



'finding forever homes
for Greyhounds'



**Newsletter
Summer 2011**

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'life's hard at the beach'

Introduction: A few words from our Chairman

Once again we are in the midst of this glorious British summer, the grass wont stop growing, the Greyhounds have to dodge the showers but my duck is happy, but alas enough of the good times back to the subjects in hand.

The Stifford Show was once again a great success, I hope everyone enjoyed themselves and will not only come again next year but will spread the word and perhaps invite your friends and neighbours along with you. My gratitude to Pat Philpot and everyone that helped to make it such a great success, also many thanks to the people of Stifford and the organisers of the Annual Stifford Village Show.

This year has been a very hard year for finding homes for our lovely Greyhounds, unfortunately this does seem to be the same with all homing kennels, but I can tell you we have found over ONE HUNDRED loving homes so far. It would be a nice thought if we could match last years total, and I'm sure with a little help from all you Greyhound lovers out their we could do it, so if you know someone that would like a loving adorable companion put them in touch with Pat or Elaine.

Like I mentioned in the last newsletter the RGT are looking at making cutbacks, these being on the number of Greyhounds we can keep at our kennels, so we are having to see if we can come up with some options so as to keep the numbers up, so we can offer a good variation to potential homers. Unfortunately this may mean funding some of the Greyhounds our self, so we are looking at any way to boost our funds, any help in fund raising would be very much appreciated.

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

**John Sheppard
Chairman Greyhoundhomer RGT**

Greyhoundhomers 100th Greyhound Homed for 2011

On Saturday the 13th of August Greyhoundhomer sent home their 100th dog of 2011. Neo is pictured right at collection off to his new home in Brentwood. Although it's proved to be a very tough year we are still homing successfully and Neo is proof of that.

A big thank you to everyone who's taken home one of our Greyhounds this year, we hope you're enjoying the company and your hound's got his feet up!



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REMINDER: Greyhoundhomer Grand Summer Draw

For those of you who may still not have purchased any tickets, Greyhoundhomer are holding their first ever Grand Prize Draw, tickets cost £1 each and will be available at events we attend throughout the year as well as via the Greyhoundhomer shop. The draw will take place on Sunday the 11th of September at the end of the Essex County Show. The top prizes are as follows:



1st Prize
£500 cash jackpot



2nd Prize
Day Trip for 8 on the Indigo Dream worth £200



3rd Prize
A Luxury Gift Hamper

Tickets can be purchased via post, please send a cheque payable to '**Greyhoundhomer RGT**' to:

Pat Philpot
Greyhoundhomer Summer Raffle
106 Parsonage Road
Rainham
Essex
RM13 9LF

Don't forget to include the return address for your ticket(s)!

Don't forget Tommy...

A February 2005 boy, Tommy is a very friendly lad who walks well on the lead and who would fit in well with most family circumstances. Although listed in our Special Dogs section Tommy has never been in a home, Tommy is featured here because he will need medication for the rest of his life due to an overactive immune system which causes him to suffer from Gingivitis. This means he is on Steroids to control the condition, the cost of which will be met by the Retired



Tommy, call 01279 501 899

Greyhound Trust, leaving you just responsible for other care \ vet bills. We would really like to see Tommy go to a good home and don't want to see him spend the rest of his life in the Kennels, he really is a nice lad so why not give him a try out? Tommys' plight was featured in a number of national news articles, including this item in the **Daily Mail**. Tommy has been with us a long while now and has seen many of his friends come and go, so please give Tommy a chance if you are considering taking on a Greyhound as a pet.

WHAT'S ON

20th August
Tesco Extra Meet & Greet, Pitsea

27th August
Tesco Extra Meet & Greet, Lakeside

28/29th August
The Havering Show, Hornchurch

3rd September
The Orsett Show, Orsett Show Ground

10/11th September
The Essex County Show, Billericay

17th September
Tesco Extra Meet & Greet, Romford

24th September
Tesco Extra Meet & Greet, Westcliff on Sea

For additional information on any of these events [click here](#).

