



'finding forever homes
for Greyhounds'



www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk

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Winter 2010

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A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everybody to the all new Greyhoundhomer RGT, as most will already know RGT head office split Suffolk away from us, leaving Ockendon and Bishops Stortford to continue as Greyhoundhomer RGT. Unfortunately this was sprung upon us at Christmas and meant a lot of work had to be done creating a new web site and trying to inform people as to what was happening.

Never the less, several weeks down the line and we are functioning as good as, if not better than before. It seems we have made a marvellous start to the year by homing loads of dogs, lets hope we can keep this up for the rest of the year.

Two special congratulations must go out, to Pat for her RGT services to retired Greyhounds award presented to her at the Greyhound Board of Great Britain awards dinner at the Hilton and Mark Wilson for getting our new website and forum up and running at such short notice and as quickly and as efficiently as he did.

Last of all a big thank you goes out to the rest of the committee and all our helpers and walkers, of which some are listed in the news letter, and of course not forgetting all you lovely people out there who have opened their homes and their hearts and let a Greyhound in.

Thank you
John Sheppard
Chairman Greyhoundhomer RGT

LISA CORNISH TAKES ON THE GREAT NORTH RUN 2010

Lisa Cornish one of Greyhoundhomer RGTs volunteer dog walkers will be taking part in this years **Great North Run** to raise funds for us. The Great North Run is a half marathon which will take place on the 19th of September 2010. The run is the worlds largest half marathon and is broadcast by BBC Television as well as being on BBC Radio 5 Live. If you would like to sponsor Lisa you can do so by either catching up with her at the Kennels, she's usually in on Sundays, or you can make a donation through the **Charity Choice** website. Running 13 miles is a considerable undertaking for anyone and we would like to thank Lisa for supporting Greyhoundhomer RGT in this way. It's very much appreciated.



Article by Mark Wilson



GREYHOUNDHOMER VOLUNTEER HONOURED

On 31st January, the GBGB hosted their annual awards at the London Hilton to award their top performers, the evening included awards for the top Trainers, Dogs, Kennels, Sprinters, etc, also a special award from the GBGB and RGT and to also recognise the commitment from voluntary organisations.

We are proud to announce that Pat Philpot was presented with the award for the Greyhound Board of Great Britain's services to Retired Greyhounds, applauded onto the stage and presented with her award from Joe-Emma Larvin (the new face of Greyhoundhomer and also a supporter and friend of Greyhoundhomer.co.uk)



Pat Philpot

Pat said: "I was absolutely stunned. I had no idea that I would receive the award. I am truly honoured that I have been recognised for the work I do, but we work as a team at Greyhoundhomer and without the other volunteers we would not be able to raise the funds and home all the dogs we do every year. This award is in recognition of the work of all of the volunteers at Greyhoundhomer.

Every weekend, you will find Pat and Mary and a lot of her devoted helpers at Dog Shows, Fetes, Flower Shows, Boot Sales rattling their tins and quite frankly, selling the unsellable. Promoting this lovely breed, with relentless and unconditional devotion to the retired Greyhounds. I remember when I first homed my Greyhound, Lord Frank, having always had and bred Rottweilers before. It was a big decision to adopt another breed, I went to the kennels and met Pat, I was looking for a "small" Greyhound and ended up with the biggest brindle boy. I took him home and he slept and slept, I called Pat and thought there was something wrong with him, only to be reassured that that's what they do. He walked into the Patio doors - another frantic call, he fell into my Pond - yet another call, but Pat was there 24/7, I must have drove her mad, but I felt so assured that there was a friendly voice at the end of the phone.

Go round Pat and Dicks now, there is always a cup of tea, always Dick cutting some dogs nails, phone ringing, sandwiches all round! She is more than someone who homes retired Greyhounds she is a friend, so is Dick, Bob, Mary, John and Elaine, every birthday there is a card, a text. We all meet up for Christmas, have Quiz Nights, Meals out, she has brought a lot of people together with one love, our Greyhounds.

I personally would like to thank Pat for being a special person and honouring and trusting me with a special friend in Frank, and also Bob and Mary, Elaine and John, Congratulations on your award, you are all special.

