



'finding forever homes for Greyhounds'



Newsletter Spring 2010

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A message from our Chairman

Welcome to the Greyhoundhomer RGT, Spring newsletter. We are having quite a successful year so far with almost sixty Greyhounds homed in the first quarter (there is no better feeling then seeing a Greyhound go from the Kennels to a loving home).

On Sunday the 28th of March Pat presented Amanda Ainsworth from the Retired Greyhound Trust with a cheque for £50,000. Thanks to everyone out there who let a new friend into their lives and gave so generously in donations and for those in giving up so much of their time to raise money for us, to make it a record year all round.

Our work in homing Greyhounds can only be achieved by caring people like you coming forward and giving loving homes to these graceful creatures.

My thanks go out to all and to all the committee, our helpers and walkers, fundraisers and admin, my admiration goes out to you all.

John Sheppard
Chairman Greyhoundhomer RGT



Cheers to Our Volunteers



Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Retired Greyhound Trust and this year the charity is celebrating the work of its volunteers who help to find loving families and owners for homeless Greyhounds.

Whether they have raised much-needed funds, sold merchandise, represented the charity at one of the many shows across the region, walked a Greyhound or actually helped to find a home for one of the dogs, the Retired Greyhound Trust is saying Cheers to Our Volunteers as part of a three month campaign to raise awareness of volunteering.

The culmination of the celebrations will take place from June 1 to 7 when the Trust is an official partner of this year's national Volunteers' Week. Between now and then, our volunteers across the country will be profiled on www.retiredgreyhounds.co.uk and www.volunteersweek.org.uk. You can also follow volunteering news on twitter @volunteersweek.

The Trust will sit alongside other major organisations that are recognising their volunteers, including: the British Heart Foundation, Sustrans, The Blue Cross, TimeBank, Rugby Football Development Limited, England & Wales Cricket Board, Victim Support, Citizens Advice Bureau, RSPB and the British Red Cross.

Volunteers have played a key part in helping the Retired Greyhound Trust to home nearly 5,000 retired Greyhounds last year and a whopping 50,000 since the charity was founded in 1975.

For further information on volunteering at your local branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust telephone Pat on 01708 551 689.

Article by The Retired Greyhound Trust

www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk



Question: How many creatures on the Earth are classed as being quicker than a Greyhound?



Homing with cats? It's possible!

Around 18 months ago, as a family we first considered rehoming a Greyhound, we had loved the breed for a number of years, and decided now was the time. Only 1 question stood in the way would they be good with cats?



So 8 months ago we got in touch with Pat about rehoming a bitch, explaining we needed a girl who would be calm enough to settle with our elderly cat. After a short wait, Pat found us the perfect girl, and Blaze (Viper Blaze) entered our lives, a fantastic dog who settled well, and from day one wasn't even remotely interested in the cat. Especially not after being put firmly in her place, with a few whacks from the cat.

Then a month ago we took the plunge, and decided to add to our number with a second bitch. At that point in time there was a thread on the RGT forum asking for a home to be found urgently for a small blue and white bitch, she had been homed but was sadly being returned due to a change in family circumstances. Perfect, we thought and so arranged for a home trial. However on arrival home it soon became clear that this girl was definitely not going to leave the cat alone. Several whacks from the cat, and even a direct strike to the eye (with subsequent trip to the vets), she was still pursuing the cat around the house. Thank goodness for muzzles!

Thus reluctantly we had to return her to the kennels even though she was perfect in all other aspects, it was just too great a risk. Fortunately she was happily rehomed later that week.

A week later 2 bitches came in for rehoming direct from the trainer, both of which were considered worth trying with cats, a few circuits of the field followed to decide which was more suitable, and Shadow (Buzzers Jewel) came home with us. Once home she showed very little interest in the cat, and after 5 days at home we felt confident enough to remove her muzzle, the cat reasserted her authority with whacks handed out all round when noses got too close for comfort. And so the decision was made to keep her, as you can see from the pictures she remains happily settled with Blaze and cat.

So don't be deterred from thinking about rehoming a hound with cats, you may have a short wait until a dog with the right temperament is found, but its worth the wait and with a little effort you will find yourself the perfect dog.

Article by Katie Isaac



Around 1014-1016 AD English Forest Laws stated that only people of noble blood could own and hunt with Greyhounds, and that to kill a Greyhound was punishable by death.

www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To keep up to date with our latest activities visit the **What's On** page on our website.

