quite sympathetic as the interview proceeded.

I was already walking the dogs in pairs and muzzling Foxy when we were walking so the DCN made little difference in practical terms. It is time limited and you can apply to vary the terms after 3-6 months provided there has been no further incident. Accepting the DCN/warnings apparently goes in your favour in terms of a court case. The charge was based partly on the owner's claim that one of my dogs had bitten him. Foxy made no attempt to bite him while he had his weight on top of her, and none of the other dogs went near him. The police mentioned 'minor damage' to his hand but didn't describe it as a bite.

As my version of events differed from the owner's, the police went back to look for witnesses among the staff and visitors at the timeshare but there were none. The staff endorsed that I have walked daily for years with the dogs under control and they have been very supportive. The police now compile an incident report and send it to the Procurator Fiscal in Dundee, who will decide whether to prosecute. This process can take many months and it may be next year before I learn my fate. Apparently, the fact that there were no witnesses and that his dogs were also off lead and unaccompanied makes prosecution unlikely but I'm not banking on it.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

If there is any good to come of this tragic event, I feel I need to share what I have learnt from it. There are some key points to make:

1. I allowed myself to be lulled into a false sense of security and let my guard slip so I am ultimately responsible. As soon as I saw Foxy run I remember thinking 'Oh please, no'. I was aware of the possible consequences.
2. Fate was against me in that the dogs appeared behind us and unaccompanied, and I didn't allow for Foggy's extrasensory perception. Foxy was right by me but her reaction was quicker than mine.
3. Scrappy was a feisty but very fragile little dog. The beagle was completely ignored.
4. I have let down Scrappy, his owners, Celia and Jimmy, greyhounds in general and, most of all, my beloved Foxy, who needed to be protected from her own instincts.
5. I have learned that the initial approach of police and dog wardens is, by law, uncompromising. It's a very harrowing experience.

6. I can only endorse Jimmy's mantra: Dog on lead under owner's control; dog off lead under dog's control (or effectively out of control).

**On a more positive note:**

Foxy is quite happy walking in her muzzle. It allows me to be more relaxed and discourages her from nibbling rabbit droppings. She was lame on her broken leg for about a week after the incident so running flat out is contraindicated.

Walking the dogs in pairs is a good thing, as it gives more time to indulge each dog, is easier in terms of poo-picking and lead control, and means that, if there is an incident, I am more able to actively intervene instead of just keeping the other dogs out of range, as they naturally become excited. I'm recently retired so I have the time to exercise them this way.

I'm sure most of you are already practising great greyhound control but it's easy to be lulled into dangerous territory. If my story can save just one of you from an experience like mine, then it was worth sharing. None of the individual people or dogs involved in this incident was bad but the outcome was tragic and will live with me forever. Take great care of your precious charges, dear friends of greyhounds for, one day, the Gods may be against you.

\* As many of you will be aware, Bryn died due to peritonitis on 13th June 2016.

*Special Thanks to Marion for giving us this article for the newsletter. It is extremely brave of her to put this in writing as a warning to us all not to become complacent with our dogs. We all think we know them but this just goes to prove that things like this can and do happen.*

*So please take note of the message here and please keep your dogs on leads and muzzled.*





## Trivia Quiz

*Each month we will have a quiz or puzzle just for a bit of fun. So have a go while you enjoy a cuppa and a biscuit.*

### Answers to last month's Scottish Quiz

1. Provost
2. Battle of Bannockburn
3. Gretna Green
4. Guy Fawkes
5. John Logie Baird
6. On bagpipes
7. a sporran
8. Hoots Mon (by Lord Rockingham's XI)
9. Shinty
10. John Napier
11. St Johnstone (j)
12. Procurator Fiscal
13. Kenny Dalglish
14. Antonine Wall
15. The Tay
16. True
17. Loch Lomond
18. Dennis Law
19. The haggis, not surprisingly
20. Miss Jean Brodie



## July QUIZ

1. The Olympic motto is 'Citius Altius Fortius'. What does each word mean? One point for each correct answer.
2. Which American statesman and inventor was once thought to be the first person to propose the use of daylight saving time?
3. What is the generic name for the various thick sauces used in Mexican cuisine? 4 letters
4. Graham Nash was a member of which popular English band before joining Crosby Stills and Nash?
5. In film, which central character was 57 years late for her daughter's 11th birthday?
6. Where in the human body is the scapula bone located?
7. The name of which well-known dinosaur translated means 'quick thief', 'swift seizer' or 'quick plunderer'?
8. In which game does one use a 'squidger'?
9. Which war started on the 25th of June 1950?
10. Messala is the bad guy in which epic Oscar winning film?

