

GRF NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

January 2013

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

Welcome to the January Newsletter ... gosh it's been a long month!! Anyway, let's start with an announcement guaranteed to cheer us all up ...

THE 6TH ANNUAL GREYHOUND RESCUE FIFE DOG SHOW

WILL TAKE PLACE ON

SUNDAY 12TH MAY 2013

AT CALDWELL'S FARM, COLLESSIE

ONCE AGAIN, THE SHOW WILL BE SPONSORED BY WILLIE & LINDA OF MOFFAT, THE CATERING EQUIPMENT COMPANY - A HUGE THANK YOU TO WILLIE & LINDA FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.



Jimmy with 2012 Best In Show winner (and Golden Oldies' Class winner), Frank, and Lucy.

Please put the date in your diaries, as we depend on a large turn-out to ensure the success of the day. More details will appear on the website, so look out for those, and there will be details of sponsorship packages, etc. in February's Newsletter. We must thank Alex & Lynne Morrison for all the hard work that goes into planning this event.

From the Dog House

Dogs in since December Newsletter:

Phil, Gypsy & Johnny.

Dogs out since December Newsletter:

Jennie, Paddy, Mary & Jewel.

Can YOU help one of these dogs ...

PLEASE can you find it in your heart to give one of our dogs the forever home they so richly deserve?

Beau



Beau is a big black boy, covered with tiny white snowflakes (how appropriate!). He is very friendly, and loves attention. Beau is, in fact, quite a character. He is easy to walk on a lead, and travels exceptionally well in a car. He is good with other greyhounds.

Squeek



Squeek is a most beautiful big brindle boy. He is a dog who wants human company. He is slightly strong on a lead, but could easily be trained out of it. He gets on well with the other greyhounds, in the kennels, and is an excellent traveller in a car.

As ever, if you would like more information on the dogs featured above, or indeed any of our other dogs in 'Please Choose Me', please contact Jimmy or Celia on 01592 890583, or by e-mailing fernjejimmy@aol.com

Vet's Corner ...

There has been much written in the newspapers, and online, about the dangers of road grit to our canine, and feline, friends. It was suggested in one newspaper that hundreds of dogs and cats were dying due to the addition of antifreeze to the salt/grit that is spread on our roads.

Despite my best investigative efforts, I still cannot be 100% sure, either way, if there is any truth to this although, if we are to believe the Councils, there is no antifreeze added - it is purely a combination of rock, and other, salts. Antifreeze is expensive, so this is a plausible explanation.

Whatever the answer, salt is extremely bad for your pet - it can crack the pads and, of course, your pet will lick it off his/her paws.

We should also remember that when it is so cold and icy, people are using a lot of antifreeze in their cars - a certain amount of this will be spilled and, therefore, this is also a danger.

So, I don't think we need to listen to the scaremongering that is afoot, but simply be sensible - if your pet has walked through a gritted area give his/her paws a wash when you get home. There are also wipes on the market, such as 'Paw Wipes' by Petkin - these are available from Pets at Home.

There is also a great product on the market, 'Paw Wax' by Shaws which, when applied to the pads, helps avoid cracking and subsequent discomfort / infection.

Happy walking ... !!



ROVER REPORTER

(aka Bootsie from Rosyth!)



EACH MONTH, WE ARE HOPING TO HEAR HOW ONE OF OUR RE-HOMED GREHOUNDS IS DOING, IN THEIR FOREVER HOME, BY MEANS OF A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN THIS, PLEASE E-MAIL ME FOR A COPY OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE, AND RETURN TO ME ALONG WITH A PHOTO.
(bobbynetherland@dsl.pipex.com)

THIS MONTH WE ARE TALKING TO ELAINE & STEVE WHYTE WHO LIVE IN DUNDEE WITH THEIR GREYHOUNDS LUCY, LAMA & POPPY ...

1) **How long have you had Lucy, Lama & Poppy?**

We've had Lucy and Lama since August 2010, and Poppy since June 2011.

2) **How has having Lucy, Lama & Poppy living with you changed your life?**

Having the hounds has made us appreciate this magnificent breed and making friends with other greyhound owners. We also go out a lot less!! But we love being at home more because the hounds are there.

