



# Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

## Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011 Issue 7 PATRON: Mary Browning [www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk](http://www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk)

### HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the seventh 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 2012 (unless you have set up a standing order) which we hope you will complete and return to continue your valuable support of the Charity. In this issue we have included some photographs of recently departed IG's and Obituaries in respect of a dear supporter of IG's and the Charity, Miss Margery Hall who died on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011 aged 99 years.

### UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN - HELEN

The Garden Party on the 25<sup>th</sup> September in Cheshire organised by the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity, had an amazing 101 entries. IG's and their owners/adopters came from as far as Inverness-shire and Portsmouth. Our Judge Mrs Valerie Foss had a busy time and she really enjoyed seeing IG's of all shapes and sizes! We had a wonderful demonstration of obedience from Elmo (IG) and Wendy Clark and Maverick (Peke) and Selina Lund, which certainly gave food for thought to the many owners present. This was followed by a sponsored stay and we had to concede to three winners as we were told that at least one of the dog's taking part would happily stay put for at least an hour! The three winners were Elmo, Harry and Maverick.

The Special Raffle of an original pastel picture of two rescue IG heads by artist Mary Browning raised £319 and Barney Turner had the winning ticket for this. The Dog in the Tapestry Garden book was won by Cathryn Palmer. Cathryn ran an excellent session giving tips on keeping the teeth of IG's clean and nails short, which was appreciated by a number of owners. The photographic competition had 115 entries with some spectacular pictures. Our Judge has chosen a selection for reproduction in the 2012 calendar, which will be on sale in November. Nancy & Geoff Wallwork were the recipients of the IG Head Study print donated by Alison Fennell for the lucky programme. We had generous sponsorship from Talking Tables who provided wonderful disposable tableware featuring IG's, Pets at Home; Togs for Dogs for all the class rosettes and printing and a number of Rescues 'Friends' generously gave towards the cost of prizes ensuring that every dog went home with a prize.

There was a mini agility course set up outside by Gina Pears and a number of dogs had fun completing it. The ladies were kept very busy serving teas and cakes. We are very grateful to the many people who helped us on the day which proved to be far busier than we had anticipated. Sadly the day was marred by one of our rescues slipping his collar and lead and running off. Subsequent attempts at locating the IG proved successful and the dog was found. Further information is given on page three of this issue in "Recovering our lost Italian Greyhound".



### Mini - Agility Outdoor Event



### Inside of the Hall - Friends of the Charity and their four legged friends



### Some extremely well-behaved I.G's in the Obedience Ring

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### 2011 UPDATE FROM RESCUE CO-ORDINATOR - SHIRLEY

It is the time of year again when Linda & Stuart request my annual update of our rehoming activities for their latest Charity Newsletter. Where has the past year gone or is it a sign of the ageing process when time passes quickly? I do hope that it has been a good year for everyone and in particular for all of our rehomed dogs.

As in previous years the Charity Trustees have been busy assisting Italian Greyhounds, IG cross breeds and owners with numerous dog related issues. Including enquiries from the general public about IG ownership and the best way to obtain an IG. We always try to steer them away from the internet advertisements and puppy farmers.

#### **Statistics for year to end of September, 2011**

**10 dogs have been re homed so far during the report year**

(5 are IG's and 5 are IG x Whippet dogs - the youngest was just 5 months of age and the oldest 4 years). All the cross breeds have had socialisation issues of one sort or another.

**5 of our rehomed dogs have come to the end of their lives during the past year;**

**60 dogs have been re homed since the Charity was founded in 2004;**

**113 dogs have been re homed since my involvement with re homing IG's in 1997;**

**32 dogs have sadly come to the end of their lives.**

## **WE REMEMBER THEM :-**



**02/11/2010** rescue **Monty** (pictured left) died, he was twelve & three quarter years old, born on the 17/02/1998. Our thanks go to Joy and Jim for giving this special boy so many happy years of life, they adopted Monty in June, 2001.

**08/11/2010** rescue **Nina** died, she was two months short of her sixteenth birthday. Nina was adored by her adopters Margaret & Malcolm who I know are missing her greatly, they had lovingly cared for Nina for more than twelve years. Nina is the only pure white IG that I have ever seen during the thirty years I have owned the breed, she was like a piece of china, being so typical and elegant in every way.