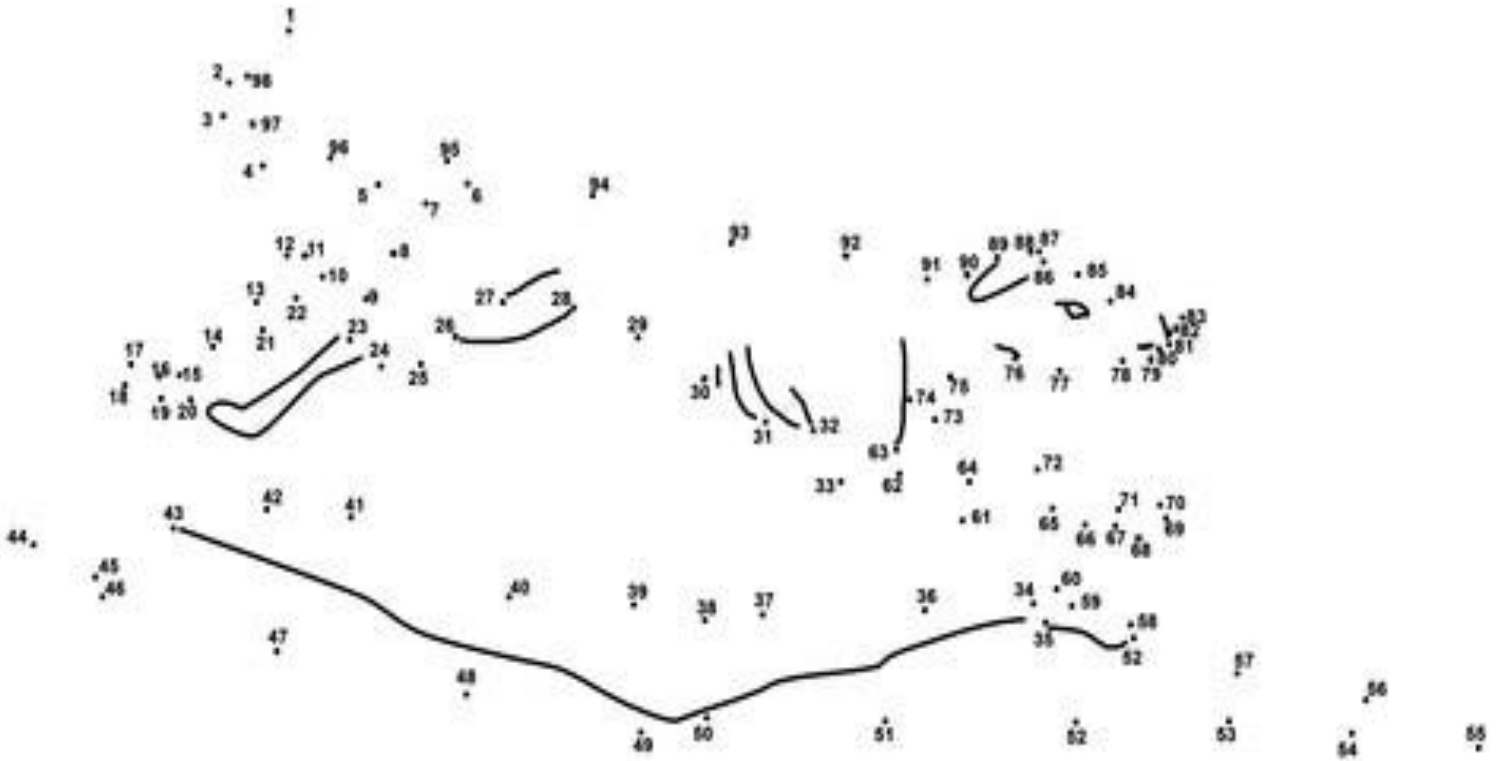
**Answers will be in the next newsletter**





## For our younger readers

Why not try this dot to dot and see what picture it makes?



With grateful thanks to all who helped with this newsletter - you know who you are!!



The next GRF newsletter will be published mid-August. If anyone has an article they would like included in future newsletters, please feel free to email Kaz Brundell on [kbrundell@btinternet.com](mailto:kbrundell@btinternet.com).

And as it is holiday season, if you have a holiday with your hounds, give us a report of where you went, how dog friendly it was etc.

