

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

May 2014

***Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!***

Well, here we are finally !! A couple of things I'd like to say first off:

- 1) Apologies for not having produced a Newsletter for several months – the last Newsletter was produced on 17th December 2013. From now on, it will be produced every two months.
- 2) Many, sincere, thanks from Mo & me for all your kind support and messages during the final weeks of Mo's Mum's illness, and after her death on 26th February. It was a very hard time for all the family. We have sponsored a Class, in the forthcoming Dog Show, in her memory - "Smile" was one of Isobel's favourite songs, and was played at her funeral.

And so to business!

The main news is, of course, our 7th Annual Dog Show which takes place next Sunday, 11th May, and we hope to see as many of you as possible there. This is our main fundraising event of the year and, as ever, Alex Morrison has put an enormous amount of work into the organisation of the Show, as have Michele & Nic, and many others. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, Mo & I have not been able to be of any practical help whatsoever this year - hopefully, next year, things will return to normal! Below is the winning poster for this year's competition, and overleaf is Alex's pre-show update.



7th Annual Greyhound Fife Dog Show
Sponsored by



**The Catering Equipment
Company**

At the time of writing, there are only a few weeks to go before our 7th Dog show. The organisers are busily putting together the finishing touches, behind the scenes, to ensure another successful show. The purpose of the show has always been to raise awareness of the plight of the greyhound under the auspice of a fun dog show, which also allows us to raise much needed funds to keep our ever growing kennels going. Greyhound Rescue Fife has come a long way since its inception 9 years ago, having saved, and found forever homes for, nearly 750 dogs! This is an amazing number but, unfortunately, it is only the tip of the iceberg and, as quick as we re-home one dog, another arrives.

Being one of the largest greyhound sanctuaries in the UK we depend on donations from all of our supporters, with every penny that we raise at this show going to ensure a better quality of life for our current incumbents until they find their forever homes. We hope that, once more, we can count on your valued support. Tickets, are on sale at our kennels and at the next dog walk and can also be purchased at the door on the day, **cost £4.00.**

This year's show has seen our popular sponsorships sell out in record time!!!! which has helped us tremendously in the planning process. Your contributions are most welcome and full details of our sponsors are below. See our forum for full details.

Finally, just a reminder that doors open at 11:00 on the day, with the first class beginning at 11:30. Remember, we are getting the use of an indoor facility on a working farm - please respect this by ensuring that you do not drop litter, and that you clean up after your dog. There will be plenty of rubbish bags available, dotted round the room, so please use! We will have plenty of parking, but please park considerately, and where our helpers show you. We also have use of a large field, where your dogs can be walked before, during or after the show (ensure you wear your wristband at all times which will allow you freedom to go in and out).

Please note that **DOGS MUST BE ON THE LEAD AT ALL TIMES** - it will be the owners' responsibility to ensure this, and be aware of their dog at all times (especially as there will be a lot of nice tasty snacks at head height !!!!). All that remains for me to say is that I hope to speak to as many of you as possible on the day Let's make this another roaring success for our cause.



Show order and Sponsors

1. Best junior handler *Class sponsored by*



Dog walking and small animal care
for Scone and surrounding areas.
Tel: 01738 553650



2. Best male greyhound
Class sponsored by Chris Mathewson, aka Bootsie's Granny!
3. Best non-greyhound
Class sponsored in memory of Penda.
4. Homeless hound parade (pre raffle sale)
5. Best family of dogs
Class sponsored in memory of Malbay, Bonnie and Ruairi Elder.
6. Best Loveable face (back due to popular demand!)
"Smile" ~ In loving memory of Isobel McMillan.
7. Best female greyhound
Class sponsored on behalf of the Polish friend of Greyhounds.
8. Homeless hound parade 2 (plus raffle)
9. Best in show final *Sponsored by Moffat the catering equipment company*



Trophies sponsored by George and Morag in memory of Steven Morrell



Rosettes sponsored by George and Morag in memory of Tommy Bisset.

Hall Hire sponsored on behalf of Jock, Foxy and Bryn from their forever homes by the sea!



Bandanas sponsored by Bootsie, your Rover Reporter!

Monthly Walks ...

