



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2009 Issue 5

PATRON: Katie Boyle

www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Welcome to the fifth 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 2010 (unless you have set up a standing order) which we hope you will complete and return to continue your valuable support of the Charity.

I would like to introduce and welcome our new Secretary / Trustee Adrian Bickers who commenced his duties on the 1st May 2009. Adrian has also very kindly taken on the responsibility of updating the Charity website and he has already made considerable headway in that direction through his hard work and dedication.

Adrian Bickers (Secretary / Trustee) has been involved with horses and dogs for most of his life. He acquired his first Italian Greyhound in 1997 and has been captivated by the breed since then.

Adrian was pleased to take on the role of Secretary for the Charity and is looking forward to working alongside the other Trustees and Friends of the Rescue, to protect and promote the wellbeing of these little hounds.



Update from our Chairman - Helen

Italian Greyhound 'Cash Point'

With the news that Consumer Direct reported a concerning 40% increase in the number of complaints they have received related to the purchase of pets, largely dogs between 2006 and 2008, and 5,000 complaints in 2008 we are not surprised. Live puppies and dogs whether bought from a person or trading establishment are covered by the Sale of Goods Act 1979.

The reason? The advent of the internet in the late 1990's, prior to this breeders advertised their IG puppies in certain publications and these breeders were generally known and discouraged by responsible IG breeders. Sadly for the poor IG's it is now so easy for these breeders to sit in the comfort of their own home and advertise puppies or stud dogs on the internet, whilst some of the poor dogs being used to breed from are being kept outside, or confined to wire cages with no life other than producing puppies.

The Internet provides a false front, a flowery advert, directly aimed at making the IG into a 'must have breed' - miniature whippets, as delicate to look at as a piece of porcelain, if that is what you want, have the porcelain on your mantelpiece, all you will need to do is dust it occasionally, without the true commitment of a life with an IG.

On average **five new adverts per week** appear on the internet, common sites such as Eupuz, Preloved and Classified Ads, featuring pictures of barely dry puppies or only a few weeks old, being held up legs a straddle, fearful tiny eyes. Really loved puppies look happy and relaxed, but not these poor little mites and there are so many of them.

It doesn't stop at puppies, adults who don't have a useful purpose are advertised too, without restrictions, inciting other unscrupulous people to buy an IG and use them for their own gain, with no thought as to their welfare. Even sick dogs with a fractured limb have been sold, better to reduce the price and let someone else have the problem and the vets bills, and even worse with inherited life threatening diseases, where an obviously ill puppy was advertised on the internet three times over and eventually the last advertiser said she was depressed, realising that this was the third time this 9 month old puppy was up for sale, we were able to do something about it and save her life, but we can't save them all.

Of course the real reason for all the IG's being bred is nothing other than money, puppies are being sold regularly for anything up to £2,000, money does not ensure a permanent loving home for the IG. We are aware that it is not unusual for a litter of IG's to bring in £6,000 for the breeder. The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity reject as unsuitable many homes at the initial enquiry stage and a number each year fail the essential home check for

suitability for an IG. Before much longer our delightful breed is going to become the must have accessory which past breeders and owners have always fought so hard to ensure this doesn't happen with all the awful consequences that ensue.

I personally would like to see an amendment to the Animal Welfare Act to ban the advertising of dogs on the internet; **you too can help by spreading the word to never consider buying a dog advertised on the internet and by informing admirers of an IG's true needs and what they are like to live with.** Of course for the breed to survive we will always need dedicated breeders who really care about the offspring they produce and always keep in touch with their new owners to give any help and advice, not people who breed teens of puppies, how can you possibly keep track of 90+ puppies and be able to help if there is a problem if your only concern is producing yet more?

Update from our Rescue Co-ordinator - Shirley

As always the Charity Trustees have been busy assisting both Italian Greyhounds and this year an increase in the number of cross bred IG's which we have re-homed. We have all been kept busy with the huge number of **WELFARE** issues brought to our attention.

A snap shot of some of the dogs we have re homed this year:-

It was particularly upsetting to collect an Italian Greyhound on a bitterly cold February day to find that his home was an outside toilet and he did not even have a coat to protect him from the winter weather. Following complaints about his all night barking he came to us for re-homing. The other sad thing about this dear little IG was that the family had another dog, a Bedlington Terrier, who was kept inside the house!!!

When we went to collect "Charlie" the IG, the owner said to take "Monty" the Bedlington Terrier as well which of course we did. Following a good clean up of both dogs, they were smelly, very dirty and "Monty's" coat matted and caked with his excrement, they were Vet. checked / treated in preparation for re-homing. After a number of telephone calls to Bedlington Terrier breed rescue who were very helpful, we re-homed both dogs.

