



## 'finding forever homes for Greyhounds'



### Newsletter Winter 2011

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### Introduction by our Chairman

To everyone,

Well what a year, the state the country is in, the recession, change of government and the bad weather at the beginning, but through all that you made 2010 yet another very successful year for Greyhoundhomer RGT, with an amazing 204 Greyhounds homed.

Once again I would like to thank all you wonderful people who have adopted a Greyhound and given generous donations, I hope you get lots joy and happiness from the new friend you have let into your life and home.

2011 is going to be a tough year all round, the RGT are having to make cut backs, so to help them we are now paying our own vet fees and advertising, this comes to a substantial sum, so our fund raising team are having to work harder. If you have any ideas on how to raise money please contact us and let us know.

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

John Sheppard  
Chairman Greyhoundhomer RGT



### | Pet Portraits

We have formed a partnership with artist Debra Jones to offer you the opportunity to buy hand drawn portraits in pencil of your pets. Greyhounds, Cats, Debra can draw any of them for you! They'd make a great Birthday or Easter gift, or maybe you might like to treat yourself to beat off those post Christmas blues! Debra is an accomplished artist and you can see some examples of her work below. For further information on how to purchase your pet portrait [click here](#). For each portrait ordered Greyhoundhomer will receive a percentage of the cost of the portrait. Visit the Greyhoundhomer [shop](#).



www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk



## GREYHOUNDS IN OUR LIFE

We would like to share with you how lovely it is to have Greyhounds in our lives. Teddy first, (June 2008) and Sally second (December 2008) came to live with us as our first ever dogs. From that time on we have never looked back and quite frankly we could not imagine our lives without them. They are so much 'our' family and we are so pleased that we were able to adopt them.

Greyhounds are very loving and loyal dogs and they are happy receiving affection as well as giving it. Greyhounds are really 'with' you and consequently are great companions in a non obtrusive way as they let you know they are there for you in their quiet concerned way.

Living with a Greyhound is a very relaxed experience as they need little or no entertaining, sleeping for much of the day in between two short walks (or at a pinch they might be persuaded to do a slightly longer walk!). Although born for racing and into a 'kennel' life, our Greyhounds adapted really well to a home situation and soon 'picked up' on the routine of domestic life with a little help from 'us'. Toilet training took very little time, feeding routine was soon learned and living with household noises was not a problem. With encouragement and a little patience from 'us' our Greyhounds soon fitted in to our home environment.

Watching the transition of 'homing a Greyhound' is a very moving experience as they learn to 'trust' and to relax in their new 'pad' with their adopted family. The first year of their new life is particularly wondrous to watch as their true personality emerges the more they feel 'at home' and accepted. It is really lovely to see them happy and enjoying their retirement and discovering things they knew nothing or little about in their 'racing days'. One thing in particular is seeing them enjoy dog walks where they get time for lots of 'sniffs' and for meeting with other dogs and other people. Just seeing them relax in their new home is a truly rewarding experience.

Greyhounds are generally very good with people and they are particularly good around children (with supervision as with any dog) and we often take Teddy and Sally on the short walk into town where they enjoy all the fuss they receive from many people we meet along the way and in the town itself.

We adopted Teddy and Sally from South Ockendon Greyhound Homer Retired Greyhound Trust and I have nothing but praise for the care, support and dedication of the team at South Ockendon. Pat Philpot heads the South Ockendon team and she is brilliant in her role. Pat works tirelessly as she is so committed to the welfare of Greyhounds. Pat is always keen to match up the right Greyhound with the right person(s) so that the whole homing process becomes a success on both sides. Pat is 'always' at the other end of the phone so that one you get your Greyhound home you are never 'alone' should any queries arise. This level of care continues throughout the lifetime of your Greyhound. When you 'adopt' your Greyhound the Greyhound Homer RGT still carries the ultimate responsibility for your dog for its entire life. Part of that responsibility means that should anything unforeseen happen with either your Greyhound or his/her adopted family then there is a facility where your Greyhound can be cared for once again at the South Ockendon kennels. We hope of course for everyone's sake that it never needs to happen.

