

Greyhounds in NEED

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 1069438

Spring Newsletter 2006



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Dear Friends of GIN,

GIN, formed some 16 years ago, registered as a Charity in 1998, and still operating from a converted bedroom in Egham, hopes soon to make a long overdue move to a dedicated office, located in neighbouring Wraysbury. This will also become the centre for our merchandise operation (see centre pages). Barbara, to whom we owe a huge debt for her enormous effort and dedicated control of this in Bournemouth, tells us that, helped by Marian Henderson and Stephanie Cartwright, more than 300 parcels were despatched during the "veritable blizzard that did not pass until January".

This move is not simply a symbol of maturity but a necessity for us to build on our success in continued rescue and homing. Further, you will note that Geoffrey alludes (page 3) to the very real possibility of our securing a second shop in the not-too-distant future. In short, GIN has every intention of progressing in the face of ever-increasing calls for our help.

Unhappily, the need still continues. Very recently the welcome news came that Meridiana, the sole remaining race-track in Spain, has closed. The short-term concern, however, is the possible fate of several hundred dogs there. GIN will collaborate with sister groups in Europe. We remember a not dissimilar closure of the Rome track in 2002, where GIN played a dominant role. This, of course, is in addition to our main objective, the succour of the galgos in Spain. As most of our supporters know, now is the time of year which sees the end of the hunting season, bringing particularly distressing requests for aid.

An encouraging feature in 2005 has been, for the first time, the initiating of meetings between the Spanish sporting federation, the FEG, and various Spanish rescue groups to discuss welfare matters. Anne has been instrumental in promoting these, and ensuring attendance from the rescue groups which we support and from which we draw our galgos for quarantine and, specially, for homing in Europe,

Finally, as usual, but with complete sincerity, our thanks for the continued generous support which we are always in danger of taking for granted, and without which we could not exist.

Bless you all.

Arthur

We enclose an envelope in this newsletter and again ask for your help ! Any used print cartridges or mobile phones can be recycled and raise funds for our work. All you have to do is place your used cartridge or phone into the envelope and pop it in the post box, no stamp is required. The bar code on the back of the envelope tells the company that any money due is for our charity.

We hope you can help us in this way, should you need any more envelopes please telephone us on 01784 436845

Many thanks !

2006 SUMMER RAFFLE

Last year over £7,000 was realised from the sale of raffle tickets and linked donations. Many thanks to all of you who so kindly responded so generously to our raffle, making it a great success. Also a big thank you to Jenny Thorsen who, week after week, meticulously logged all the responses.

We are enclosing a book of raffle tickets with this newsletter for our 2006 raffle and hope you will again be able to help us raise funds for our work for the needy greyhounds and galgos.

Please send cheques, payable to Greyhounds in Need, and completed stubs to us at 5, Greenways, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9PA before the draw on the 31st July, 2006

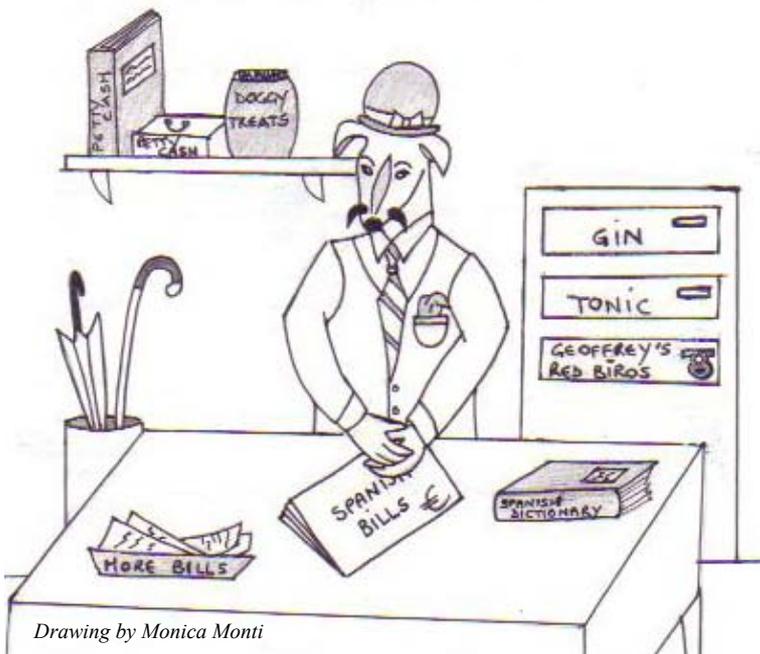
If you would like some more tickets please call us on 01784 436845

