



Greyhound *Express*



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Welcome

Hello readers

Thank you for being a supporter of Greyhound Rescue Wales (GRW).

To sustain much of the work of GRW, we are very much relying on volunteers and we need them more than ever. Many of our trustees have organisational roles to fulfil but they are currently very busy with a lot of other work and we're calling on all our supporters across Wales to see if they can help. Volunteering can be as little or as much as you want it to be and much of it can be done from home.

Could you spare an hour a month to run the 100 club? Could you run an annual street collection in your town? Could you support our fosterers? Could you improve the website? Could you pack 700 editions of Greyhound Express? If you can, please contact info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk, you'll get support and you'll be a valuable part of our team.

We're thrilled to announce that we have a volunteer to run the charity's accounts when Roger Thomas retires at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Roger, who is a self-employed accountant has looked after the accounts magnificently for a number of years and has entertained his GRW colleagues with his sense of humour. We are also pleased to share with you that Cozies will now be running GRW's merchandise arm to hopefully raise some more income.

Please note that details of this year's AGM are featured on page 7. Don't forget, if you're not already a member of our Facebook page, you can join us and keep up to date with events, rehoming, and news as it happens.

Please get in touch with the team at info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk or 0300 0123 999

Amanda

REMEMBERING ANIMALS IN CONFLICT

Volunteer and trustee Sarah Marsh attended the 2014 Animals in War Memorial in London where she donated and presented a wreath from GRW.

This monument is a powerful and moving tribute to all the animals that served, suffered and died alongside the British, Commonwealth and Allied forces in the wars and conflicts of the 20th century.

Authors Jilly Cooper and Pen Farthing, who's also a war veteran and founder of Nowzad Dogs spoke at the event and offered a recent overview of animals in war. "Jilly Cooper gave me a tearful hug having owned greyhounds and I felt both honoured and proud to represent GRW," said Sarah Marsh.

Greyhound Express Contact Details

Call: Amanda Rees

National Call Line T: 0300 0123 999

E: news@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk
W: www.greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk
facebook.com/GreyhoundRescueWales
Twitter: @WelshGreyhounds

Charity no: 1152650

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Change of Adoption Fee

The minimum donation for adopting a dog from GRW will be changing from 1 April, 2015.

It is costing the charity an additional £135 to prepare dogs for rehoming and this doesn't include accommodation costs at Hillcrest. Rehoming costs include neutering, vaccination, microchipping as well as providing leads and collars and in 2014 the outlay for GRW was £30,000 compared to a £10,000 income from donations.

Currently, the adoption fee is £100 and this regrettably will have to rise to £125.

LAST HOPE WALK - CHANGE OF DATE

The Last Hope Walk will not take place in May this year, but will go ahead on Sunday, September 20, in Tredegar to coincide with a Last Hope Walk in Llandudno. More details will be posted on the charity website and Facebook page.



RENEE AND BRAVO'S TRIP TO COLLEGE

Animal management students at Coleg Gwent have been doing bush tucker trials to raise money for Greyhound Rescue Wales.

The charity was presented with £300 when GRW representative Jon Trew called into class to give them a talk about the organisation. Greyhound Renee attended with Jon and fellow greyhound Bravo braved a trip to college to help students learn about the types of dogs that GRW deal with. "Renee immediately decided to mingle while Bravo stuck to my side like glue," said Jon Trew. "However he did really well and despite meeting lots of new people he didn't try and run away."

Part of the bush tucker trial was sharing the lizards' mealworms but dipping them in chocolate, which students told Jon Trew, taste like Toffee Crisps. "I am prepared to take their word for it," he added.

Greyhound Rescue Wales would like to thank students at Coleg Gwent for their donation.



Jon Trew from Greyhound Rescue Wales being presented with a cheque from Coleg Gwent students

BOTTOMS UP TO EIRA'S FIRST GREYHOUND

Derry was rehomed by Eira Lucas from Hillcrest sanctuary in May last year and is the family's first greyhound.

Eira Lucas said: "Derry is so laid back we can't believe our luck. We recently went to GRW's shop in Blackwood and Derry was made a big fuss of by everyone."

Here's Derry at the dog-friendly White Hart in Cornwall eyeing up a pint.



A VET'S EXPERIENCE USING HOMEOPATHY

Jane Spreull is a vet who uses homeopathy for some of her clinical cases. We asked her to share her experience with Greyhound Express.

I work as a vet in a mixed practice in Mid Wales. Along with all the calvings and TB testing I am particularly interested in alternative therapies and have studied homeopathy and acupuncture to add into my treatment regimes.

Homeopathy I find particularly useful in a number of chronic health conditions seen in animals. I feel that a lot of disease is caused by stress as in us humans and there is very little in conventional medicine to deal with these issues.

Working with Greyhound Rescue Wales, I am sure you can identify with this when the dogs you are dealing with are coming from all different backgrounds and are being rehomed with many different problems often with an unknown past history.