Article by Vivien Allen

### FACT

A Greyhound has a very low percentage of body fat in proportion to its size. On the average, there is only 16% fat in a Greyhounds body weight compared to about 35% fat in body weight for a similar size dog of another breed.

## WHAT'S ON?

It's still early days yet so we've not got much booked yet, but one big event we have got a date for is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Greyhoundhomer RGT Retired Greyhound Show which will take place at the 2011 Stifford Show as usual. More details will follow, but the date for this event is **Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June**. We'd love to see you there with your dog(s) so it's one for your diary.

Last years show results can be seen by clicking [here](#).



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## OLDIES & LONG TERMERS APPEAL



Those of you who have visited our website within the last couple of months may have noticed our appeal on the front page to try and get some of our older and longer term Greyhounds homed. For those of you who have not seen it we have echoed it in this Newsletter.

### Our Older Residents...



Lady  
(Ockendon)



Okee  
(Ockendon)



Star  
(Ockendon)



Striker  
(Bishops Stortford)



Vieri  
(Bishops Stortford)



Wiki  
(Ockendon)

### Our Longer Term Residents...



Danno  
(Ockendon)



Danny  
(Bishops Stortford)



Judy  
(Ockendon)



Sheila  
(Bishops Stortford)



Tommy  
(Bishops Stortford)



Viper  
(Ockendon)

There they are, so if you're looking for a new or second hound maybe one of our older or longer term residents might fit the bill. For further information on any of the above dogs please contact Pat (Ockendon) on 01708 551 689 or Elaine (Bishops Stortford) on 01279 501 899.

### WHAT'S ON?



Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of January

is

Greyhoundhomer RGT Charity Quiz Night

### HOW CAN I HELP?

#### DISPLAY A POSTER FOR GREYHOUNDHOMER

Below are links to some Greyhoundhomer Posters, you could help us by downloading and printing some off to display at your place of work, in a shop window, or anywhere else you can think of.

- | A5 Black & White
- | A4 Black & White
- | A4 Colour
- | A3 Black & White
- | A3 Colour

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## Cruising with the Pack

Back in August, we took two fine packs of Greyhounds for a cruise around the waterways of East London. They were all boating aficionados – our own Blue, Lou and foster dog Lynx together with three-fifths of a pack (Arthur, Miffy and Ranger) that normally cruise on a narrow boat aptly named 'Greyhound'. The remaining two-fifths of the Greyhound pack (Susie and Monty) were grounded – oh dear!



### HOW CAN I HELP?

We have a facility to accept donations online. You can donate a sum of money to us without any charges to either us or the yourself, and if you are a UK tax payer you can tick the Gift Aid box enabling us to claim the tax back.

Click the 'Donate Now' logo to go directly to our secure donation page.



So, how many Greyhounds can you fit into a narrow boat? Well, six large ones, easily! We may need to borrow a few from the kennels in order to go for a record!



Of course, the entire sofa, floor and back deck were entirely covered with dog duvets and sheepskins, but we soon got used to tiptoeing around the three that preferred sleeping on deck, directly in front of the tiller.

We had a little stroll along the footpath to 'Viewtube', where you get a fantastic view of the progress being made on the Olympic site.

We took some photos of our extended pack against the backdrop of the Olympic Stadium. But little did we know that the hounds were following in the footsteps of their ancestors - this area has quite a history of Greyhound racing! It's a great example of how layered the history is here - so many endeavours have been built, demolished and rebuilt on this site.



We photographed the Greyhounds on or close to the site of an old Greyhound "flapping" track (an independent dog track not regulated by the Greyhound Board) called Temple Mills. A little research revealed that there are other dog tracks buried under the Olympic site - one stadium north of Millfields Road (now housing) and another, Hackney Wick, on Waterden Road. Waterden Road itself has largely vanished.

