



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2008 Issue 4

PATRON: Katie Boyle

www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

ANOTHER BIG HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the fourth edition of our Newsletter which we hope you will enjoy reading. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank all our Friends and supporters for their continued support which is greatly appreciated. Enclosed is a "Friends" Renewal Form for 2009 (unless you have set up a standing order) which we hope you will complete and return to continue your valuable support of the Charity.

It was with regret that Stuart Dunham informed the Trustees that he was not seeking reappointment as Treasurer after the end of his term of office in April 2008. Stuart was thanked by the Trustees for all the time and hard work he had given in helping to make the Charity a success and continues as a Trustee. Mrs Jean Lambie-Logue was invited to become Treasurer/Trustee and accepted the role with effect from the 1st May 2008. Jean has now settled in and is proving to be a great asset to the Charity.

Mrs Jean Lambie-Logue (Treasurer/Trustee) said that she was absolutely delighted when she was invited to become a Trustee of the Italian Greyhound Charity and considered it an honour to be involved with these wonderful little dogs.

At present Jean shares her life with a rescue blue/white Whippet cross called Gypsy Rose aged seven years and Bertie a blue Italian Greyhound aged five (what characters) and of course her husband and family.

She added that twice a year they go on holiday to Northumberland (the dog's holiday's really) where they enjoy the beautiful golden sands and if the weather is good it is magical. Every day Gypsy and Bertie go on the beach. Here is a picture of them on holiday this year which is called 'In Flight' on the beach.



Update from our Chairman - Helen

As you will read in Shirley's update, the Charity has seen a significant increase in the number of Italian Greyhounds rehomed since the beginning of this year and it is only October as I write. Sadly, some of the dogs have been subject to cruel treatment, and our Rescue Coordinator is supporting the new adopter of two dogs who are very disturbed; one having had its ears stapled together on top of its head. Another rescue who has never experienced a stable loving home has come to us as its last owners' other dogs kept attacking it. We have concerns where puppies have been sold to homes with young children, not an ideal situation for an Italian Greyhound, particularly where there are boisterous children; the IG does not have much covering to protect it against over zealous poking and both dog and owner become frustrated, with the IG having to be found a new home. There is definitely a depressing increase in the number of young puppies being moved on, no longer is a home for the life of a dog. Circumstances can change, but we are seeing an increasing number of dogs looking for new homes, unfortunately more than one or two looking for their fourth or fifth home before the puppy has even reached adulthood (12 months of age). We also question the ethics of breeders selling puppies to elderly people, without making proper provision for the dog outliving its elderly owner. We appreciate members who help us in our cause to educate potential owners about the exacting needs of properly caring for an IG.

Fortunately, there is no shortage of people wanting to adopt an IG, which is a healthy situation for the Charity. We do share the concerns of many of the Club members, that due to the horrendous increase of trading our beloved breed on the internet, they will and have landed in totally unsuitable homes. These people see IG's as an easy breed to recoup their outlay and make profits; little do they appreciate that they are feisty, adorable creatures who need the one-on-one relationship with their owner and need to be understood. The breeders don't care where they home their puppies, as long as the cash keeps coming and as we know, often in totally unsuitable homes. The lucky ones come to or are found by the Charity, but we dread to think what happens to the rest.

Many of you will have watched with horror the BBC 1 programme, 'Pedigree Dogs Exposed'. It was gruesome to watch dogs in so much pain and a great pity that the program makers focused purely on the negative aspects of dog breeding and how man has genetically altered some breeds to suit their own taste over the years. The Italian Greyhound would have been a perfect example of a breed very little changed in hundreds of years. However, we do know that epilepsy is a problem in our breed as was shown in the program by an epileptic Boxer. The Charity is undertaking research with the Animal Health Trust to identify the gene(s) responsible for epilepsy in IG's. The AHT is pleased with the response from IG owners submitting their dogs DNA samples (saliva swab), but would like to see more breeders taking part in the scheme which has no cost to the owner. The majority of samples they have received have been from 'pet owning' IG owners rather than breeders, which if the scheme is to be beneficial for the breed they need to take part.

Testing kits are available from Helen Lister ☎ 015394 43343 or email: igrescue@btinternet.com, so please, if you haven't already done so, send off your dogs DNA to The Animal Health Trust.

