

Greyhound Rescue Fife

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



Black Beauty!

Thank you for reading the official Greyhound Rescue Fife newsletter!

I may be bias but black hounds are absolutely gorgeous! Unfortunately black dogs seem to spend longer in the kennels before they find their forever home. The image above is of Buster who has been looking for his forever home for a wee while now. We took him for a day out recently, he is an absolute star. Whoever takes him home with them is incredibly lucky!

If you would like to home a dog from Greyhound Rescue Fife call Jimmy and Celia on 01577 850393 or 07826 244765 or you can email ferniejimmyf@aol.com to arrange a suitable time to meet your new member of the family!



Kennel News

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



Meet Biggie

He is the dog of the month, find out more about this handsome boy...



Pet Blood Bank

Find out more about Pet Blood Bank UK...

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 thirteen new dogs; Blue, Broxi, Keira, Chandler, Lilly, Rodney, Tiger, Allie, Charlie (brindle), Maid, Vinnie, Fagin and Donald. In the same time thirteen dogs have also found their forever homes! These were Sammy, Gem, Jimmy (blue), Star, Nala, Blue, Lulu, Biggie, Broxie, Keira, Aria, Chandler and Crystal.

Dog of the Month



I am pleased to report that Biggie has already found his forever home! Biggie has made GRF into GRF International since he was our first (and probably last) dog rehomed abroad. He went to a great friend of GRF who lives in France! We have heard that he has settled fantastically well already. The full story (and some cute pictures) can be found on the Fife Forum on our website.

Monthly Walks

14th April at Lochore Meadows, Lochgelly



Monthly walks take place on the second Sunday of every month and are great way to meet other owners and let dogs socialise with each other. The next walk is on 12th May at South Inch, Perth. We hope to see you there!

Very Sad News

It is with heavy hearts that we have to report the death of Eileen Rickenbach.

Eileen was diagnosed with terminal cancer 13 months ago. She bravely fought it but finally she succumbed on the 21st April.

Those of us who had the great honour of knowing her and calling her a friend, remember a very cheery lady, always laughing, even recently. She was a very hard working lady at the kennels, who never seemed to stop, even for a wee rest.

GRF has lost a priceless volunteer and she will be very sadly missed.

Thank you Eileen for all the laughs you gave us at the kennels.

Celia, Jimmy, the staff, Connor the greyhound and all your many friends.



Barry 'n' Sue

Grass...

We had an emergency visit to the vet recently with Sue, something we didn't even think would be an issue! She loves to roll about in freshly mown grass when the sun is out for some reason, she was doing this on a recent walk and started to scratch her eye when we got home, on closer inspection she had a blade of grass stuck in her eye. It had gotten stuck underneath the tear duct. Thankfully the vet was able to remove it without sedation and saw only minor damage to the eye which she was given eye drops for. After lots of cuddles she was back to her normal self. Who knew a roll in the grass could go so wrong?!



Doggy Doos

This Month's "Doggy Doos" has been taken directly from the Greyhound Rescue Fife website where you can find many other useful care advice for your hounds.

Trust - A Deadly Disease

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called trust.

You knew before you ever took your Greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly rescued racer may steal off counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats, and must NEVER be allowed off his lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separate and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalised expression. (The first is NO!) You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about whom you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your Greyhound becoming more civilised every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less mischief, less breakage. Almost before you know it your racer has turned into an elegant, dignified friend. Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him to more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cosily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. After a time you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in.

Remember, he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that proves the rule. (And sometimes, late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.) At this point the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head.

Years pass--it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the washing, or jump out window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer. He spies the neighbours dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running- Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever-your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is TRUST. The final outcome hit by a car.

Every morning my dog Shah bounced around off his lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

I would like to offer two additional accounts about the dangers of an unfenced area. This first account is really a basic tragic accident, due to an improperly fitting collar. The owners actually had the dog on a lead, but unfortunately were using only a flat buckle collar on the dog. The dog became frightened at something, and just backed out of her collar. She took off away from them at top speed. Before they could manage to even get close to catching up to her, she had run out onto a road, and was instantly killed by a car. This is one of the reasons we advise using a halti while walking your Greyhound in an unfenced area.