Although not a greyhound, one particular dog I was dealing with about two years ago was rehomed to a lovely home, coming from a puppy farm where she had been a brood bitch. When she arrived, she was continually having problems with diarrhoea. This was treated by myself and my colleagues about every two to three weeks with the usual conventional treatments of starving then white meat or hypoallergenic diet, antibiotics and probiotics which always worked but the problem returned regularly. She had samples taken and trial diets to no avail and was going to have a prolonged course of antibiotics for bacterial overgrowth when we decided that we would give homeopathy a try.

In order to use homeopathy, I take a very detailed history of the symptoms the animal is suffering from and also find out as much as possible about the animal as a 'person'. I do this in a consultation that lasts about one hour and often many of the animal's characteristics become very clear just by his or her reaction in the consulting room as we're talking.

Homeopathy works in the opposite way to conventional medicine. It uses the principle that like cures like. If you drink a cup of coffee, you would get a stimulant effect that would make it difficult to let you sleep. If you suffer from sleeplessness you could take a dose of homeopathic coffee and it would help you sleep. Homeopathic remedies are made from all sorts of different substances some of them even poisonous. However they are diluted so many times that there is often none of the original substance left in them. This is what makes them so safe to use. The reason they have any potency is that every time they are diluted they are shaken hard or 'succussed' and this gives them their strength. Another example would be if you were suffering from hay fever and had streaming eyes and a runny nose, a homeopathic remedy that you might consider taking would be homeopathic onion as this would produce similar symptoms if you smelt the onion as it was being cut up.

With this little dog, it became obvious that she had

never had any home life or affection. She was terrified of men but never showed any aggression. She never barked to assert herself and she did not know how to play with toys. She had numerous litters of puppies and whenever she heard a pup yap or bark she pricked up her ears and wagged her tail. I prescribed a remedy that suited her character and also her past history that she had had many litters of pups.

Within two to three days she was much brighter and happier in herself. We then waited to see if she had another bout of diarrhoea. Usually she had an attack every three weeks. A month went past and she was fine but then she started with runny stools one morning. The owner gave her another homeopathic remedy that I prescribed and her motions became firm within 24 hours.

She did have another slight attack two months later but we managed that with just diet and homeopathic remedies. Her confidence grew and she began to play with toys. She even started to bark. She still needs an occasional dose just to keep her on the right path but the owners usually know when this is likely to be, maybe visitors staying or going on holiday and she continues to remain diarrhoea free and happy.

I don't suggest homeopathy can cure everything. Often various approaches are needed in a case. Physiotherapy, acupuncture and behaviour therapy all have their place alongside conventional medicine and surgery but I do find it a useful string to my treatment bow when dealing with health issues that probably stem from abuse or stress in an animal's past life.



An interview with Henry Henry

Here it is, the interview you've all been waiting for, from the singer/songwriter, sossidge loving and male model Henry Henry, interviewed by Greyhound Express celebrity reporter, Kerry Baker.



Name: Henry Henry (Muvva says I is so good, she named me twice)

Age: *Rood* I is 10.

Birth place: Wales, but I raced in Essex and me racing name was "Our Henry". I now lives in Agerbavennies with me Muvva.

Is there a Mrs Henry Henry? *blushes* I has a fioncee and her name is Poppy, she lives in Norf Wales.

Are you a legs or bums man? *blushes even more* I luffs both fanks.

Favourite walks: I luffs walking up bee lane (a lane wiv bee hives in da fields) and ploppy lane (which does be qwite stinky, but great for wee mails) .

Favourite day of the week: Tuesdee.

Favourite food: SOSSIDGES, and egg custards and chew chews (Dentastix) and cheese and pigs yers and me Muvva's porridge and rich tea bisgits dipped in tee.

Music: who are your musical influences on the Henry Henry songs that you write?: Snoop Dawg.

Favourite film: Watership Down.

Style Icon: Johnny Depp (he's ever so coool).

Do you have any annoying habits?

Muvva says I walks eyeborl first into forn bushes (then I does the SOD - scream of death) and I never lerns.

Does your hooman have any annoying habits? *gigguls* where do I

start? Kissing me edd all the time gets on me nerves, she sings in me yers like shes Kafrin Jenkins, but most of the time she is hacceptble I spose.

Any future plans? Becoming an Agony Dawg, for dems hounds which is suffering with problem hoomans in their lives, some hoomans are very sneekies and need carefuls training. Also to keep collectin pennies for all me houndie frends which needs love and help to find dem a forever home.

Look out for updates from Henry Henry on the GRW Facebook page



Rigoletto Renee

Renee Trew, a greyhound belonging to Jon - the charity's vice chair, made an appearance with her friend Georgie Girl (currently residing at Hillcrest), in Rigoletto, an opera performed at St Davids Hall in Cardiff.

Following the opera, Jon was joined by his wife Claire, where the couple raised £198 for the charity in the foyer of the National Concert Hall and Conference Centre of Wales.

What does a Sustainable Organisation look like?

By Lindsay Jackson, GRW Chair

My mantra for Greyhound Rescue Wales is a 'sustainable organisation', but what does one look like?

