



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2012 Issue 8 PATRON: Mary Browning www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the eighth 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 2013 (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.

UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN - HELEN

The work undertaken by rescues is never straightforward and 2012 has proved to be one of our most challenging years, never the less the Trustees are pleased to be able to make a difference to the lives of the lucky IG's that we can help. A greater number of rescues need to spend longer in temporary foster care prior to rehoming. Physical injuries requiring treatment or nursing back to full health are comparatively easy to deal with compared to the mental scars that affect some of the traumatised rescues; it can take weeks and months, as we have discovered to rehabilitate these poor IG's. This we are sad to say, is due to the increasing number of commercial breeders producing litter after litter in poor conditions. The puppies are born from unsocialised dams and are therefore preconditioned to be fearful of human contact. A puppy is not born domesticated it is born **to be** domesticated but these people can only think of the £ signs and the income it can bring them, not that they are bringing in to this world a little life that needs time and effort to make it into a happy outgoing pet, with a hopeful lifespan of 12 - 15 years.

In addition to this is the worrying trend of the number of IG youngsters that are appearing again and again on the internet for sale. One can only assume that they were sold with no regard as to their future welfare in the first place and with no back up from a reputable breeder the poor IG is sold on again. We are grateful to the many IG owners who alert us to adverts for IG's, we try to keep a record but the numbers involved now are overtaking us. However, one recent advert for IG puppies for sale in Scotland was followed up. The dam in the photo had nails so long it was a wonder she could actually walk. The photo was taken in the open door of a garage, that had no visible windows and the walls were lined with metal cages. The advert actually stated that the IG's lived outside. When the breeder was questioned whether IG's were okay living outside even in winter, her response was "oh yes, Iggys are like cuckoos, they will huddle in anywhere they can to get comfy", is there any wonder! The saddest part is she did not and no doubt never would understand that IG's need warmth and human companionship, just so long as they brought her in money. She asked no questions about the home the puppy would have and was actively encouraging the next generation to follow in her shoes by saying there were no restrictions being placed on their KC registrations meaning that future puppies would be worth more... The Charity of course does not exist to line the pockets of unscrupulous breeders like this one, but we can and do take the necessary action when we feel that IG's are being abused or their welfare is at risk.

There are some happy endings for the lucky brood bitches that we are able to rehome. One little lady who had for 10 years of her life been producing puppies from a broken down caravan which

was her home was adopted by Pam Heap one of our founder trustees. Pam gave her the life she deserved but never had for 6½ years, it is testament to Pam's devotion that this little girl who had mental and physical scars lived to be 16½ years old after living most of her life being abused as a breeding machine. Pam has had to make the difficult decision after 52 years of living with IG's not to have another due to her increasing age but is still able to enjoy the company of her dear whippet rescue.

Adrian (Charity Trustee/Secretary) and myself attended the Kennel Club's first Rescue Seminar and we were both heartened to learn that the Kennel Club does appreciate the work that rescues undertake and are seemingly open to suggestions of how organisations such ours can be assisted by the Kennel Club.

We are ever grateful to all the many people who have supported the work of the charity, which helps to make the trustees' role so much easier. Some people support us financially, others give practical help with collecting or rehoming dogs and we are so lucky to have the skills of Mary Browning our Patron and Artist who designs unique and very beautiful Italian Greyhound pictures and cards, Mary Hirt who sews vests, bow ties, fleecy rats and neck warmers to raise funds, Betty and Nicola Green who are always on the lookout for items the charity can sell and exhibitors who kindly donate bags of dog food that their dogs have won.

We would like to formalise the many offers of help that so many of you offer. Along with this newsletter is a short questionnaire, please take time to complete it and return in order that we can compile a database of the many and varied skills our 'Friends' have, as the saying goes "many hands make light work".

Wishing you and your 4 legged friends a very healthy and Happy Festive season.

*[Please collect up all your used postage stamps and send them to: **IG Rescue Charity Stamp Collection, Yew Tree Cottage, Nr Orrest, Windermere LA23 1JT.***

Please ensure that the perforations around the edge of the stamps are not damaged.]

RESCUE ALBIE AND HIS HELP FROM CROFT VETERINARY HOSPITAL BY HELEN

Italian Greyhound Rescue brings many challenges, but none more so than a young dog with a hind limb injury, compounded by severe behavioural issues. The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity exists for the benefit of all Italian Greyhound and Italian Greyhound Cross breeds so we readily accepted the challenge to undertake to do our best for Albie.

His fractured femur had been pinned and wired, however, despite regular veterinary check-ups confirming that all was well with the surgery, Albie refused to use his leg and rarely put his foot to the floor, preferring instead to use three legs. His mental issues were sensitively worked on with the guidance of a canine behaviourist; the rescue has never dealt with such a disturbed Italian Greyhound before. Progress albeit slow was beginning to show after 3 months with his mental attitude but still he chose not to use his damaged leg.