- May 3rd
Rainham Fayre
Rainham
- May 8th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Pitsea
- June 5th
Greyhound Extravaganza
Newmarket
- June 12th
The Stifford Show
North Stifford
- June 16/17th
Tesco Extra (Meet & Greet)
Romford
- June 19th
Laindon Park Primary
School Summer Fayre
Basildon
- June 27th
EHPPS Scruffs Dog Show
Pitsea
- July 3rd/4th
The Robin Hood Game & Country Show
Southend on Sea
- July 10th
The Tendring Show
Colchester
- July 17/18th
Dagenham Town Show
Dagenham
- July 24th
Essex West Centenary - Fun Day
Orsett Showground
- August 29/30th
The Havering Show
Hornchurch
- September 4th
The Orsett Show
Orsett Showground

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Recipe Time

Those of you who make use of the Greyhoundhomer RGT **forum** may have read items posted by Cassie with regard to recipes for 'cakes' for you dog. She has now kindly put pen to paper (well OK, sent me an email) with her recipe for 'Liver Cake', lovely for Greyhounds I'm sure, perhaps not so appealing to humans! Anyway, here goes:

- 450g Self Raising Flour
- 3 Eggs
- 1/2 a Pint of Milk
- 1 Packet of Liver

- 1) Pre-heat your oven to 180°C.
- 2) Boil the Liver.
- 3) Once the Liver is boiled, mix the flour and eggs together (you can also use water instead of milk if your dog has a delicate tummy!) and mix until it comes together like a normal cake mix.
- 4) Add the chopped Liver (without the water!) and mix together (if this mix is very watery then add a little flour).
- 5) Then just pop in oven until it's golden brown on top and cooked through out!

Article by Cassie Searle



Greyhounds have stereoscopic vision. Which basically means they can see moving objects much better than stationary ones. Therefore when calling your Greyhound back to you, you are best making some movement with your call.



So.....the joys of owning a retired Greyhound.....where do I start?

I think Greyhounds must have the same ingredients as chocolate because one is just not enough!! We visited the Kennels in Ockendon in October 2006 looking for a 'small' Greyhound and were adopted by Annie. She settled in quite quickly, decided where her bed was going to be, discovered that guinea pigs smell nice and had a couple of swims in the pond before she realised it was easier to walk round it. We were so smitten, there just wasn't enough of her to go round, so we had to get her a chum. Back we go to Ockendon for another little one, and away we came with Frank, the size of a small donkey. Bigger car required. Frank settled in quite quickly too, after initially hating Annie for the first two days! They get on fine now though. Taking on any dog is a commitment not to be taken lightly but we are so pleased we decided to let a Greyhound or two into our lives, they are undemanding, affectionate and never cease to make us laugh, even when they are asleep, which is quite a lot – they are really just huge bed bugs! All they want is to be loved so they can give love back. Don't think of a Greyhound as a big dog, really they are medium sized dogs on stilts. They also don't need endless walks, you really cannot imagine a more bone idle breed! Frank sadly had a bad accident and subsequently lost a leg, which makes things a little more difficult, but he is a great character and doesn't let it stop him doing anything he would normally do, but he does lap up the extra attention without a doubt, and already has a large fan club in our area, which sometimes means that walks take three times as long as they should do by the time he's stopped and been made a fuss of by anyone and everyone, talk about milk it! Wouldn't be without either of them.

Article by Jackie, Dave & James Livings

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

To keep up to date with our latest activities visit the **What's On** page on our website.

September 11/12th
Essex Country Show
Billericay

September 18th
Great Greyhound
Gathering 2010
Nottingham

September 26th
W.H.A.M. Fun Dog Show
Chelmsford

October 17th
Indian Night
Thundersley

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The 2010 Stifford Show with Greyhoundhomer RGT Retired Greyhound Show

It's getting close to the 'big one', Greyhoundhomers Annual Greyhound Show will be taking place as usual at the Stifford Show on **Saturday the 12th of June**. We're hoping that we have great weather for the event like we did last year and we'd like to see even more of you there than we did last year. The event will take place at:

High Road
Sherwood
North Stifford
Essex
RM16 5UD

For a Google Map [click here](#).

This years event will be bigger than ever with more classes than last year. You'll be able to purchase all the usual Greyhound goodies and we'll have a stall full of brac-a-brac. You can enter your dog(s) into the show for £3 each in advance to be received by the 1st of June at the latest, or enter on the day for £4 each, latest entry 12pm.

There will be 24 classes this year and if time permits we'll run some fun classes after the main show. Prize rosettes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed dogs, with a trophy for the winner of each class. Unplaced hounds will also receive a rosette. A photographer will be on hand taking photographs of you and your dog(s) on the day and a vet will also be on hand.

Stifford Show
Registration starts at 10am
Showing starts at 11am
Saturday 12th June
High Road, Sherwood,
North Stifford, Essex,
RM16 5UD

- Competitions
- Entertainment
- Dog Accessories
- Vet on Hand
- Pet Photography
- Dog Grooming
- And much more...

