



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2013 Issue 9 PATRON: Mary Browning

www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the Ninth 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 2014 (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 (see below) we would like to welcome our newly appointed Trustee Cathryn Palmer who is also undertaking the role of temporary Treasurer. There are also some loving and moving contributions from owners who have lost their IG companions during the last year.

Next year the Charity will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary and to mark this occasion a Birthday Celebration event has been organised at Gawsorth Hall in Cheshire - we are looking forward to seeing many of our Friends there and are sure it will be a most enjoyable and fun day out.

Cathryn Palmer - Trustee / Temporary Treasurer

"Since I was very young I have always been surrounded by animals owning many different pets, and having an interest in all animals and wildlife. At thirteen my dream of owning my own dog eventually came true, and I never looked back. Dogs are my passion and upon leaving school I worked in a show / boarding kennel. Then in 1983 I opened my own canine beautician business which I still run full-time.



"Having owned various different breeds, just over four years ago we got our first Italian Greyhound we now have three, and what a joy they are. Although I show our two boys they are first and foremost family pets accompanying me to work, loving long walks and free running. Once home there is nothing better than all of us snuggling together on a sofa.

"I was honoured to be asked to become a trustee of the Italian Greyhound Rescue and look forward to being able to help this wonderful breed."

UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN - HELEN

The Charity will have been in existence for ten years in May next year but regrettably we had to say 'goodbye' to Shirley, a founder Trustee and Coordinator of Rescues this year. Shirley worked tirelessly for the benefit for IGs needing our help and I know at times she would spend more time helping adopters with problems other than with their IG. She sadly has had to say goodbye this year to the last of her beloved Shirnevina IGs that she bred with husband Neville; two rescues, Peggy-Sue and Anna now live with Shirley. Jean our Treasurer for the last five years, also left us, she did sterling 'unseen' work keeping our finances in order and we are very grateful to both ladies for the many hours they both devoted to the rescue.



The Charity is holding a 10th Birthday event at Gawsworth Hall, Gawsworth, Cheshire on 22 June 2014, by kind permission of the Richards Family. We hope that you will join us along with your IGs or come along to learn about the breed and meet IGs of all shapes and sizes! An event of this undertaking requires many hands and we would be very grateful for any volunteer helpers. So please let me know either by email: team@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk or by telephoning 0845 6003116 if you would like to offer your services. You will be able to purchase advance tickets for the event from 1 March 2014.



RECOGNISING PAIN IN OUR ITALIAN GREYHOUNDS **Contributed by Croft Veterinary Surgeons**

All of us hate the idea of our loved ones, human or animal, being in any pain. However, it's not always easy to recognise when our pets are in discomfort. Whilst Italian Greyhounds are often very demonstrative with their acute pain, chronic pain is much more likely to be hidden from us.

Like young children, dogs are unable to express their pain through speech. In acute pain, such as an injury, we are more likely to hear them vocalise in other ways - crying out or whimpering. In chronic pain - typically degenerative joint disease such as arthritis or periodontal disease, the signs are often more subtle, and more insidious in their onset. Instead of drawing attention to their pain dogs will often try to hide it from us. In addition, chronic lameness often affects more than one joint or limb and so there may not be an obvious 'limp'.

Behavioural change, especially at home, can provide a wealth of information which can help you to recognise a problem early and aid your vet in reaching an accurate diagnosis.

Painful joints, as I'm sure we can all imagine, can increase irritability and reduce the tolerance threshold around noisy, boisterous children or younger pets - a common reason for the older dog to start to withdraw from the family and spend more time in other parts of the home. Increased aggressiveness is another more extreme example. A dog which has always been placid and amiable and suddenly starts to snap when approached could be suffering from a painful ear infection or sore back - and it may be some time before any further signs of disease appear. Other dogs will become more clingy or affectionate when they are painful. Physical contact and the proximity of familiar people can actually help to ameliorate the unpleasant feelings associated with pain in dogs just as they can in people.

It is important to remember that while it is inevitable that older dogs will start to 'slow down' and live life at a more relaxed pace, a loss of mobility and desire to interact can also be significant signs of pain. It is always worth having a thorough check over by your vet for any dog which becomes slower or more withdrawn. A reduced interest in a previous beloved game such as tugging rope or fetching a ball should also ring a few alarm bells and prompt a check-up.

Like people, dogs will show changes in their sleep patterns with age. Sleep can be affected by a number of diseases including those which affect the volume or frequency of urination/defecation; senility changes (dogs get dementia too!) and hearing loss but pain can also lead to sleep disturbance - restless sleep, with crying or moving around in the night are particularly significant.

