30 Years of Greyhound Rescue Wales:

Then, Now and Next

Registered Address: Hillcrest, Bryncethin Road, Garnant, Ammanford, SA18 1YS
Charity Number: 1152650 | Company Number: 08411721
greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk

Greyhound Rescue Wales:

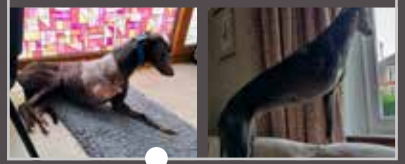
The First 30 Years

An all-Wales charity

In 1996, this small band of volunteers became a registered charity and by 2000, Greyhound Rescue Wales had established a regular income enabling the rehoming of at least 100 dogs per year.

Last Hope

In 2004, racing greyhound 'Last Hope' was found, left for dead, on a mountainside after being shot in the head and his ears cut off to hide his identity. Whilst this highlighted the true cruelty shown to racing greyhounds, it also inspired the 'Last Hope Fund' for seriously ill and injured hounds that GRW continues to this day. Furthermore, the tragedy of 'Last Hope' sent shock-waves through the greyhound racing community in Wales and representatives of the three Welsh tracks agreed to work with rescues and the National Assembly resulting in the 2007 publication of 'A Better Bet for Greyhounds'; a set of robust welfare regulations for Wales.



A transformative legacy

In 2011 GRW received a generous legacy from long-time supporter Lee Frank. This transformed the organisation's capacity and enabled GRW to purchase its own rehoming centre: Hillcrest, which welcomed its first hounds in 2013.

New directions

2018 saw a final push for regulation in Wales as GRW led the Animal Welfare Network for Wales' Greyhound Working Group. A new voluntary code of practice for greyhounds in Wales was published but this has had no visible effect.

1993 | 1996 - 2000 | 2001 | 2004 | 2009 | 2011 | 2013 | 2018 | 2021-2022

The early days

On 20th October 1993, Jan Stanton and Alain Thomas found a stray dog they named Fleet. On discovering the plight facing greyhounds and lurchers in Wales, *Greyhound Rescue Wales* was born.

With meagre resources Jan and Alain began to find homes for many greyhounds and lurchers. The hounds quickly become their own best advocates and as more rehomed greyhounds and lurchers appeared on the beaches and parks around Swansea with their new owners, people discover they are gentle, sensitive animals that make wonderful pets. Offers of help pour in.

Working for change

In 2001 GRW presented at the inaugural meeting of the All Party Group for Animal Welfare at what was then the National Assembly for Wales, marking the start of our advocacy workstream to improve legal protections for sighthounds in Wales. Work with Dogs Trust, RSPCA Cymru and Assembly Members resulted in the publication of 'The Fate of Racing Greyhounds and Working Lurchers in Wales' evidencing that hundreds of these dogs were being abandoned in Wales each year.

Tracks close

2009 saw the closure of two of the remaining three tracks in Wales. GRW had to work hard to find homes for large numbers of surplus hounds. The closure of the two tracks also led to the Welsh Government deciding not to implement the recommended agreed set of regulations.

Becoming sustainable

By 2013 the charity's retail plans had also begun to take shape. Over the next 8 years, GRW opened 6 stores. Admired for their vibrant window displays and high standards of presentation, these shops continue to support the charity's rehoming work and assure its financial footing.

Setting the vision

In 2021, GRW embarked on a change project to set its future direction. In March 2022 GRW members voted to take a stance against greyhound racing and later in the year GRW appointed its first ever CEO - bringing us to the present day.

Setting the Goal

Following the members' decision in 2022 on the future direction of GRW, a huge amount of work has already been undertaken to transform the charity and propel it towards achieving its new vision: *a Wales without greyhound racing, where every greyhound and lurcher has a home and receives the best possible care.*

A Next-Generation Greyhound Rescue Wales

This is a significant cultural change underway for everyone connected to GRW as we move from being a small trustee-led charity to a medium-sized, CEO-led, charitable incorporated organisation, overseen by trustees. As the size and influence of GRW grows, so too do people's expectations of this bigger, better organisation that aims to help more dogs in more ways. We have to be ready for that challenge to do our supporters proud when it comes to helping hounds in need.

Find out how you can support us: greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk

Faster Growth

With staff now at all levels of the charity there is a greater pace at which growth can be achieved. This year has seen GRW lay the foundations for expansion in areas like welfare management, governance and policy, quality management, media and communications, and staffing. The year ahead will see GRW expand into this foundation with more charity shops, kennel-space, and community projects, as well as campaigns to broaden public awareness of the critical issues facing sighthounds in Wales.