Fundamentally it means:

- one where should all the current key people decide to leave, then the organisation does not implode
- one where all the knowledge of how things work rests with lots of people
- one where the systems and processes are so well known that they carry on regardless
- one where the records are available to lots of people
- one that is not just paper based

Recently, we have been striving very hard in the background to make GRW such an organisation and have made progress but there is still much to do. One of the big pieces of work is the production of our first business plan. This is a real milestone achievement and the full version will be available for everyone at the Annual General Meeting.

The features of the business plan are that it draws together all the key information about GRW – who we are, what we do, where we work, why we do it, when we need to do things and how we are going to go about our work.

All of this information is available in bits, but it has now been brought together so it can be used for other purposes. They might be writing bids for grants, explaining to other organisations what we do, press releases and advertising.

The business plan also sets out our Mission Statement and it currently reads as follows:

We endeavour to make a difference to greyhounds' and lurchers' lives in Wales by finding them new homes once their working life has come to an end - to give them the life they deserve - rhoi gwell bywyd iddynt Are you happy with this Mission statement? Can you help us to reword it? Does it resonate with your experience of GRW?

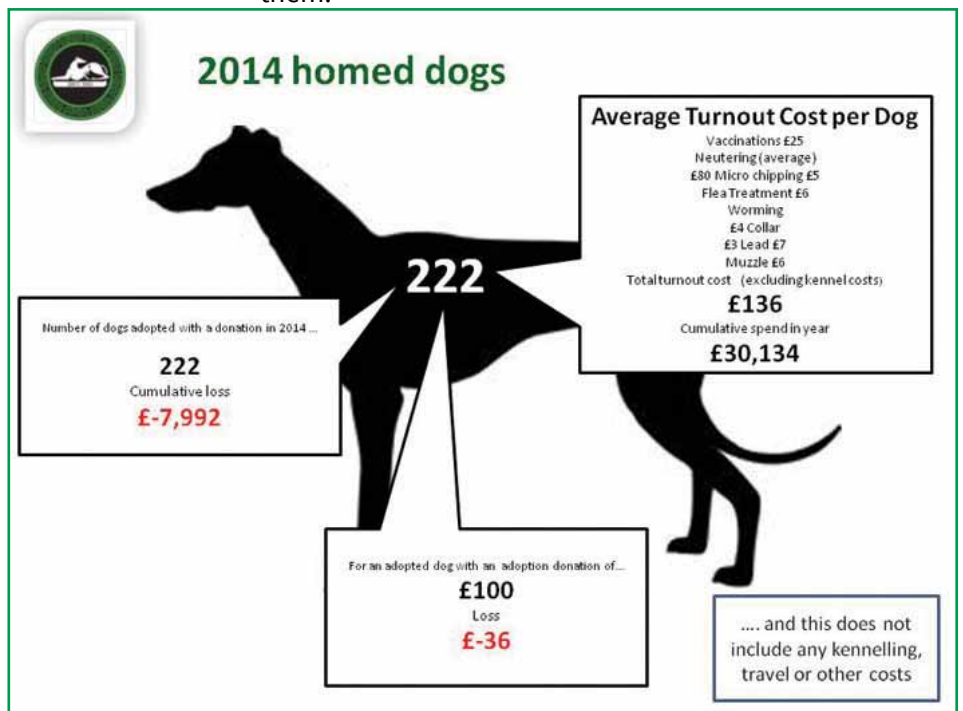
If you have answers to any of these questions please email me your comments to chair@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk.

A further important development is how we are going to finance our work over the next year in particular and the next few years in general. I remember when we as trustees, at the 2013 AGM, put to the membership the plan to purchase a property and start to employ people and one member pointed out that he had in the past seen charities fail that had gone down that route.

I am determined, for the sake of our gorgeous hounds, that GRW will not be one of those charities.

So now, as Trustees, we all have responsibilities for parts of the business, we have budgets and we have income targets to achieve. Who knows if we will get anywhere near them during 2015/16, but we will give it a jolly good try.

It is interesting to note that our main business is receiving and re-homing dogs, so would you be surprised to know that the more dogs we deal with, the larger are our losses? If we take a dog in from an owner, then we have it neutered, microchipped, wormed, flea treated and vaccinated. On average, that costs £135 for each dog. Our current minimum donation for a dog that is re-homed, with a muzzle, collar and lead is £100 – it does not take a mathematical genius to work out the losses we incur. So we have reluctantly made the decision to increase the minimum donation to £125 which is still a loss, but not such a big one. We have been helped out of difficulties by generous legacies, but we can't rely on people leaving us a legacy to be sustainable into the future. It's the dogs that count and every penny we take in goes to support them.



MUSICAL FUNDRAISER

A special musical event, arranged by our South West fundraising team, was recently held at the Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli. The Musical Gala Evening featured a range of performances including bands, brass bands and choirs including Carmarthen Symphonic Wind Band, Bryn Primary School choir and Jazzy-P and the Yahoos.

The evening raised an impressive £591 for the charity.

If you missed the event, there may be an opportunity for a repeat performance before Christmas 2015.