Article by Alison Markwood





EDDIE CORNISH: A HOMERS TALE

Following the sad loss of Eddie and Janet's first Greyhound (Sparky) in December 2008, they spent 3 months deliberating over choosing another Greyhound to share their heart and home.

...and so arrived Flash, a lively, mischievous 4 year old who their daughter Lisa nicknamed 'The Toddler' because of his cheeky ways, though he has since earned a few more like 'Liberace' when he wears his posh silk gold collar!!



Flash

Flash settled in straight away, and has been no trouble at all, well apart from the odd prank like nicking his dad's slippers!! :O) He enjoys going everywhere Eddie and Janet go, the seafront being a particular favourite jaunt.

He has brought much joy and laughter into the Cornish household and they wouldn't be without him.

Article by Lisa & Eddie Cornish

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

- February 27th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Beckton
- March 3rd/4th
Tesco Extra (Meet & Greet)
Lakeside
- March 20th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Romford
- March 24/25th
Tesco Extra (Meet & Greet)
Rainham
- March 27th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Southend on Sea
- March 29th
Tesco Extra (Meet & Greet)
Hornchurch
- April 10th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Pitsea
- May 3rd
Rainham Fayre
Rainham Village
- May 8th
Pets at Home (Meet & Greet)
Pitsea
- June 5th
Greyhound Extravaganza
Newmarket
- June 12th
The Stifford Show
Stifford
- 16/17th June
Tesco Extra (Meet & Greet)
Romford

THE OLDIES CLUB

As some of you will be aware we have a number of older boys and girls who would desperately like to go home. It's been an unusually cold winter this year, with snow before and after Christmas it's not been the nicest time for some of our dogs awaiting a home, although most of them seem to love the snow! Our older boys and girls are often overlooked because of their age unfortunately, this is a great shame since most of them are young at heart and will have many good years ahead of them. In addition to featuring our older dogs on our own website, we have been listing them on a website that's dedicated to finding older dogs of any breed a home, called '**Oldies Club**' (www.oldies.org.uk). They've helped us home a few of them, but there are still more looking for homes. Older dogs are often calmer and quieter than younger ones, and can fit in with many types of family circumstances. So if you're considering adding to your number, or looking for a new Greyhound, why not consider an 'oldie'?

Article by Mark Wilson



Some Oldies Club Members...



Lemon
(Lassana Lemon)
Bishops Stortford



Star
(Canine Star)
Ockendon



Val
(Farloe Val)
Ockendon



Nez or Nessie
(Fisio Nez)
Ockendon



Joe or Major
(Knockeevan Major)
Ockendon

STOP PRESS

We have some excellent news, some of our older boys have found a home! Joe went home with Mary & Bob, Lemon is now full time at Elaines and Nez went home with someone this weekend. Good luck to them all!

Question: Which breed of dog won the very first Crufts Dog Show?

Answer: A Greyhound.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

3rd/4th July
The Robin Hood Game & Country Show
Southend on Sea

10th July
The Tendring Show
Colchester

17/18th July
Dagenham Town Show
Dagenham

24th July
Essex West Centenary Fun Day
Orsett Showground

August 21st
Tesco (Meet & Greet)
Hornchurch

29/30th August
The Havering Show
Hornchurch

4th September
The Orsett Show
Orsett Showground

11/12th September
Essex Country Show
Billericay

18th September
Great Greyhound Gathering 2010
Nottingham

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

In support of our rehoming work we took the decision to purchase a mini digital camcorder to enable us to make small films at the events we attend throughout the year, but more crucially to make small video records for some of the dogs we're trying to find homes for. You can visit the Greyhoundhomer YouTube Channel by clicking **here**. Where possible we will make use of YouTube's video sharing functionality to make these videos available in the forum or on third party websites to promote the organisation and our dogs in need of a home.



