

# GRF



# NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

August 2009

Welcome to the August issue of our newsletter. This month along with some of our usual updates we have an article (as promised!) on our other kennels at Union Farm. We also continue our round the world look at greyhound/dog sanctuaries with this month focussing in one in Bulgaria. Along with this we have a look at what life is like in a day at our Baltree kennels along with Jackie's story and the phenomenal work she has done in helping rescue centres such as ourselves. We also have a couple of notices of forthcoming events, which we hope you can all support.

## Kennel update

Once again this month seen another influx of greys into our kennels, with 20 arriving and only 10 going out. But fortunately our new kennels are starting to take shape and we now have a full compliment of kennels and dog runs up and running.

Dogs in - JUDIE, MAX, SIMPSON, TAM, SIMBA, ARCHIE, KYLIE, SNOWIE, ARIEL, ACE, CORKY, THOR, TED, TIA, RUSSELL, GALA, REBEL, BECKY, MOSS, JACK

Dogs out - NIALL, SNOWIE, JUDIE, MAX, HEATHER, MAGIC, ROCKY, CORKY, ACE and SIMPSON

## Thank You

GRF would like to thank Sue and Les at the Jordan Bear Charity for very kindly donating two £200 cheques for our cause !!. This money will be used to feed all our hungry homeless

hounds. You both do fabulous work and the homeless dogs appreciate your efforts on their behalf.

## **Christmas hamper raffle**

Yes it's nearing that time again !!! and Moira and Stuart are putting together a Christmas hamper/s.

Raffle tickets for this will be sold on the October, November and December walks and the winning ticket/s will be drawn at the end of the December walk. Meantime we'd be delighted to accept any donations (from a simple tin of ham to a luxurious jar of caviar!!!) towards this prize winning festive feast. Donations can be handed into Baltree, Union Farm or to us personally on the walks. Lets raise as much cash as we can to help give the kennel hounds a Xmas to remember!!!! . . . .

## Lucky number

64 numbers were sold for this month's draw making a total prize fund of £128.00. Which, was split as £51.20 to the winner and £76.80 to GRF. Number 77 was drawn out by Celia at our recent walk. This number belonged to Stuart Pirie

Well done Stuart and thanks to everyone who entered this month and to those who continue to support GRF through the lucky number draws.

## Update

As many of you will have read in the news last month a greyhound was found abandoned and left to starve to death in a field in Fife. Fortunately this dog now named Bleu was rescued by Sylvia Pass of Langdykes kennels. Many of you who have been avid supporters in the past will remember that Sylvia and Langdykes kennels have supported GRF in the past (and future). So it is with interest we follow Bleu's progress. Below is a short reminder of his abuse

Bleu as he is now affectionately known was thrown over an 8ft fence into the abandoned Nairn's linoleum works factory site, imprisoning the dog on the 8 acre wasteland site in Fife.

The two-year-old was just days from death when found by passers-by. By then he had been starved for 2-3 months and weighed only 18kg almost half the weight he should have been.



Bleu is recovering at Langdyke Boarding Kennels near Kennoway in Fife. When the dog was brought into the kennels it had a 50/50 chance of survival. It was malnourished and dehydrated and covered in fleas. It has no muscle, no flesh and if it lay on its side and shut its eyes you would think it had been dead for a couple of weeks, it was that bad."

The greyhound did not break any bones when thrown over the fence but did damage his left shoulder. Fortunately medical treatment since his rescue has increased Bleu's chances of survival.

His re-habilitation involved being fed six to eight times a day with a small amount of high-protein and high-fat food soaked in water.

We all look forward to his progress and rehabilitation with interest.

## From the doghouse

BENSON is a nice blue brindle boy who is fine with people and is a good walker. Excellent in a car. He is not too keen on little furries though. As a house pet he will be great.



Do you have it in you to give Benson a new home Then contact Jimmy/Celia on **01592 890583**.

### **Union Farm Kennels**

As promised in a previous newsletter ! (better late than never !!) we bring you details of our second kennels at Union Farm. They are based near Craigrothie near Cupar in Fife



*Laura grooming one of our greys*

Union Farm is run by Nanette Jackson and her staff Nicola, Laura, Paula, Gary, Nicole, Nick and Jenny and of course The Pet Shop Boys. There are 35 kennels for boarding

however Nanette has a licence to board up to 54 dogs. The Greyhound block has 6 kennels which house 2 greyhounds (a male and a female), they have outside runs so the dogs can get some sunshine and also a view of what's going on. The newly built greyhound block also has 6 kennels each able to home 2 greyhounds, this block has large windows so the fogs get a lovely view and also a lot of light into the kennel block. This means that in total Union Farm has kennel space for up to 24 greyhounds.

