

# Greyhound Rescue Fife

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



### **Fashion Parade**

*Lots of lucky greyhounds got lovely new coats for Christmas. They were keen to show them off at the monthly walk in January. We think that you will agree that they look very smart.*



Welcome to the February 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 Fergie**

This is our Dog of the Month.



### **Tales from the Archives**

A new series describing GRF's development from modest beginnings in 2005.

## Kennel News

### Dogs In and Out

Since the last newsletter 40 dogs have come in. They are:

Glen Smoothie Mary Lark Judy Barney Sally Jackson Honey Alfie Burgess Sophie Fly Indigo Sparkle Cassie Rosie Snoopy Connie Chief Maxwell Bobby Milo Dior Burgey Lola Kipper Princess Ruby Josie Kate Magic Tom Topsy Jasper Bolt Scout Tiger Hector Elsie.

And 49 dogs have been adopted. They are:

Marion Bouncer Panda Sarah Liston Silver Lola Fly Barney Mia Pal Rose Smoothie Mary Mimi Bruno Belle Flash Snoopy Sophie Max Stan Andy Stefan Glen Burgess Milo Jack Megan Gaston Maureen Sally Jackson Jimmy Treacle Liz Conner Lola Princess Kipper Teejay Kate Taylor Ruby Ellie Tom Burgey Callie Mermaid.

### Dog of the Month

Can you resist a handsome and loving lad? Fergie is a medium sized boy with a stunning, glossy brindle coat and gorgeous bright eyes. He is just two years old with only a handful of races behind him. Although young with little experience of the world he is a smart cookie who will learn more about life quickly. We see progress in him since his arrival at Greyhound Rescue Fife. He has settled in well and would thrive even more in a loving home. He has been nicknamed by one of our volunteers as “the leopard print sofa” on account of him taking “leaning in” to a new level. He has a habit of leaning into your leg when walking. It’s funny, sweet and comforting. He is a kennel favourite and a greeter, who wants to be loved and likes a fuss. In return he will give lots of love back. He is a good, confident walker, who likes walks and is friendly with fellow greyhounds. He is great friends with kennel neighbour Candy. They trot happily along together on their daily outings in Celia’s woods. Fergie was a very good boy when he joined our monthly social walk in July, his first proper adventure in the outside world. He enjoyed being part of a big pack of greyhounds and he took it all in his stride. He also was good meeting different breeds of dogs and made lots of new friends. Youngsters like Fergie should be living their best life in a loving home, having lots of new adventures. Please call Celia on 07826 244765 to find out more about this wonderful boy. He will make someone an amazing pet.



## Tales from the Archives

### Part 1 - The Way We Were

Celia and Jimmy never set out to found and run a greyhound rescue charity. It happened by accident. Never having had a greyhound before, they took in an unwanted greyhound called Tiggy. Celia says they looked into the eyes of this brindle greyhound, so underweight and very ill and fell in love with him. Unfortunately Tiggy died of bone cancer after five years. Celia and Jimmy felt they had to do something in his memory so they adopted another male greyhound. They had discovered that greyhounds make perfect house pets and this encouraged them to help abandoned greyhounds and so they set up Greyhound Rescue Fife.



Tiggy – the founder member of Greyhound Rescue Fife.

At that time Celia and Jimmy were living in Kinghorn, operating first from their home with one or two dogs and shortly after from kennels rented at Seaford House, just outside Kinghorn. In four years 240 greyhounds were adopted from these premises. But the owner served them notice to leave due to the demands of 10 dogs being kennelled there. At that time they had a second kennel block at Union Farm in Craigrothie but that too was full.

In 2009 Celia and Jimmy ploughed their life savings into buying land and the kennels at Balfree near Gairneybank which at the time had space to kennel 46 dogs. From there they launched their mission to save as many ex-racing greyhounds as possible. They recruited volunteers to help with walking the dogs and also with DIY round the premises (grass cutting, fence painting, gardening etc). Some volunteers came as individuals or couples, many of them having adopted a Balfree dog themselves. Some came because they simply enjoyed the contact with the dogs. Others came in groups from organisations who have volunteer days for their staff members. We don't have space to list all these companies but examples are SSE, Scottish Power and Scottish Water.

Jimmy and Celia recognised that many people were unwilling to consider greyhounds as pets because they thought greys would need a lot of walking every day and large amounts of food. They set about dispelling this misconception through newspaper articles and appearances on local TV. Of course, as more people adopted dogs, they acted as ambassadors for the breed. Owners will know just how often you are stopped by passers-by wanting to pet your dogs and ask questions about having them as pets.

