



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2006 Issue 2

www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

A BIG HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the second edition of our Newsletter. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank all our Friends for their fantastic support which is greatly appreciated. (Enclosed is a "Friends" Renewal Form for 2007 which we hope you will complete to continue your valuable support of the Charity.)

The Trustees would also like to thank all our Friends and Supporters who so generously donated items for the Silent Auction held at Marston Green in August starting off the fund to enable us to research into epilepsy.

It was with regret that Dr Russell Hodges informed the Trustees that he was unable to continue as Secretary/Trustee due to work commitments. Russell was thanked by the Trustees for all the time and hard work he had given in helping to make the Charity a success. Ms Mary Turney was invited to become Secretary/Trustee and accepted that role with effect from the 1st May 2006 and has now settled in and is proving to be a great asset to the Charity.

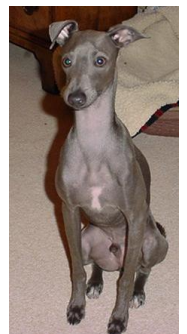
Ms Mary Turney (Secretary/Trustee) has lived with dogs and horses all her life, and whippets were her first breed, having owned two Champions, one of which was black, not a easy colour to campaign. She has always admired Italian Greyhounds, as they, like the whippet resemble a Thoroughbred horse in profile, and she loves the adorable nature of the breed. Mary says that her two Italian Greyhound boys have integrated with her whippets very well indeed.

Mary lives and works in the Cotswolds, which is a beautiful part of the world, but a little chilly for the Italian Greyhounds who so love basking in the sunshine. She adds that the saying 'Stow-on-the-Wold where the wind blows cold' is all too true!, and they are only 3 miles from Stow. She adds that she is a keen photographer, enjoys cooking and riding and is a useless gardener [but tries], aided and abetted by her Italian Greyhounds who are **SO** good at digging,.

Get Well Wishes

Our thoughts are with our Patron Katie Boyle, who has been seriously ill, necessitating prolonged hospitalisation. However, rather than Katie helping an Italian Greyhound it was Tottie (pictured) her beloved rescued Italian Greyhound who managed to sneak to her bedside, to give Katie the boost she needed to see 'the light at the end of the tunnel'. Katie is now home and is on the road to recovery, somewhat slower than she would like.

We all, send our warmest wishes to her, for a complete return to the good health, we associate with our vibrant, caring Katie.



A Word from our Chairman - Helen

Twelve months has flown by and we have all been busy ensuring that any Italian Greyhound or its guardian can call on us for help when needed and this means having the finances available to help. Last Christmas was our busiest so far and we hope that you will find more unique Italian Greyhound products to tempt you this year! Don't forget to save all the stamps from your Christmas cards; Margery Hall can convert them into cash for us, but she needs lots please...

During the summer we took part in the Club's Fun Day, holding a 'sponsored sit', which thanks to many obedient and patient dogs, resulted in raising £166.50. Following this a Silent Auction at the IG Club Show in August raised £361. Thanks are due to the generosity of the donators who gave so freely to make an interesting auction and to the bidders for entering into the spirit of the occasion.

Interest in the breed continues to grow and as a Breed Advisor for the last 12 years for 'Dogs Today' magazine, I know by the number of enquiries I receive each week. Sadly, not all enquiries are from people who genuinely want to understand the complexities, and, share Italian Greyhound's lives, for the right reasons.

The internet has opened up a whole new avenue to easily advertise puppies and adults to a world wide audience. We sadly have to cope with Italian Greyhound's sold for inflated prices (up to £2,000) by breeders who merely look on them as a means of income with no thought as to their future wellbeing; the dogs are often kept outside, with little or no human contact, which as we all know is totally alien for an Italian Greyhound. It is so sad that when these dogs reach us, often in their later years, after their useful breeding years are over; it is the first time they really get to know what routine, affection and comfort is really all about. We can't stop these breeders, but we can and do keep an eye on them and are grateful to those of you in the breed that help to keep us informed.

Please continue to support us, you make our work worthwhile, whether it is as a long term adopter, fosterer, home checker, finding goods to aid our fundraising or by simply being a 'Friend', thank you, we need you all and more importantly the Italian Greyhound's need you.