Acknowledgements: Diplomat Hotel, Llanelli Scarlets, Llanelly House, Langostinos Brasserie, The Sidan café, Crafty dog Designs, Lidl, Irene Jones for Manic Street Preachers donation and all the musical performers who made the event such a success.



FROM DESTRUCTIVE DOG TO CHARITY AMBASSADOR

The adventures of Mr Darcy, who some readers may have been following on the charity's Facebook page, have resulted in over £20,000 being raised for GRW over the last four and a half years.

Mr Darcy started his new life with owners Jennie and Graham Street six years ago in North Wales as a skinny, destructive dog who was nearing being returned into foster care. However, with a lot of perseverance, Mr Darcy is now a well-known and respected gentleman of the north.

Jennie Street, who is an avid volunteer for GRW in North Wales explains his popularity: "Mr Darcy is so well known where we live that places like Santander and Pets at Home and Jollyes have all supported us.

"We are one of Rhyl's Pets at Home Adoption for Pets nominated charities so we get a cheque twice a year and we go along and help with what they are doing in store and sell raffle tickets where one year we sold £150 worth in three days.

Mr Darcy's tail wags when we go in store because he knows he might get a treat as he's not daft."

Well you have to get your rewards somewhere Mr Darcy and GRW wish you a very happy sixth gotcha day.



Caption: Mr Darcy, with owners Jennie and Graham Street receiving a cheque from Pets at Home, Rhyl.

International Update

by Lindsay Jackson

Greyhound Rescue Wales is privileged to be part of an international welfare group that 'meets' three times a year by telephone. Australia and Hong Kong are part of the group, but synchronising within suitable time zones can be difficult. It is a great way to keep up to date with greyhound issues in other parts of the world and it's remarkable that the challenges are all fairly similar even if the operations are very different.

England, Wales, Ireland, USA, Belgium and Australia took part in the most recent conversation and there were updates from Spain, Netherlands, Italy, Argentina and Asia. Each participant gave a brief update, with each situation being very different across the globe: from Australia, where racing dogs is a growing activity and there are few adoptions, to the USA where there are a number of States which no longer have tracks and breeding has declined. (However, Florida still has 12 tracks in operation). The downside is that countries such as Argentina are willing to pay for dogs to race and welfare is very poor, so lots of dogs are being transported there from the US and Ireland. Macaw is the only track in China and its lease runs out in December 2015.

Lots of dogs are being transported from Ireland through France into Spain and the greyhounds that were drowned recently on the ferry got a lot of press coverage. There is also evidence of greyhounds being transported to Pakistan for coursing. Latest news suggests that the Dublin track may close this December and there is new leadership at the head of the Irish Greyhound Board.

Upping the pace for the Greyt Midsummer March



Deb Williams with Stella

Greyhound Rescue Wales supporter Deb Williams from Carmarthenshire, is walking the 55-mile Taff Trail from Brecon to Cardiff Bay, to raise money for the charity.

Deb is leading the event and as we go to print, has so far managed to recruit others including Rich Nokes, Jon Baner, Jon Price, Amanda Aston, Sarah Marsh, Sue Lewis, Emyr Evans, Sally Howells, Debra Allen and Rachel Lippiett. Chris and Armelle Dignam have also offered vehicle support for the entire adventure.

The three-day event which takes place from June 19 to 21, has already mustered support, a donation of chiropodist-recommended foot balm and beds for walkers to rest their tired legs of an evening.

Already, there have been training walks and planning meetings and it's not too late to up your stride and join in. Contact info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk or follow The Greyt Midsummer March on Facebook.

Annual General Meeting

The 2015 AGM will take place on Sunday, June 7, from 11am to 2.45pm at Jubilee Hall, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells.

Everyone who supports GRW is welcome to attend and speak at both the AGM and the optional afternoon sessions, however only paid members, including life members are able to vote on any resolutions.

Agenda

10.30: Arrival and refreshments

11am Annual General Meeting

Welcome & Apologies, minutes of previous AGM, annual report of activities (Chair), annual financial report (Treasurer), Appointment of Trustees

12.30pm: Lunch (this is provided however a small donation is appreciated)

1.30pm: Presentations and consultation with supporters

Presentations

2.45pm: close

The nomination procedure for trustees may be found in the Articles of Association of GRW (articles 16-20), on the GRW website greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk/grw-documents

The Jubilee Hall is situated immediately behind Llanelwedd Primary School (post code LD2 3TY) and dogs are welcome.

Greyhound Rescue Wales Merchandising Goes Professional

GRW has enlisted the services of Cozies Ltd to source and fulfil new and exciting merchandise. Cozies has been working with various charities including The Retired Greyhound Trust for over three years, who moved their merchandise stock to Cozies warehouse in Northamptonshire in 2013.



Cozies founder Andrea Allen started out in the dog world 20 years ago when she designed the Cozie Dog Bed, which turned out to be a pet bed for life, as customers are still using the same dog bed after more than 15 years. Andrea starting selling breed specific soft toys at exhibitions and online before cyber shopping and when Amazon were only selling books.