Our monthly walks started again on Sunday 2nd March, with a walk in Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline. Below are some photos, taken by Steve, taken during the walk.



The second walk of 2014 took place at Ravenscraig Park, in Kirkcaldy, on Sunday 6th April. Again, a few of Steve's excellent photos are shown below.





To see more photos from our walks, check out the GRF Forum!

The next walk is this coming Sunday, 4th May, in Perth and will be led by Jess. As ever, it will start at 11:00am, leaving from Bell's. We are hoping for a good turn-out, and any tombola prizes, for the Dog Show, can be brought along. Fingers crossed for good weather!

Remember ... doggies on leads, and pickupdapoo !! 😊

From the Dog House ...

Jimmy has given me a note of the hounds who have been re-homed, and those brought in, since the start of 2014 ...

DOGS IN:

Tassie, Judy, Maxy, Billy, Robbie, Blaze, Philly, Jen, Jackie, Julie, Rosie, Pat, Angel, Misty, Lady, Jimmy (no relation!), Coco, Stanley, Danny, Maz, Jean, Ella, Tilly, Glen, Star, Sky, Gem, Timmy, Cola, Billie, Trixie, Sue & Bandit (33)

Our summer Kennels have now been filled.

DOGS OUT:

Domino, Moe, Suzy, Maggie, Bonnie, Judy, Davie, Peggy, Kev, Angel, Kitty, Posy, Blaze, Pat, Maz, Ella, Bessie, Lyla & Glen (19)

Can YOU help one of these dogs ...

I am making an appeal from some of our longest-serving residents this month.

Steve is a stunning dog, who would make a wonderful pet, and Ikey & Iris are just wonderful together ... please give these fabulous dogs a thought if you are thinking of re-homing.

Steve



Steve is a smashing black boy. He is very friendly towards everybody, and is good with his fellow greyhounds. He is very easy to walk on a lead and travels extremely well in a car. A very good looking black boy who will make an excellent pet greyhound. Steve appears on the winning entry of our poster competition.

Ikey & Iris



Ikey is a little blue and white boy, who is very nervous until he knows that you are not going to hurt him. He is a good walker on a lead. He hates to be parted from his beloved sister Iris so, if you want Ikey, you will have to take Iris as well! Ikey has the most beautiful greyhound eyes that we have ever seen.



Iris is a gorgeous little blue girl, who is an excellent walker on a lead. She gets on well with humans and hounds. Iris is Ikey's sister, and he pines without her - this pair must, therefore, be re-homed together.

As ever, if you would like more information on the dogs featured above, or indeed any of our other dogs in the 'Please Choose Me' section, then please contact Jimmy or Celia on their mobile number (07826-244765), or by e-mail at ferniejimmyf@aol.com

Vet's Corner ...

Bone Cancer:

On the 19th December 2013, Jimmy & Celia were devastated to lose their beloved Madam to bone cancer. This is how we heard the news:

"Today our beloved Madam went into the runs for a wee play with Celia. She jumped up with joy, and immediately her leg snapped. We rushed her to the vet. An x-ray showed that her leg was riddled with bone cancer, and it could not be fixed. The only option was amputation. We asked the vet how long she had, he thought absolutely tops 3 months, and it would take that to get over the operation so, to avoid her agony, we took the awful decision.

We loved her to bits. We kept her because she was 9 years old when she arrived, and had a chest infection. She was such a big darling. On top of all else this year this has broken our hearts. We are totally gutted."

Madam was the 500th hound re-homed by GRF and she was, as every visitor to the Kennels knew, a wonderful character - there was no chance of getting a seat on the sofa whilst Madam was on it!



So what do we know about this disease?

Osteosarcomas are the most common primary bone neoplasm in dogs, and the most common tumour in Greyhounds in the United Kingdom, where it accounts for 50% of all tumours, and for 22% of the deaths in the breed. Cancer in general (44%), and OSA in particular (22%), were the leading cause of death in the breed. Tumours can affect either the appendicular or axial skeletons, and occur primarily in large (and giant)-breed, middle age-to-older dogs. Preferential locations for OSA include the distal radius, proximal humerus, and distal femur, although they can occur in any bone or location.