"Monty" has been adopted by a family who already have one of our cross bred IG rescues. I have seen him a couple of times since he went to live with his new family and he is inseparable from rescue "Bea" which is lovely for them both. His new family are thrilled to have him. Meanwhile "Charlie" the Italian Greyhound is enjoying a new lease of life in the countryside. He has an IG companion to play with and of course a nice dry bed in the warm!!! What breeder could have sold an IG to the existence "Charlie" was sold to?

We have also managed to find a super home for tiny "Lily" an Italian Greyhound / Chihuahua cross. Another of the same breeding and age, presumably a litter mate, turned up in the Celia Cross Greyhound Kennels.

On the **WELFARE** front we have been very busy offering assistance to families with IG related problems, including IG's re-homed via alternative rescues for the breed which are operating. A number of the IG's re-homed via this route are from commercial Italian Greyhound breeders and many suffer from health related problems and difficulties with socialisation. A puppy farmers dream, some one to find homes for dogs they are having difficulty selling in order to make space to breed more appealing puppies - not something the official Breed Rescue supports.

A number of Italian Greyhound puppies are being advertised on the internet. A lot of litters are not registered with the Kennel Club where the dam has an endorsed pedigree not to be bred from. Prices on the internet vary but are anything up to £2,000.00 for a bitch puppy with a pedigree free of endorsements. Most reputable breeders do not need to advertise their puppies on the internet and many of the good homes do not have that sort of money to spend on a pet.

Other Welfare issues include a number of young IG's with fractured legs, not all receiving support from their breeders and one poor little boy was destroyed as the treating Vet. described the fracture (a second fracture) as a hereditary condition likely to recur.

We had one distraught pet owner contact us following the tragic death of her 8 year old IG following one of his epileptic fits. The family now have a new puppy from a different breeder and hope they never experience this condition again. As many of you know, the Charity is supporting research undertaken by the Animal Health Trust into epilepsy. Any reader who has not taken part in the research by sending to the researchers a cheek saliva swab from their pedigree IG, and who would like to support the project to find the DNA marker gene for epilepsy, please contact Helen Lister on 015394 43343.

Now a few words of thanks to our many supporters who have helped the Charity and it's work by both practical and financial assistance this year.

Thanks must go to all the kind volunteers who have helped the rescue dogs by assisting with home checking, transportation and fostering. As always Chris Henshall and her mother offer us a superb fostering and preparation of the rescues for re-homing service. All our re-homed dogs go to their new homes after a Vet. check, neutering,

microchipping and a dental if required. Thanks to a number of kind "Friends" Mary, Daphne and Helen, the re-homed dogs all go to their new homes with a nice coat, bed and toy.

Margery Hall continues to support those in need by raising money from used stamps. Please forward your used postage stamps to: Miss M Hall, Tolgullow, St. Day, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5PD.

Violetta Cantrill has raised a considerable sum of money for the rescue dogs by selling her hand crafted beautiful cards. Thank you Violetta and we hope that you are fully recovered following your illness in the summer.

The Trustees are thrilled that the acclaimed Canine and Equine Artist and "Friend" of the Rescue Charity, Mary Browning, has generously donated a gilt framed pastel of two Italian Greyhounds to the Charity. You will all have received a flyer of this beautiful picture for auction the proceeds will help Italian Greyhounds in need. Thank you so much Mary.

Many thanks to so many of you who have made donations or forwarded items for sale to raise funds for the re-homing of those in need.

Our Trustee / Secretary Adrian is busy updating the Rescue Charity website. It is hoped to have a page containing photographs of Rescues but also one showing photographs of our "Friends" IG's. If you have a nice photograph of your IG and would like to see it on our website, please do get in touch with Adrian on 01462 731567 or e-mail secretary@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

It was with sadness that I received a message in May from Lynne to say that rescue "Lucy" died at the age of twelve and a half years. I recall collecting her and her dam in September 2003 when their owner was admitted into the care of a Hospice. Lucy has spent six happy years with Lynne and her late mother Bessie. Thanks Lynne for all that you did for Lucy.

My very Best Wishes to you all, and your pets, for Christmas and 2010.

Sapphies Story

As told to Shirley E. Penrose-Hansell (Rescue Co-ordinator for Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity)



My name is Sapphie and I am an Italian Greyhound. My life was not good until the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity intervened in my plight, getting me back on my feet again and finally settled with my new mum who I love very much.

