

# Greyhound Rescue Fife

*"Adopting just one Greyhound won't change the world, but the world will surely change for that one Greyhound."*



## In Memory of Katie

This issue is dedicated to the beautiful Katie who unfortunately passed away on the 1st March, she was an amazing girl who will be missed by all who knew her. I have compiled a list of some of your kind words.

*"Gatsby will miss you."*

*"So sad she had a family with all of us, it was so sudden poor wee girl sleep tight."*

*"She was a lovely, affectionate little girl who always loved to get her cuddles and kisses. I shall always remember her and her loving snuggles. She will be missed. I'm so glad she will get her mummy and daddy."*

*"She was my favourite girl in the kennels and whose beautiful little face I used to love looking at, every time I was looking in Please Choose Me. I saw her last Saturday when we went to adopt Davy and she was such a lovely little girl. I am so glad to have met her. Rest in peace little one. I will miss seeing your beautiful little face."*

*"Such sad news, Katie was indeed a character and loved by all the staff and volunteers so it is fitting that she was finally adopted by her greatest friends of all."*

*"Sleep tight Katie you were loved by so many."*

*"So so sorry to read about lovely little Katie. Such a shock. Although she did not find her home, she was much loved by her GRF family and it is really touching to see her dear little face on the page."*



### Kennel News

Find out who has found their forever homes and who is new at the kennels.



### Meet Barney

He is dog of the month for March, find out more about this beautiful boy...

### Home Checks



Find out more about more about home checks from volunteer, Sheila McCullough...

## Dog Walkers Needed!

We are always looking for dog walkers but please don't just turn up. Give Jimmy or Celia a phone first to arrange an induction day and get all the info. John – The GRF Webmaster has also set up a Calendar on the forum which hopefully in the future will make it easier for everyone to check when help is needed and book themselves in. However, anyone new to dog walking at the kennels must get an induction first.

Celia and Jimmy's contact details are on the GRF website.

## Kennel News

Since the last edition the kennel welcomed Seven new dogs; Dixie, Flash, Cuddles, Rozy, Gemma, Kitty and Tim. In the same time eight dogs have found their forever homes! These were Flash, Misty, Katie, Minnie, Rudi, Gemma, Star, Kitty.

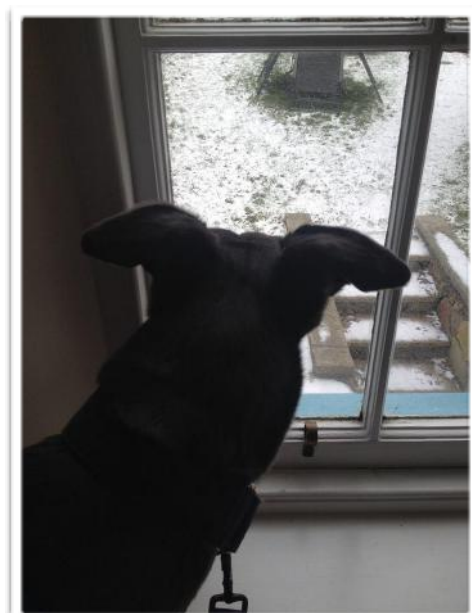
## Dog of the Month



*“Barney was born in April 2014 so is still a youngster. He is a real stunner...a beautiful big muscular boy who is strong yet friendly and affectionate. He likes being with people and going for walks yet despite his size, he walks easily on a lead without pulling. He is still a little unsure about himself as everything is very new but would settle well in a loving home. He really is a lovely boy with a great nature, and he will blossom with a family who will show him patience and love. By introducing him to new experiences, his confidence will build and he will be an ideal member of your family.”*

## Ashleigh and Lexi's Corner

Here is what Lexi has been up to over the last month.



## Typical Hound

You are not going to believe this! Yesterday we were put for a walk minding our own business when I saw a cat sitting on a wall! Why he thought he could do that is beyond me, I barked at him to show him who was boss and my mummy told me to stop! does she not understand the severe consequences of allowing these felines to do what they want? This is a very serious issue and one which i do not wish to keep quiet about!

*TH*

## Home Visits

For the past few years I have carried out home visits for people in Edinburgh and surrounding areas who would like to adopt a dog/dogs from Greyhound Rescue Fife. Celia and Jimmy have a team of people who do this for adopters living at a distance from the kennels at Balfree. I thought it might be interesting for Newsletter readers to see how I do this.