Update from Our Rescue Co-ordinator - Shirley

The team has again had a busy year with five Italian Greyhounds re homed, two whippets, (who were both micro chipped as Italian Greyhounds), re homed and a considerable Welfare input covering a wide range of issues. Sadly this year we said goodbye to four of our beloved rescues and we are indebted to their kind, caring and devoted families. A big thank you and yes you did make a difference.

Christmas 2005 was anything but festive for three Italian Greyhounds who we received into our care for re homing on 22nd, 24th and 28th December, all of them were soon settled and getting spoilt in their new homes with loving families to care for them.

Our first contact this year was on the 14th January 2006 when we were alerted by Sighthound Rescue in Dorset that a fawn and white Italian Greyhound was advertised for sale in a shop window. Enquiries revealed that the dog had been sold on.

On the 9th February, 2006 came our greatest challenge so far "Figgy", put into rescue because he was said to chase hens and run off, he turned out to be a very disturbed Italian Greyhound. He was fostered for six weeks and much hard work was put in to re socialise this poor boy; thanks go to everyone who was involved with "Figgy" particularly his fosterer, whose patience knows no bounds!!! On the 26th March, Karen & Kenton adopted "Figgy", Karen has undertaken a dog psychology course so is ideally suited to continue his training and re socialisation. We really do appreciate all your hard work and thank you for your monthly feed back on his progress. He sounds to be making wonderful progress in your care, thanks Karen & Kenton.

Sadly three of our rescues came to the end of their lives in February 2006. Pepe was re homed in February 2000 where he quickly won a place in the hearts of Ros & Mike, he was a real character and I received so many photographs of him enjoying life to the full. He sadly died on 6th February at the age of 11 years. Thanks for caring for Pepe for six years Ros & Mike I know that his loss left a hole in your hearts.

On the 13th February, 2006 Kathleen rang with the sad news that "Eos" had died at the age of ten, they were together for only twenty months and wonderful company for each other. Thanks for all you did for "Eos" Kathleen.

The first Italian Greyhound I re homed was "Milti" way back in 1997. Like "Eos" he enjoyed a one to one relationship with his adopter. Sadly "Milti" died on 27th February at the age of thirteen and is dearly missed by Lily his adopter. Sadly age prevents Lily from having another dog, so she is sponsoring a rescue. Thank you Lily for all the care and devotion shown to "Milti", you made him a very happy little dog.

Sadly, the 24th March saw the death of "Cham" at the age of twelve and a half years, and after only twenty months with Karen & Kenton; thank you for all you did for this gentle, fun loving boy.

April 2006 saw us re homing three rescues, all required treatment before re homing, and in the case of one of them major surgery to straighten a foreleg, which turned out to be an untreated fracture suffered six years earlier as a puppy the Vet. said!!! We are indebted to the fosterer who cared for him until he was ready for re homing three months later. We thank Lucy & Bryan for adopting "Markey", the dog of their dreams. They are devoting a lot of time to this little dog to get him 100% fit again; how happy he looks on the photographs, loved and being thoroughly spoilt.

Another big thank you goes to Daphne and Peter, and Carole and Paul for adopting two of this years rescues. You have all made such a difference to the rescues for which we are very grateful; the photographs sent to me show how loved and happy these dogs are. The Trustees are most grateful to you Carole for offering to share you home with an epileptic Italian Greyhound, a nasty condition which sadly too few breeders are trying to reduce the incidence of.

14th June a call from a dog warden who had scanned one of her strays, the microchip said that the dog was an Italian Greyhound. One of our helpers drove to collect "Penny", only to discover that she was in fact a whippet. After short foster care she was re homed by JR whippet Rescue who had homes for whippets waiting.

August saw a fine young male re homed and he seems to have taken over the new household!! He settled quickly and seems very happy.

Finally on the 9th October we again had a wrongly micro chipped dog who was said to be an Italian Greyhound, but on collection she turned out to be a large whippet, she was re homed and is settling in with her new family well.

The Charity currently has in it's care, 53 re homed dogs. We are very fortunate to have so many kind, caring families looking after these Italian Greyhounds, thank you all.