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Help Greyhoundhomer raise funds by shopping online with Easy Fundraising!

Greyhoundhomer RGT



easyfundraising
.org.uk

Shop Online and Raise Money!

Have you heard about easyfundraising yet? It's the easiest way to help raise money for Greyhoundhomer RGT! If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, M&S, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, Vodafone, eBay, Boden and Play.com, then we need you to sign up for free to raise money while you shop!

So how does it work?

You shop directly with the retailer as you would normally, but if you sign up to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/greyhoundhomer> for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at no extra cost to yourself.

How much can you raise?

Spend £100 with M&S online or Amazon and you raise £2.50 for us. £100 with WH Smith puts £2.00 in our pocket and so on. There's over 2,000 retailers on their site, and some of the donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase.

Save money too!

easyfundraising is **FREE** to use plus you'll get access to hundreds of exclusive discounts and voucher codes, so not only will you be helping us, you'll be saving money yourself.

Click here to sign up and start making a difference...simply by shopping.

Thanks!

Luke Backhurst completes sponsored bike ride for Greyhoundhomer!



On Sunday the 17th of July one of our owners, Luke Backhurst, took part in the British Heart Foundations London to Southend on Sea Bike ride. This saw entrants cycling from Victoria Park, Tower Hamlets to Priory Park in Southend, a distance of more than 52 miles. The route took entrants via the quiet lanes and countryside of South Essex. This is an event Luke has taken part in previously, and this year he donated his sponsorship money to Greyhoundhomer. Well the results are now in and Luke raised the fantastic sum of £150.00. Well done to Luke! And a big thank you from all at Greyhoundhomer.

Luke completed his ride in a personal best time of 3 hours 15 minutes.



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Greyhounds awaiting a new home...



Okee



Sally



Gally



Tim

To find out more about any of these boys and girls and others at our Bishops Stortford Kennels please contact Elaine on 01279 501 899 or 07505 307 810

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Help Greyhoundhomer raise funds by searching online with Easy Search!

Greyhoundhomer RGT



easysearch
.org.uk

Search Online and
Raise Money!

Greyhounds
awaiting a new
home...



Foxy



Buzz



Patsy



Toffee

To find out more about any of these boys and girls and others at our Ockendon Kennels please contact Pat on 01708 551 689

Are you one of the millions of people that use a search engine every day? Did you know you can raise money for Greyhoundhomer RGT while you search?

<http://greyhoundhomer.easysearch.org.uk> combines the results of several search engines such as Yahoo!, Bing and Ask to ensure you can always find what you're looking for. But the fantastic thing is that EVERY TIME you search, half a penny is raised for Greyhoundhomer RGT. Search just 15 times a day and you can raise around £25 a year for us.

See what people are saying about easysearch:

"easysearch is a great idea and just as good as Google for the results! I've recommended it to my friends and I think this site is the best around as it does something for people. Well done!"

"What a fantastic idea! I was using Google anyway but this way I get to raise money for my good cause every time I search...brilliant! I've made easysearch my homepage!"

So the next time you need to find something online, please use <http://greyhoundhomer.easysearch.org.uk> and raise money for Greyhoundhomer RGT with every search you make. Why not make it your homepage?



Above: Lady, Best Bitch in Show

Greyhoundhomer Retired Greyhound Show Results

This years Greyhoundhomer Retired Greyhound Show was a great success, well done to all who turned up and entered their dogs into the event. This years best Dog in show was Tigger, owned by Corinne Jiggins; and best Bitch in show was Lady, owned by Carol King. Well done to both of you! For a full list of the results with pictures and Class videos, please [click here](#).



Above: Tigger, Best Dog in Show



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Thanks for all your hard work!

Greyhoundhomer RGT



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First of all I must thank all the helpers, walkers and donators that have been on hand this year and made things a lot easier for us. We had an unusual start to the year with Elaine having a spell in hospital, this meant we had to transfer the majority of the dogs to Ockendon. I had two deaths in the family and illness myself, which did not help, but after all Of this we have managed to kick start ourselves. We started shows late in the year (normally we would start them in February), but this year we did not start until May, despite the late start we seem to be getting a fantastic reputation among the people we do shows for, we have already been asked to attend a good number of shows next year. We have also been asked by a number of new people if we would consider doing events for them. It has been all down to the support we have got and the way it is all conducted, so well done everyone, We could not do it without you!