Greater Ambitions, Same Principles

GRW is now one year into an ambitious 5-year strategy to further develop the charity into a professional, sustainable organisation that rehomes hundreds of sighthounds every year, and provides support to many more. The underlying principle of GRW, to help sighthounds in need, has not changed since the charity began in 1993. Everything we do is to further the interests of these amazing animals who continue to be in dire need of support even today.

30 mlynedd o Achub Milgwn Cymru:

Ddoe, Heddiw, ac Yfory

Cyfeiriad Cofrestredig: Hillcrest, Heol Bryncethin, Garnant, Rhydaman, SA18 1YS
Rhif Elusen: 1152650 | Rhif Cwmni: 08411721
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Achub Milgwn Cymru:

y 30 Mlynedd Cyntaf

Elusen Cymru gyfan

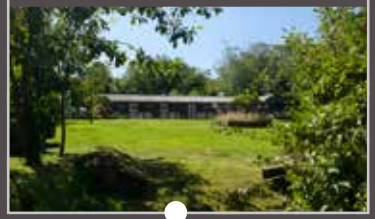
Yn 1996, daeth y criw bach hwn o wirfoddolwyr yn elusen gofrestredig ac erbyn 2000, roedd Achub Milgwn Cymru wedi llwyddo i sefydlu incwm rheolaidd i fedru ailgartrefu o leiaf 100 o gŵn y flwyddyn.

Last Hope

Yn 2004, daethpwyd o hyd i filgi rasio o'r enw Last Hope, wedi'i adael yn farw ar ochr mynydd ar ôl cael ei saethu yn ei ben, a'i glustiau wedi'u torri i ffwrdd rhag gallu ei adnabod. Er bod hyn yn dangos yn glir y creulondeb i filgwn rasio, fe ysbrydolodd hefyd Gronfa Last Hope ar gyfer milgwn sy'n ddifrifol wael ac wedi'u hanafu ac mae'r elusen yn dal i weithredu'r Gronfa hyd heddiw. Ymhellach, roedd trasiedi Last Hope wedi ysgwyd y gymuned rasio milgwn yng Nghymru a chytunodd cynrychiolwyr y tri thrac Cymreig i gydweithio gyda mudiadau achub a'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gan arwain at gyhoeddi 'Y Cyfle Gorau i Filgwn' yn 2007, sef casgliad o reoliadau lles cadarn i Gymru.

Ewyllys wnaeth drawsnewid pethau

Yn 2011 derbyniodd yr elusen gymynrodd hael gan gefnogwr oes, sef Lee Frank. Trawsnewidiodd hyn gapasiti Achub Milgwn Cymru gan ei alluogi i brynu ei ganolfan ailgartrefu ei hun: Hillcrest, a groesawodd ei gŵn cyntaf yn 2013.



Cyfeiriadau newydd

Yn 2018 cafwyd ymdrech olaf i gael rheoleiddio yng Nghymru a'r elusen wedi arwain Gweithgor Milgwn o fewn Rhwydwaith Lles Anifeiliaid Cymru. Cyhoeddwyd cod ymarfer gwirfoddol newydd ar gyfer milgwn yng Nghymru ond nid yw wedi cael unrhyw effaith weladwy.

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Y dyddiau cynnar

Ar 20 Hydref 1993, daeth Jan Stanton ac Alain Thomas o hyd i gi strae a rhoeson nhw'n enw Fleet arno. Wrth sylweddoli sefyllfa druenus milgwn a chŵn potsiwr yng Nghymru, ganed Achub Milgwn Cymru.

Er bod adnoddau yn brin, dechreuodd Jan ac Alain ddod o hyd i gartrefi i lawer o filgwn a chŵn potsiwr. Yn fuan daeth yr helgwn eu hunain i bleidio'u hachos eu hunain ac wrth i fwyfwy o filgwn wedi'u hailgartrefu gael eu gweld ar y traethau a'r parciau o amgylch Abertawe gyda'u perchnogion newydd, daeth pobl i wybod eu bod yn greaduriaid addfwyn, sensitif sy'n gwneud anifeiliaid anwes bendigedig. Dechreuodd y cynigion i helpu arllwys i mewn.

Gweithio dros newid

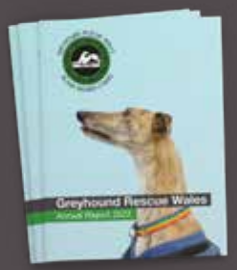
Yn 2001 roedd Achub Milgwn Cymru yng nghyfarfod cyntaf y Grŵp Hollbleidiol ar Les Anifeiliaid yn y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol fel yr oedd bryd hynny, gan nodi dechrau ein gwaith eiriolaeth i wella amddiffyniadau cyfreithiol ar gyfer milgwn yng Nghymru. Arweiniodd gwaith gyda'r Ymddiriedolaeth Cŵn, RSPCA Cymru ac Aelodau'r Cynulliad at gyhoeddi 'Tynged Milgwn Rasio a Chŵn Potsiwr sy'n Gweithio yng Nghymru' a ddangosai fod cannoedd o'r cŵn hyn yn cael eu gadael yn ddiymgeledd bob blwyddyn.

