

GRF



NEWS

Designed by Sally E Calder

March 2016

*Changing the world
one greyhound at a time!*

Welcome to the Greyhound Rescue Fife Newsletter.

EXCLUSIVE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ALEX MORRISON ...

"We can now, exclusively, reveal that the 9th Greyhound Rescue Fife Dog Show will take place on Sunday 29th May 2016 at our usual, indoor, venue at Caldwell's Farm near Collessie in Fife. We are also pleased to announce that the Moffat Catering Equipment Company have again kindly agreed to be our main show sponsor - thank you Willie and Linda!

This, family friendly, event will help raise awareness of the plight of greyhounds in a relaxed atmosphere, and allow people not only the opportunity to talk about their dogs but show them as well. If you do not have a greyhound, then this is the ideal opportunity to come along and see these majestic dogs 'strut their stuff', learn more about them and expel many of the myths.

On the day there will be commercial stalls along with our regular Tombola, Refreshments and Raffle. This is a well attended show and raises much needed funds for the Kennels. Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for further updates, including potential sponsorship packages."

Over the years, the Dog Show has been running, it has raised over £20,000 for the homeless hounds at the Kennels. Alex Morrison puts a HUGE amount of work and effort into this show, so let's make this yet another bumper year! Many of you will remember that the star of last year's show was little Gabby, who had lost one of her front legs due to Osteosarcoma ... Shorna & Dougie Greenshields gave Gabby a home whilst she recuperated from her operation and, subsequently, decided to make this a permanent arrangement! Gabby's prognosis was not good, and they wanted to give her the best life they could for as long as they could. Well I am DELIGHTED to be able to report that Gabby celebrated her first 'Gotcha Day' with Dougie & Shorna earlier this week! She celebrated with a party, which was attended by (amongst others) her Uncle Jimmy and Auntie Celia. Here's to your next Gotcha Day Gabby!



Gabby



**Best in Show 2015
Ian with Kev**

Susan Mathewson, Editor

Thank-You's ...

On 17th November, Bert McCurdy posted on the Forum: *"On behalf of Greyhound Rescue Fife, I would like to thank the staff and customers of P. Brannan & Sons, Butchers, of Fauldhouse for their continued support, and the donation of £24.33. Several times a year we receive a donation from John, and the money goes towards the purchase of coats which, in turn, we sell on with the profits going towards the upkeep of the Kennels, and the welfare of our dogs. We really do appreciate every donation that we receive."*

On 7th December, Bert posted: *"We would like to thank Crown Barbers of Harthill for the sum of £13.65 collected in their donation box. We thank George, and his customers, for their continued support ~ it is very much appreciated."*

A BIG GRF thank-you to Michelle McCullough, who very kindly decided to use her Christmas card money to buy all our dogs a Christmas dinner each. However, lo and behold, the food she supplied was fantastic! You can see it in the photo, but the photo does not do it justice ... the food is on a LARGE table. There were large packs of cooked meat, and certainly cost Michelle a lot more than she'd have spent on Christmas cards, we're sure! The Feast of Belshazzar had nothing on the dogs' Christmas dinner so, thank-you very much Michelle and thanks to all your family too. Your kindness was very much appreciated ~ by us, and the greyhounds!

The McCullough family took Rocky and Queenie into their home some time ago. The dogs are treated like royalty!



Finally, can Mo & I say a personal thank-you to our friends and family who donated a total of £200 to GRF, in lieu of gifts, at our Civil Partnership in November.



December Walk ~ St. Andrews ...

This was the last walk of 2015 and attendance was, unfortunately, hampered by the closure of the Forth Road Bridge. The weather was very bracing, but at least it remained dry and sunny!

Jimmy & Celia were unable to attend this walk, so Steve Dowd led it ~ some of his photos are shown below, as a reminder of the day.



Editor's Note: Talking of Chariots of Fire Steve, here's a little piece of trivia ... The Rover Reporter's Mummy Mo's 2nd cousin, Ian Charleson, played Eric Liddell in the film ... !!!

2016 Walks ...

Jimmy posted that, due to problems with his knees, he would be unable to lead the 2016 walks ~ Steve kindly volunteered to lead them, with Jess leading the Perth walk as usual. Please see the Forum for details of our future walks.

March Walk ~ Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline ...

Our very first walk of the year took place on Mothering Sunday, 6th March, at Pittencrieff Park in Dunfermline. There was a super turn-out, and the weather was glorious.

