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Dear Friends,

December 2009

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end and it has been a particularly busy year for GIN. With the help of our contacts abroad we have moved many galgos to homes in Belgium, France, Slovenia and Switzerland, plus the usual quota to the UK.

In the UK, we continue to rehome ex-racing greyhounds and the welfare groups represented on the Greyhound Forum (of which GIN is one) made a very detailed response to DEFRA (the UK government department concerned with Animal Welfare) ahead of their consultation on the draft regulations for the care and welfare of racing greyhounds. We await government response.



*Galgos in the UK meeting their new families*

For many years now, as well as the rescue and rehoming work, which we appreciate is first aid, we have tried to tackle the galgo problem at source.

Our Educational booklet, mentioned in our last message, has been sent to some of our contacts in Spain and is now in full production in readiness for a wider launch in schools.

Recently we contacted some MEPs to obtain information about what can be done through the auspices of the EU to bring to an end the terrible cruelty to the galgos.

We have received much information which sadly shows that bringing about changes in Spain for the galgos is a very complex matter, and in fact improvements can only be achieved by action from the Spanish government.

In January 2010 - Spain will be the next holder of the rotating Presidency of the European Council and this will inevitably draw attention to the Spanish government's record on animal rights. To this end we will be making a joint protest to the Spanish Government during their Presidency. We are in the process now of investigating the most effective form of approach. We will then be seeking the support of our European colleagues, in Spain and the rest of Europe, by designing a petition for all to sign.

We are all too well aware of the difficulty in persuading the Spanish Government even to enforce their existing laws but we hope our supporters will approve our efforts in this direction and sign the petition. Please watch for the link on our website in January. If enough people sign we hope the Spanish government will pay proper attention.

Those of us dedicated to helping the galgos of Spain must never rest until their suffering is brought to an end.

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

Carolyn and all at GIN

**Founded by Anne and Arthur Finch**

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

**General Manager: Carolyn Davenport**

**Treasurer: Geoffrey Levy FCA**

**G.I.N. Shop (Bournemouth): Sue North**

**G.I.N. Shop (Brighton): Christine Page**

**Webmaster: Leigh Dworkin**

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