Article by Mark Wilson

WORKING WITH GREYHOUNDS

My name is Craig and I am 20 years old. I work full time for a tile company and I spend my free time working with Greyhounds. Dick Philpot has taken me under his wing and is teaching me about all aspects of Greyhound training. There is a lot to learn and it's hard work, but it's very interesting. I have to learn about the anatomy and physiology of the dogs so I am able to spot injuries and know how to treat them. I am able to cut their nails and can check and clean their teeth. I am learning dog massage which is important to relax the dogs and can help treat injuries. Ultra sound is sometimes used to treat injuries as well. I have to learn about the dog's diet which is important to their well being. Each dog is weighed daily and must be the correct weight for racing. Each dog's food is regulated so they get the correct amount and supplements i.e. garlic to clean the blood, cod liver oil to help keep their joints supple and to keep them at their optimum weight. They are also put into a "Mag-box" which is a box with a magnetic field inside to increase blood flow and to help relax the dog on race day. Exercise is also important. They have a large garden to run round and a paddock. They are also taken for a walk. Each dog also has to be groomed to remove all the dead hair from them.

There is a lot to learn and it will take a long time to achieve that knowledge. Although some things can be learned from books, most of it is 'on the job training' and learnt through experience.

I now have my licence which entitles me to weigh the dogs before they race, parade the dogs at the race track, put them in the traps and collect them after the race.

Although I have my own retired Greyhound as a pet, it is different looking after racing dogs. I am really enjoying my time with Dick and am grateful to him and Pat for giving me the opportunity to work with these wonderful animals.

Article by Craig Solkhon owned by Betty



Do you have a mobile phone you no longer use? If so why not donate it to us? Used mobile phones have proved to be a great source of funding for us. You can pass phones on to any member of staff, or send them directly to Pat at:

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

THE YOUNG GREYHOUNDHOMER

I'm Dan Marsh, also known as the Poster Man. I've been part of Greyhoundhomer RGT since it started in May 2006.

I was introduced to Greyhounds when I was a youngster by my Nan and Granddad (Pat & Dick Philpot). Also my Auntie and Uncle (Bob & Mary Madsen) are involved with these loving creatures. So really I've been brought up with love and respect for Greyhounds all my life.

I love to do things that will benefit those that need it the most; this is why I'm involved with Greyhoundhomer RGT. I just can't wait for the show season to start.

I'm proud of all the things that I have done. I hope to continue in the future. Overall I find it a very enjoyable and exciting experience.

Article by Dan Marsh
The Poster Man

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NICKY SOLKHON: A HOMERS TALE

Hi I'm Nicky and I have wanted a dog since I was a child, but circumstances were never right. Last year I started walking Greyhounds at the R.G.T. Ockendon kennels. At the end of November a beautiful black bitch came home with me and has got her paws well and truly under the table. She is a hit with everyone who meets her, even those who do not particularly like dogs.



Betty (Off Course)

Betty lives with me, my husband and our two children who are 16 and 20.

I have discovered that Greyhounds as a breed are different to most others. They don't need a lot of exercise, contrary to popular belief and are very gentle. Two days after Betty came to live with us I took her to the pre-school I work in and about 10 children aged 2 – 4 came rushing up to her and made a fuss of her, brushing her fur the wrong way, hugging her and she did not flinch or make any reaction. She just stood and let them get on with it. She has also been adopted by our church youth club as their mascot. I took her into the church to meet the children, about 70 of them and again she just stood while they made a fuss of her and asked questions. She is a real ambassador for the breed.

I have found a reason to take regular exercise. I don't always find it easy to go out but knowing I have to take Betty for a walk gives me the best reason for doing so. I have joined with other Greyhound owners to walk our dogs and have also found Greyhound owners to be the friendliest dog owners around – always ready to discuss their dogs.

Betty is a very quiet, calm dog, a real lady. I always thought I would prefer a male, but I am glad to have a girl. I have met a lot of Greyhounds and not yet met one that I didn't like. They all have their own characters, which can be very comical. Unfortunately the black dogs are often over looked as they are not seen to be as 'attractive' as other colours but I think they are fantastic.

There are more 'fors' than 'against' for this wonderful breed. They are gentle, loving, don't need a lot of exercise, like to please, don't moult a lot, great companions and good with children.

Article by Nicky Solkhon owned by Betty

I'm looking for a good home...!

If you're looking to add to your number or give a hound a home, please get in touch.



"Gimme" is a July 2004 girl, she's black with some white snow flakes in her coat. She is very scared of loud noises and traffic but with a bit of reassurance and love she will get braver. She is a lovely sweet girl who is very friendly and loves being fussed. You can meet Gimme at our **Bishops Stortford** Kennel.