Below are a few of Steve's photos of the day, including one of the Dowd trio ... !!!



From the Dog House ...

Dogs in since November 2015 Newsletter: Mac, Beryl, Rosie, Bruno, Belle (blue), Angel, Gordon, Goldie, Dawn, Lacey, Sandie, Bella, Bracken, Alfie, Becks, Bubbles, Cammy, Brig, Lady, Jasmine, Rumble, Candy, Wee Bob, Jake, Jimmy, Sally, Tilly, Honey, Linda and Trina (30)

Dogs out since November 2015 Newsletter: Sandy, Lacey, Sandie, Jake, Tam, Fred, Poppy, Midnight, Belle (blue), Charlie, Macie, Blake, Hendry (remember him ... ??), Mac, Ginger, Ed, Whitney, Gordon, Brig, Becks, Odin, Bella, Alfie, Bruno, Rumble, Jasmine, Gem & Sky, Belle (black & white), Jake and Lady (31)

Note from the Editor:

Apologies if any of the above information is slightly out of date ... I got this information, from Jimmy, on 20th February. DELIGHTED that Gem & Sky have FINALLY found their Forever Home, that Steve Dowd FINALLY admitted defeat, and kept his little foster girl Trina and, within the last few days, to see that Coco (who I have featured on this page many times) has also FINALLY found her Forever Home ... it's lovely to be able to report happy news!

Can YOU help these beautiful dogs ...

PLEASE can you find it in your heart to give this pair of dogs the forever home they so desperately crave, and so richly deserve?

In the last edition of the Newsletter, I reported the tragic news that Larry Burns' wife, and Mummy of Bluey & Sooty, had died. Larry has now taken, what must have been a difficult and heart-breaking decision, that it would be fairest, due to circumstances, for Bluey & Sooty to be re-homed. Bluey & Sooty need to be re-homed together, as they lived together previously and, before that, had been kennel mates. Sooty is a three year old boy, and Bluey is a four year old girl. Both are neutered, chipped and up to date with their vaccinations and, obviously, fully house trained. They are a delight to walk, and make the most beautiful couple. It would mean so much to Larry to see Kelly's beloved dogs go to a loving new home, together, as soon as possible.

Steve Dowd took some super photos of Bluey & Sooty, one of which is below. To see more photos, please see the Greyhound Rescue Fife Forum.



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

Vet's Corner ...

I was interested to read recent newspaper reports saying that studies, by a Pet Insurance company, have shown that a growing number of pet owners are self-medicating their animals, using drugs made for humans, to avoid paying vet fees. Vets are concerned at the rise in the number of owners putting pets' health at risk by giving them such medication as anti-histamines, paracetamol, antiseptic creams and ibuprofen. They say these are potentially toxic and can, in some cases, prove fatal.

Just over 10% of pet owners questioned admitted that they had used such medications to treat injuries including cut paws, sore eyes and insect stings. Most said they did so to avoid paying the, average, £35 consultation fee to see a vet. Other reasons given included wanting to give their pet a 'quick fix' to sort their health problem, and not feeling that the injury was 'serious enough' to see a vet. The study also revealed that a third of pet owners misguidedly believe that over-the-counter, human, medications were actually safe for their pets to consume.

The Insurer's veterinary consultant said: *"Pet owners risk significant harm to their pet's well-being by giving them medicines designed for humans, with liver failure and kidney damage among a litany of potential health complications that can arise from seemingly harmless over-the-counter products. Dosing and delivery of medication is everything, and only a veterinary professional can know the safe quantity of any medicine to administer to an animal."*

Vets are also concerned about the growing trend for people to feed their furry family friends protein shakes, bars or vitamin pills made for humans. The UK-wide study, of more than 1,000 owners, found that 5% had started giving their cat or dog these products to help them get in shape, look better, improve their stamina, or lose weight.

Vets warn that animals can react badly to these products, and can suffer ill effects including nausea, poisoning and allergic reactions, saying *"Dogs and cats do need a specific amount of protein, but they need it from certain whole food sources, such as meat. Protein shakes and bars contain sources of protein not found in nature and are inappropriate for consumption by animals."*

Greyhounds should be given a low protein diet (20% or less), as they are not 'regular' dogs, and have different needs.