Sadly, Nina's rescue pal **Gioia** (pictured right) died just three months later from an inoperable cancer and she was thirteen years and four months of age when she came to the end of her life. Thank you Margaret & Malcolm for all you did for Nina and Gioia. Margaret's tribute to Nina follows on page 4.



**04/12/2010** rescue **Jessie** (pictured left) died just two months short of her thirteenth Birthday. She was adopted by Daphne & Peter at 7 years of age when her puppy breeding days were over. Poor little Jessie produced many puppies for her breeder, a number of which have been rehomed through the Charity. She lived outside in a stable but at least she was able to spend her later years in the comfort of a loving home with another IG for company.

**08/02/2011** rescue **Luigi** (pictured right) died at the approximate age of eleven years. The Vet. aged Luigi at about 11 months when he came to us for rehoming from a police station on the 16/01/2001 (his story appeared in an earlier Newsletter). Throughout his life Luigi was always a difficult dog to live with but Kay & Richard were wonderful with him and understood his difficult personality. Some days Luigi was so cross with everything and everybody that he was known as Mr Snarly but he was a very loved little dog and thank you Kay and Richard for all you did for this little boy, you gave him the ability to enjoy life after such a terrible start. I know how much you both loved Luigi despite his regular outbursts and we thank you for your patience and understanding of his problems.



Sadly we have seen over the years a number of IG's so traumatised that they never fully recover from the experience. If only they could talk and tell us what happened to them in their early lives. Some of these damaged little dogs are eventually well enough to be re homed, others are not and two such IG's live here with us where they have both human and IG company full time.

We are delighted that the **10** re homed dogs this year are all settled into their new homes and enjoying being thoroughly spoilt. Some were relatively easy to re home, others, particularly the cross breeds, have been a bit more of a challenge. Thank you to all their adopters for giving them the chance of a better life.

Thanks to all the Friends of the Charity who have offered their assistance with home checking, transportation and fostering of this year's rescues, it has been a busy time but without your help my role rehoming IG's would be impossible, I really so appreciate your help.

Thanks also to those of you who have donated beds, coats, toys, leads, collars etc. for those arriving without anything. The generous donations made to the Charity are most welcome.

### **SOME WELFARE ISSUES:-**

On the **Welfare** front we have again been busy comforting distressed owners who have discovered that at 5/6 years of age their beloved IG has developed epilepsy with all the problems associated with this nasty condition. The Charity continues it's research into epilepsy in conjunction with the Animal Health Trust and anyone wishing to participate should contact **Helen Lister** on **015394 43343** for further details.

Leg fractures have also been a cause of concern for a number of new owners who had not been briefed about the possibility of an accident and the importance of insurance, particularly when the dog is young.

I recently researched the issue of dog insurance for the older IG and found that **Equine & Livestock Insurance (E&L Insurance)** have available what they call Senior Dog Insurance specifically for dogs over 8 years of age with no upper age limit. They also do dog insurance for younger dogs. There are three policies to choose from, silver for claims up to 4K, gold up to 5K and diamond up to 6K. The premiums are post code related and there is a 20% discount for on line quotes. For a telephone quote call 08449 809 520.

A number of new owners have experienced difficulties with very young puppies, some sold as young as 6 weeks of age. Some of the more prolific breeders sell one puppy then make contact with the owner to take on another IG for company for the puppy. This is often too much for the new owner to cope with. One such breeder actually sold an older breeding bitch to a family who went to collect a puppy, only for the family to find that she had milk and had been taken from puppies because a sale could be made!!!

Not all the dogs we are requested to re home come from unfortunate back grounds, many are re homed due to unavoidable changes in the circumstances for their owner/s. We are here to help them all.

To conclude may I pass on to you my new contact details. At the end of October, after 46 years away I hope to return to my roots. I have found a property in York which is 4 miles from the farm where I began life. The village church is the same one where I was Christened and married from!!! I just need to sort out a nice Nursing Home for my dear husband Neville who suffered a massive stroke some years ago which has left him with the use of only his head and one arm.

My contact details will be:- Mrs Shirley E. Penrose-Hansell, The Magnolias, 36, Stratford Way, Huntington, York, North Yorkshire YO32 9YW  
Tel: 01904 761956

My Very Best Wishes to you all, your families and pets for Christmas and 2012.