When I was born I was the smallest in the litter and did not thrive as well as my siblings. After a couple of months I was sold to a new home; I was kept outside with a lot of other dogs. I did not develop as well as these owners had hoped and they put me up for sale on the internet and off I went yet again to another new home. As at my previous home, there were a lot of other dogs and no one seemed to notice me or that I was ill. After a few weeks of increasing illness and still only nine months of age, I was again advertised for sale on the internet. This would be my fourth home.

Fortunately, this time luck was on my side when a lady from the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity spotted me being passed on once more and stepped in to help me. She sent one of the Charities helpers to collect me and I was very pleased to see her. Unfortunately, by now I was so poorly that I fell over onto my side trying to say hello and although my owner said to leave me as I would eventually get up, this lady scooped me up into her arms never to put me down again. After some paper work was sorted out off we went to the car. I felt very poorly.

I had never been seen by a Veterinary Surgeon so was surprised when this lady, who was concerned about my poor state of health, took me to one on our way home. It was a good job that she did because after a thorough examination and some blood tests the Vet. decided that I was probably suffering from a nasty congenital condition called liver shunt. This is a condition where blood by passes the liver because of a blood vessel defect which results in toxic waste products which would normally be broken down by the liver, being transported to the brain causing brain irritation and convulsions. Other symptoms of liver shunt include depression, diarrhoea, vomiting and malnutrition. No wonder I had been feeling ill all my life!

The Vet. prescribed a special diet and asked my foster mum to bake me rice pudding every day which soon became my favourite food. Mum was very strict with my diet, for my own sake, she used to tell me. The Vet. also referred me to a specialist liver veterinary surgeon at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, where after many tests and scans I underwent major surgery on two occasions to correct the blood flow to the liver. I was taken back to see the surgeon a number of times by my Foster Mum who devoted many hours of time, care and love on me during this period.

In total my treatment and after care took seventeen months, and by the end of that time I was feeling much better, carrying my head high again and able to eat a normal diet without problems. I tried to be brave throughout this long

time and kept my head down so that this special foster mum would not notice that I was still there. After all, I was the same colour as her own Italian Greyhounds so I figured that she may not realise she had an addition to her family and I would be able to stay there forever!!

I have a sponsor who also spoils me; she made sure that I received a new coat and snuggle bed of my own. We send her photographs of me and keep her informed of my progress. I have many well wishers who meet me when my mum takes me out with her in the car, in fact I have been spoilt rotten by everyone. I now know how to play with toys, but was not sure what to do with them at first. I also enjoy my twice daily walks with an Italian Greyhound friend.

I give a few barks when I want some attention, that usually does the trick and I get what I want. Normally what I want is either food or a desire to be nursed by mum Chris or her mother Norma. I snuggle down dreaming that I might be allowed to stay here. Guess what, everyone has agreed that it would be better for me not to be moved ever again and mum has formally adopted me from the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. Now I will be safe and loved for the rest of my life. I really can't thank mum enough for all she has done for me and the support of the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity has given me a new life.

Hugo and Gucci

By Yvonne Warburton

As a young 60 year old living on my own I decided that I could give a dog a loving home and spoilt lifestyle. Through the internet I discovered I could adopt an Italian Greyhound and decided to give them a ring to find out more. Initially I only wanted the one but when almost immediately after registering 2 became available and I heard their story I couldn't resist.

Hugo and Gucci arrived with their bed, some food and two great characters, although Gucci was very nervous. By day 2, though, I thought I had made a huge mistake. During their leisurely morning walk a problem arose, these two little fragile looking dogs barked viciously at all other dogs-even the Rottweiler's looked scared. However, I couldn't give up on boys yet, so decided that some dog training may be called for.



Luckily a local session on a Sunday morning had spaces and along we went. At first the instructor Steve had to spend all session with Hugo, Gucci and myself but with plenty of perseverance improvements could be seen and Hugo won the best in class award. The dog training sessions taught me to feel more confident and although they still bark sometimes I feel that I'm in control.

Having Hugo and Gucci has certainly changed my life for the better and I now wouldn't be without them. All of the walking keeps me fit and they are great company in the evening. Everybody in the neighbourhood knows them and Hugo was so mild mannered with one little boy that he has helped him get over a fear of dogs. It is safe to say that Hugo and Gucci really are a hit with all that meet them!



Benson is trying on his Halloween costume. He wants more 'Treats' than 'Tricks' on the night! He will be casting a Special Spell over all his I.G. Friends and their Owners hoping they will all have a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2010!

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TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS

Coordinator of Rescues - Shirley Penrose-Hansell tel: 0161 428 0142

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

Tom Mather tel: 0151 486 3570