Sadly, in many cases, by the time bone cancer is discovered, as in Madam's case, the damage is done - by the time your dog starts to limp or show signs of discomfort, the cancer has already eaten away at the bone, making the bone more liable to breakage. We have seen, several times on the Forum, cases of hounds breaking a bone and, upon taking them to the vet, bone cancer being diagnosed.

Obviously amputation of the affected limb is a possibility, which can be discussed with your Vet. Many people, however, decide that this is not an option particularly when the discomfort of the amputation, any necessary chemotherapy, and the adjustment to walking on three legs is taken into consideration. Having a dog put to sleep is a terrible decision to have to make, however, the question has to be asked "what is best for my dog?" - once you and your Vet have discussed, and answered, this you will have your answer.

Sadly, there is nothing we can do to foresee this disease, and it is one of the reasons why we must enjoy each and every day we have with our beloved pets.

ROVER REPORTER

(aka Bootsie from Rosyth!)

The Rover Reporter reports on his recent visits St. Columba's Hospice ...

I'm afraid I've not been doing any interviews of late, as we've been busy helping to look after Mummy Mo's Mum, Isobel, my Granny Izzy. On November 18th last year Granny Izzy was taken into St. Columba's Hospice, in Edinburgh, for a few weeks to stabilise her medication. She then spent a comfortable Christmas at home, with family, but started to deteriorate again, and on the 10th February, was re-admitted to the Hospice where she died on 26th February.

I had never been to a Hospice before - they sounded a bit scary, to be honest. When Granny Izzy was in the Hospice the first time I visited her most days, and I seemed to cheer up some of the visitors, and the patients! The Nurses also appeared to enjoy seeing me - they said that they had never had such a large doggy visitor before! Everyone told me how much of a difference I made, and what lovely dogs greyhound are - all good publicity for our breed! Granny Izzy was always pleased to see me, although I wasn't too keen on staying in her room for too long, at a time, as it was very warm. My visits were short, but I was happy in the car as there were a HUGE amount of rabbits in the grounds! It has to be said that, during this time, the timing of my meals was a bit erratic - not that I minded (**much**!).

The second time, I didn't go into the Hospice as often - Granny Izzy wasn't really up to seeing me, and she slept a lot. She didn't have the same patience with me, but that was because she was so unwell. (I know she loved me - see the photo of her & me below, wearing one of the Greyhound snoods she knitted to raise funds for GRF!).



The Hospice, despite our being desperately sad about Granny Izzy, was a positive and happy place. A singer came to the Day Hospice, and sang all sorts of songs, such as 'Pack Up Your Troubles' and 'Tie a Yellow Ribbon' ... the patients were singing along! Ladies came round renewing the flowers, in the rooms, every day. It really was an enlightening experience - for all of us. Yes, it was sad because someone we loved was dying, but the staff made a hard situation very much more bearable.

St. Columba's is currently based in Kirklands House at Gogarburn, it's temporary home, but moves back to its new purpose-built home in Trinity, Edinburgh in the coming weeks. The grounds at Kirklands House were amazing - peaceful and tranquil, apart from when I was chasing the rabbits! Below is a photo of the view from Granny Izzy's window.



On the 21st June, we are doing the 'Walk to Remember' to help raise money for the Hospice – it is now my **second favourite** fundraising cause!

I hope that sharing my experience will make it a little easier for any of you hounds who have to go and visit a loved one in a Hospice.

Bootsie xx

News Update ...

The end of March was pretty hectic for Jimmy & Celia at the Kennels. On a Saturday evening, at 9.30pm, they received a dog called Timmy who had broken his leg at the track. They phoned the local 'on-duty' vet, who took Timmy in - a weekend vet call-out cost £180.00, and x-rays, costing £300.00, were taken. They were told that the operation would cost £2000.00 to fix the leg. Timmy was transferred to Bob, our own vet, who assessed that the operation was not straightforward, and that the broken bones would require to be pinned by a specialist. They took Timmy to the East Neuk specialist vet, and he concurred with Bob's prognosis. Timmy was subsequently operated on. The cost was around £2,700.00, and the final cost, all-in, was around £4000.00. It is expensive, but that is what a Greyhound Rescue is for.