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In this Newsletter, instead of lots of numbers I'm going to give you the view from the Treasurer's desk-although in fact there isn't such a thing. At current HQ the space I fight to occupy is also used by Arthur, the auditor, any other visitors and of course Lurchy, who amuses himself by trying to eat my precious red biro.

Looking back, 2005 was a pretty good year for GIN. Financially, income held up very well, in spite of our fears that the Tsunami appeals would vacuum up all the spare cash in the UK. After deducting the costs of raising income, we were left £3000 better off than in 2004-and the flow of income encouraged GIN to spend far more than 2004 on kennels and vets in Spain. There are now many Spanish rescue groups competing for a finite number of homing places all over Europe, and the Irish greyhound authorities are now offering retired greyhounds to many parts of Europe, taking homes from the Spanish dogs.



Drawing by Monica Monti

Consequently, our galgos spend longer in the kennels in Spain and the boarding costs we pay escalate. We bring a small number of galgos each year to UK, but are very aware of the plight of thousands of greyhounds in the UK, desperate for homes, so the number we put through quarantine won't increase. The UK rescue groups do a magnificent job, and we certainly don't intend to make life harder for them.

We have squirreled away a bit of the cash earned in 2005, to help safeguard the future of GIN. We need our own office and a second shop, and a bit more paid staff to help run the Charity. If all goes to plan, the shop will generate more income and the extra staff will be "invested" in fund-raising, so we'll expand the work we are able to do in Spain. Sounds like the classic virtuous circle!

2006 will be a year of change and expansion, and the first two months have been frantic. We've found at last a suitable office, which is big enough to house volunteers, like me, as well as Carolyn and any assistants we need. GIN will benefit greatly from pulling together its admin under one roof. The second shop is tantalisingly near, and we've met great people who want to run it for GIN.

In Spain our work will slowly evolve. There are many groups in Europe like GIN all taking galgos from Spain and homing them in Europe-but even so in total we all home only a minor percentage of the abandoned galgos in Spain. Our Spanish friends are right to tell us it is a Spanish problem, and must be solved long term in Spain by education and culture change. So in future GIN will spend some of our funds on helping Spanish people working at the coal-face; those who actually collect galgos from the streets and fields and shelter them. We might help with improvements to the shelters and paying primary vet care bills- having dogs inoculated and sterilised without intending to move them to our GIN refuges. We can help our friends in Spain in ways that will improve the quality of the galgos available for homing- some in Spain and others to the rescue groups we work alongside. We can also support the working groups seeking to protect greyhounds and galgos by legislation. We were the first British charity to help galgos, so we have many contacts in Spain nurtured by Anne whom we know will work with us.

I hope that when Carolyn and I report to the Trustees at the end of 2006 we will be able to show that much of the money spent in Spain has been invested wisely at grass-roots level, and that although we will of course continue to home dogs outside Spain, the number homed is not seen as the only measure of GIN's success.

Arthur and I went to Hitchin in mid February to meet a local dog training group which had chosen us as their charity of the year. I made a little thank-you speech and pocketed their generous cheque. It was great to talk to a large number of dog lovers who were all very interested in our work. As Treasurer I spend too much time staring at computer screens, worrying about our bank balances and how much we owe in Spain, so it was particularly pleasant to meet people who believe in the great work GIN does. I really must get out more....