It is also important to watch out for excessive licking. Just as we will often rub a painful area on

our bodies, dogs will tend to lick at painful areas on themselves. Bald, red or sticky areas on the body, particularly on the limbs, can be a sign of a painful joint underneath.

Italian greyhounds, in common with many toy breeds are prone to disease of the teeth and gums. Oral pain can also be difficult to spot especially as eating is an essential behaviour for survival.

While some dogs will go right off their food at the first hint of discomfort, others will battle on! It is sometimes amazing the extent of dental disease we see in our patients who are still happy to wolf down a large bowl of crunchy biscuits! However, it is useful sometimes to stop and watch more closely. Difficulty swallowing, excessive drooling and chewing on only one side of the mouth can all indicate pain in the teeth, gums or tongue. It is also worth lifting the lips and having a look at the teeth. A build up of tartar or gingivitis on one side of the mouth more than the other may indicate pain on this side.

Recognising and accurately assessing pain in animals is difficult - there are teams of researchers and scientists continually striving to improve our ability to do this! By monitoring the subtle (and sometimes less subtle!) signs our pets give us we can help to recognise when they are in pain and do something about it. Your observations will mean you and your vet can work together to reach the best possible outcome for your precious pet.

THANK YOU "FRIENDS OF THE ITALIAN GREYHOUND RESCUE CHARITY"

It was with great sadness that in May 2013 I stood down as a Founder Trustee and the Re Homing Coordinator for the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. This was not an easy decision or one taken lightly; I thought long and hard before standing down and I know that I shall miss all the little ones, their adopters and the many doggy stories.

Through the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity 2013 Newsletter, may I extend a most sincere **thank you** to all those "Friends of the Charity" who offered me assistance with the re homing of Italian Greyhounds. I could not have fulfilled the role of re homing coordinator for the past **17 years** without the generous help of the many people who kindly gave of their time to assist the **125** little ones re homed during the 17 years; your help is much appreciated.

It seems a long time ago since the first IG was re homed way back in **1997** and every dog has his/her own story; I remember them all and will treasure the memories of each and every dog; some turned out to be real characters! It has been an honour and great pleasure to have helped the 125 dogs when, for one reason or another, difficulties arose in their lives. I was delighted to meet so many of the dogs and the turn around of the 22 fostered here with us for varying periods of time was lovely to see. Two particularly difficult rescues went no further than our home and have been formally adopted by myself. These girls are not for the faint hearted!! but they have settled in well and since May I have had all the time in the world to devote to them.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the families who came forward to adopt the rescues, for many adopters they have needed great patience to get the best quality of life for their new family member. So many of the dogs are not house trained, some have never had a collar and lead on, others are totally unsocialised and frightened of their own shadow. Some have suffered illness or injury and require that special home to continue their recovery. Some are older dogs and it is hard for a family to adopt one of these rescues knowing that they are not likely to have their dog for many months/years, but all the dogs have found that forever home.

Over the years little has changed in relation to numbers of IG's in need of re homing with an average of six per year being re homed over the last 17 years. What has changed in recent years is the number of IG / Whippet cross breeds getting into difficulties; they seem particularly hard to manage when young but thankfully there is always that forever home waiting for one.

I apologise for not writing to each and every one of you personally but the number of you who helped me is considerable. You know who you are so again a **big thank you** from me and from the dogs you helped on their way to start a new and happy life, this is what rescue is all about.

My Very Best Wishes for Christmas and 2014 to everyone, all the re homed IG's and to the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity for continued success.

Shirley (Mrs Shirley E. Penrose-Hansell - ex Trustee & Re Homing Coordinator for IGRC)

OCTOBER 2012 TO 30TH APRIL 2013 - UPDATE FROM SHIRLEY - RESCUE CO ORDINATOR

Stuart has invited me to prepare for you a final update of the co ordinators activities for presentation in the Christmas, 2013 Charity Newsletter.

This update will cover the seven month period from October, 2012 to May 2013, when I stood down from the Charity. Team Rescue have absorbed the Rescue Co ordinators role and I am sure their actions for the rest of the year will also be presented to you.

Statistics to end of April, 2013

Five dogs were re homed during the 7 month period.