Thanks also to our many "Friends" who offer assistance both practically and financially, they undertake home checking, transportation of rescues and fund raising, all vital for our continued success in the re homing and Welfare of Italian Greyhounds.

Do you have a favourite recipe? It could be either something that your Italian Greyhound enjoys or your own favourite recipe which you would like to share with others. If you have then please send them to Helen Lister, Yew Tree Cottage, Near Orrest, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1JT who intends compiling a recipe book, which will be sold in aid of Rescue.

DETAILS REGARDING THE CESSATION OF THE ITALIAN GREYHOUND CLUB RESCUE AND WELFARE

At the 2006 Italian Greyhound Club AGM, members present voted (43 for / 11 against), to accept that Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity is the rescue Charity officially recognised to assist the breed and their owners who find themselves in difficulties. As the Italian Greyhound Club Rescue and Welfare has ceased to exist our Charity has undertaken to accept responsibility for the continued welfare of Italian Greyhounds previously rehomed by them.

Our Charity exists to provide a comprehensive rescue and welfare service. The Charity Commission approved the following aims and objectives:-

- To relieve the suffering of Italian Greyhounds in need of care and attention and, in particular, to provide and maintain rescue homes for pedigree or crossbred Italian Greyhounds;
- To ensure that Italian Greyhounds in need of veterinary care receive this;
- To promote the advancement of research into diseases and health issues affecting Italian Greyhounds;
- To promote all aspects of welfare associated with Italian Greyhound ownership.

Elderly owners who have lost their beloved Italian Greyhound and feel that age is not on their side to consider owning another can ***Sponsor a Rescue***. This enables them to maintain a link with the breed they love and at the same time, their sponsorship helps a dog that has fallen on hard times.

Owners who wish to make provision for their Italian Greyhounds in the event of serious illness or death can complete a Charity ***Request for Care*** form to ensure that their pets are cared for.

Our Charity is concerned for the welfare of puppies being bred by owners who do not have suitable homes waiting for puppies. These puppies often end up being advertised on the internet or in free Ad papers. A number of such puppies have found themselves in difficulties and are included in the ten Italian Greyhounds which the Charity assisted in 2005.

Any information given to the Charity remains confidential and owners can be assured that the Charity's primary concern is the welfare and wellbeing of both dogs and owners. Re-homing is a long term adoption with life long contact.

TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Coordinator of Rescues - Shirley Penrose-Hansell tel: 0161 428 0142

Secretary - Mary Turney tel: 01608 652017

Treasurer - Stuart Dunham tel: 0161 788 8017

Fundraiser - Helen Lister tel: 01539 443343

Pam Heap tel: 01751 476956

Tom Mather tel: 0151 486 3570

By Email from Russ

Robbie (my Italian Greyhound) and I rub along pretty well. He's eight years old now, and I've had him since he was fourteen months - so we know each other's habits pretty well by now. However, a month or so ago, a potentially fatal incident happened which prompted me to make a couple of changes.

Robbie's bed has, for years, been a fairly straightforward dog's bed, underneath several fluffy towels, and fleece cot blankets. On the face of it, quite an extravagant heap of soft fabric that he could always pick his way into and be completely and happily covered. I think we've all seen our IG's pick their way into a pile of laundry, and then (hours later) wander off with something draped over their back, which eventually falls off somewhere in the house. Robbie would often totter out of his bed with one of his blankets still on his back until it fell off - usually not far from the bed. Robbie also has a dog-door which enables him to come and go as he pleases into the back garden, again, a system that's worked for years. However about a month ago he managed to get all the way from his bed to the door (which involves going down a flight of stairs) with a blanket in attendance, the blanket only came off as he went through the dog-door, thus jamming it and meaning that he couldn't get back in.

Now - thankfully I was at home and heard the first yip, but if I hadn't been and it had been freezing cold, I dread to think what might have happened. For anyone that has an Italian Greyhound and a dog-door, it's worth being aware of this potential hazard. I have now replaced his bed with an IG's snuggle-bed, which he absolutely adores and which has no detachable parts.