The second account involves too much trust and a lack of common sense. The owners lived somewhat out in the country. Woods surrounded their home and they were well off any major roadway. They had their new Greyhound about three weeks, when I got the phone call that I hate the most, "Our Greyhound is lost!" I knew these owners did not have a fenced yard, but they had sworn they would keep the dog on a lead when taken outdoors. Upon further questioning, I discovered that they quit using the lead after about the first week. The weather had got cold, and so early in the mornings they would simply turn her out the back door, wait for her to "do her business," then call her back in. "she ALWAYS came when she was called," the woman lamented to me. They felt it was safe enough to allow her off the lead for just short bits of time, as they didn't live near a high traffic road, and she had never ventured into the woods before. Unfortunately, the little Greyhound DID bound off into the woods this particular morning. Perhaps she heard a squirrel rustling in some nearby leaves, or smelled a rabbit, but whatever the reason, she had taken off into the woods, and they could not find her. Our hopes of finding her safe and sound faded a little more with each passing day, and no sign of the pretty little female Greyhound.

After several weeks, our worst fears were confirmed. We got a call from a very nice man, who had been walking through the woods with his son when they discovered the still, cold body of a small, dead Greyhound. He got our number off her collar ID tag. She was found many, many miles from her home. Why did she run off this time when she had been so reliable before? Why didn't she come racing back as she always had when her family called for her? who knows? What we do know is that ultimately dogs will be dogs. No matter how much or how long you train and teach your dog, there WILL come a point where their instincts will win over learned behaviour.

Please don't be fooled into a false sense of security with your Greyhound. Take the time, make that little extra effort, to ensure your Greyhound will be safe. Remember that they are depending on you. **KEEP THEM ON A LEAD.**



Pet Blood Bank UK

By Gail and Roxy



Roxy is a GRF girl, homed in March 2013

You may or may not be surprised to hear that there is such a thing as a Blood Bank for dogs. If the hounds have an accident or illness they too require blood and after I found out about the Pet Blood Bank I registered my girl Roxy.

Dogs have different blood types but if your dog has Negative blood type then any dog can receive it in an emergency, Lurchers and Greyhounds tend to be Negative blood types so are ideal donors.

A typical appointment for Roxy and I;

The Pet Blood Bank UK schedule their sessions as far in advance as they can so you know well ahead what dates they will visit your nearest donation place. Roxy and I travel to the Royal Dick Vet at Edinburgh University which is at the Bush Estate out near Penicuik.

You can pick your appointment time so most of the time it is at a time that suits you best, we arrive about 10 mins before her appointment to hand in paperwork and check her weight the dogs need to weigh more than 25kg to donate. Once that bit is done the dogs are spoiled with cuddles and biscuit treats and water.

First part of the appointment is where they check your dog over a bit of a health check, temperature etc and check their microchip if they have one, they then clip away some hair on the dogs neck to take a sample of blood to check they are ok to donate, very like humans when we get the finger pricked to check iron levels etc. You are then advised if they can take blood from your dog.

Back to the waiting room for more cuddles and biscuit treats until you are called to donate, usually 5 to 15 minutes wait.

Second part of the appointment you go into the donation room and all the Pet Blood bank volunteers make a big fuss of the dogs and put them at ease with more biscuits and cuddles. The dog is then lifted onto the vet table to lie on a cushion mat and they take the blood from the jugular vein in the neck, once the dog is relaxed they insert the donation needle/tube and keep the dog calm by talking to them and rubbing their tummy and the donation begins. The length of time it takes to donate varies from dog to dog, our experience Roxy takes about 5/6 minutes to donate a pint of blood, which goes on to help/save another 4 dogs lives. Once the donation is complete the vet removes the needle / tube and ensure the dogs neck is ok and put on some gauze and a brightly coloured bandage, the dogs are then lifted down from the table and offered water and treats and cuddles, we then take a seat in the waiting area for 5/10 minutes and a vet checks over the dog to ensure they are good to go home and then they are presented with a goody bag which contains information about Pet Blood Bank and treats, the dogs also get a new toy.