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www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

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Greyhoundhomer RGT is a branch of the Retired Greyhound Trust Registered Charity Number 269668

Poster by Dan Marsh



Help Greyhoundhomer RGT out when you shop online!

If you regularly shop online you can help Greyhoundhomer out at no cost to yourselves. We've set up a web shop on buy.at. By going to the Greyhoundhomer buy.at shop and clicking on a link for one of the many affiliated retailers you can effectively donate to Greyhoundhomer because a percentage of anything you buy is given to us. Buy.at work with many online retailers, such as Amazon, M&S, Littlewoods, HMV, Play.com etc. if you'd like to visit our buy.at 'shop', please [click here](#). Donations are only made if you visit the web shop via our buy.at shop, and only if you buy something.



Want to enter your hound(s) into the Greyhoundhomer Stifford Show? Then [click here](#) to download the entry form.

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Cassie Searle on how she found out about Berties racing history...

When I rehomed Bertie I was told about the tattoos in his ears and that you could go on the internet to find the website called "greyhound data" (www.greyhound-data.com) which holds details on all registered Greyhounds such as their colour, weight and race statistics. The racing stats include which track(s) they raced at and dates for the races, where they came in the race and sometimes you can also find the odd video saved on there!



I typed in Berties racing name which is "Cunning Bertie" and up popped his page on their site, I then clicked on the "races" icon which then gives you a list of his races.

Bertie ran quite a lot of races (116 without trials!) and won quite a few (21 races) but was an open racer which means that he ran across England.

The main places he ran at were: Romford, Sittingbourne, Walthamstow, and Brighton & Hove.

So I went onto Google again and found the details (phone numbers/ email address) for each of the tracks.

I then rang and emailed all of them, Sittingbourne was Berties main track so I rang them first giving them Berties racing name and dates he ran; and after a few minutes they confirmed they had his original racing book with details about his races and his body, and could also print off his races to check that I have them all as some could have been missing from greyhound data. I then rang around all the other tracks and most of them have specialist photographers who have either their own phone number or website. I then rang all of these and found that DVD's of Berties races are £2 for the DVD itself, then they vary between £4-5 a race.

They also advised me to only purchase the races that he has either won or come second in as their camera will always focus on those and not so much on the others.

And that's how I found out about my Greyhounds racing past. If you fancy a go yourself why not pay a visit to **Greyhound Data** and see what you can find out...

Article by Cassie Searle

Please note that to use greyhound-data.com you need to register a free user account.



A few reminders...

These are just a few reminders of events \ activities we're involved in this year. Firstly don't forget to get your children's entries in to us for the Ultimate Greyhound Coat Competition 2010, for more information and an entry form **click here**.

There's still plenty of time to sponsor Lisa Cornish who will be taking up the challenge of the 2010 Great North Run. The event is a half marathon, and takes place on September the 19th. You can sponsor Lisa using our online donation facility provided by **Charity Choice**. Click here to sponsor Lisa.



Pat, Molly and Fizz!

Hi there, I'm the proud owner of Fizz a beautiful brindle whose racing career ended with an horrific injury and Molly, a YorkieX. Some would say I took a chance with this pairing but it was a situation I had been in before.

When Molly arrived aged 8 weeks in September 1999, her housemate was Suzie, my 10 year old Lurcher. They instantly bonded and were constant companions for the next 5 years until Suzie died. 3 years later fate took a hand. On a chance visit to a local Vet I saw a card - Homes Wanted for Retired Greyhounds - spoke to several people, was referred to the Internet and eventually ended up at Bishops Stortford.



Fizz

I had no preconceived ideas about my dog to be, other than I wanted a female. Elaine suggested Fizz so 2 adults, 2 lively grandchildren (3½ and 8½) and a small dog went to meet her. We all seemed to bond, Fizz decided she was the girl for us and in October 2008 joined our family.

From the start Fizz was so laid back, took no notice of Molly even though Molly was never far from her side, She slept a lot, was so quiet, not even the hint of a woof. It's not difficult to be very much aware of how different they are, Fizz at 27Kg and Molly at 5Kg - it's no contest, but it's Molly who is the dominant one. There is no aggression, it's just accepted that's she's top dog. If Fizz wants to go out, Molly barks, at meal times Molly will sneak in under Fizz and they will eat out of the same bowl. Its hilarious when they are out in the garden. Fizz will do a pee, while Molly looks on. When Fizz has finished Molly immediately does a handstand and pees on top - one of these days she will overbalance and go head over heels! It's the same ritual every time they go out.

The kids adore Fizz, they see her every day and if they stay over she sleeps on their bed, she seeks them out and even lets them share **her** settee.