Fortunately for Albie, one of our Trustees attended a Breeders' Seminar at The Croft Veterinary Hospital, Cramlington, near Newcastle. One of the presenters was renowned Veterinary Surgeon - Malcolm Ness, who specialises in Orthopaedic Surgery, a golden opportunity to mention young Albie to him, as by now Albie's limb was beginning to wither due to lack of use. Malcolm undertook to reassess the old injury and what past history he had was forwarded to him. We

were told that Albie's fracture had not healed and the cerclage wires were loose, causing the pin to protrude into Albie's hip due to the collapse of the bone; it goes without saying that he must have had a lot of pain, yet he never showed any aggression towards me his main carer but men were a completely different kettle of fish as far as he was concerned!

Malcolm Ness told us we had two options, that Albie be put to sleep to spare further suffering or that surgery is carried out on Albie to remove the wires and pin; perform a bone graft and secure the fracture with a plate instead, which would remove Albie's pain but may well leave him with a limp. The first option on an otherwise healthy young Italian Greyhound was certainly not one we would wish to consider, however, surgery was not without its risks and amputation was a possibility, but as we had seen for the last three months, three legs instead of four were no hindrance to Albie, so the decision was taken to go ahead with the surgery in the hope that Albie would make a good recovery and be pain free for the rest of his life.

Before Albie was admitted for his surgery we had a consultation with Malcolm Ness, who seemed unconcerned about Albie's behavioural issues, but who was very concerned about the swelling from the pin's protrusion and the withering of his leg. All the veterinary staff were warned that Albie would not miss a chance to 'have a go' at a stranger. Jess was to be his allotted Veterinary nurse and Albie was settled into his pre-surgery kennel. A tour of the state of the art veterinary facilities at The Croft Veterinary Hospital featured at the seminar so I knew how lucky this little dog was and how well cared for he would be.

Albie's surgery was complicated, the bone ends were tidied up and a synthetic bone graft and compression plate and screws were inserted to his femur. He remained in the Veterinary Hospital for four days, each day; morning and evening I received a call from his Veterinary Nurse advising of his progress.

Came the day of his collection and my initial concern was, had Albie bitten anyone? To my complete surprise I was told Albie had befriended one of the Vets, a young lady who was also a trained Canine Behaviourist. But true to form he did on one night leave his mark on a Veterinary nurse who had her head and shoulders inside his kennel to clean it out, whilst Albie was free to wander around outside. He walked up to the young lady's bottom and gave it a nip!

What a joy to see Albie walking on all fours when he was led into the consulting room. He of course hadn't forgotten us and was overjoyed to demonstrate to us that he was able to use his four legs again. He was to initially have slow, short lead walks four times a day, gradually building them up to longer periods. It was amazing that Albie did not once carry his hind leg or limp following his surgery and he stood four square, proving what a wonderful job Malcolm had done to repair the difficult fracture. Italian Greyhound's bones are not the easiest to repair being fine and long and even more challenging when there have been some months and a failed repair in between.

Albie returned for his regular checks at the Hospital, X-rays proving what we could see that his leg repair is complete. Four months later no one would ever be able to tell that his leg had been fractured or the trauma he had endured. The Italian Greyhound Recue Charity will be ever grateful to Malcolm Ness who gave all his time and expertise along with that of his staff at The Croft Veterinary Hospital to treat Albie free of charge. It has been an excellent experience for The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity to work in partnership with The Croft Veterinary Hospital and the Charity would recommend this Orthopaedic Specialist Veterinary Practice to other IG owners/carers.

Happily Albie is being formally adopted by the Vet whom he befriended, so he is likely to meet up with all his friends at the Veterinary Hospital to prove that they really did give him a new lease of life both mentally and physically.

An article about Albie which appeared in News Post Leader on 12th September 2012 and reproduced with kind permission

OPERATION GIVES DOG NEW LEASE OF LIFE

Happy ending for greyhound

By Petra Silfverskiold

A rescue dog suffering crippling pain after his broken leg failed to heal properly has been given a new lease of life.

Albie the Italian Greyhound has been adopted by one of the vets who helped treat him and is now set to live happily ever after.

The five-year old had a fractured femur and was in severe pain when he was taken in by Italian Greyhound Rescue, a Cumbrian based charity.

His fracture was repaired with pins and wires, but he refused to use the affected leg afterwards, forcing him to hop around on three legs instead.

A chance meeting between one of the charity's trustees and orthopaedic veterinary surgeon Malcolm Ness at a breeders' seminar revealed why.