The Trustees would like to thank the talented people who make lovely things for the Rescue to fundraise, namely Violetta and Tina for the beautiful handmade greetings cards, Mary for keeping IG's happy and warm with her fleece rats and vests, Pauline for her artistic talents in painting IG's for a card design, Ann for her Iggy Hamper and Marjorie who still relentlessly collects used stamps to sell and raise funds for rescues. Also to all the kind people too numerous to mention who have donated items throughout the year, we are truly grateful to you.

Update from our Rescue Co-ordinator - Shirley

It's hard to believe that yet another year has passed and it has reached the time when I write to you all about what we have been doing with regard to rescue/rehoming of the little ones in need. Sadly, in the first three quarters of this year we have rehomed more Italian Greyhounds than have ever been rehomed in a single year since way back in 1997.

Is this a reflection of our times when dogs are readily sold on the internet, often for huge sums of money with little consideration for where the puppies end up. Most rescues are not house trained and a number have not been socialised. Many sold to people out all day and often living in apartments without access to a garden. Sadly there is little the Rescue Charity can do about it except be here to pick up the pieces.

There has been a considerable **Welfare** input this year covering a wide range of issues associated with IG ownership. Practical help and continued support has helped a number of people who have found themselves or their dogs in difficulties.

13 Italian Greyhounds have been rehomed during the first nine months of 2008, **85** dogs have been rehomed since 1997 (**32** of these by the Charity since 01/01/2005), **67** Re homed dogs are currently being supported, **18** of our very special little rescues have come to the end of their lives since 1997.

Four of the 18 have died this year, **Dino** died at the age of 13 years. **Vialli** passed away in April at the age of 11 years. Two IG's who lived in a hot climate before coming into our care, have both died from skin cancer after a long illness. **Aphrodite** died at the age of 12 years and **Teeny** died aged 10 years. The Trustees thank all families for what they have done for these little dogs, your love and devotion to them was total.

Willow & Wisp are two sad little IG's who found their way into the Inverness Highlands & Islands dog's home. Both were in a poor state, covered in scars and one had had his ears stapled together on the top of his head according to the Vet who has been caring for them. The Centre is prohibited from letting another rescue organisation rehome one of their rescues, so I negotiated with the Manageress for a prospective adopter on my waiting list to adopt these two brothers. What a wonderful home they have gone to, but what a difficult time it has been for them and their adopter who we offer support to where we can. I even had a call from an IG Rescue Centre in the USA about these two who were advertised by the Inverness Dogs Home on the internet. The boys are now making progress and loved greatly by their adopter.

A number of you have enquired about Sapphie who came into our care in February 2007 and was finally discharged from the care of Cambridge Veterinary School Hospital in July 2008 after two lots of major surgery to correct her liver shunt and numerous blood tests and follow up visits. However, Sapphie has fallen on her feet as Chris who has fostered her for so long and seen her through all her treatment, has kindly offered her a permanent home with her and her Mother. It could not have worked out better for such a special and very brave little IG. You will recall from last years article, Sapphie also has a kind and loving sponsor. This generous lady shows such an interest in all that Sapphie is doing and everything that is happening to her. We are able to pass on photographs and regular updates on her progress. This gives Sapphie's sponsor a continued interest in the breed which she had for many years. As age is not on her side to own another IG, sponsoring a rescue lifts the heart again for someone so smitten with the breed.



We are very fortunate to have so many kind, caring families who have adopted and are looking after their special Italian Greyhound Rescues, thank you all. A big thank you to all our foster carers, Chris our main foster carer, is assisted by her Mother and they work so hard with all the rescues which they are involved with. A big thank you to Kay and Sally who give, snuggle beds, collars and leads for our re homed IG's. Thanks also to Daphne for her beautiful hand made coats, and to Mary for coats, fleece vests and her beds. All donate these items free of charge for the rescues. Your generosity really does make a difference for the dogs in need and it is so nice to be able to send them off to start their new lives with everything our beloved breed needs.

Many of you have kindly assisted us both financially and practically with tasks like home checking and transportation of rescues, fund raising and many other activities so vital for our continued success in the rehoming and welfare of Italian Greyhounds. Thank you all, I could not do my job without the help and support of our friends.