I have been vigilant but I am the first to admit that I have been exceptionally lucky, Fizz was clean from day one, loves going out in the car, can be left on her own - in fact she has taken everything in her stride - the over exuberant grandchildren, even the yappy little dog who is now her best friend.

Article by Pat Sheppard



FACT

- Greyhounds have been owned by some very famous people, including Cleopatra, Christopher Columbus, King Henry the 8th, Queen Victoria, George Custer, Bo Derek, Jackie Gleason, Al Capone, Betty White, Leonard Nimoy.
- Greyhounds come in 18 primary colours and over 55 different colour combinations.
- Greyhounds can reach speeds of upto 45mph.

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Greyhounds & the younger generation...

Hello, my name's Emma and I am 10.

In my family animals are a tradition. My Nan has always had dogs, my Mum loves her cats but also loves dogs. Me, I have 2 rabbits & 2 hamsters, I love my 2 cats but dogs (especially Greyhounds) are my favourite.

My Nan has a Greyhound called Fizz who lives with Molly who is a little dog - they are great friends but Molly is top dog. Until Fizz came to live with us I did not know how gentle, Greyhounds are. Now I know they are also very loving and so lazy.



Emma with Fizz

I talked about Greyhounds and sponsoring at Cubs and my Year 5 Assembly. The kids were really interested and I gave them the Greyhoundhomer website address so they could look at the dogs needing homes.

I've started going to the Kennels at Ockendon once a month with my Nan to walk the dogs. They are all so beautiful, how could anyone not love them. Last time I went I fell in love with Honey (Hare St Honey). She walked nicely and didn't pull me. Her coat was so soft and when she licked me and looked at me with her lovely honey brown eyes I just wanted to take her home with me.

Because we can't have any more dogs just now, we sponsor dogs instead. It's not expensive, as little as £5 per month - every little helps.

I love going to Dog Shows with my Nan and maybe we might bump into you sometime during the summer - that would be nice.

Article by Emma Pleterski (Pat Sheppards Granddaughter)



Greyhoundhomer RGT Charity Golf Day



at
Stapleford Abbots Golf Club,
Essex on

Wednesday 23rd June

The program:

- Arrive at 9:00 for Coffee & Bacon Rolls
- First Tee Off at 10:00 in teams of four
- Rolling lunch from 15:30 of Ham, Egg & Chips

How to enter:

- The cost is £55 per person, and a £10 non-refundable deposit is required
- Cheques made payable to 'Greyhoundhomer RGT' should be sent to: Charity Golf Day, 106 Parsonage Road, Rainham, Essex RM13 9LF



Charity Golf Day

On Wednesday the 23rd of June there will be a fundraising Golf Day for Greyhoundhomer RGT. It will take place at Stapleford Abbots Golf Club, and will include coffee and bacon rolls for breakfast and a ham, egg and chips lunch. Teeing off will take place at 10am in teams of four. The cost is £55.00 per person and a £10 non-refundable deposit is required from those wishing to take part. If you wish to book a place send a cheque payable to 'Greyhoundhomer RGT' to:

Greyhoundhomer Golf Day
106 Parsonage Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 9LF



| Want to get in touch?



If you have any comments about this Newsletter, or would like to get in touch with a member of the committee, please use the details below:

Contact John Sheppard (Chairman)
Email john@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01279 501 899

Contact Pat Philpot (Homing Co-ordinator & Merchandising)
Email pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01708 551 689

Contact Elaine Richards (Kennel Maintainer, Hertfordshire)
Email elaine@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01279 501 899
Mobile 07505 307 810

Contact Alison Markwood (Home Checking)
Email alison@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Dick Philpot (Secretary)
Email c/o pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Mary Madsen (Treasurer)
Email mary@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Bob Madsen (Photography)
Email bob@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Contact Mark Wilson (Webmaster)
Email mark@greyhoundhomer.co.uk



Pat Philpot
Greyhoundhomer RGT
106 Parsonage Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 9LF



www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

Helping Hands include:

Vikki Gracie . Ian Gracie
Nikki Boyle . Daniel Marsh
Sally French . Danielle French
Hazel Homer

Dog Walkers include:

Lisa Cornish . Tracy Cornish . Eddie
Cornish . David Ives . Jane Rayner
Cheryl Hart . Clive Hart . Jan Hart
Nicky Solkhon . Melissa Solkhon
Craig Solkhon . Louise Chick . Edgar
Munns . Millie & Norman Stevens
Dave Soady . Helen & Chris Daguiar
Hazel Homer

We'd like to send our thanks out to all those who help us out throughout the year, there are so many of you, far too many to list above, your help is **very much** appreciated!

CONTACTS

Got an idea for the next newsletter?

If you've got an idea for the next newsletter, please submit it by **email** to Mark.

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