Scottish SPCA Chief Superintendent Mike Flynn said: *"It's very important that owners seek veterinary advice if they are concerned for their pet's health. People should never give their pets human medication without consulting a vet, as this could cause serious harm."*

If you are in any doubt, a simple 'phone call to your vet's receptionist can put your mind at rest, or provide you with an appointment if necessary. Yes, vet bills can quickly mount up, HOWEVER, the health of your pet depends on prompt diagnosis and treatment so, PLEASE, do not be tempted to take short cuts ~ it may end up costing you more in the end. It is important, where possible, to ensure adequate insurance cover for your pet.



The Rainbow Bridge Pages ...



On our 'Rainbow Bridge' pages, we remember some of the wonderful dogs who have sadly gone to the Bridge since the last edition of the Newsletter.

Frank:

On the 9th October 2015 Graeme Sturrock, who volunteers for us twice a week, re-homed Frank. On the 11th November, Graeme was walking to the Kennels with Frank and, just yards before he reached the Kennels, Frank simply dropped and died. Bob, GRF's vet, was fairly certain that it was a catastrophic heart attack. Graeme is, understandably, devastated ~ Frank was only 3 years old.

Run free over the Bridge dear little Frank ~ your time with Graeme was far too short but, none-the-less precious.



Missy:

On the 16th November, Mary Miller advised that she had lost Missy due to a tumour in her shoulder. I had known that Missy was having shoulder problems, but this diagnosis came as a shock to us all. Mary re-homed Missy & Pancho together, on 15th August 2012, and she gave them a wonderful life. Mary, her son Adam, Missy & Pancho were the very first 'greyhound friends' we made in Rosyth Park ... Bootsie (aka your Rover Reporter) loved both dogs, and we are so sad about Missy's death. Mary and Pancho miss her dreadfully.

Run pain-free sweet Missy ~ you live on in our hearts and memories.



Jack:

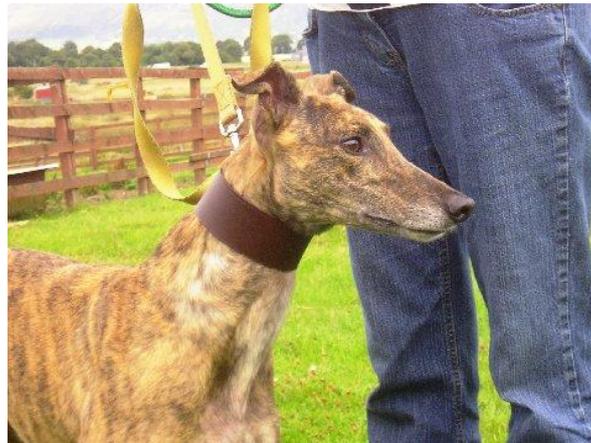
In the last edition, I reported that Ben & Lyndsey had sadly lost Forth.

I am very sad to report that, on the 30th November, another member of their greyhound family, Jack, died.

From a family of, originally, five greyhounds they were down to just two ... the twins, Min & Lou.

Run free over the Bridge darling Jack ~ join your brother, Forth, and run pain-free together. You will live on in the hearts of your human, and greyhound, family forever.

On a cheerier note, Ben & Lyndsey opened up their hearts, and home, to another four-legged family member in early December, King Charles the 6th (aka Charlie!). Ben & Lyndsey thought that this was the best tribute they could pay to their beloved Forth & Jack.



Lucie:

John Carroll lost Lucie, very suddenly, on the 14th December ~ she, along with Georgie, had been with John since the 15th July 2010. John's dog walker 'phoned him, at work, to say that Lucie had collapsed and, thankfully, John got to the vet just in time to stroke Lucie's head as she gave her final breath.

Run free over the Rainbow Bridge gorgeous Lucie ... your Daddy and Georgie will love and miss you always.



Vince:

On the 20th February, Chris and Chris reported the sad loss of Vince. Vince was re-homed, together with Freya, on 8th September 2009. Freya is now 12, and Vince was 14 when he died ~ a long life, but never long enough.

Run pain-free in the beautiful meadows beyond the Bridge sweet Vince ~ you are sadly missed.



Eddie:

Last, but not least, I have to report that Jennifer Bruce, who many of you will remember, sadly lost Eddie just before Christmas last year. Eddie was a fabulous dog, and another good friend of Bootsie's.

RIP Eddie (Go Edie Honda).



To all the dogs mentioned above, and to those who are not mentioned here, thank you for the love and companionship you gave ~ you will live in the hearts of your families always and forever ~ until we meet again.

Lucky Number Draws ...

The November and December draws were made at the walk in St. Andrews.