Cozies created branded Cozie Beds for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, RGT and Harringtons Pet Food and more recently various bespoke soft plush toy dogs including greyhounds and whippets. In 2013 due to an increase in UK manufacturing costs Cozies took the decision to stop production of the Cozie

dog beds and concentrate on the plush and gift side of the business. June 2014 saw an investment in a UV printer that enabled Cozies to offer personalised and short runs of various products including phone covers, decorations, bookmarks, keyrings and so on. This year, further investment in a sublimation printer has opened up huge opportunity in product creation. Now Cozies can produce high quality mugs, coasters, place mats, clocks, jigsaws, bags as well as clothing. As far as fundraising merchandise is concerned the sky is now the limit. Not only can Cozies create one-off personalised items but also can create stunning ranges in small quantity runs, perfect for GRW.

The dedicated Cozies team has proven to fulfil Retired Greyhound Trust food and all other merchandising to branches and supporters within 24 to 48 hours, their service and professionalism made it a natural choice for GRW fulfilment.

Keep an eye on the GRW website and Facebook where new products will be available to buy, if you have any ideas on new products please contact Cozies who will be more than happy to

look into the possibilities.

GRW is delighted to welcome on board Cozies and we would like to thank Sharon Lewis for her sterling work over the years without which, wouldn't have been able to run the merchandise arm of the organisation.



A day in my life at Hillcrest – Maya the greyhound

Life is looking up, a few days back my sister and I started a long journey and we were together in a van for a long time.

Soon we arrived in a new place where we found ourselves put into a different van, but this one didn't have a metal crate and there was lots of light and we could see out. There was a voice from the front and it sounded different from the ones we heard before, softer, kinder.

The van stopped and there were now two kind voices, which said hello Maya. I was tired and very soon I had warm water all over me and I was being rubbed, I felt frightened, but still the voices were soft and kind which reassured me. "There you go Maya that coat will make you nice and warm and help you dry," the voice said and then the same thing happened to Erin. Now we had collars put round our necks, I had a red one and Erin a green one. "There you go girls now you are Greyhound Rescue Wales dogs - welcome to Hillcrest." After this we went for a little walk and I could hear "good girl Maya," being said which I'd never heard before.



I miss my sister but my adventure has continued, this morning I went to a new place with a funny smell, there was a sharp needle and when I woke up my tummy was sore. Soon I was in the nice van again with the soft kind voice coming from the front. This time when I arrived at Hillcrest, I was introduced to a tall black greyhound - Lionel – a very handsome boy. The room we were put into had two beds and a doorway, outside the doorway there was an area with mesh around it. That soft voice reassured me again, and helped me up onto the bed, where I settled down to sleep. I fell asleep looking forward to tomorrow.

So a day in my life now is full of fun, good food, and different things to do. First thing in the morning, the door opens and Sandra (our Hillcrest mum) greets us, we go through our door into our run, I can hear all the other dogs' excitement and Sandra is busy with a mop and bucket, always talking to us and soon we have breakfast. With hunger at bay, all the dogs have a run in the paddock two by two, and soon it's me and Lionel.

After a snooze it's walk time and Lionel and I are going to the ménage which is the 'big sand pit' at Hillcrest. We always wear our muzzles here in case we get too excited. Sometimes we walk up a steep hill, we get to see other dogs and look at funny woolly things but mammy Sandra says they are sheep and not for chasing, just looking.

This afternoon as with every afternoon, Lionel and I get a lovely time to sniff, and roam about in the paddock. Mammy Sandra tells me I am beautiful and says someone will come to see me one day soon, and they will want to take me home, but for now, it's time for tea. A little while later the door goes up and I climb into my bed and I get a cuddle and a fuss. Hillcrest is a happy place, it feels safe, and the routine of the day is consistent so I know what to do, there is lots of fun and time to play.

From ex-racer to sardine Sundays

My 11 year-old daughter, Connie, and I had been without any paw-prints since we'd lost our adorable 11 year-old Labrador, Mika, to Alzheimer's almost two years before. I'd always had dogs in my life, so I missed the company that only a waggy tail and a wet nose can give. We'd already adopted two rabbits at my daughter's request, and it was on a trip to the vets for their booster jab that I picked up a Greyhound Rescue Wales leaflet and just idly flicked through it. I'd never been in contact with a greyhound, and knew little about them. Connie saw the leaflet and by picking up on our mutual desire for another dog, we looked at the charity website. I also did some research on greyhounds and discovered that my pre-conceived ideas surrounding exercise and nature were quickly dispelled.