Both blocks open out onto a large open grassy run which has plenty of smells, trees to sniff and pee on and plenty room to do a few laps at full speed before coming for a cuddle! All the dogs settle into the routine pretty quickly and are the first to let you know if you're not running to schedule! Exercised, cleaned and breakfast at 8.30am, lunchtime exercise in the runs usually involves 3 -4 laps of the run, cuddles, then biscuits at 1pm, followed by exercise, tea and bedtime at 5pm.



*Part of the grassy area within the farm*

If anyone wants to come to Union Farm to spend time with the dogs then they are welcome however as Union Farm is a working

boarding kennels can we ask you to come between 10.30am and 4pm only. The dogs always welcome new friends very enthusiastically. Or why not come along to our forthcoming Open day on 16<sup>th</sup> August (full details later in this issue) and see all the dogs and the kennels. Everyone is welcome and please please bring the sunshine with you!



*Paula with another of our greys*

Fiona

### **Greys around the world**

Following on from last month's article on dog sanctuaries around the world, this month we look at one closer to home in Bulgaria and the problems they face with animal cruelty. This is their story.

Bulgaria is still the only country in the European Union, which does not consider the torturing of animals a criminal offence. Even though as a requirement to become part of the EU Bulgaria signed the Animal Protection Act, very little has changed in the two years since.... because someone "forgot" to tell the police to enforce it.

Dogs that live on the street face severe cruelty every day of their lives in one form or another. From being hit by cars to intentionally used for cruel sport. In winter with the temperature regularly reaching 10 below and no food or water they simply freeze to death.

Before the main tourist seasons begin in both the Ski Resorts and Beach Resorts of Bulgaria, the stray animal population has to pay a terrible price in the preparations for the tourists. They pay with their lives. But they are not just put to sleep humanely as they are in civilised countries - instead these animals are poisoned and endure long extremely painful and torturous deaths, some are even bludgeoned to death. And for those that manage to escape these illegal culls, there is something far worse in store.

They are spray shot with small pellets by children, specifically designed to maximize suffering without killing the animal. Yes, you read that correctly - *children*. Or, they are rounded up and put in cages without food or water and left to either starve to death or turn into cannibals. Illegal canine fighting is also easy to find in Bulgaria - if you know where to look. And no one seems to be doing a thing.

At its regular session in April this year 2009, the Parliament at first adopted, and immediately afterwards rejected the amendments of the Penal Code which suggested that the deliberate mutilating and murdering of vertebrates be considered a crime.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and in a country, which considers itself part of the European Union, this is inexcusable.

But be under no illusion that this is purely a Bulgarian problem, ex-pat owners routinely dump their pets when they are moving back home and expect them to survive, and it's left to Animal Welfare volunteer groups such as **AidBG** to pick up the pieces.

**AidBG:** Animals In Distress Bulgaria (the Varna Branch of the BSAPP Reg. Charity) works tirelessly to try and save and re-home as many of these animals as they can through their Spay / Neuter; Feed / Education and Adoption initiatives. "We are committed to eradicating dog homelessness in Bulgaria whilst educating the Bulgarian public about the proper treatment of animals".

But they need your help...



AidBG receives no lottery or state funding to help their cause; they rely solely on donations from animal lovers to continue their work. AidBG Founder Jacquie New says, "Being located in a poor country makes raising funds extremely difficult. Please help us help the animals by contributing any way you can. All of the money raised goes directly to helping sterilize dogs and cats and provide second chances to some of Bulgaria's most vulnerable animals".

For further information on the work of AidBG and ways in which you can help please visit the website: [www.aidbg.com](http://www.aidbg.com)

They also have a group on Facebook, which you can join for up to date news and events:



AidBG - Animals in Distress

Bulgaria -

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38056055355>



Daisy: She had been tortured and was found starving and suffering from a severe skin condition. AidBG saved her and now she is in full health and has a loving "Forever Home" of her own. Just one of our success stories.