Cau traciau

Yn 2009 cafodd dau o'r tri thrac oedd ar ôl yng Nghymru eu cau. Bu'n rhaid i Achub Milgwn Cymru weithio'n galed i ddod o hyd i gartrefi ar gyfer nifer fawr o helgwn nad oedd mo'u heisiau mwyach. Arweiniodd cau'r ddau drac hefyd at Lywodraeth Cymru yn penderfynu peidio â gweithredu'r set o reoliadau argymelledig y cytunwyd arnynt.

Dod yn gynaliadwy

Erbyn 2013 roedd cynlluniau siopau'r elusen hefyd wedi dechrau datblygu. Dros yr 8 mlynedd nesaf, agorwyd 6 siop. Caiff y siopau eu hedmygu am eu harddangosfeydd bywiog yn eu ffenestri a safonau cyflwyno uchel, ac maent yn parhau i gefnogi'r gwaith ailgartrefu a rhoi sicrwydd sylfaen ariannol.



Cyflwyno'r weledigaeth

Yn 2021, dechreuodd Achub Milgwn Cymru ar brosiect newid i bennu ei gyfeiriad ar gyfer y dyfodol. Ym mis Mawrth 2022 pleidleisiodd aelodau'r mudiad i wrthwynebu rasio milgwn ac yn ddiweddarach yn y flwyddyn penodwyd ei Brif Swyddog Gweithredol cyntaf erioed – gan ddod â ni i'r presennol.

Gosod y nod

Yn dilyn penderfyniad yr aelodau yn 2022 ar gyfeiriad Achub Milgwn Cymru i'r dyfodol, mae llawer iawn o waith eisoes wedi'i wneud i drawsnewid yr elusen a'i gyrru ymlaen i gyflawni ei gweledigaeth newydd, sef: *Cymru heb rasio milgwn, lle mae gan bob milgi a chi potsiwr gartref ac yn derbyn y gofal gorau posibl.*

Achub Milgwn Cymru y genhedlaeth nesaf

Mae newid diwylliannol mawr ar droed i bawb sy'n gysylltiedig â'r elusen wrth i ni symud o fod yn elusen fach dan arweiniad ymddiriedolwyr i fod yn sefydliad corfforedig elusennol canolig ei faint, wedi'i arwain gan Brif Swyddog Gweithredol, dan oruchwyliaeth ymddiriedolwyr. Wrth i faint a dylanwad Achub Milgwn Cymru dyfu, felly hefyd ddisgwyliadau pobl o'r sefydliad gwell a mwy o faint hwn sy'n ceisio helpu mwy o gŵn mewn mwy o ffyrdd. Mae'n rhaid i ni fod yn barod at yr her honno er mwyn i'n cefnogwyr fedru ymfalchïo yn ein gwaith yn helpu cŵn mewn angen.

Sut y gallwch ein cefnogi: greyhoundrescuewales.co.uk

Tyfu'n gyflymach

Gan fod staff bellach ar bob lefel o'r elusen, mae modd tyfu'n gyflymach. Eleni mae Achub Milgwn Cymru wedi gosod y sylfeini ar gyfer ehangu mewn meysydd fel rheoli lles, llywodraethu a pholisi, rheoli ansawdd, y cyfryngau a chyfathrebu, a staffio. Yn ystod y flwyddyn i ddod bydd yr elusen yn ehangu ar y sylfaen hon gyda mwy o siopau elusen, gofod cenel, a phrosiectau cymunedol, yn ogystal ag ymgyrchoedd i ehangu ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd am y materion hollbwysig sy'n wynebu milgwn yng Nghymru.

Uchelgais uwch, yr un egwyddorion

Mae blwyddyn bellach wedi bod ers sefydlu strategaeth 5 mlynedd uchelgeisiol Achub Milgwn Cymru i ddatblygu'r elusen ymhellach i fod yn fudiad proffesiynol, cynaliadwy sy'n ailgartrefu cannoedd o filgwn bob blwyddyn, ac yn rhoi cefnogaeth i lawer mwy. Nid yw egwyddor sylfaenol yr elusen, sef helpu milgwn mewn angen, wedi newid ers i'r elusen ddechrau yn 1993. Mae popeth a wnawn yn cael ei wneud i hyrwyddo buddiannau'r creaduriaid rhyfeddol hyn sy'n parhau i fod mewn angen dybryd am gymorth hyd yn oed heddiw.