Life wasn't always plain sailing though. In 2010 a resident of Gairneybank contacted the Perth Advertiser alleging the Jimmy and Celia were running a puppy farm at the kennels. Amazingly the reporter did not

contact Jimmy or Celia or visit the kennel premises to check out the situation and the Perth Advertiser published a slanderous article based solely on the allegation of the resident. They had not reckoned with Jimmy however!! He stormed into the paper's offices, demanded to see the editor and told him in no uncertain terms what must be done. Jimmy wanted a retraction printed in the next issue and it was to be at least as prominent as the original article or he would sue the paper for slander and defamation. The Perthshire Advertiser printed an apology and a half page article outlining the work of GRF. Ever since then the Perthshire Advertiser has been happy to print articles about Baltree kennels.

Another way of promoting the cause of greyhound rescue is by gaining endorsement from celebrities. When Harry Potter author JK Rowling adopted a GRF dog called Sapphire that resulted in global media coverage. Jimmy recalls how she turned up incognito at the kennels and it wasn't until he saw her signature on the cheque that he realised who she was.

In July 2011 GRF racked up a major milestone when they rehomed their 500<sup>th</sup> greyhound. This was Madam, a nine year old British track record holder who had had two litters of puppies. At that point Celia and Jimmy told the press that they were now aiming to rehome 1000 dogs.

To be continued....



## Snowy Woods

Back at the beginning of December it was snow frolics for the greyhounds, when Celia's wood was transformed into a magical winter wonderland. Gorgeous snow dogs, Callie and Sparkle had so much fun walking and playing in the snow, keeping their beady eyes open for squirrels.



## Forthcoming Event - Big Band Concert

A date for your diaries. Phil is organising another fundraising concert with the Inverkeithing Community Big Band. Those of us who have been to previous Big Band concerts know that this is an event not to be missed.



**In Concert**

**Inverkeithing Community Big Band**

**Sunday May 14 2 till 4**  
**at the Bay**  
**Hotel Kinghorn**  
**Tickets £10**  
**From [phil2410@gmail.com](mailto:phil2410@gmail.com)**  
**All proceeds to Greyhound Rescue Fife**

## Fundraising and Donations

Friends and supporters of GRF have been very generous. Here is a selection of what has been done. (Apologies to anyone we have missed out.) Celia, Jimmy, GRF staff, volunteers and of course the dogs are so grateful for everyone's efforts and generosity towards the rescue.

**Janice and Shona from Knit Knax** in Glenrothes raised an incredible £200.



Our staff member **Katrina Third** designed appealing Christmas cards and painted beautiful dog portraits. This raised £450.



**Mary Rodgers** masterminded the 2024 GRF calendar production. This was a team effort involving those who gathered the photos, compiled the calendar, took the calendars away to sell and those who bought them. The sale of the calendars raised £800. Well Done Mary and her Team!



**Help Fife Animals** made a much appreciated donation of £2500.

**Greycations** organised a Christmas raffle and split the takings between four greyhound charities. GRF received £75.

**Pets at Home's Cumbernauld Branch** has GRF as their partnered charity. They organised an awareness and fund raising day for GRF. How gorgeous does chief meeter and greeter Billy look with his Christmas hat on!



February 2024

**Jollyes Pet Store** in Glenrothes has allowed GRF to bring a hound to the store and fundraise for the charity. As you can see, Connor was a splendid ambassador and thoroughly enjoyed himself, especially when he was allowed to sample the Pick'n'Mix.



Irene Wightman of **MRS Training and Rescue** reported that she was able to get some community funding for GRF. She brought her granddaughter Rosie along to the kennels to present the cheque. Rosie was thrilled to meet her namesake Rosie.



February 2024



It was a great turn out at the GRF stall at the **Kinross Christmas Market**, where we had lots of visitors, including greyhound santas. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of goods donated to sell on the day, including, jewellery, home-made jam, beautiful handmade decorations, snoods and much more. An amazing £743.53 was raised on the day. Thanks to Caroline Reith for organising and all the volunteers who helped out. Also many thanks to everyone who supported on the day.



An equally impressive £700 was raised at **Kinross Summer Market** where the site was overrun by GRF greyhounds and their owners

A lovely local family adopted two GRF hounds, Lara and Smokey, a while back. These lucky hounds went to live with **The Critical Drinker**, one of the internet's most popular movie critics with over 1.8 million subscribers. The Critical Drinker created the Critical Doggo, a super cute, limited edition plush toy (now sold out) based on one of his own GRF hounds. He also suggested to his subscribers that if they didn't want to buy a plushie, they could make a donation to GRF via PayPal. Between the sale of the plushies and the donations the total raised was an enormous £26,182. This will enable GRF to fund various treatments for the dogs eg dentals or unexpected vet bills. Thank you so much Will (aka The Critical Drinker) and his wife Susan.