(Four IG's and the fifth rescue was our first international re homing. Joey was said to be an IG but turned out to be a delightful Bulgarian Italian Greyhound cross breed)

29/11/2012 - Rescue **Joey** the Bulgarian IG cross breed was re homed after being rescued by an organisation in Bulgaria whose main support comes from the UK. Joey was rescued from a street pound in Bulgaria with an untreated fracture of his foreleg. No one knows if he was thrown over the pound wall because he had broken his leg, or if he suffered a fracture when he was hurled over the wall. Rescued from the pound, Joey's fractured foreleg was treated in Bulgaria by the volunteers who rescue pedigree dogs from the street pounds. They then try to find these dogs homes in European countries. Joey was lucky coming to the UK courtesy of Anni who heads the UK organisation involved with the Bulgarian Rescue. We found Joey, who was a young dog, a super adoption Mum. Megan instantly fell in love with him - despite his barking and the shock she got the morning they were out walking when Joey began digging frantically on the end of his lead. Megan thought that he was digging up a buried bone but within seconds he unearthed a rat which met a swift end of life experience!! Joey was very proud of himself but poor Megan suffered from shock for days following the experience!! Little Joey is a real character loved by everyone he meets. Best Wishes Joey & Megan.

22/12/2012 - Rescue **Mabel** came into rescue at the end of the year and was adopted by Karen and her family. The family already have a rescue from the Charity Marni an IG/Whippet cross breed who is delighted to have a lady friend!! Mable quickly settled into her new forever home. Thank you for adopting Mabel Karen and Best Wishes for many happy years together to you all.

15/03/2013 - A family placed all three of their Italian Greyhounds for re homing. The two girls and a boy were all young and all three had suffered a fracture to their foreleg; the owners of the dogs were totally unprepared for the trauma that can accompany IG ownership. The breeder had not prepared the couple for the possibility of a broken leg and as they both worked full time they made the decision to have them all rehomed.

Sadly the four month old boy George had an untreated fracture of one of his forelegs when we collected him so the priority was to get him specialist treatment at Cambridge Queens Veterinary Hospital urgently. Once well enough he was adopted by Lynne & Ron who already have rescue Zak. They are delighted with their latest rescue and say the leg repair is superb. Thank you both for offering Georgie a home, I know that he has fallen on his feet and will be a very spoilt little boy and want for nothing. I hear that he is great pals with Zak and I wish everyone all the very best.

The two girls, Daisy & Poppy quickly settled into their new home with Megan, Howard & family. They sound to be enjoying life on the farm and I wish everyone all the very best.

Two rehomed dogs sadly came to the end of their lives.

We remember them:-

09/01/2013 - Rescue "**Gucci**" died, (pictured) he was 14 years and 2 months of age and came into rescue at the beginning of 2008 with his pal Hugo whose death was reported in the last Newsletter.

Both these boys were adored by their adopters Yvonne and Michael who had a lot of work to put in with the boys initially to socialise them out walking. They attended training classes I remember to help them and I



recall that they behaved impeccably at the Charity garden party which they attended with Yvonne & Michael. It is always hard to say goodbye and it never gets any easier, but I know that Yvonne and Michael have so many memories of happier times spent with the boys. Thank you for giving Gucci & Hugo such a happy last few years of their lives following the death of their original owner. It takes a special family to adopt the older rescues knowing that their time together is limited.



24/01/2013 - Rescue "**Jazz**" died at the wonderful age of almost 17 years; his long life in part must be due to the outstanding care he and his litter sister Sapphy received from their adopters, ironically, also called Yvonne & Mike. The pair came into rescue in May 1998, and both suffered various health issues over a number of years before Sapphy sadly died in August 2010. Yvonne was particularly close to Jazz (pictured right) and I know will miss him greatly; thank you both for all you did for Jazz & Sapphy and I know that you will have many happy memories of happier times with Jazz & Sapphy.



That concludes my update but I would like to extend to you all my sincere thanks for your help, friendship and understanding during the past 17 years. I shall really miss all the dogs and their adopters.

My Very Best Wishes to you all, your families and pets for Christmas and 2014. **Shirley.**

ADDITIONAL RESCUE NEWS TO SHIRLEY'S REPORT ON RESCUES:-

Four more IG's have been rehomed by the Charity up to the beginning of November, two who originally came from an overseas rescue were placed into our care following the sudden death of their owner and the other two were both victims of being sold time and again on the internet. Thankfully, thanks to our help both of these girls have found stable loving homes where they won't be used as breed machines.

The numbers of IG's and IG cross breeds being advertised for sale on the internet, is growing like Topsy and sadly we can't help them all; it is heart breaking to see the same dogs repeatedly being advertised for sale at inflated prices. Which confirms the owners are only interested in the money and not the future wellbeing of this sensitive breed.

Helen Lister.

FROM OUR FORMER TRUSTEE / TREASURER - JEAN LAMBIE-LOGUE

Dear Friends,

I just would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your support and for your personnel letters, Christmas cards and photos of your beautiful doggies that you have sent to me while I was Treasurer of the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity, it was very much appreciated.

