

Dear Friends,

December 2008

We are pleased to report, and are very grateful, that the groups we have worked with for some time now in Belgium, France, Italy and Slovenia continue to find homes for the galgos we can help in Spain. We now also work with another group in France— Association de Sauvetage des Lévrier, run by Jacqueline and Max, who are helping us by taking galgos from Vic for homing and we are again able to home galgos in Switzerland thanks to Manuela of Lévrier Swiss Adoptions.



*Archie, a lovely male galgo from Albacete, won Best Rescue and Best in Show at the Tatton Park Dog Show, Cheshire, UK.*

*Here he is with his proud Mum Ally and other GIN supporters with their dogs*

We continue to support the refuges in Spain throughout the year by sending many parcels of coats, blankets, dog bowls, medicines etc, kindly donated by our supporters.

For some time now, as mentioned in our last European Message, we have been feeling our way towards setting up an education programme in Spain, aimed at young schoolchildren, in an attempt to instil in them an understanding of the needs of all animals as sentient beings and also a realisation of the dire plight of Spanish galgos.

This will have to start in a small way and the first drafts of the teaching materials will be available soon, ready for us to discuss the whole scheme in detail with our Spanish colleagues, many of whom devote their lives to rescuing animals in distress, and it is these good people we try to help. The experience of many animal welfare groups teaches us that it is to the rising generation that we must turn if any lasting good is to be achieved.

We are taking this initiative to mark the 10th anniversary of GIN. When we look back it is pleasing to see how much our work has expanded in that time. In the last 10 years we have successfully rescued and found homes for several thousand dogs with the help of many Spanish volunteers who carry out primary rescue work, and the homing groups and individuals in Europe who, in sympathy with our work, are promoting adoption in their own countries. This has only been made possible by the extraordinary generosity of you, our supporters.

Here in the UK the Animals Act of 2006 called for a new regulatory system and welfare regulations for racing. The new governing body is to be called the Greyhound Board of Great Britain and is currently being set up and should be in operation early in 2009. We await the new regulations, which will go out to consultation soon. The Greyhound Forum, of which GIN is a member, submitted draft proposals and we can only hope these will be implemented.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the help and support you give to us and those we work with, throughout the year and wish you, your families and your dogs a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Carolyn and all at GIN

**Founded by Anne and Arthur Finch**

**Trustees: Carl Boyde MRCVS, Terrance Dickens, Martin Humphery, Liz Mason**

**Administrator: Carolyn Davenport**

**Treasurer: Geoffrey Levy FCA**

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