Malcolm, co-owner of the Croft Veterinary Hospital in Cramlington with his wife Judith Joyce, agreed to take a look at Albie and found that the fracture had not actually healed.

Malcolm sorted that out, however, by inserting a synthetic bone graft and compression plate into Albie's femur at the Northumberland Business Park West hospital.



While being treated, Albie was befriended by vet Carolyn Danbury, 27, and will soon be going to live with her and husband Mark, 37, in Monkseaton.

Carolyn said, "When Albie came in the hospital with his fractured leg, Malcolm mentioned him to me as I have an interest in canine behaviour.

"He asked if I could spend some time with him. He was very shy and worried and worried about being in hospital."

Carolyn fell for Albie and immediately started to think about adopting him once he was better, and now, almost five months on, he has made a full recovery.

She said: "Pretty much as soon as I met him, I wondered whether it would be a possibility to take him home."

Helen Lister, a carer for the charity, said, "Italian Greyhound Rescue will be forever grateful to Malcolm for giving all his time and expertise, along with that of his staff, to treat Albie free of charge." See www.newspostleader.co.uk

2012 UPDATE FROM RESCUE CO-ORDINATOR - SHIRLEY

It is that time of year again when I prepare my annual update of our rehoming activities for presentation in the Charity Newsletter. Thanks to all of you who contacted me following last year's update with your positive comments; so nice to know that you find what we are doing of such interest.

I do hope that it has been a good year for everyone and in particular for all of our rehomed dogs, it is always good to hear about them and thank you for going to the trouble of keeping me up to date with their activities. One or two adopted dogs have been under the weather in the last 12 months, let us hope this is behind them now and that they have a better year next year. One of the casualties was little "Sapphie" who many of you will re call. She had a liver shunt when we first got her which required numerous Vet Hospital operations and skilled nursing care from her adopter to get her over this period in her life. Sapphie sadly suffered a fractured foreleg last February so once again she was grounded for a few weeks. I hear that she is back to her bubbly self and running round the garden at home.

As in previous years, Charity Trustees have been busy assisting Italian Greyhounds, cross breeds and IG owners with numerous dog related issues. We also deal with many enquiries from the general public about IG ownership and the best way to obtain an IG. We always try to steer enquirers away from internet advertisements and puppy farmers, the source of almost all our dogs for re homing.

Statistics for year to end of September, 2012

14 dogs have been rehomed so far this year, 4 more than last year at this time.

(7 are IG's, 6 are IG x Whippet dogs and Little Jo who had to be re homed following the death of his owner - the youngest of the re homed dogs was Hollie, just 7 weeks of age and the oldest were sisters of 10 years of age). As in previous years, **all** the cross breeds have had socialisation issues of one sort or another.

3 of our rehomed dogs have come to the end of their lives this year

74 dogs have been re homed since the Charity was founded in 2005

127 dogs have been re homed since my involvement with rehoming IG's in 1997

35 of the 127 dogs have sadly come to the end of their lives

We remember them:-

04/02/2012 - Rescue "**Poppy 2**" died, she was 14 years old the month before her death. She came to us two years earlier blind and suffering heart disease but had two wonderful years with her adopters.

Our thanks go to John & Joan for giving this poor little girl a loving home where she was a companion for their elderly IG "Millie".

23/06/2012 - Rescue "**Hugo**" (pictured) died at the wonderful age of 15 years; his long life in part must be due to the outstanding care he and his pal Gucci have



received from Yvonne & Michael. "Hugo" came to us in 2008 along with his pal "Gucci" following the death of their owner. I know that "Hugo's" unexpected death came as a huge shock to his adopters, particularly as Yvonne was just recovering from major surgery. We thank you for all that you did for Hugo and hope that Gucci will bring you comfort on the dark days.



22/09/2012 - Rescue "**Megan**" (pictured) died, she was 14 years and 7 months of age. It was the devoted care of Megan by Carole that enabled her to live with her health issues for so long. Used as a breeding machine until she was too old to register puppies from, she suffered a number of health problems including epilepsy and thyroid issues. She also suffered socialisation problems throughout her life and never really took to Paul; maybe a male brought back nasty memories of her former life prior to the six and a half years she spent with Carole & Paul. Thank you both for all your devoted care of Megan.

We are delighted that this year's **14** rehomed dogs 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 more of a challenge. Thank you to all their adopters for giving them the chance of a better life.

It is not an easy task finding the right family for a particular dog, we take many factors into consideration. We try not to rehome to apartments or properties without an enclosed garden; or where everyone in the household is out working, where there are large dogs or large numbers of dogs. Many of our rescues are not house trained and it would be very demanding on the adopter if they did not have a garden to pop the dog into regularly to assist with the house training.

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 do appreciate your assistance.