Best Wishes to everyone and all our adopted dogs, for Christmas and the New Year, and thank you all for your news throughout the year via photographs, letters, telephone calls and e mails I love to hear from everyone.

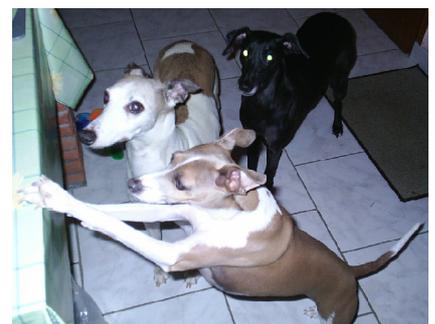
SMARTIE AND FRIENDS ON HOLIDAY IN FRANCE by Andrew Cannon

This is a story about Smartie who is an I.G. and his two friends Solo and Sadie who are both Whippets and their holidays in France with the Cannon family.

Smartie arrived at the Cannon residence via a local dog rescue centre in January 2006 with no travel paperwork and we had arranged our holiday in September of that year, so we had to obtain Smarties passport without delay.

The stages to obtain a passport are as follows:-

- 1) The dog must be microchipped;
- 2) The dog must have their first Rabies vaccination (will last up to 3 years);
- 3) Thirty days after the vaccination, a blood test is carried out to confirm that the vaccine has taken;
- 4) Once the tests have confirmed that the vaccination has taken, the vet will then issue the dog with a passport;



5) You now have to wait 6 months before you can use the passport, but after this period you are then free to use it as many times as you like.

So, we managed to obtain a passport for Smartie within the time required, and it was now time to leave and make our way to the ferry terminal in Poole.

On arriving at the ferry terminal we checked ourselves in and now it's the dogs turn, the passports are checked and the dogs are scanned with a mobile scanner. Smartie is excited by all the attention from the check in staff. With all the paperwork in order we proceed to the embarkation area.

This gives us time to let Smartie have his last walk in England for the next two weeks. We are then requested to drive onto the ferry, Smartie is very excited but he cannot explore the ferry due to Health & Safety rules, so he will have to stay in the car with the others. We leave the dogs in the car and make our way to the lounge area. I have arranged with the ferry company to go and check on the dogs about ½ way through the crossing, they can walk on the car deck for about 15 minutes on their leads.

We approach Cherbourg ferry terminal and the order is given to make your way back to your car. Smartie is now in France. We drive straight off the ferry and through the terminal with out stopping. I drive to one of the supermarkets in the town centre and let the dogs out for a walk and also to feed them as it is not advisable to feed them before a sea crossing, think of you poor cars upholstery if they are unwell.

After their meal we walk into town for a bite to eat ourselves and make for a little cafe we have visited before in the old part of town. You have to appreciate that 99% of cafes and restaurants will allow dogs in with you, the French are much more dog friendly than us in the UK and are accepted in most shops, cafes, holiday homes and hotels, yes I did say hotels.

Whilst we are having our meal in the café, the dogs are sitting under the table with the odd chip passed to them. I know it is naughty, but they are on holiday to! The locals are very interested in Smartie and I have to explain that he is an I.G. and Smartie never disappoints with his excitement in seeing people.

After lunch we travelled down to our home just outside a town called Vire, I pull in the driveway and Smartie is up and ready to get out and explore his new empire. Solo being an old hand at this travelling lark runs around to the back to find his favourite washing line post, Smartie follows but comes face to face with the neighbours (a herd of Normandy cows).

Being a very brave dog he approached the first cow and loudly proclaims his arrival, at one point nose to nose, but his bravery was short lived when the group approach the fence to see what all the fuss was about, he decided one cow no problem two more, time to leave.

We had two weeks to relax in the peace of the French countryside. Smartie had many adventures and made many new friends including Biscot a three legged Pointer who is owned by Jacky and Anne-Marie a local farmer.

Now our time in France is nearly over and we have to make an appointment at the local vets to have the dogs treated against ticks and worms, as you must have this done before you are permitted back into the UK. We have a good practice where we go and we and our pets are treated like one of the family (the prices are a lot cheaper as well). Our vet Dr. Claumonte has a way with animals and Smartie is very happy to see him, but not the injection as it can sting for a couple of minutes. Dr. Claumonte offers Smartie a treat for being a very good patient which Smartie eats with vigour, have you known an I.G. turn down food.