My girl Roxy is absolutely fine after donating she has a sleep in the car on the way home and is hungry so has an extra special treat for dinner and is back to her normal energy level by early evening.

Roxy has donated 11 times helping at least 44 other dogs, the Pet Blood Bank UK only use dogs who are between 1 and 8 years old and weigh over 25kg and are not service dogs (as they are working all the time). They are a fabulous organisation and help to save so many dogs with their stocks of blood but the same as Humans they are always short so IF YOU THINK YOUR DOG CAN DONATE contact Pet Blood Bank UK.

Typical Hound

OOFT! It's been roasty, toasty recently, eh?! I have been super busy sunning myself in the garden, life doesn't get much better! Although Mummy did have the cheek to interrupt my busy schedule by taking me for a walk! I huffed, puffed and walked real slow so hopefully she got the hint!

Anyway, gotta go, I have a very busy afternoon of sunbathing planned!

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Dog Show

As we near our upcoming dog show (Sunday 2nd June), we still have some advanced tickets for sale, priced £5 for adults (kids u16 free). Remember buying these in advance not only helps us plan for the show but this year if you add your names to the back of your ticket you will be entered into a free prize draw, which will be drawn at the first homeless hound's parade :0)

For anyone who has recently re-homed a greyhound from us or have not been to a show before can find full details along with some FAQ's on our web site (Fife dog show tab on home page) or on our Facebook site. This is always a great day in the GRF calendar and certainly not one to be missed ! and if one of those people without greyhound and maybe want to find out a bit more about them, before taking the plunge then this is the show to be at and see many of the myths surrounding these hounds expelled. So hope to see a large turnout of people and dogs on what will be our 12th show !

Whether, you buy your tickets in advance or pay at the door (yes you can also do that!!) remember to purchase your show programme which, will not only have details of the show but also contact details of our major sponsors along with our "Rainbow bridge memorial page". This year each programme also has a "lucky number" printed on the front and this will also be drawn at our first homeless hound parade.

From this weekend and with all your help we will "ramp up" advertising of our event. You can help us by downloading our show poster and distributing this in various areas in your neighbourhood. Also for those that use social media I would ask as many of you as possible to share the poster far and wide ensuring you ask your friends to do likewise, let's see how far we can spread the message !!!

We are also on look out for volunteers to man some of our own stalls and items at the show I.e.

- tombola
- home baking
- coffee/tea
- raffle

If interested please get in touch for more info.

The Bottle Stall, new for the 2019 dog show. A pack of cards, pick any three for a pound. An Ace or picture card wins you a bottle. We need donations of bottles of anything please-alcohol, soft drink, shampoo, sauce, anything that comes in a bottle. Use your imagination and make this stall lots of fun with all proceeds going to the homeless hounds. Bring your donations along to the walk or at the dog show itself.

We are also after donations for the raffle and tom-bola and the home-baking please. Got a favourite recipe? Get baking!

Finally for those coming along we will once again be running our successful show home-baking stall :0) so look out these favourite recipes and donate to our stall to sell on and raise much needed funds for our hounds currently in our kennels awaiting their forever homes. Your ongoing support of our event, helps save Greyhound's lives.

See you all there on the 2nd June!

Your Stories

Since this is a community newsletter we would like to include more of your stories. If you have recently homed a hound and would like to let us know how they are settling in, if you would like to share a story about a recent trip or any other story about your hound then please let us know and we can share it in the newsletter! Email your stories to grfnewsletter@gmail.com.



With Thanks

I would like to thank Jimmy, Celia, Hannah, Michelle, Alex, Gail, Roxy and Steve for their contributions to this issue.