Thanks also to those of you who have donated beds, coats, leads, collars for the little ones arriving without anything. Your 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. If you are interested in finding insurance for the older dog please see last year's Newsletter.

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

My Very Best Wishes to you all, your families and pets for Christmas and 2013. **Shirley.**

The Trustees are seeking the views of Friends as to whether you wish to receive your copy of the annual Newsletter by post, as at present, or by email. If you would like your 2013 edition of the Newsletter sent by email in PDF format will you please let the editor know by emailing your request, including your full name and address, to:- sc.dunham@btinternet.com

We would also be intending to include with the Newsletter the Annual Friends renewal form (where appropriate) as well as the Xmas mailer etc.

THE END OF THE PIER SHOW BY COLIN LAMBIE-LOGUE



You know on a warm sunny day there's nothing quite like a nice quiet stroll in the countryside with your dog. And when I visited Pickmere Lake that's EXACTLY what I had, - ***Nothing like a quiet stroll!***

While my wife Jean was at an I.G.R.C committee meeting I decided to take little "Lily" to the nearby lake.

Rescued in 2009 by Shirley our I.G. Co-ordinator and Adrian the I.G. Secretary, Lily is now five years old and a very happy dog. Half Chihuahua, half Italian Greyhound, and a 100% mischief. She's a tiny terror and an absolute delight.

Anyway, back to my trip. The water was calm, the views were beautiful. Families and children were out in force enjoying the day. There were seats and picnic tables, boards with pictures and details of the abundant wildfowl and wooden walkways weaving along the shore through stands of bulrushes.

Lily was in doggy paradise snuffling and snorting everything. I noticed a small wooden jetty, strolled to the end, looked around and thought... "Marvellous." Lily, who was well behind me at this time, must also have looked along the jetty... and thought... ***"DUCKS !"***

Like a brown bombshell she shot straight past me and launched herself into the lake and when I say "launched" I mean "LAUNCHED". Not a quiet "plop" into the water. Oh no! Head up, legs akimbo like a Fly Squirrel soaring through the air... Weeeee ! Splash !

In the circumstances I did what any self respecting, dour Scots Calvinist would do - Panicked!

As she paddled furiously; I shouted frantically... "Lily! Lily! Lily!" Seeing her the ducks quacked contemptuously and flew off and realising the game was up Lily swung round gradually in a large arc and headed back. I breathed a sigh of relief. That didn't last long.

Now Lily is more bomb-like than torpedo shaped and as she struggled back her momentum gradually began to give out and (to another bout of me screaming my head off... "Lily!") she slowly slipped beneath the surface.

As I peered into the water I could just make out a pair off bulging brown eyes staring back up at me. Leaning over the pier's edge, stretching as far as I could I stabbed my arm into the cold

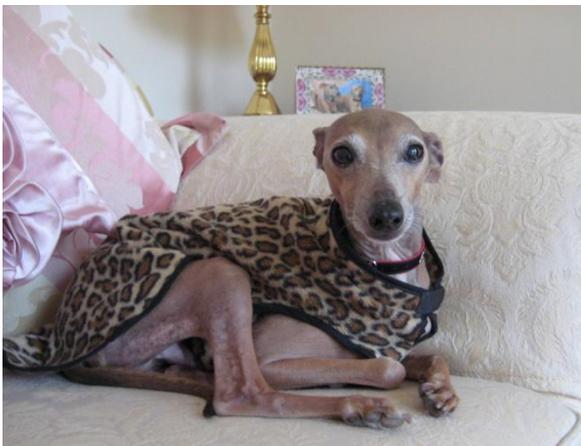
water and only just managed to grab her collar. I staggered up, yanked her out of the water and unceremoniously dumped her on the jetty.

She lay there shaking and sneezing; I thought I was having a mild coronary and then suddenly... Cheers! Applause! We had an audience.

Families, standing in rows, had seen everything that had happened and were clapping and shouting their delight at the tops of their voices. I dried Lily down as best I could and she gradually stopped shivering and sneezing. We stayed on for an hour or so but everywhere we went people would come up, slap me on the back and say - "Well done. How's the little dog?"

Children would rush over - "Hello Mister." "What's the little dog's name?" "Can we pat her?" "Give her a biscuit?" To a chorus of "Poor little thing." Lily looked up suitably pathetic but still ate the biscuits.

On the way back in the car with a damp, crumb strewn dog on my lap I could have sworn she looked at me with big brown eyes and said... "**Well that day went swimmingly didn't it.**" And I replied... "Yes it did go swimmingly. Water-Lily!"



The winter winds will come a blowing but Benson is keeping cosy and warm yet looking effortlessly elegant in his leopard skin fleece. His Mum and Dad bought him the fleece from the Charity and he loves it. Benson wishes his many 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