ULTIMATE DOG COAT COMPETITION 2010

It may seem like a long way off, but in conjunction with the Great Greyhound Gathering 2010 the RGT, like last year, are running a competition for budding young designers to create a fantastical Greyhound Coat design. Like last year we would like your younger family members to come up with designs for a coat but instead of sending them into the RGT send them in to Pat. We will then give our own prize, as well as passing all entries onto the RGT for judging in the nationwide competition. So all entries will have two chances of getting a prize! For further information about the competition, including the terms and conditions, [click here](#).



To start you off with some ideas, pictured left is last year's Retired Greyhound Trust winner she was 8 year old Jasmine Harper, from Tamworth, Staffordshire, whose creation was made into a real coat by professional dog coat designer Laura Bailey from the doggy design house Petite Pooch.

All entries should be sent to **Pat Philpot, Ultimate Coat Competition 2010, 106 Parsonage Road, Rainham, Essex, RM13 9LF** no later than **Friday the 16th of July 2010**, this will give us enough time to judge them and then pass them onto the RGT who have a closing date of the 31st of July.

To download an entry form for the competition, [click here](#).

Article by Mark Wilson

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Starting in March and running through to National Volunteers Week in June (1st – 7th), the Retired Greyhound Trust will be celebrating the work of its volunteers from around the country.

The Trust could not function without the help of volunteers. So, in 2010 we plan to say '**Cheers to Our Volunteers**'.

The campaign will not only raise the profile of the amazing work taking place across the country, but it aims to attract more volunteers to help the Trust raise more funds and home more dogs.

'Cheers to Our Volunteers' - what's happening and when?

- During February we are looking for volunteers who are happy to be showcased in their local media.
- During March, April and May the search will continue for volunteers who are happy to be profiled. Build the volunteers stories into media releases / features and distribute them to local, regional and national media.
- The grand finale, 'Greyhound Extravaganza' – celebrations will culminate at the Greyhound Extravaganza on Saturday 5th of June at Newmarket during National Volunteers Week.

If you are actively involved at Greyhoundhomer RGT and are interested in getting involved in this promotional work which will greatly improve public awareness of Greyhounds and the work that branches of the Retired Greyhound Trust perform, then please get in touch with Pat Philpot on **01708 551 689** or email pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk.

The RGT has recently become partner in National Volunteers Week (www.volunteersweek.org.uk). This partnership will act as a springboard for us to raise the profile of what the Trust does and to publicise the work of its volunteers. We plan to post our volunteer stories on this national website. Being a partner in National Volunteers' Week will also give us new avenues to local, regional and national coverage. It is also hoped that this promotional work will be useful to your local branch.

Article by Pat Philpot

COMPETITION
TIME

'CHEERS TO OUR
VOLUNTEERS'

'finding forever
homes for
Greyhounds'



| 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 team, please use the details below:

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

Position Homing Co-ordinator, Essex
Contact Pat Philpot
Email pat@greyhoundhomer.co.uk
Phone 01708 551 689

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

Position Webmaster
Contact Mark Wilson
Email mark@greyhoundhomer.co.uk



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Other Regular Helpers include

Secretary: Dick Philpot

Treasurer: Mary Madsen

Photographer: Bob Madsen

Helping Hand: Alison Markwood

Helping Hand: Vikki Gracie

Helping Hand: Ian Gracie

Helping Hand: Nikki Boyle

Helping Hand: Daniel Marsh

Helping Hand: Sally French

Helping Hand: Danielle French

Dog Walker: Lisa Cornish

Dog Walker: Tracy Cornish

Dog Walker: Eddie Cornish

Dog Walker: David Ives

Dog Walker: Jane Rayner

Dog Walker: Cheryl Hart

Dog Walker: Clive Hart

Dog Walker: Jan Hart

Dog Walker: Nicky Solkhon

Dog Walker: Melissa Solkhon

Dog Walker: Craig Solkhon

Dog Walker: Louise Chick

Dog Walker: Edgar Munns

Dog Walker: Millie & Norman Stevens

Dog Walker: Dave Soady

Dog Walker: Helen & Chris Daguiar

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.