Then, on the Sunday, a little girl dog, Star, was brought in with a back injury. Bob x-rayed her on Monday, and a fractured pelvis showed up - fortunately, in a non-weight bearing area. It is believed that with a few months' total rest the crack will calcify and she should be fine (remember Foxy?).

Both dogs are now on the mend 😊

In all bad situations Angels appear ... Bert & Irene raised a good sum of money for us at a 'Meet and Greet' at Pets at Home, and Pets at Home also gave us a wonderful cheque for £1,346.66 after the Kirkcaldy store, and its customers, raised that amount during the Santa Paws Fundraising Appeal. A huge thank you to all concerned.

On the 15th March, Kaz & Pat Bundell made an appeal on the Forum ...

"Probably not many of you will know this, but we have been selling badges, on eBay, for Jimmy & Celia for some time now, and have raised quite a large sum of money over that period for GRF. Most of the badges came from Jimmy himself. However, we have almost used up his supply of badges. We have built up a good relationship with the buyers of these badges, many of whom come back, again and again, to purchase the items and support GRF.

So we are appealing to everyone to have a look in those attics, and the old biscuit tins. If anyone has any old badges, and would be happy to donate them to raise funds for GRF, then you can either drop them in at the Kennels, or hand them to us, or Jimmy, at the next walk.

Any badges would be acceptable, but especially old ones, military or the like. We would also accept any medals, or other small items such as jewellery - basically anything that could be posted out in a small envelope. It would be such a shame to lose our very supportive customers, so please all have a look ..."

Thank-you ...

On Saturday 26th April a race night was held at Thornton race track, with the proceeds going to the benefit of the Greyhound Rescue Fife homeless hounds. The meeting was kindly allowed by the track owners, and was organised by trainers George Allan and James Shand. A great night was had by all who attended, and the wonderful amount of £1,400.00 was raised. This is a superb boost to our funds and Celia, Jimmy and all at GRF, especially our homeless dogs, would like to say a BIG thank-you to all involved in the organisation of this event.

Thank you, too, to the staff of Wallace Medical Centre, in Falkirk, for the kind donation of £35.00 and, also, for the £50.00 donation which we received at Christmas, when their staff gave us the money that they would have spent sending each other Christmas cards!



Jimmy & Celia ...

Jimmy & Celia have settled well into their new home at Baltree, as can be seen in this photo of Celia and, new addition, Bessie enjoying a well earned rest ...



A final word from the Editor ...

(Bootsie & Mo say that she does like to have the last word!)

Just to re-iterate Alex's earlier comments about the Dog Show ... if at all possible, please do come along on the day - it is a great fun day out for adults, children and dogs! We have lots of interesting stalls, including a tombola and a raffle, with some excellent prizes!

Also, this year, in addition to a Trophy & Rosette for the winner of each class, our Rover Reporter has, once again, sponsored Bandanas for the winners - your dog would be very proud to wear one of these, I'm sure - they went down well at last year's show!

A great deal of work goes into organising this show - work started just days after the last show ended! It is a great opportunity to meet re-homed hounds, and their owners, to swap tales and advice, and to make new friends - both canine and human!

We totally depend on your support, and continued generosity, to make the show the success it always has been, and to raise funds for the ongoing upkeep of the Kennels and eventualities such as those mentioned previously.

We hope to see you there ... both old friends, and new 😊

Susan.

and finally ...

Dog Rules for Humans:

- 1) Don't come home smelling of other dogs;
- 2) You must feed me every goodie you eat;
- 3) Don't call me, or lead me to, a bath;
- 4) Let me outside even though I just came in - there was an area I forgot to sniff;
- 5) I can sleep anywhere I choose, even if it means you trip over me;
- 6) Don't "shhhh" me from barking while you are on the 'phone - I heard the wind blowing the leaves;
- 7) Don't move me while sleeping sideways in the middle of the bed - you have quite enough room on the edge;
- 8) Don't think you can leave a room without me;
- 9) If it lands on the floor, it's mine;
- 10) You will never pee alone again!

Oh yes, and one other thing ...

**😊😊 HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO JIMMY FOR THE 14TH MAY 😊😊
FROM ALL YOUR FRIENDS AT GRF!**