We have homed more than 100 dogs at the present with a good number reserved waiting for the new owners to either have a home check or move to their new home. So there are still dogs going from the kennels to lovely comfortable new homes, which is fantastic. I really do not like counting numbers, I like to count the dogs that are settled and hopefully will not be returned, that is the biggest buzz of all.

We have had a good few dogs returned this year and I must stress none of the dogs were returned because they had done wrong, it was owners having changes to their circumstances and being unable to keep the dogs, which is sad but fortunately we are there if this happens. We had two returned as their owner was now so ill he could they could no longer walk them, he was so upset to part with them. One has now found her home and is happily settled with her feet firmly under the table, and two others have been homed happily one in Capel St Mary and one in Ipswich, great that they are no longer in kennels and the new owners are very happy with them. We have

another one on reserve and hopefully she will be in her home very soon. We still have a great many black dogs in the kennel, the hardest dog to home, why? Don't ask me but people will come to the kennel and say 'I want a dog...but not black' when asked why? There is no logical reason for this, I personally think they are missing a great opportunity to have a lovely dog by selecting the colour rather than the temperament, ask anybody with a black dog. So if you know anybody looking for a dog, we have plenty of beautiful black ones waiting for the right people.

We have had some really fantastic people do wonderful things for us (if I miss you I am sorry) Sue and Richard with canal boat Indigo Dream and Sues' jam making, it never stays on the stall long! Thanks to those owners who have been sending me cheques where they have do a table sale and sent us the money, the golf day donations, the Henfest they sent us a donation cheque, Natalie and her friends at Guides who cooked cakes and sold them and gave us £45, also the trainers who come and ask do I need money? When they know we have had a couple of really sick dogs, the trainers and owners who donate to the dog shows, the suppliers of goods who treat us fantastically not for a day but throughout the year like Greyhound & Pet World, Abbeyfeale; the people who turn up at shows some who put items on the stand that they have paid for, Pat with her home made cards, Katy and Andrew who are always on the look out for ways to make money, people with their knitting of dog coats snoods and hats, Mark with the website and Dan with the posters, Sue and Martin who run our Facebook page; how do you say thank you to all these people? I really don't know but here goes a big big thank you to you all including everybody who has taken a dog into their home and heart. Thank you all everything big or small is appreciated by us all!

Article by Pat Philpot

easyfundraising.org.uk

Raise funds for us when you shop

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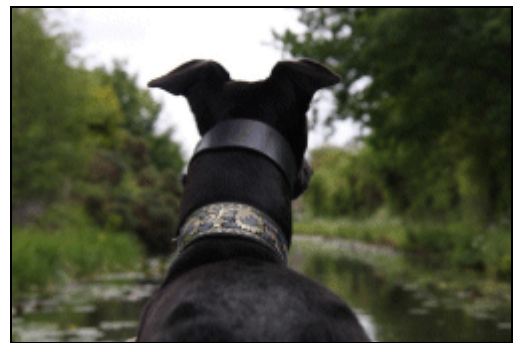
Birmingham Canal Navigations Marathon Challenge 2011!



The Birmingham Canal Navigation is an ancient and unique network of canals that meander through the modern city of Birmingham. With over 100 miles of canals and 120 locks, our challenge was to cruise as much as possible in 24-hours, accruing points from the locks completed, miles cruised, exploring less popular arms and answering 'treasure hunt' style questions along

the way.

We recruited three human crew members – all experienced narrow boaters who could put their hand to any task needed to get us round the network. We also had four retired Greyhounds on board – the experienced Lynx, Ranger and Henry, with newbie Archie. They were powerful advocates for the breed – calm, affectionate and very lazy!