### Day at the kennels

This month we bring you an article on what a normal day is like at our Baltree kennels, this is Emma's story

Working at Greyhound Rescue Fife is the most rewarding job that I have ever done. Going down to Baltree Farm every day helping to look after these amazing dogs is such a pleasure that when I finally got a full time job and couldn't help out every day I was fed up!!

A typical day working at Baltree Kennels usually started around 10am when I would go in and say hello to all the doggies. They would get so excited seeing you after being on their own all night. I would check that they were all ok and would then spend the next hour or so

cleaning out the kennels. This involves picking up poo and mopping up pee. Not the most glamorous of jobs but i enjoyed it. I felt as though I was really doing something to help look after the greyhounds and make things nice for them.

After finishing the cleaning, I would then take them for a run in the paddock with another volunteer who would be working that day. It is great fun, seeing them take off at top speed chasing each other, and me, round and round the paddock. It would then be time for a walk round the beautiful woodland behind the kennels. By the end of the walk they are usually happy and tired and ready for a snooze. After doing all that exercise and cleaning it is usually time for a well earned rest and a cuppa.

By this time it is around 1.00pm. As it is a little too early for their dinners yet, we get out the grooming equipment and give some of them a good groom (and lots of attention and cuddles as well which is always a firm favourite). It is then dinner time....for me that is!!!!

At around 3pm we start feeding all the hungry hounds. This can take some time although it is usually all snaffled up in less than 5 minutes. Then its snooze time, but not for me though. Its usually around 4pm by this time and time to go and collect all the dinner bowls, check they have enough water and administer any medication they may need. After a good tidy up and a Hoover its home time.

As well as taking care of the greyhounds we also have the job of bringing in any new rescue greyhounds or meeting people who would like to adopt a greyhound. Re-homing a friend is the best part of working at a rescue home. It is always sad to see your friend go but when you know they are going to a loving

home and how happy they will be it is a great feeling.

As i cant spend all of my day at GRF now due to work, I still go down some nights after work to help out and at weekends. I also help out with admin stuff like the monthly walks, posters etc.

I just couldn't imagine working anywhere else.....

### **Jackie's Story**

Each time it has snowed I thought of the all the dogs in kennels throughout the UK. Dogs that were anxious and afraid just like children lost in this large hostile world. I decided to collect my mums woollen coats and old coats from neighbours and hand them in to my local SSPCA dog home .

My project was to raise enough money for 100 dog coats for my nearest dog rescue centre at Cardonald cat and dog home. I contacted Mediums, Tarot Card Readers and Therapists and they agreed to do readings and therapies for the cause, I also had stalls selling crystals and books etc. and a small café selling teas and coffee. This was the first part during the day.

The second part concluded with the evening session with four top Scottish mediums who did a demonstration of survival after physical death. I introduced my friend Linda to the audience whom came from the local SSPCA and then four mediums each did  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour sessions, One of the mediums gave Linda (the SSPCA officer) evidence that she was disturbed at night because she is not just dealing with neglected animals but down right evilness on them. Linda agreed with the mediums suggestions.



*(Jackie with all the beds and coats)*

The event raised an amazing £1700 in total a lot more than I ever imagined through the generosity of all who contributed and attended the event held. I bought dog coats and beds wholesale and I have been distributing them to various rescue centres that I found on the internet including Greyhound Rescue Fife. I am planning to make this an annual event, and would be especially grateful for anyone who would willing to help at out the door, make tea or by simply attending the next event and having a good time this will help the coffers especially if they bring their friends along.



*(Celia and Jimmy Receiving the dog beds and blankets with Billy and Lassie)*

Following on from my initial success I intend to do a fundraising evening event of mediums

in December for a dog sanctuary in Portugal [www.abrigo.me](http://www.abrigo.me) ( Portuguese site) and send this lady a cheque for the animals health bills which are presently neglected to a large extent due to lack of funds. She stays in Lisbon Portugal and has donated her farm to rescue stray animals which are usually kept in their pens for life. People break in and leave dogs and puppies there. The lady has volunteer helpers but no money for heart worm and other ailments and needs.

I would be glad if people could support this event to help me raise the money. I would get several mediums again to do the demonstration. This would be an evening only event with one to one readings and therapies with a glass of wine or tea. I am thinking of charging £5 for entrance fee.

