



Greyhound Rescue Wales E-Newsletter

May 2009

Charity No. 1059733

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Links

Greyhound Rescue Wales

www.
greyhoundrescuewales
.co.uk

Welcome to the May newsletter

This month there is a packed newsletter for you. Lots of events for the summer, so why not plan a weekend picnic with your pack and enjoy yourself. We've added some documents to the website which help explain the legal background to stray dogs and the Dangerous Dogs Act, which will be helpful if you've ever wondered about the law on what your responsibilities are as a dog owner. One of our founder members, Alain Thomas has been nominated for a Dogs Trust Award. And finally, due to popular demand, we are running an event later in the summer for all those of you who have ever wondered what's involved with fostering. Once again, we think there's something for everyone – don't forget to let us know if you've got any other ideas or requests for newsletter items or events you'd like to see.

S4C Feature on Greyhounds - Wedi 3

On Thursday 21st May, S4C ran a feature on Greyhound Rescue Wales on their afternoon magazine programme, Wedi 3. Member of the PR committee Amanda Rees acted as a speaker for the group and the article reported positively on what great pets greyhounds make. Footage was also shot at the Swansea track. The article is available for seven days from broadcast on the S4C website to watch, using the "clic" feature on the link given below, and will then be in the archive for a further three weeks. Even if you don't speak Welsh, it's lovely to see the hounds being featured.

http://www.s4c.co.uk/clic/e_level2.shtml?series_id=342089413

New Documents on the Website

Part of our website development is to add documents that can be useful for volunteers as a resource. If you find any other documents that you think we could usefully add, please do let us know. We've just added two PDF files from the DEFRA website. The guide to legislation governing stray dogs will be useful to better understand and explain why we usually require abandoned dogs to go through the local authority pound before taking them in. It also helps to illuminate how GRW become the legal owner of the dog in these circumstances.

The Dangerous Dogs guidance refers to all dogs needing to be under proper control. This is useful reading for all of us who want to ensure we act as responsible dog owners.

Events Update

We are now putting all our street collections and other events on to the website as they become confirmed. Usually, we also list the number of the person you should call. If you intend to come, please let the organiser know .

Helping for an hour or less can make a big difference. Street collections are one of our main sources of income and also act as a powerful advert for what we do – not many people can resist a greyhound looking cuddly!

*Now confirmed – we are definitely having a stall at the Wales and Borders Game Fair at **Glanusk, Crickhowell, Powys on 6th and 7th June**. Why not come along and say hi to us on the stand – it promises to be a great day out for anyone interested in dogs or country pursuits. If you would like to help out, please call Penny Hard on 01269 861001– free car passes are available for helpers, but we'll need to know in time to post these.*

Rapidly approaching is the annual Last Hope sponsored walk at Brynbach Park on 21st June. Please call Les Thomas for further information. Sponsorship forms will be up on the website shortly that can be downloaded. The website also has a link to directions to the park and has a downloadable poster. Please take a minute to print one out and display – why not drop one in to your local vets, pet shop or place of work? If you haven't been there before, the park is very pleasant with level paths suitable for buggies, an attractive lake, a café, toilets and parking. Next month, we will be doing a more detailed feature on the walk with background on the Last Hope case and information on the Last Hope fund.

Greyhound Poetry Evening – June 11th

If you haven't already booked, a quick reminder on our poetry evening at the Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea, with Chris Kinsey, acclaimed poet (BBC Wildlife Poet of the Year) and Greyhound Laureate. Tickets are £5 with all proceeds being shared between Greyhound Rescue Wales and Gower Bird Hospital.

Update on May Bank Holiday show – Pontardawe

Unfortunately we experienced rather soggy conditions on 4th May – but a surprising number of people turned out and took part in a great day. We raised over £200. The picture below shows Patch, who won the class for best greyhound dog, with his owner Lesley Philip.



Dogs Trust Award - Alain Thomas

We are all absolutely thrilled and proud to announce that our founder member Alain Thomas has been nominated for a Dogs Trust award as a "Dogs Best Friend".

On hearing the news, Alain said "I was delighted to be nominated as a

"Dog's Best Friend" because greyhounds and lurchers badly need friends, then I heard I had made the short list and I could hardly believe it. I feel very fortunate to be able to work with a wide range of people and organisations in Wales with each of us contributing in our own way, from rescuing and re-homing, to fundraising, to helping change the overall policy context to ensure greyhounds receive the protection they need in law. I am very grateful to the Dogs Trust for this nomination and for organising these awards that highlight very special dogs and the efforts of everyone who works to help their canine best friend."

The link to the Dogs Trust Website featuring the award finalists is given below.

<http://www.dogstrusthonours.co.uk/finalists.htm>

Fostering - Everything You've Always Wanted to Know but Been Afraid to Ask!

So what is fostering? Dogs come in to the care of the charity for all sorts of reasons and in a myriad of different circumstances. Before they can be adopted, it's important the charity has a good understanding of their personality and characteristics – how are they with cats and children? Do they travel well? Sometimes dogs are in poor health and need TLC and peace to get back into good shape before being homed. If a dog is elderly and has lived all its life in a home, we may want to ensure it stays in a domestic environment.

Maybe you've previously thought about fostering but have been uncertain – what experience do you need? What happens if the foster dog doesn't get on with mine? Can I let the foster off the lead? Who pays the bills? How long does the dog stay?

To help you find out more, we'll be holding a special Fostering event in Cardiff in July. Sandra Morris, Chair of the Kennelling Committee will be on hand and will go through what's involved and try to answer all your questions. The event is free, no-obligation, held at the home of a foster carer and lunch will be provided. If you're interested in attending, and can think of any questions you'd like to ask, please email greyhoundwales@btinternet.com Places are strictly limited and available on a first come basis, although we will run further events if there is sufficient demand.

Email addresses and contacts

National helpline and emergency number 0300 0123 999

*Membership – queries, joining, renewal
join@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk*

*PR - Website updates – Alain Thomas
info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk*

*Email newsletter views, queries and to add/remove names
Greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*

*Secretary – Kathryn Woodhouse
greyhoundwales@btinternet.com*