It's the day of our return to England and the car is packed and we have said of goodbyes to our friends in France and we now make our way back to Cherbourg, but we have time to stop off at Jardiland (garden and animal centre) and buy Smartie a couple of new toys to take home with him to remember his holiday.

Back in Cherbourg we park the car and make our way to the terminal with the dogs so that we can check them in with the ferry company. The ferry company clerk checks their passport and I have to scan them to prove who they are. All is fine but this is where it can go wrong and it has happened to me once before when my UK vet make a very small error on the passport and did not sign that he had corrected the mistake. So please check that your passport is watertight or there might be a problem in coming home with your pet.

Armed with our paperwork from the ferry company we make our way back to the car and Smartie has his last sniff of French soil before we depart on our way back home.

I have travelled on many ferry routes and Eurotunnel and I have not encountered a problem, all the staff are very friendly on both sides of the Channel and I would recommend overseas travel to all.

VACANCY FOR CHARITY SECRETARY/TRUSTEE

Do you think you could fill the Role of Secretary/Trustee for the Charity?

The Trustees are looking to fill the role of Charity Secretary/Trustee with effect from 1st May 2009. The role would suit a person who has a special interest in the breed and who also has access to a computer (especially MS Word) and email. The Trustees meet twice a year (usually on a Saturday or Sunday) at Pickmere, Cheshire.

If you would like further details or an application form, please contact Helen Lister on 01539 443343 or by email hm.lister@btinternet.com before 31st December 2008. The appointment will be for a three year period with effect from 1st May 2009.

Helen and Charlotte Fundraising at Pets at Home in Barrow in Furness

Our Chairman, Helen, on behalf of the Charity was invited by her local Pets at Home store in Barrow in Furness to hold a Fundraising day instore.



The store had very kindly nominated the Charity to be put forward for Pets at Home Charitable Trust Sponsorship for 2008. The Charity received a donation of £600 from the sponsorship plus discount voucher booklets for distribution to rescue adopters/helpers.

As you can see from the photographs Helen did us proud and the stand was beautifully presented. Harvey (Helen's IG) made a star appearance and Charlotte (the store manager, Angela Oldfield's daughter) kindly helped out, which was much appreciated.



A raffle was organised and Helen, Charlotte and Harvey raised £104.

DOG HOUSE RULES

From Laura who has rescue Sachi

TO ALL HUMANS WHO VISIT OUR HOME, PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING COMMANDMENTS

1. The dogs live here, you don't.
2. If you don't want hair on your clothes, simply stay off the furniture
3. Yes, dogs have some disgusting ways. So do you and so do I. What's your point?
4. OF COURSE they smell like dogs
5. It's their nature to sniff your crotch. Please feel free to sniff back
6. Yes I do like them better than I like most people
7. To you they are dogs. To me, they are children who are hairy, walk on all fours, don't always speak my language and tolerate eating off the floor. I have no problem with any of these things
8. Dogs are better than kids; they eat less, don't ask for money, are easier to train, come when called (most of the time), never drive your car, don't talk back, don't use drugs, smoke or drink, don't care about the latest fashions or wear your clothes and they don't need money for college - just, in some cases obedience school
9. If their barking annoys you, go home. They are dogs - dogs bark
10. Some dogs don't like to be touched by strangers. If you try it and they growl, consider yourself fairly warned. If you insist on trying again and they bite, whose fault is that?
11. Finally, don't call them "dumb dogs". They are far more intelligent, fair-minded, tolerant, loving, forgiving and loyal than most of the humans I have known.

Benson is looking forward to decorating the Christmas Tree and has found some red ribbon along with the baubles! On behalf of our Patron and Trustees I would like to wish all IG's and their carers a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



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TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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

Secretary - To be appointed

Treasurer - Jean Lambie-Logue tel: 01484 602755

Chairman/Fundraiser - Helen Lister tel: 01539 443343

Stuart Dunham tel: 01803 712714

Pam Heap tel: 01751 476956

Tom Mather tel: 0151 486 3570