February 2024

An auction of a **Balgavies Osprey T shirt** raised £40 and the winning bid came from Maureen and Gordon Berry.



A flash auction of a greyhound statue donated by **Jan Buckley** was won by Darren Arnott with a bid of £40. James Shand bid £155 for a statue of three greyhounds.



### Teejay Adopted and Living His Best Life

Greyhound Rescue Fife has had our own Christmas miracle! After waiting over 2 years in rescue, Teejay found his forever home and we couldn't be happier. He now has an amazing home with a super family, including some new greyhound brothers and sisters.



It's now long termers Bob, Duke, Reece, Thomas and Matt's turn. They all have been waiting a year or more for their forever sofas. If you could offer, love, patience and experience for a long term rescue dog and would like to find out more about the adoption process, please call Celia Fernie on 07826 244765.



## GRF Open Day at Silverburn Park

The Greyhound Rescue Fife open day at Silverburn Park, Leven, in September, was a huge success, raising vital funds for GRF & raising greyhound awareness. The day included a greyhound walk around the park & along the beach (See September Walk below,) followed by games, home baking, a bric a brac stall, canine massage and a raffle. The final total raised was an amazing £1485. A big thank you again to Gillian and Euan for organising, Martin for hosting us at Silverburn, the Hatti ladies, Jan, Jen, Julie, Colin, Steve, the raffle girls and to everyone that supported GRF on the day.



## Monthly Dog Walks

### August

A total of fifty greyhounds and honorary hounds came on the walk at Dysart Harbour and Ravenscraig Park. The weather was kind with the forecast downpour only making an appearance after everyone was packed up ready to go home. We raised £203.10 in total from the raffle, pound a hound, doggy treats and Laura's keyrings



### September

A total of 81 hounds came along to the GRF Monthly Walk at Lochore Meadows. This was registered as part of the Great Global Greyhound Walk. We raised a total of £276 (£114 pound-a-hound, £127 raffle, £35 Marion's knitted snoods.)

Readers may be interested to know that this year's Great Global Greyhound Walk involved 11,818 sighthounds from 38 countries taking part in 458 walks.



February 2024

## October

An incredible turnout for the GRF Monthly Walk T Silverburn Park, Leven given the torrential rain that the country has endured. 60 greyhounds, hounds and honorary hounds made the walk with more joining us later. We raised £85 through Pound-a-hound and £347 from the raffle.



## November

The weather was kind to us for the GRF Monthly Walk at West Sands, St Andrews. A total of 55 hounds and honorary hounds joined us and enjoyed the winter sunshine. We raised a total of £218 from the raffle, pound a hound, snoods and Laura's craftwork.



## December

A great turnout of 57 hounds and honorary hounds joined the GRF Monthly Walk at Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline. Thankfully the rain held off for our final walk of 2023. Thanks to Jemma's Christmas stall and raffle, and pound-a-hound, we managed to raise just under £400. Jemma even managed to squeeze money out of random passers by. Got no cash? No problem - Jemma will find a way to get money out of you one way or another.



## January

A big thanks to everyone who braved the cold and made it to the first GRF walk of the year at Silver Sands, Aberdour. The weather was sooooo cold one of the humans had to put on his extra warm shorts! There were 74 hounds and honorary hounds (or randoms, or imposters) along with their humans. In all seriousness though, well behaved other breeds are always welcome on the walks. We raised a total of £238 - £20 from sale of snoods, £120 from pound-a-hound and the remainder from the raffle



**The next walk will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February, starting at 11.00am. The venue will be notified on Facebook.**

## Lucky Number Draws

Thanks to Fiona for all her efforts in running the Lucky Number Draws which continue to provide a steady income for GRF. The monthly summaries are given below:

August 2023 - 272 numbers - £326.40 to GRF - £217.60 to winner

September 2023 - 276 numbers - £331.20 to GRF - £220.80 to winner

October 2023 - 286 numbers - £343.20 to GRF - £228.80 to winner

November 2023 - 334 numbers - £400.80 to GRF - £267.20 to winner

December 2023 - 343 numbers - £411.60 to GRF - £274.40 to winner

January 2024 - 302 numbers - £362.40 to GRF - £241.60 to winner

## 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 special 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](mailto:greyhoundsmc@outlook.com)

## With Thanks

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