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### **Nina ( aged 15 years 9 months)**

**25<sup>th</sup> January 1995 - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**By Margaret Mace**



It was so fitting that Nina should leave us in such a beautiful spot, falling peacefully asleep at the end of a short holiday in the Trossachs, Scotland.

Pure white and so dainty she was known by many as our little piece of porcelain. Wherever we went she was the centre of attention from young and old. Vivacious and full of spirit she was also affectionate, gentle and comforting. We had such fun together though she could test

our patience at times especially when she was up to tricks (usually connected to stealing food) - a trait which continued to the very end so latterly sometimes we called her our 'geriatric delinquent'!!

But she was patient too and brave suffering several hospital admissions, broken bones, a dislocation and enteritis. She came to us as a rescue age 2½ years and from then she has just blossomed into the character we came to love winning the 'Best Rescue Dog' and the 'Dog with the Most Appealing Eyes' categories at the IG Centenary Event 2000.

Thank-you Nina for the 13 years you gave of your comfort and companionship.

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### **RECOVERING OUR LOST ITALIAN GREYHOUND**

It was with great sadness that one of our little rescues slipped his collar and lead during the afternoon of the garden party and made a bolt for freedom which lasted several days. I co-ordinated the search for him and would like to share with you the steps undertaken to secure the safe return of this little dog to the Charity.

Below is a list of contacts and actions taken within the first 24 hours, including a description of the IG and my contact details:-

- **Local search of the area**
- **Contact details left with local residents, pubs, B&B's, community caretakers etc.**
- **Police informed including motorway police**
- **Dog warden of the local Borough Council and neighbouring Councils contacted**
- **RSPCA contacted who advised Officer responsible for the area concerned**
- **Veterinary Practices within a ten mile radius contacted**
- **Local rescue establishments contacted within a ten mile radius**
- **IG owners in the area kindly assisted me in the search on a daily basis**
- **Help with the search from DogLost volunteers & their posters Tel: 08448003220 - [www.DogLost.co.uk](http://www.DogLost.co.uk)**

With no immediate success from the above, the below actions were undertaken:-

- **Local radio appeal**
- **Story for publication in the local paper**
- **Lost & found advert placed in the local free ad paper with 30 mile catchment area**
- **Appeal to schools in the area for children to keep their eyes open when out playing**
- **Dog training organisations in the area contacted**
- **Local Council Highways/street cleaning teams responsible for removal of animals killed on the roads contacted**
- **Dog trap set up on a farm which was loaned from DogLost (also available from the RSPCA & Cats Protection League)**

We could then only continue searching daily and hoping the little boy would remain safe. He was spotted by a local farmer on the first evening close to where he had disappeared from. A telephone call from a local resident was received the following evening to say that they had seen him at 9.15pm about half a mile away from where he was seen the previous evening. Keen to help us, I asked them to take food and try to coax him to them; at midnight they reported that they and another local couple had searched but he could not be located. The following day a bed, his little coat, collar, lead, blanket and food were taken to the family who agreed to put the items out each evening to try and entice him back with the smell of food and scent from his belongings.

There were no further sightings of the little IG despite every ones efforts of daily searching. DogLost loaned us a dog trap which I collected from the Midlands and set up on farm land (with the farmer's permission) close to where the boy was last seen. The trap was checked daily and fresh food put out but no result.

At 8am on day eight, a Veterinary Nurse on her way to work, saw a little dog at a cross roads in open countryside approximately 3 miles from where our lost IG was last seen. Although she had never seen an IG for real, the Vet. Nurse thought this was the dog whose description I had left at the surgery the week previous. With the help of another passing motorist she managed to get him into her car and took him to work with her.

At 8.20am I received the long awaited telephone call with this news and wept with joy for the little boy, relief and exhaustion. As requested I was on my way to identify the dog ASAP - **it was our lost boy**, the look he gave me said it all. I am so very grateful for the support I received from my fellow Trustees and friends during this nightmare experience, this helped me enormously during a very difficult and emotional week. We were all VERY relieved to get our little escapee back safely and he will remain in our care until he is fully recovered from the trauma of his experience and enjoyed a few tasty meals. To the quick thinking Vet. Nurse the biggest thanks of them all.