I have now retired and moving to the coast with my ageing IG's they will love the beach and so will I.

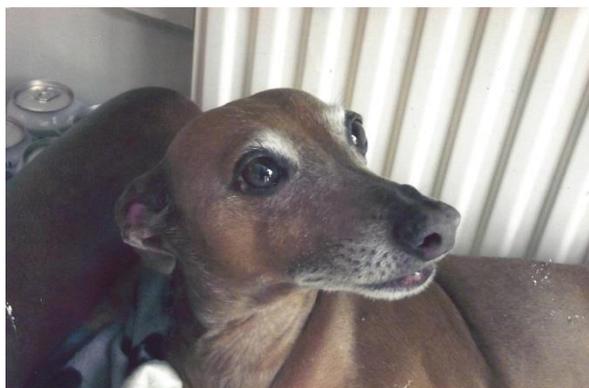
However the Charity is really doing good work and I will continue to support all Trustees in the future and your new Treasurer when appointed.

Kind regards, Jean Lambie-Logue, Treasurer IGRC 2008 - 2013

'LEWY' ~ 14th OCTOBER 2000 - 24th JULY 2013

From Alan and May Ward

Joe Gorly said to Pip in Dicken's 'Great Expectations' -
"Ever the Best of Friends"



We regret to inform you of the passing of our most valued chum Lewy on the 24th July 2013 after a short but rapid illness despite all the care and skill of our vet and I might add compassion it was to no avail so with vet help Lewy had a dignified and peaceful end.

So we have lost our faithful and loving companion, who while he was with us stayed at first class hotels in Devon, Somerset, Oxford, North Wales and Suffolk. The hotel staff always said he was most welcome as

he never stole a bath towel or robe.

So to you that through your effort and hard work allowed Lewy into our hearts we cannot thank you enough.

Lewy was always a gentleman and was loved by all he met. This has left a big hole in our hearts for he brightened our lives every day.

So thanks again. God bless you all.

IN MEMORY OF 'GIANI'

From Sue Catterall and Malcolm Mossop



Sadly on the 15th October 2013 our little Giani was laid to rest in the garden with his little coat on. He was 15 years old. Giani was the smallest of two little brothers we adopted in 1989. We loved them from the beginning even though we were looking for a little lady for our Italian Greyhound, Rab.

After being vetted by the I.G. team for suitability, we were looking forward to bringing Giani (left in picture) and Bepe (right in picture) home and they settled straight away with Rab. We soon found out their favourite places, in front of the gas fire and under a duvet. They were found many a time snuggled up together upstairs in bed.

Their personalities were quite different. Bepe is the bigger of the two but is more softer and is quite a fussy eater. Giani was the smallest but the bravest and had quite a little attitude, he would be anything. They had a very strong bond, but if Giani settled into the bed first, Bepe had no chance, Giani would give him a stare and he would back away until we intervened and then they would snuggle together. Giani had a good life and enjoyed his walks with Bepe when he was able. They both came on all holidays, boat trips, camping and wigwams. They loved to sleep in sleeping bags, in hotels and run on the beaches.



It became apparent that Giani developed a cough and our first thought was that he had something stuck in his throat. A trip to the vets and it was discovered he had high blood pressure and heart failure. He was put on tablets which he took out of our hands. He also developed cataracts.

Over the last year Giani was getting frailer and we started to carry him up and down stairs because of his vision. He started to struggle when eating and his little legs kept giving way. We bought him a little mat. He started to get very restless walking round and round in the living room. He would sit in his bed for a couple of minutes and then up he would get to do his rounds.

A few months ago he developed the cough again, a trip to the vets, another tablet, but his quality of life was not good. He was struggling to eat, with his balance and his vision it was selfish to keep him when he was in such distress.

Bepe keeps looking for him, he is doing it now whilst I am writing. He looks to where Giani's favourite spot was then he looks to the right and left and then the door and goes behind the chair he walked round.

Giani will be missed immensely for giving us much joy and happiness and a deep trusting love. Best wishes to all I.G. lovers



Our two young Mi' Lords Ben and Shah are looking forward to all the revelries which will be taking place at Gawsworth Hall next June celebrating the Charity's 10th Anniversary. In the meantime they both wish their many I.G. Friends and their Owners a very Merry Christmas and A Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS & RESCUE TEAM

Chairman / Fundraiser - Helen Lister Tel: 0845 600 3116

Secretary - Adrian Bickers Tel: 01462 835641

Temporary Treasurer - Cathryn Palmer Tel: 01524 425236

Stuart Dunham Tel: 01803 712714

Pam Heap Tel: 01751 476956

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 2014 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.