3) **What is the best thing about owning a greyhound?**

It's been great to watch all their personalities develop over the past few years and watch them all interacting. We also love the fact they are very easily pleased!! Food, walkies then sleep time again!! Also there's nothing better than a cosy night in cuddled up with the hounds.

4) **..... and the worst ???**

Because Lama is so big and loves pinching food it's vital to hide food above the height he can reach!! This is easily forgotten though. We've lost many a lunch this way.

5) **What 3 words would you use to describe ...**

Lucy: Bouncy, playful, diva

Lama: Arrogant, handsome, friendly

Poppy: Obedient, cuddly, mysterious

6) **What advice would you give to someone, reading this article, who may be thinking of adopting a greyhound?**

It can be difficult at first as they have never lived in a house before. Initially Lucy could get up the stairs but not down so Steve had to carry her down again for the first few days! She was also not keen on mirrors. But once they are settled in it's all worth it. Also always always keep them on the lead. They have no road sense.

7) **Any funny hound stories?**

There's always the one about Lama jumping on the kitchen table trying to get to a cake which was on top of the fridge defrosting. He then started barking at it!! The table never recovered from all the scratches and has now been replaced. Also about a week after we got Lucy she went into heat.

Lama having an emergency castration it was difficult keeping them apart!! It was a nightmare at the time but we have a good laugh about it now.



This piece, which I read recently, really made me think ...

Just A Dog:

From time to time people tell me, “lighten up, it’s just a dog”, or, “that’s a lot of money to spend on “just a dog”. They don’t understand the distance travelled, time spent, or costs involved in “just a dog”. Some of my proudest moments have come about with “just a dog”. Many hours have passed with my only company being “just a dog”, and not once have I felt slighted. Some of my saddest moments were brought about by “just a dog”. In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of “just a dog” provided comfort and purpose to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it’s “just a dog”, you will probably understand phrases like “just a friend”, “just a sunrise”, or “just a promise”. “Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy. “Just a dog” brings out the compassion and patience that makes me a better person. Because of “just a dog”, I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

For me, and folks like me, it’s not “just a dog”. It’s an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. “Just a dog” brings out what’s good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday people can understand it’s not “just a dog”. It’s the thing that gives me humanity, and keeps me from being “just a man or a woman”.

So, the next time YOU hear the phrase “just a dog”, smile, because they “just don’t understand”.

~ Author Unknown ~

A Personal Appraisal of “Just a Dog” by Susan Mitchell:

I know many people who would think nothing of spending money on the latest designer scarf, but spending money on food for “just a dog” is scorned at!

I remember, growing up, losing “just dogs” to old age and illness - the death, to me and my family, was like losing a family member. After all, “just a dog” doesn’t answer back, shout or sulk!

I also remember at the time of my divorce, and the death of my beloved grandmother, the comfort that “just a dog” gave me - always there for me, never too busy or too taken up with his/her own grief.

I have suffered from depression for many years - “just a dog” gives me a daily routine, and who can be sad when that big greyhound face plonks itself on your lap and gazes up at you ?? I also get a great deal more fresh air and exercise than I have for many years, thanks to “just a dog”.

I have met other dog owners, talked to more neighbours and, generally, looked outward more. I have made new friends, and socialised more.

Oh, I'm not saying that owning "just a dog" is the answer to this illness - there are still dark days, however, with the love, loyalty and constant companionship of "just a dog" life IS brighter for me.



It was one year on 26th January since our "just a dog", Bootsie, came home to us. It has been a steep learning curve, but he has brought us endless joy and much laughter.

Bootsie, to us, will never be "just a dog".

Other News ...

Lucky Numbers Draw:

We will have an update in the February Newsletter.

Adverse Weather:

There has been 6 inches of snow at Baltree which, of course, makes life very difficult, getting to and from the kennels, for Celia, Jimmy and the volunteers. Hopefully it will soon start to thaw but, in the meantime, the Dog Walker has really come into its own!

Lovely news:

Following the sudden, and unexpected, death of Booker last year, Greg, Nicolai & Tula have a new companion by the name of Nubis ...



Nubis has certainly landed on his paws, and all your friends at GRF wish the four of you many years of fun and happiness.