From Peterborough Column in the Daily Mail 20th October 2006

When my elderly mother had a few problems with her house, I said she should speak to my solicitor. I got in touch with him to arrange a meeting. I explained that my mother was in her 80's and housebound. This was no problem, he said, as he could send one of his colleagues on a home visit. A time and date were agreed. I went to see my mother after the meeting.

All went well, she said, and he was very helpful. But you'll never guess what happened, she said, and started to explain... When she opened the front door to let the solicitor in, she saw that he had brought his dog with him. She was annoyed and thought: 'What a cheek!' But didn't say anything. They went into the sitting room and the dog promptly lay in front of the fire and went to sleep. They went through all the problems, she thanked him and they shook hands. He got up and walked to the front door. Excuse me,' she called after him: 'You've forgotten your dog.' 'Oh!' he said. 'It's not mine. I thought it was yours!'

"Zola" & "Vialli" by Shirley



Zola & Vialli came to us via an English Setter Rescue where the brothers had been dumped, both were adult males of average height 38cms (15"), but their weight was far from the acceptable 3.6-4.5 kgs (8-10lbs). In fact they each weighed approximately two kgs (4lb 4 oz.) The lady running the Setter rescue got my details from the KC Rescue Directory and it was arranged for the boys to be collected. At their first Vet check, not only were they weighed, but they were aged at approximately two years of age.

It was a special family in Kent who wished to adopt the unnamed Italian Greyhound boys and our adoption process was put in place. The two young teenagers of the family Aaron and Lewis, set about naming the new arrivals. As they are Chelsea football supporters the Italian Greyhounds were named after their favourite Italian football stars Zola & Vialli. Very fitting names which they soon became used to.

It took a lot of special care and attention to get Zola & Vialli (pictured) back into decent condition. They started off with four small nourishing meals a day until their weight reached normal limits. Getting them house trained took much longer, but Melanie's persistence paid off and the family now have two beautiful and very spoilt Italian greyhounds.

I have received many photographs of Zola & Vialli and their happiness within the family is obvious after a terrible start in life, these two inseparable Italian Greyhounds are now enjoying a wonderful quality of life. My heartfelt thanks to you all Melanie.

A Letter to my Italian Greyhound Friends from Widget

After a very sad start in life I now have a new home. My friend Ellie lost her Whippet companion Meg who was 13½ years old. Mum and Dad thought Ellie would like a friend, so when they heard about me they brought her to meet me.

When we got home Ellie showed me around the house and garden; it's great fun trying to catch those squirrels.

I did not like vegetables at first, but mum said they were good for me. Ellie showed me how to "pick your own". One sharp pull and out comes the carrot. We leave the leaves on the lawn.

Dad says, "Who did that?"

We have lots of caravan holidays, which we enjoy. Mum has sent a photo of us for you all to see us.

Lots of love from Ellie and Widget the Fidget.

Sent in on behalf of Ellie and Widget by Daphne and Peter Gruncell



It is the happy endings, the stories and the photographs which make being a rescue coordinator worth all the hard work involved with this activity. We are indebted to all the families who have adopted an Italian Greyhound or Italian Greyhound crossbreed.

Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity has "Friends" who enable us to undertake all our re homing activities. Our "Friends" offer foster homes, assist with transportation, home checking and fund raising activities across the British Isles. We are indebted to them and their hard work. We also thank the many enquirers who are interested in the breed, and a special thanks to those people who alert us time and again when they hear of an Italian Greyhound in need. I am pleased to say that the majority of dogs we re home are in good condition, the cruelty/neglect cases are the exception. Italian Greyhounds are a specialist breed and not suited to everyone's lifestyle.

If you are interested in supporting us by becoming a "Friend", please contact Stuart Dunham, Tel: 0161 788 8017 or visit our web site www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk and download a "Friends" application form. ©

In future Newsletters we would like to feature more items of interest from Friends about their Italian Greyhounds. Please send contributions to Stuart Dunham, 44A Lancaster Road, Pendleton, Salford, Greater Manchester M6 8AW.



Benson is looking forward to Christmas and practising his 'angelic look' hoping for extra treats!

On behalf of Our Patron and Trustees I would like to wish All our Friends and their IG companions a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.