On the website, Connie saw and immediately fell in love with an ex-racer called Eddie. I'd always had dogs from pups in the past, and when we lost Mika I said at the time that if we ever had another dog, it would be an older one that was maybe being overlooked and who needed a loving home. It looked like

nearly nine year-old Eddie fitted the bill. Progressing our interest, Beth, our local home checker and voice of experience got it touch and we passed the check. A couple of weeks later, Eddie arrived in our lives. Initially he seemed confused at the home environment, and unaccustomed to having a fuss. So we took it steady, let him settle in, get used to us and the routine, and see how things panned out. That was the Saturday. By Wednesday I was given my first waggy tail when I came back home after popping out. Since then he is enjoying Sardine Sundays and has learnt to enjoy a comfy settee. He would rather stay in 'Eddie's space' on the couch when a visitor arrives and wait for them to give him a fuss, rather than risk losing his spot. If any of us do happen

to sit where he wants to be, then we get treated to the Eddie look where he stares all forlorn at the place he wants, and wills you with his soft brown eyes to move for him.

If you're after a guard dog, a dog that requires bucket loads of exercise, or a hyper dog, then a greyhound isn't for you. But if you want a gentle, calm, loving, quiet, and friendly companion, and don't mind losing your sofa space, then these could be just the dogs you're looking for. *By Joanne Matthews*



Greyhound Walks

Suggested by our Facebook members of the Become a supporter of Greyhound Rescue Wales page



Rolande Pearce

Walking along the canal in Welshpool is a good walk and the canal museum allows dogs. The canal walk itself stretches miles in either direction and it well maintained.



Claire Price

Pembrey forest is fab, miles and miles of walks in the woods, loops to the beach. Great cafe, toilets etc. We've had a few GRW walks down there and everyone has enjoyed. Also there are some dog walking books out there called Miles without Stiles, we've got one for the Cotswolds, Shropshire and Derbyshire so far. They give loads of info regarding pubs, parking, elevation change, possible livestock etc.



Jennie Ann Street

Pensarn, Abergele in North Wales. The walk is on the flat beside the beach (no dogs on beach) there is free car parking and several cafes beside the car park. It is a greyhound plus walk and you can walk as far or as short distance as you want.



Jon Barnes

Pontardawe, beside the canal that runs from Riverside Park back towards town one way and out towards Ystradgynlais the other way. Flat, grassy and good zoomies. Pubs and cafe etc in Pontardawe. I have NEVER seen it busy.



Pontardawe Park



Sylvia Johnston

The AA has published pocket books available on Amazon called 50 Walks series covers all UK breaks each area up as one book. It grades level of difficulty, car park, toilets, somewhere to eat, dog friendly. Describes the area and prints the route of each walk



Emma Andrews

Penlleger Valley woods. They have a new little cafe and toilets and a cheap car park, easy to get to off junction 47. Lots of walks and trails ..two ponds..lots of streams and trails to follow..full of blooms in the spring ..very pretty..it's even got a waterfall ..great for walking and exploring.



Penlleger



Deb Williams

Felindre Reservoir, just off J46 of the M4. Options of a circular route around the lower reservoir or a longer walk on a tarmac lane up to the upper reservoir. Free parking and a lovely cafe. A local favourite of mine.

What's trending on Facebook SPOTTY'S STORY

The story of Spotty has captured everyone's interest. Spotty is a former race dog that came into care after an injury and was given a special operation to save his leg. Unfortunately, Spotty has had a setback. His owners reported on the charity's Facebook page that he had a nasty slip and has damaged his healing leg with gashes, torn out tendons and ripped blood vessels. He went back to St James veterinary surgery in Swansea, spent the night under sedation and on an intravenous line while they stabilised him and got the bleeding under control. After a thorough assessment, it has been suggested that the joint be fused but on further examination, a decision to amputate was agreed as the safest way forward for Spotty. He's doing really well on three legs and you can follow any updates posted on Facebook.



GRW EVENTS

For a list of all 2015 events throughout Wales, please visit

greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk/events-2015

Fundraising shortage in South East:

Could you help us with fundraising in South East Wales?

Due to a volunteer relocation, GRW has a fundraising gap in this area.

Interested parties should contact Jon at

GRWSE@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk

Greyhound Express is pleased to publish part of an academic research paper by Kerry Herbert, an anthrozoology student at Exeter University, GRW volunteer and human-companion to greyhounds Lyric and Moose.



'Kerry Herbert'

What (or who) is a healthy greyhound?

In this article I'll be summarising some of my recent research, which sought to explore how greyhounds and humans live and interact with each other. As a master's student of anthrozoology (human-animal interactions) at Exeter University, I consider myself an animal advocate and my studies are focused on how better understandings about animals can improve their lives in our decidedly human-centric world. As well as having an interest in human healing, I am fascinated by the greyhound's spirit and the enduring relationship that exists between the greyhound breed and the humans with whom they co-exist, despite a troubled history. And more specifically, through academic research, I'm keen to shine a light on the dynamic world within which the greyhound exists with a view to improving experiences for them in all contexts.

For this piece of research, which focused on greyhound health (and which I hope will be the first of many), I spent a week at Greyhound Rescue Wales's sanctuary, Hillcrest, in the summer of last year and had the opportunity to interview a number of people involved with the charity. Through my semi-structured interviews I delved into thoughts and perceptions of greyhound health and sought to answer the seemingly simple question, what is a healthy greyhound? Though a ubiquitous term, I discovered that understandings about 'health' when it comes to greyhounds are actually

quite complex and bound up with perceptions of their perceived purpose.