61 numbers were sold for each draw, giving us a prize draw of £122.00 ~ this was split as £73.20 x 2 (£146.40) to GRF, and £48.80 to each of the winners.

And the winners were ...

November - Chris Wilson with No. 32

December - Lorraine McMillan with No. 44

The January, February and March draws were made at the Dunfermline walk.

Again, 61 numbers were sold for each month and the prize amounts were as before.

The winners were:

January - Billy (George & Morag Petrie) with No. 5

February - Nikky & Willie Miller with No. 50

March - Kate Wilson with No. 35

The three winners donated their winnings to Greyhound Rescue Fife, meaning that the homeless hounds got the whole amount of £366.00! Thank you all for your generosity.

Listed below are the winners, and total raised, for 2015:

January 2015 - Agnes Rennick with No. 49 ~ £46.40 (donated to GRF) and £69.60 to GRF

February 2015 - Linda Spinks with No. 11 ~ £46.40 to Linda, and £69.60 to GRF

March 2015 - Calum McInroy with No. 46 ~ £46.40 to Calum, and £69.60 to GRF

April 2015 - Fiona Smith with No. 18 ~ £46.40 (donated to GRF) and £69.60 to GRF

May 2015 - Susan Mathewson with No. 21 ~ £46.40 (donated to GRF) and £69.60 to GRF

June 2015 - Chris Mathewson with No. 55 ~ £47.20 to Chris, and £70.80 to GRF

July 2015 - Nikki & Willie Miller with No. 50 ~ £47.20 (donated to GRF) and £70.80 to GRF

August 2015 - Jean Gibb with No. 41 ~ £48.00 to Jean, and £72.00 to GRF

September 2015 - Lynne Morrison with No. 2 ~ £48.00 to Lynne, and £72.00 to GRF

October 2015 - David Davies with No. 51 ~ £48.00 to David, and £72.00 to GRF

November 2015 - Chris Wilson with No. 32 ~ £48.80 to Chris, and £73.20 to GRF

December 2015 - Lorraine McMillan with No. 44 ~ £48.80 to Lorraine, and £73.20 to GRF

The homeless hounds received £1,038.40 in 2015 from the Lucky Number draws, and this is thanks to everyone who takes part and helps raise the much, and ever, needed funds to look after our dogs until their forever homes can be found. If anyone would like to take part, please e-mail Fiona at grfluckynumber@yahoo.co.uk and she will let you know the numbers that are available. It costs £2.00 per number, per month, with 60% going to GRF, and the remaining 40% going to the holder of the winning number.

A HUGE thank-you to Fiona for continuing to administer the Lucky Number draws ~ your commitment and hard work are greatly appreciated, not least by the homeless hounds.



The Rover Reporter's Round-Up ...



John, our webmaster, has a couple of items which I would like to bring to your attention:

Security:

The latest thing that scammers are attempting to do is to gain access to your computer via Forums such as our GRF one. If you see a subject that looks odd, please be wary. It won't do any harm to open and read the thread, but **DO NOT** click on any links within the page ~ just send John an email (john@greyhoundmuses.com), and he will remove the thread. John doesn't wish to panic anyone, and **PLEASE** don't be put off using the Forum, but just be aware that these low life are out there and are trying, in their perverted, sick minds, to take something that doesn't belong to them, or otherwise cause distress.

Events Page:

John has now set up separate 'Events' and 'Monthly Walks' pages. The Events page is specifically for fundraising events, collections, etc. If you help Greyhound Rescue Fife by organising, or taking part in, fundraising activities in your area, could you please let John have the details (e-mail address as before), i.e. dates / times / whether it is inside or outside.

Celia's Big Birthday:

On 18th February, our very own Celia turned 70! We had a bit of a collection, and sent Celia & Jimmy to Cromlix House for a meal. Cromlix House is, of course, the hotel owned by Andy Murray. Celia also received flowers, lots of cards and messages, with which she was delighted. You work so tirelessly for the greyhounds Celia ~ you deserved a treat!



A date for your diary:

The 2nd Great Scottish Greyhound Gathering will be held, at Musselburgh Race Course, on **Saturday 23rd July 2016** from 10:30am. Several of us attended the first event last year, which was held at Manderston, and it was a super day out. Bert & Irene also attended with the GRF stall.

and finally ...

Our next walk will be on Sunday 3rd April at Lochore Meadows, Lochgelly. All walks start at 11:00am, unless otherwise stated. Please check the Forum nearer the time for any updates. Look forward to seeing you there!

Your Rover Reporter, Bootsie xx