First of all, I contact the would-be adopters and arrange a time to visit. If this is to be their first greyhound, I ask if they would like me to bring one of my own dogs along. Invariably they say yes and Teigan would tell you that she is well experienced at sussing out suitable homes! Seriously, one thing she is very useful for is assessing whether the dogs may need coaching on going up or coming down internal or external stairs.

If the house has a garden, that's the first thing I look at. I'd say 75% of problems about adopting greyhounds relate to the garden. For instance, it may have a 6ft high hedge all round it but the hedge has gaps which a greyhound could get through chasing a squirrel or a cat. It's also important to look at any gates or exits and make sure these are dog proof. Of course, if the adopters live in a flat, that's one less thing to think about.

Once inside I have a good look round and see if I can spot anything which might be a danger to the dog. Patio doors are a typical example. I recommend putting duct tape across these at the dog's eye level until it has realised that this is glass, not an empty space. I may also suggest fitting a child gate to the stairs if they are steep or if the dog is going to be remaining downstairs.

Then I usually have a nice chat with the adopters. (Thank you folks for all the cups of coffee and biscuits!) If possible, I like to see everyone in the family, including children so that I get an impression of how life is in their home. Often they have done a lot of research on the internet and have compiled a set of questions to ask me. Typically we discuss:

- Beds. Where is the dog going to sleep and what sort of bed will it have.
- Routines. How many walks, how long, at what time of day. I always emphasise that there's no right answer to this – that two 20-minute walks are plenty (although the dogs will probably be up for more than that if their humans wish to go further) and that the important thing is to establish a routine and keep to it.
- Food. How much and what type of food. I suggest two meals a day, splitting the amount of food the dog has been getting in the kennels between them. I emphasise the importance of feeding dried food that is low protein and suggest a few brands to them. I also advise having raised food bowls to avoid colic.
- Insurance. I say that it is vital to have insurance. I am often asked to recommend an insurance company but I do not do this. I tell them that they should research the various companies offering pet insurance and choose the one which suits their needs.
- Walks. Always walking on a lead and that we recommend using double leads for safety and a muzzle at least for the first few weeks until they are sure how the dog will react to non-greyhounds.
- House training. I say that in my experience, greyhounds are quick learners and so house training is usually fairly easy. I give them Celia's advice about initially taking the dog out every hour on the hour and making a huge fuss when it performs outside.

My final words are always "If there is any problem or anything you want to ask once you've got the dog, contact Celia who knows everything about greyhounds and is endlessly helpful.

I've met some really lovely people through doing the house checks and it's great when they adopt a dog and bring it to the greyhound walks or post about it on the Forum or on Facebook so I know how it is getting along. I'm pleased that in a small way I have helped quite a few dogs find their forever home.

Sheila McCullough

## Monthly Walks

11th March - Pittencrief Park - Dunfermline

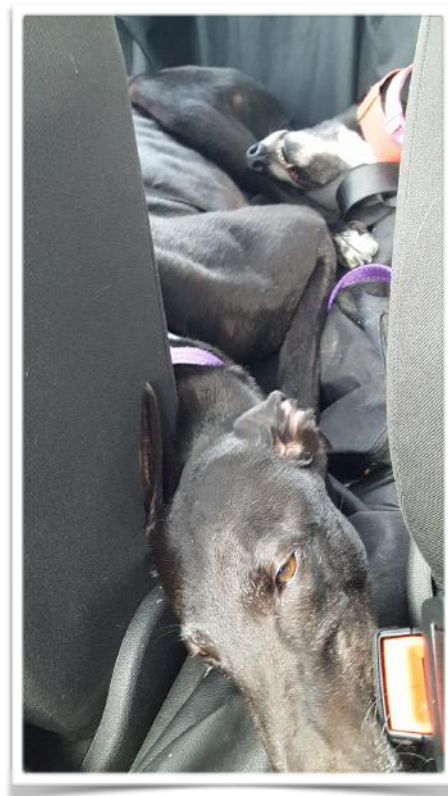


The next walk is on 8th April at Lochore Meadows, Loggend. Look on the website for more info, we hope to see you there!