That is, for the trainers and breeders whom I interviewed, health was very much measured in terms of performance. Greyhounds were considered healthy if they could run fast and achieve success on the racetrack. Health was also very much a physical concept, with food being the best predictor of a healthy performance. As one trainer put it to me, "If you feed them well, they run well."

However, for those involved with greyhounds once their racing days were over, health was described in wider terms. My research showed that for these groups, health encompassed the psychological as well as the physiological wellbeing of greyhounds. There was a greater emphasis on the rediscovering of health through care and rehabilitation, a philosophy very much in keeping with the GRW 'sanctuary' ethos. Here, considerations about greyhound health also included their mental states and a keenness to both consider and restore these through providing spaces for play, company and above all, kindness and love. For greyhounds taking their place as companion animals, understandings about health encompassed much more than the physical.

Happiness as a concept is elusive and difficult to define, although its associations with health undisputedly exist in humans. However, when it comes to animals, we may be accused of

anthropomorphism (attributing human thoughts and feelings to animals - historically a total 'no-no' in science!) in our attempts to understand and suggest how greyhounds are feeling. Yet, we may at last be experiencing a paradigm shift. Research from the field of anthrozoology has begun paving the way for greater acknowledgement and contemplation of the mental and emotional lives of animals. Scientists and animal learning professionals are starting to acknowledge what perhaps those of us who share our lives with companion greyhounds have intuitively known for so long; that behind every behaviour is a reason and embodying that reason is an individual with his or her own feelings, needs and mental states. Actually, perhaps very much like our own. So, what (or more accurately now, who) is a healthy greyhound? Well, yes, this depends on whom you ask. But I propose that if we are to share our lives with greyhounds and provide a health-ful existence for them in all contexts, we need to remember that in our role as stewards of their lives, the line between 'us' and 'them' is far less distinct than it may first appear.

To read the full research paper, please contact info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk



Spot the difference

This is Argo, who is now called Blue, on his way to his new home



Working in partnership with youth project

Greyhound Rescue Wales is working in partnership with The Centre for Business and Social Action Limited, delivering a youth project funded by the BIG Lottery in Wales. Best Friends, is a project which will be delivered over the next three years to help provide 250 young, underprivileged people with training and skill sets from taking part in a pet visiting service.

Once trained, young people who are not in work, training or employment, will visit, under the guidance of older volunteers, residential care homes in Swansea and Carmarthenshire to bring the pleasure of animals to elderly people.

Janice Morgan, managing director of CBSA says: "Older people often have to give up their pets when they enter a care home and schemes like ours will help ease the pain for those we may be missing their home, family or personal pet."

Lindsay Jackson, chair of Greyhound Rescue Wales said: "Greyhounds and lurchers have a wonderfully gentle temperament and are therefore ideally suited to pet visiting.

"As an organisation, we are looking forward to playing an active part in the delivery of this project and making a difference to the lives of young people, older people and our rescued animals."



Greyhound Rescue Wales member Bethan Hewitt, 17, with her greyhounds Aoife and Gilbert

The number of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education employment or training (NEET) matters. For some of these young people, the time they spend outside of education, employment or training will have a significant negative impact on their future lives - affecting their ability to compete for jobs and earn a good living...

John Griffiths, AM, Deputy Minister for Skills

Volunteering activity is a proven means of re-engaging with young people who are disengaged from the worlds of work and learning. It also provides an ideal opportunity to develop employability, social and basic skills, Best Friends Project

Sight hounds provide artistic inspiration

Sarah Jameson is an artist who is inspired by many things, including sight hounds. We asked her to share her inspiration with Greyhound Express readers.

I have drawn horses and trees since I was eight and started doing little drawings of sighthounds once I entered the wonderful world of lurchers and longdogs, around 15 years ago.

The drawings are very simple and I would like to do something more complex and 'worked' when time allows, but I use them to make hand-made greetings cards and stationery which I sell in galleries and at craft shows.

I've had three lurchers so far in my life, all rescues in some shape or form including Teasel, a kelpie/grey, our first lurcher and a brindle bundle of energy and fun. Millie, a tricolour saluki/whippet - clever, demanding, aloof, vocal and very fast. Then there was Scout, a gentle, silver, broken-coated Norfolk-type beauty who tragically passed away last spring after a battle with megaesophagus.