Wouldn't it be nice to think that the athletes competing at the velodrome will be inspired by the ghosts of Greyhounds speeding round a celestial track deep beneath them.

Sadly this was our boy Blue's last outing on the narrow boat – he sadly died unexpectedly the weekend after. But there are always more needy Greyhounds, so a few weeks later we were back in action with Lou and our TWO foster boys, Lynx and Ty on a six-dog cruise with Ranger, Miffy and their foster dog, Sidney. As always, the dogs got on famously, behaved impeccably and drew lots of interest from passersby.



So, six hounds is easy, the next step is to take our combined pack of nine hounds for a cruise; after that we'll need to borrow a hound or ten from Greyhoundhomer to test our narrow boats Greyhound capacity!

Article by Sue Cook

**N.B. As many of you will already know, Richard & Sue adopted Ty permanently (known as Tyson at the Ockendon Kennels) before Christmas 2010.**



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

### What do you feed your Greyhound?

If you use **Wafcol** or **Red Mills** please collect the Barcodes from the sacks for us.

We can exchange them for collars and leads. When you have a few barcodes collected please give\send them to **Pat, Elaine**.

### How else can you help?

If you never use the muzzle you were provided with when you took your Greyhound home, please send or pass them to us.

On **Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> of January** we will be holding a Charity Quiz Night. The last quiz night was held back in 2009, and proved to be both popular and successful, and we hope this one will prove to be as popular. The quiz will be held at the South Ockendon Village Social Club, South Ockendon, Essex. The Social Club is located about 5 minutes drive from the Ockendon Kennels and there is plenty of free parking. To see a map [click here](#). The price of entry into the Quiz is £8.00 per person, and each table will be provided with a platter of Sandwiches. There is a bar which will be open for you to purchase drinks from and we will also be holding a raffle.

Teams for the quiz should contain no more than eight people and if you have trouble making an eight up we're bound to be able to make you up with individuals and twos that come along. This should be a great night out! For more information [click here](#).

Article by Pat Philpot



At maximum acceleration, a Greyhound reaches a full speed of 70 km/h within 30 metres or six strides from the boxes, travelling at almost 20 metres per second for the first 250 metres of a race.



Happy New Year to all our owners, old and new! As coordinator I can safely say we have had a successful year with 204 dogs being in new homes in 2010, this is brilliant. It is down to the hard work of all our helpers whether it be helping out at events, making jam, running canal trips, knitting items, running the night at the Indian, running quiz nights, running our dog show, home checks or passing the word at how good a Greyhound is a pet. A big thank you to you all, you

all deserve a medal. We start the year with a quiz night and all other events will be posted as and when we get confirmation of dates. Everybody is welcome at these events and the more people you bring with you the better.

By the way if anybody has any items for raffles please get in touch, or if you have any ideas for fundraising or you wish us to attend an event, we are open to ideas, your input is very important to keep us up with any new ideas and events. I must say a big thank you to Mark who has kept us up with a brilliant website that is both informative and very professional and is updated as soon as we email him, well done Mark and a big thank you, I have yet to see such a good site with so many good ideas on it.

We started 2011 with 8 dogs going to very good homes and they have all settled in very well, we are all aware of today's climate and realise that homing dogs and raising funds is going to be very hard, we will need all the help we can get manning stalls etc, if you can help please let us know (the kettle is always on).

Thank you all once again  
Pat



## | 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)  
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**Phone** 01708 551 689

**Contact** Elaine Richards (Kennel Maintainer, Hertfordshire)  
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**Contact** Alison Markwood (Home Checking)  
**Email** alison@greyhoundhomer.co.uk

**Contact** Dick Philpot (Secretary)  
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**Contact** Mary Madsen (Treasurer)  
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**Contact** Bob Madsen (Photography)  
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[www.greyhoundhomer.co.uk](http://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 . 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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