After thanking some of the local residents, and those out searching, I cleared the village of posters and collected the dog trap from the farm. The only remaining action for me and my fellow Charity Trustees was to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone else involved in the safe recovery of the little dog. A word of caution, we note that our little one is the 16<sup>th</sup> Italian Greyhound to feature on the DogLost website since 2004 and on average 10 - 12 lost dogs appear on this site each day.

I hope that none of our Newsletter readers ever go through the experience of losing their dogs but if you do I hope the above will assist in the safe recovery of your little one. (Name of the rescue has deliberately not been used in this article). **Shirley - Co-ordinator of Rescues**



*Benson is getting ready for winter and showing his best friend Shah what to do when "Jack Frost" comes a calling. Benson and Shah wish all their I.G. Friends and their Owners a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year!*

### TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS

**Co-ordinator of Rescues** - Shirley Penrose-Hansell Tel: 01904 761956

**Secretary** - Adrian Bickers Tel: 01462 731567

**Treasurer** - Jean Lambie-Logue Tel: 01484 602755

**Chairman / Fundraiser** - Helen Lister Tel: 01539 443343

Stuart Dunham Tel: 01803 712714

Pam Heap Tel: 01751 476956

## Margery Hall - Age 99 (27.02.1912 - 29.05.2011)

Margery was a remarkable lady, the only child born to a Huddersfield family in 1912. On leaving school her father was insistent that Margery became a Secretary, whilst following her Father's wishes she enrolled secretly at Huddersfield Art College where it became apparent she had indeed a great talent for art, and she gained a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Art in London. From there she won a sponsored study trip to the Art College in Prague, at a time when it was considered dangerous for young ladies to travel abroad alone, especially to a country that was under Communist Rule. Margery made many friends in Prague and always kept in touch with them but sadly she outlived most of them. On graduating she moved to the Art College in York where she taught for a number of years and it was whilst in York she discovered her love for dogs. Margery and a student were on a shopping trip to Rowantrees Department Store when a small scruffy terrier decided that Margery was to be its next owner. The lady in the store gave Margery a piece of string to use as a lead and after the purchases had been made Margery took the little terrier to the Police Station who did not want to know about the dog as there had been no enquiries for a lost dog and the little stray lived with Margery for many years.



From York Margery took up a teaching post in St Pauls School London, a boys boarding school which took its pupils to visit Cornwall; Margery fell in love with her beloved Cornwall, eventually securing a post as Head of Redruth Art College and buying an old farmhouse in St Day which she proudly renovated along with its beautiful garden, it remained her home until the day she died.

Margery obtained her first IG - Nailati Revillo from Lyle Reay in 1972 and Nailati Mafillette followed in 1973, never one to over breed she had few litters of puppies and unlike many breeders today always kept in close touch with the owners who became her close friends. I am one of those who will always treasure Margery's friendship, she bred my Revillo Belle 'O the Ball, who hated the show ring but produced Ch Florita Favolosa, who later went on to hold the Breed CC Record for many years which gave Margery enormous pleasure as she herself was never a big winner with her own dogs. She was thrilled to know that she had contributed towards Favolosa's success through her Revillo breeding. Margery adored her IG's and it was not unknown for her to catch a coach in north Cornwall and travel all the way up to Edinburgh for the Scottish Kennel Club Show, she just loved being around dogs of all breeds and found it fascinating talking to their owners. She realised as years were advancing that she was not able to show off her dogs to the best of her advantage and I can hear her chuckling now when she told me the story about placing a young male IG with Geoff Corish a professional handler, but he couldn't make anything of an IG and he was quickly returned to Margery!

For someone who never had a television Margery had a remarkable ability to talk to any age group about current affairs, art, music, gardening or her travels and of course her love for IG's and interest in their pedigrees never waned. She lived by Radio 3 & 4 and I remember her telling me about a Woman's Hour program she had listened to, and how sad she felt for an elderly lady they interviewed who had never seen the sea. Margery contacted the BBC and the result being that Margery gave the lady a holiday at her home for the last 5 years of her life as, she felt so sorry for her as she was losing her sight. It is ironic therefore that blindness was a plight that Margery had to suffer for the last 6 years of her life. She was also passionate about helping young musicians from Prague, for many she was instrumental in helping to set up Master Classes for them in Cornwall.