Caption Millie leaping at Holkham Beach © Sarah Jameson 2010



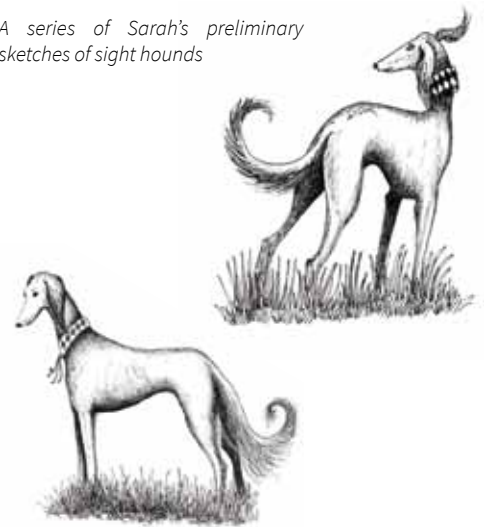
Scout in Snowdonia © Sarah Jameson 2012

I love photography as well as drawing and have a page of portraits of my Millie and Scout on my website. My favourite photographs of all are Scout reclining in Snowdonia (taken the day after our sponsored hike up Snowdon in aid of Lurcher Link) and Millie leaping over pools on Holkham beach.

I think for any artist, sight hounds are just a gift to draw or paint or photograph. Their shapes, coat colours, demeanour, and the way they move - they are just beautiful and at full stretch can simply take your breath away.

To see more of Sarah's work, please visit inkandpen.co.uk/animals.html or sarahjameson.co.uk/gallery_lurchers.html

A series of Sarah's preliminary sketches of sight hounds



Why becoming a member is so vital

Membership provides a valuable source of income to support our work and dogs in our care. It also enables us to keep in touch with you about the organisation and about welfare updates. As we don't receive any funding, we rely on donations, our own fundraising activities and membership renewals.

There are many levels of membership and these can found on our website. If you'd like to join or renew your membership, you can do this in our How to Help section of the website greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk If you haven't got internet access, please call 0300 0123 999.



Farm rescue operation sees blind Dexter struggling to find a home



Dexter, a blind lurcher desperately looking for a loving home after living in a cold farm outbuilding

On top of the charity's daily activities, there is sometimes that one telephone call that requires action beyond the call of duty.

One such call was received in December last year when Greyhound Rescue Wales was told that there were six dogs, alone in a farm outbuilding in freezing conditions, as the farmer had sadly died.

There were lurchers including one who was blind, two terriers and a spaniel. The farmer's nephew had been ringing around the animal welfare charities trying to help these dogs and was travelling up to the farm to feed them on a daily basis. Angie Webb, a long-standing GRW supporter who runs her own kennels and rescue centre where some of GRW dogs go into care, decided it was time for action. "To be fair, the nephew worked full-time and was trying to organise a funeral," she said. "He did his best for the dogs but was struggling and was at a loss what to do."

As the farm was in Aberystwyth, a local volunteer and home checker Joy Harris was drafted in to assess the area. She responded with real concern as there was no bedding or heat for these dogs in the middle of winter.

Angie Webb said: "The spaniel and one of the lurchers were living in the back of a pick-up. There were no rescue offers for the terriers so two days later I set off to

Aberystwyth with some crates to see the situation for myself."

Angie had already contacted Four Paws with a breakdown of what had been found at the farm and they agreed to take the terriers in when they had space after Christmas. When Angie arrived, she knew she couldn't separate the lurcher living in the pick-up truck and leave the spaniel as temperatures were freezing at night, so she took them both. "I knew the dogs hadn't been handled in a while so I borrowed the nephew's gloves which are designed to be used with asbestos, to pick up the terriers and put them into crates. "One of the terriers, Hoppy, only had three feet as the fourth was chewed by his mother as a pup," Angie explained. "There was an older lurcher bitch who was in season and had a damaged foot and I was told that she was eight years old and mum to the other two lurchers, Ferk and Kinnel, who are now called Dylan and Dexter."

Without heat, the skinny lurcher mum would probably not have made it through the winter, so a very dire scene was unfolding but, all five dogs were loaded into the van with one to go - Dexter. This dog had lost most of his sight and was absolutely terrified. "As soon as I went into the barn he backed into the corner and was snarling and growling," Angie said. "I couldn't get near him and even if I could, putting him in the car with five other dogs when he's been alone for so long would have been too stressful, so

the nephew and I made a plan to meet the dog warden together."

Even the dog warden couldn't get hold of the frightened dog and had to use a looped pole to catch him, and with some help, Dexter was muzzled, controlled and in the vehicle. After the journey, it was time to get Dexter out - which proved just as difficult as getting him in. "He was even more terrified and would have bitten me without the muzzle," said Angie, who managed to coax him, take off the muzzle and put him into a kennel. She said that for the next few days, she and Dexter arranged a mutually safe dance between them where Angie entered the kennel to clean it and feed Dexter while he took cover in the run. Dylan joined his brother Dexter in the kennel, and calm was restored. From here, things improved and the good news is that Dylan has found a home in Anglesey and Holly the female lurcher is in a foster home, but following a vet's assessment, Dexter will never regain his sight.

Angie Webb is appealing for a special home for Dexter. She said: "Dexter is only six but he's had a hard life up to now and his chances of being homed are minimal. He's had Toxoplasmosis and his sight will never return."

If you can help Dexter, please contact us on info@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk or 0300 0123 999



The spaniel and terrier that were also found at the farm



Greyhound Express Contact Details
Newsletter Call: Amanda Rees
National Call Line T: 0300 0123 999

E: news@greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk