

Greyhound Rescue Fife

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



The monthly lucky draw has adopted new electronic technology for the draws, replacing the old bingo machine which has served us well. Goodbye old friend.

And many thanks to Fiona Smith who faithfully organises the draw every month.

Welcome to the March edition of the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Sheila and Eion.



Kennel News

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



Meet Duke

This is our Dog of the Month.



Running Free

We feature two locations where your dog can safely be off-lead.

Kennel News

Dogs In and Out

Since the last newsletter 31 dogs have come in. They are:

Milly, Maisie, Flash, Namo, Duke, Lily, Rosie, Nia, Prince, Chloe, Vinnie, Matt, Fury, Thomas, Allen, Wren, Harry, Matilda, Ron, Nova, Flo, Princess, Toby, Lucille, Abigail, Jenny, Lionel And Paddy.

And 37 dogs have been adopted. They are:

Madonna Ron Prince Toffee Allen Lionel Chloe Tony Nia Hailey Rose Star Miska Paddy Rosie Queenie
Dougie Abigail Jenny Zoe Vinnie Cherokee Lily Tia Norman Claudia Nicole Alpacino Lucy Bella Mopsy Elsie
Toby Cara Kate Trafford Ted.

Boarding Reopened

Boarding at Baltree will resume from 1st April.

Woods

The wood is now open for walking and the dogs enjoy a stroll along the new paths. A small team Celia, Neil, Ewan and Gillian are transforming it into a nice walking area.



Amusing Story

We rehomed Kate a short while ago and before she left we had in residence Kate and William (Bill) and Harry and Megan. Quite a coincidence. We were hoping to get in Charles and Camilla.

A Sad Story

Jimmy and Celia have lost three of their house dogs this year. Tony in January, Josie in February and Foggy in March. A terrible start to 2023.

Dog of the Month

Duke is a tall, dark and absolutely stunning 3 year old. Duke, while initially strong on the lead, has the makings of a fabulous pet. Duke gets on well with the other greyhounds in the kennels and is an all round super boy. Big black dogs often spend most time waiting for their forever homes. Crazy, we know! Let's change this statistic. Call Celia on 07826 244765 for more information.



Big Band Concert

Once again Phil Piper is organising a concert with the Inverkeithing Big Band in aid of GRF. The concert will be on May 14 2023 at the Bay Hotel, Kinghorn. As always Phil pays all the incidental expenses so that all proceeds from the ticket sales go to GRF. Thank you, Phil.

Those of us who have been at previous concerts know how professional the Band is. Come along – we guarantee you an enjoyable afternoon.



Strategy Summit

On November 25 2022 Greyhound Rescue Fife hosted a meeting with Ian McNally MP, Marie Dunbar his caseworker, Ian Foster of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain and Celia and Jimmy. It was a positive discussion covering all aspects of greyhound welfare.



Incredible Hattis

GRF would like to say a HUGE thank you to the Hattis for their generous donations when they visited the kennels just before Christmas. The Hattis described to their helpers and fundraisers how things went on the day.

"Well, with the most grateful thanks we could possibly give, the incredible dogs at Greyhound Rescue Fife waiting for their forever families, were able to have a cosy Christmas and enjoy feeling loved too with peace of mind that we care. Your food donations, yummy treats, cosy-snuggly blankets, new safe beds, leads, soft vet-bedding, toys and all the money raised has enabled Celia, Jimmy and all their incredible volunteers and the caring vets at Alpha Vets, to continue doing what they do for the beautiful greyhounds waiting patiently for the families they have never had. We put all the bags of money raised in a lovely cake tin to keep it safe for them... £2,030.49p... Celia thought we were bringing her a cake! Celia and Jimmy wanted all the money to go straight to the vets they use to help pay for all the operations and treatments the greyhounds need, so that's what we did!"



March 2023

Karen's Canines

GRF would like to thank Karen's Canines (Karencanines2014@gmail.com) for organising a Christmas hamper raffle which raised £200 for the Hounds.

Christmas Wreaths

Once again Amy Wilson has been making her Christmas Wreaths. She raised a magnificent £220 to help the hounds. Thank you Amy and also all those who supplied Amy with the materials to make the wreaths.



Greyt Greyhound Gear

Greyt Greyhound Gear not only makes attractive and hardwearing greyhound coats but all profit from the business is donated to selected greyhound rescues. Thank you Liz Stewart for the latest donation of £400. Lots of GRF hounds are now wearing these lovely coats.



Charm Keyrings

Jan Holden made some collar/key rings. Each has a silver coloured greyhound, a coloured heart and a tassel. These are close to being sold out and should raise around £80 for GRF with cost of all materials covered by Jan. Star enjoys modelling the collar rings.



Running Free

Greyhound Owners often post pictures on Facebook of their dogs running free in enclosed fields. Here we feature two such places.

Smeaton Dogwood

LOCATION Smeaton Estate, East Linton, East Lothian, EH40 3DT. It is about a 30- minute drive from Edinburgh.

PRICE 15 for 50 minutes for up to 4 dogs.

WEBSITE <https://smeatondogwood.co.uk>

Radka Peterson tells us of her experience at Smeaton with her hound, Billy.

There are a few enclosed running fields around Edinburgh where we live with our greyhound, Billy. I wanted something a bit different though, something with more excitement to it. Our Billy's favourite walk is definitely woodland. He loves the most to explore and sniff around woods. So, when Smeaton Dogwood enclosed woodland park for dogs popped up for me on social media, I knew I had to take Billy there. And the place certainly delivered.

It is a paradise for otherwise always on leash dogs. It gives them a chance to enjoy a hectare of adventure and free running among trees and shrubs. It provides a lot of sensory stimulation. Humans are rewarded with a happy dog (or

dogs) and lovely views over the surrounding East Lothian countryside. One proviso – with younger, very active dogs you need to be cautious and keep the dogs in sight at all times so they avoid dangerous collisions.

This field seems a bit pricier compared to other dog parks, but it's worth every penny. There is an additional fee if you want to bring more dogs. Seeing Billy so contented was priceless. We will be back at Smeaton, it is a lovely trip for the whole family. There are other things to see and do around the farm, check out their website: <https://smeatondogwood.co.uk>

And you are just a short drive from fish and chips in North Berwick!!!

See if you can spot Billy enjoying himself in this photo.



Run Free Dog Fields

LOCATIONS Various in Central Belt and around Aberdeen. The nearest locations to Kinross are Kingseat, Inverkeithing, South Queensferry, Winchburgh, Kirkliston, Whitburn and Dalkeith.

PRICE £6.50 for 30 minutes for up to 4 dogs.

WEBSITE <https://runfreedogfields.co.uk>

Laura Thomson tells us more.

When I first heard of Run Free Dog Fields, I pictured my furry baby (we only had Jimmy the dog at the time) elegantly galloping gleefully through a lush green meadow as the sun shone in a clear blue sky above us. I know, talk about naive!

So what's it like in reality? Well, you would imagine a Run Free field would be ideal for zoomies wouldn't you? Not for our two!(Vickie has joined Jimmy now). They follow each other around the 6 foot fenced perimeter taking in all the smells and peeing every couple of metres or so. Then, when Jimmy is satisfied that all the periphery smells have been sniffed, he makes his way inward to any other objects.

Some of the fields, like the Activity field in Kirkliston, have agility training equipment, perfect for more sniffs and pees! At this time, Vickie will have found the furthest corner and will be standing staring at whatever wildlife are in the neighbouring fields (often cows and sheep if you're at the Longridge /Whitburn field!) And that's it, very rarely do my furry babies run. In fact, I think their dad runs more than they ever do! They bounce, sniff and pee but most importantly, they enjoy the freedom to explore on their own. The fields are often patchy and fairly muddy due to the popularity of them, but when the (furry) kids are happy, so are the pawrents!

The Run Free website is really easy to navigate. First you select your field (there are plenty of locations and more keep getting added!) Then you select your time slot and pay. 30 minutes for a reasonable £6.50. After payment, you are sent a confirmation email with a code for the padlock on the field gate.

The Run Free fields are, in our experience, pretty well sign posted. They usually have space for at least two vehicles to park, with some also having a dog-lock to drive into and let your pack out safely. The Run Free sites we have visited have all had a small wooden shelter with picnic bench seating, poo bags, access to drinking water for the dogs and waste bins. Most of them also have a tap or hose to help wash dirty paws afterwards.



Pet Therapy

Allison Hobbes recently adopted the adorable sisters, Hailey and Rose. She tells us how they have provided pet therapy sessions.

I work at a day care centre. There are approximately 10 people over age 65 that attend per day. They come for a whole range of reasons for example dementia, loneliness, complex health needs and to have a day away from loving but often stressed and tired carers. Rose and Hailey have attended on three separate days. I suggested bringing the girls in as we used to have a visit from a Therapet pre COVID. The session lasted about 30 mins and Hailey and Rose were so calm and loving. Many members used to have dogs but are unable to look after them now. They loved stroking the girls and they were a great height for wheelchair bound members. Seeing the dogs started some lovely conversations and triggered memories of their own pets. Some people got very emotional talking about their much loved pets. It is something we will do again as it was a very positive session.



Christmas at the Kennels

All the hounds were delighted when Santa called to Baltree bringing dog chews for everyone.



Happy Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day love was in the air at GRF, when volunteers got creative & wrote a Valentines poem for every dog in kennels (32 in total.) These were posted on Twitter. We don't have space to include them all but here are a few.

Roses are red
Daffodils are yellow
Look at our Flash....
Such a handsome fellow

When roses and violets
Just don't bring you joy
For love everlasting
Maybe Harry's your boy

Elsie is white
Megan is blue
Both are pretty and dainty
And would love to meet you

Happy Valentines Day



Dog Walks

November

Great weather and great turnout for today's GRF monthly walk at Blairadam Forest, although parking was a challenge! There were 63 Greyhounds and honorary greyhounds in attendance, and between pound-a-hound and the raffle we raised £215.20



December

A great turnout for today's walk, especially given the weather at Pittencrieff Park. This has to go down in history as GRFs slipperiest walk ever - the car park and some of the paths were like a skating rink! There were around thirty hounds and honorary hounds in attendance today, all of whom managed to stay upright throughout. Between Pound-a-hound, the Raffle and Jemma's other fundraising activities we raised £236.



March 2023

January

Forty six unfortunate hounds were dragged along to this months walk in torrential rain by their deranged owners! In my defence, says organiser Steve Dowd, the forecast did not accurately predict what we endured, and it was relatively dry and bright when we set off from the car park. A total of £182 was raised between Pound-a-Hound, the Raffle and the home made liver cake.



February

A big thank you to everyone who came along to todays walk - an amazing 80 dogs including a few honorary greyhounds. The weather was considerably better than last months walk too! We raised a total of £284.65 comprising £30 for snoods, £10 for sardine fudge, £165 from the raffle and £79.65 from pound-a-hound



**The next walk will be on Sunday 12th March in Lochore Meadows starting at 11.00am.
March 2023**

Lucky Number Draws

November

There were 160 numbers in the draw this month. That gave a total of £320 which will be split as £192 to GRF and £128 to the winner.

December

This was a bumper month for the Lucky Draw with all 180 numbers sold. That gave a total of £360 which was split as £216 to GRF and £144 to the winner.

New Technology Fiona who organises the Lucky Draw which started in 2007 has decided to update the way the numbers are drawn. She is going to use an electronic lottery number generator which would bring us more up to date instead of her old bingo machine. This means that participants cannot choose their own numbers and they may not have the same numbers each month. Fiona posts a list of all names and numbers prior to the draw taking place. The chance of winning will not change. The draw still takes place by live video.

January

There were 163 numbers entered into the draw. That gave a total of £326 with £195.60 going to GRF and £130.40 to the winner.

February

There were 178 numbers entered into the draw. That gave a total of £356 with £213.60 going to GRF and £142.40 to the winner

Thanks to Fiona for organising the draws and thanks to all who take part.

Important Appeal for Volunteers

With over 40 dogs in kennels at the moment, GRF always needs more volunteers to help walk the dogs, either in the mornings or the evenings.

Even if you can only help out for an hour, that can be a big help.

To find out more about volunteering, contact Celia – 07826244765.

Easyfundraising

When doing your online buying please don't forget to shop through Easyfundraising. There are new retailers eg Next joining the scheme all the time and specials offers and competitions all the time. Please remember it costs you nothing extra to shop via Easyfundraising but will raise funds for the homeless hounds. We have now raised over £2300.

To find out more and join the other GRFers raising money this way please follow this link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/greyhoundfife/>

There is a pinned post on the forum with more information about this.

Contributions Welcome

If you would like to tell fellow greyhound owners anything about your dogs and what you do together, please email us. greyhoundsmc@outlook.com

With Thanks

We would like to thank all contributors for their help with this issue.