Margery's loyalty to the IG breed is an example to us all, no longer physically able to attend IG events she started collecting used postage stamps and selling them, the proceeds going to IG Rescue and she achieved this right up to the end of last year. I shall carry on the collecting of stamps so please keep sending them. Margery was without the company of an IG for the last 5 or more years of her life and she chose to sponsor a rescue which gave her a great deal of pleasure. Her Revillo affix will live on with me as long as I have Italian Greyhounds as this was Margery's wish.

I shall greatly miss her friendship, her sense of humour and above all her loyalty to Italian Greyhounds. ~ **Helen Lister.**

*Time is too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice,  
but for those who love, time is eternity.*

*Henry Van Dyke*

## **MEMORIES OF MARGERY HALL - (Honorary Life Member The Italian Greyhound Club)**

I was very sad to hear of the death of Margery Hall from Helen Lister. Needless to say an immediate trip 'down memory lane' began. It's funny how small things stick in your mind but when I was at junior school our teacher used to talk about your 'mind's eye' - the mental picture you have of people and occasions and places. When I think of Margery Hall I remember a small lady, long skirts, what was probably long greyish hair but caught up in a bun, slightly wispy, small features, well spoken, I could not mimic her but I can 'imagine' her voice now. This charming lady was an intellectual, artistic, and as I recall had attended the Royal Academy. As I write I also have tinges of regret that I never took her up on her offers of visits in her home, Redruth, Cornwall. Fortunately others like Helen, Linnet and Aileen did.

She first became known to me in my early days in Italian Greyhounds and she was very good friends with other owners in the West Country, in particular Lyle Reay - one time Secretary of the IGC. Lyle and his Nailati Italians [Italian spelt backwards] owed a lot to Margery and her devotion to the breed was unwavering. Her artistic eye being drawn to their aesthetic quality.

I recall her devotion to her Nailati Revillo, Nailati Mafilette [who I think if my memory serves won a couple of CCs] and of course her beloved Ch Innocenza of Traylane who she cared for after it was not possible for Lyle to do so. She used to be so proud walking her around in the Champions Parades. Her dogs lived long happy lives.

No, I do not remember Margery for her string of 'big winners' but for being part of the Italian Greyhound fraternity, joining in shows, garden parties, picnics and the rest. This loyalty to the breed often meant hiring taxi and driver all the way from Cornwall to Rowfant [Sussex] and then to Baginton [Coventry] which was where the club shows were held for a number of years. Sometimes she was lucky and managed to share travelling and the subsequent costs with another but so many times because she was so determined to be with us she bore the cost on her own. It was thanks to Margery classes remained at some of the West Country events - she always used to say it was 100 miles or so just to get to Exeter.

During the Seventies/Eighties in the evenings she would telephone just for a chat and we would be on the phone for ages putting the world to rights. She had strong views on a variety of subjects and did not let the far distance impinge on her involvement in the breed. As far as the club was concerned she would offer praise to the committee when due but always be equally straight forward if criticism was needed and I admired and respected her views.

Many of you will remember how she took on the job of saving stamps which could raise money for the rescue, and even as her eye sight failed she still had them sent to her and a friend would help her do the exact trimming that was required to make them saleable.

She and I both had Rosenthal figures from Lyle Reay - I preferred the sitting upright one in pale fawn and she the model laying down with tail curled around. Lyle offered them to her to suggest as prizes to the Club or their value. Margery was quite right in explaining to Lyle that as 'trophies' they would not be practical and so we offered to purchase in his name trophies instead. Only this week Kay Sheridan was over from Australia and looking at the piece and I was explaining the very same thing - she was still sending stamps to Margery. How ironic that within a few days of her visit she has died.

Bless you Margery, you are fondly remembered. Annette Oliver



### **Miss Margery Hall**

At the end of May we had the sad news that Margery Hall had passed away in her 100<sup>th</sup> year. Margery bred and exhibited her Revillo IG's for many years, she has always been a keen supporter of the Rescue Charity and latterly, when failing eye sight made it no longer feasible for Margery to own an IG, she very kindly sponsored one of our rescues. This gentle lady took great pleasure from her sponsorship of a special little dog with so many needs.

Margery collected used stamps right up to the last months of her life, raising funds for the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. A truly remarkable lady, Margery is now at Peace but she will be missed greatly by so many and her memory will live on. Shirley Penrose-Hansell