## Barry 'n' Sue

### Highland Trip

We are just back from a trip up north with Barry and Sue, they absolutely loved exploring the hills and rivers. Barry was being his usual self, not wanting to get muddy, walking the most awkward routes just to avoid a wee puddle. There was one walk where the mud was simply unavoidable, you should have seen the look on his face! Sue on the other hand wanted to storm ahead, dragging me with her directly through puddles, marsh and mud! They seemed to love the caravan too, watching the birds out of the window - when they weren't sleeping that is! I have included a couple of pictures - note Sue snoozing behind Barry in the car! (Incuse you are wondering - they are both harnessed in)



## **DOG SHOW.....DOG SHOW.....DOG SHOW.....DOG SHOW.....DOG SHOW**

As will have seen from our forum and Facebook pages our 11<sup>th</sup> dog show is planned for **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May at our usual venue of Caldwell's Farm.** So put this date in your diary as we would like to see as many people/dogs as possible there for this show. Tickets for the show will be on sale shortly and will be available at our kennels and dog walks leading up to the show. Due to the ongoing commitment of Moffats the catering company who once again are our main show sponsors, we can keep advanced tickets at the same price as previous years at **£4 for adults** with children under 16 free (**on the day entry cost will be £5** although kids would still be free).

Many people who have attended our previous 10 shows I am sure will testify what an excellent day this is, not only because it allows everyone to win some of our fantastic prizes in our show classes,

tombola, raffle etc but also allows everyone to catch up with one another and discuss all things “Grey” :0) The show helps us promote not only the plight of the greyhound but also expel many of the myths surrounding them and in turn helps raise much needed funds for our current incumbents at our kennels, ensuring their stay with us is as comfortable as possible until they find their forever homes. All money raised at this event goes directly towards GRF.

We are also therefore now on the lookout for good quality items for our tombola and raffles which can be dropped off at the kennels or handed into Steve at our dog walks. Also on the day we will once again be looking for home-baking to sell at the show (one of my favourite stalls :0) !!!)

Further information on classes along with some sponsorship opportunities can be found below. This excellent gift opportunity combined with the show allows us to raise much needed funds for our kennels and current incumbents while with us. Your support of our event and donations helps save life's.

We will also have a link on our web page dedicated to show information shortly. As they say watch this space !!

### **Sponsorship opportunities:**

To help us maximise exposure and revenue from our annual dog show we once again have some excellent sponsorship opportunities whether for gifts, dedications, individuals or for companies there is something for everyone.

All sponsorship will be acknowledged on our web site (with any company links) and show program along with any adverts and logos. A thank you

e certificate will also be sent to every sponsor. These sponsorships tend to sell fast so don't delay buy today!!! And remember every penny raised goes towards our kennels.

### **Show class sponsorship (£50 includes, certificate 2 show tickets)**

Classes for sponsor include:

Best Junior handler-

Best male Greyhound

Best Golden Oldie

Best female greyhound

Best non-greyhound

Best family of dogs

## Ancillary show sponsorship (£100 includes certificate 4 show tickets)

Included in this price is all of the above sponsored items plus any advertisement around the hall and 4 free tickets for guests. These sponsorship packages offer a great opportunity to ensure the ongoing success of our show.

- Programme front page (get your picture and announcement in our show programme)
- Hall hire
- Show Trophies
- Show Rosettes
- Show Bandanas

*N.B. Please note after some non-payments last year, class sponsorship will be held for one week only. If payment not received by then, sponsorship will then be re-opened for sale.*

If interested please email me at [alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com](mailto:alexmorrison1965@btinternet.com) and I will get back to you with details on payment etc.

## Doggy Doos

Unfortunately Alabama Rot seems to have surfaced again in the UK, this is a flesh eating disease that dogs can pick up from mud on their paws and legs after a walk. This can be a very serious, often fatal disease if not spotted quick enough. This disease seems to like cold, damp mud so with the recent horrible weather vets are worried that this may lead to a rise in cases. Advice is to keep your dogs away from muddy and wet areas as well as washing mud from their paws after walks until the weather remains warmer. The first symptom tends to be a skin sore which has not been caused by an injury so keep an eye out and contact your vet if you are worried. For more information, please visit - <http://www.vets4pets.com/stop-alabama-rot/>



**Lastly, we would like to wish Celia a speedy recovery after her hip replacement which we hear has been a success.**

## With Thanks

I would like to thank Jimmy, Celia, Hannah, Steve, Alex, Sheila, Ashleigh and Lexi for their contributions to this issue.