We started our cruise at 8am at the bottom of the flight of locks leading up to Wolverhampton, we then spent the day cruising the Wyrley and Essington Canal to the north of the city centre. We stopped for the night at 10pm, just round the corner from Spaghetti Junction. Next time you drive through Birmingham on the M5 or M6 just remember that there's probably a canal running right under the motorway!

The following morning we set off at 4.20am – the Greyhounds grumbled, but we had a lot of work to do – cruising through Birmingham's busy city centre before entering the relative peace of Ryder's Green and Walsall. For the most part, Birmingham's canals are attractive green corridors through an otherwise grey urban landscape. The canal banks are teeming with wildlife – including beautiful native orchids.



We reached the finish line at Walsall Town Basin by 1.45pm and we introduced our canine crew to the mayor, who is also a Greyhound enthusiast!

We can confirm that we did 93 locks and cruised 54 miles in 24 hours – well over our original target. Twenty six boats took part and we came a creditable THIRD!

The event caught the imaginations of many people who generously went on to sponsor us. It's amazing what a difference even the smallest donation made - in the end we raised more than £2,000 for Greyhoundhomer. We're sure that they will put every penny to good use to care for these fabulous hounds while they're waiting for their forever sofas.

If you want to see more photographs and a more detailed account of our adventures [click here](#) to visit our blog.

Article by Sue Cook

'finding forever homes for Greyhounds'





Chris and Clare write about their Greyhound homing experience



My wife Clare and I have for a long time harboured an interest in getting a dog, and after going to Romford dogs one night in May, made me want to do some research into the possibilities of homing a Greyhound.

We both knew people who own Greyhounds and they recommended Ockendon RGT to us, we were overwhelmed when we first went to the

kennels we wanted to take all the dogs home! We chose Reachfar Nitro 'Nitro' as he had been mistreated by his previous owner and wasn't coping well in the kennel, and really needed a good home which we knew we could provide for him.

We picked Nitro up on the 8th of June, I don't ever think I could express how much of a good, loving dog he is, it is great to see how happy and excited he is with us.

I wanted Nitro to have a regular interaction with other Greyhounds, so I several weeks later went to the Ockendon kennels, and walked Nitro with Selsey Blonde, 'Blondie'. They instantly got on so well, and she was a beautiful dog and I decided to take her home as well, when I first registered on the forum, a member said to me 'Greyhounds are addictive'. and they were not wrong. Blondie had funnily enough only arrived from Paul Young's kennels the day beforehand!

To begin with there was teething problems, Blondie wet on the carpet many times, and would cry every night from 2-6 until she was let out, and Nitro was getting sad he wasn't getting all the attention.

We were concerned our work would cause problem with the dogs, I work for the Ambulance Service and my wife is a Student Nurse and we both work shifts, but the dogs are never left more than 4 hours and we have a dog walker, and with my job I am sometimes able to come home and let them out, so this never causes a problem.

The support I have had from the forum and Pat especially has been invaluable, it is great for us to know that if we have any questions/problems, there is always someone to talk to. Pat has helped us overcome the crying and carpet wetting and we now have two perfect dogs.

I would like to say to any potential owners, getting Blondie and Nitro has brought us so much happiness, and is great to see how much they appreciate a loving home. We have also made new friends and walked the dogs with other local Greyhounds and their owners in Southend, and enjoyed speaking to other owners on the forum. Again I will say the support we have got has been invaluable as it is the first time either of us have own a dog.

We now are addicted to Greyhounds and know we throughout our lives, we will be caring a rescue Greyhound.



Article by Chris Connor



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

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

Contact Bob Madsen (Photography)
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Contact Mark Wilson (Webmaster)
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Helping Hands include:
Daniel Marsh . Alan & Hazel
Homer . Andrew, Katie and
Emma Isaac . Sue Bestjan
Rob, Lesley, Aran & Kiera
Freeman

Dog Walkers include:
Lisa Cornish . Eddie Cornish . David Ives
Jane Rayner Cheryl Hart . Clive Hart
Jan Hart . The Bergen Family . 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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