I am also looking for peoples stories about their animals, touching stories how they were telepathic with their animal or saw their animals after it passed away. Any stories and photos of interest could be included in my next book. The stories can remain anonymous if they wish. It will help to have names places rough dates of you experiences if possible

Please email stories to: [jackiejones-hunt@btconnect.com](mailto:jackiejones-hunt@btconnect.com)

Please look at my website:

[www.jackiejoneshunt.co.uk](http://www.jackiejoneshunt.co.uk)

Many thanks on behalf of Jackie Jones-Hunt

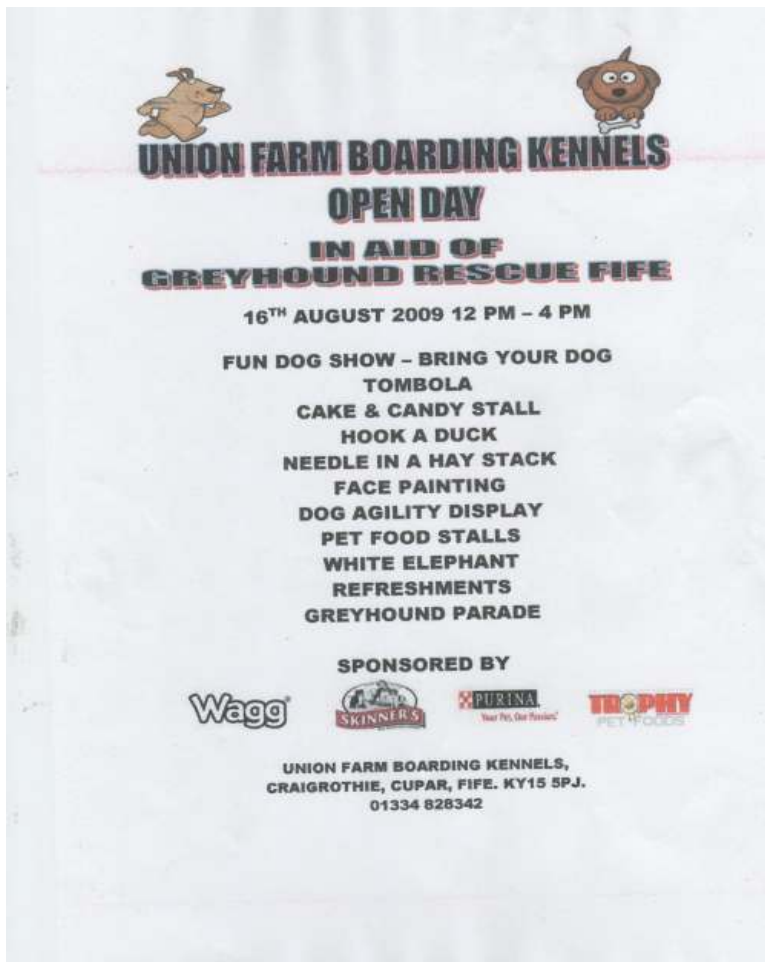
*Did you know: That the greyhound is the only breed of dog mentioned in the Bible. Proverbs 30, Verses 29-31.*

## Dates for the Diary

Next dog walk will be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 11:00 at West sands St Andrews. For those who have not been to this walk before we meet at the far end of the beach (grassy parking area, so hopefully it will stay dry !!)

### Open day at Union farm

Union farm is holding an open day on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August between 12 - 4pm, in support of GRF. Apart from allowing everybody the opportunity to see these fantastic kennels they will also have a number of stalls and things to do see flyer below for full details. We hope as many of you as possible can support this event.



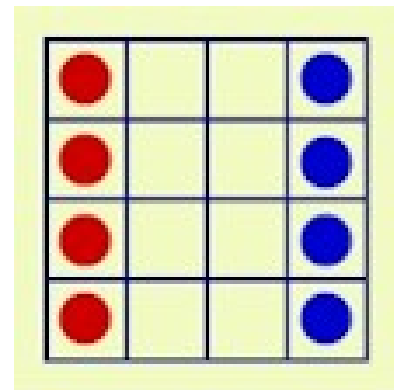
## Pet show in Penicuik

GRF will have a stall at the forthcoming pet show being held at Ladywood Sports centre in Penicuik. The event takes place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August and we hope that as many of you as possible can come along and support our cause. We will be running a home baking stall to raise funds for our cause so any donations will be greatly welcome on the day !!

### And finally....

This month's puzzle

There are 4 red and blue chips in a 16-square board. Can you rearrange them in such a way that no two chips of the same colour will be in the same row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally?



Look out for the answer in next month's newsletter!