The 2005 accounts have still to be audited and won't be published for a while, but if any supporter does want financial data, please email me at HQ.

Geoffrey

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Helpers would be warmly welcomed at any of the following events for attending to the public, showing off their dogs, selling merchandise or bringing along any other fundraising idea appropriate to the event. We are always in need of supporters to share the load of '(wo)-manning' the following events!

Thank you for considering to give help.

Contact HQ 01784 436845. For Dorset events, 01202 513000 (the shop). For Welsh events 01443 441204

SOCIAL DOG WALKS IN DORSET— Kate Thomas has started up regular social dog walks in Dorset (usually every 5 weeks). The walks are approximately 4 miles long and take around 2 hours. Please contact Kate on 01202 527380 for dates, details etc. (Please also see page 16)

April

14th—Street Collection, Arundel, helpers welcome, please contact HQ for details

22nd—Street collection in Tiverton, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact HQ for details

23rd—GIN has a runner in the London Marathon. Sponsorship forms available from HQ

23rd—Herts Dog Show, Hitchin, in aid of GIN. Please contact Di on 01462432074 for more details.

29th—Street collection in Cullompton, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact HQ for details

August

26th—GIN has a stand at the Egham Royal Show, contact HQ for details

September

17th—Sponsored Motorcycle Ride, Dorset (Richard & Lynn Stevens) contact Linda on 01202 872029

23rd - Autumn Fair at GIN Shop, Bournemouth 10.30am-1pm. See page 16, Contact Sue for details. 01202 513000
Herts Dog Show in aid of GIN, date to be announced

May

5th—Street collection in Exeter City Centre, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact HQ for details

6th—Street collection in Crediton, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact HQ for details

6th—GIN has a stand at the Peopleton Animal Charities Fair, Worcs. 2-4pm. Helpers needed. Contact HQ for details.

14th—Annual Sponsored Walk, Hengistbury Head, contact Sue for details on 01202 513000

15th—Talk to Ladies Luncheon Club, Crudwell, Wiltshire

24th—Dorchester Street Collection, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact Sue on 01202 513000

27th—Street collection in Chichester. Please contact HQ for further details

Monthly walks in Wales

Last Sunday, every month around Cosmeton Lake, Penarth, Wales Contact Sian/Suzie on 01443 441204 for more details.

June 3rd—Fundraising stall at Pelhams, Kinson,

Bournemouth, 2pm, contact Sue for details—01202 513000
Englefield Green Fair, date to be announced. Contact HQ for details.

18th—Fundraising stall at Oakdale Community Fair, Poole, 2pm, contact Sue for details on 01202 513000

July

8th—Datchet Charity Fete, contact HQ for details

8th—Summer Fair/BBQ at GIN shop in Bournemouth, 10.30am—1pm, contact Sue for more details, also see page 16.

9th—Virginia Water picnic, contact HQ for details

30th—GIN has tables at the Dogs Trust Open Days in Evesham and Merseyside, contact HQ for details

31st - GIN SUMMER RAFFLE DRAW



Sue and supporters on one of the Social Dog Walks in Dorset

FUTURE EVENTS

Please contact us on 01784 436845 for news on future events or regularly check our website—
www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

All funds raised at events and sales etc are remitted to GIN's central account. The Trustees have the best overview of GIN's entire work and commitments and have the final decision on how money is used. However, we welcome and will gladly consider any special requests for your donations or raised funds. We are happy to issue written guidelines and our fundraising pack to assist those who wish to help us. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like to receive one of our packs. Strange as it may seem, banks give us scant details of any donations sent straight to the account, so please contact us if you have donated in this way so we can look out for it and thank you properly as we like to do.

Past events... Throughout the year many events are organised to help raise funds towards our work. We feature some of these below. More street collections are taking place now for GIN and these are not only a great way to raise funds but also to raise awareness of the plight of the greyhounds and galgos and show what wonderful pets they make.

If you would like a copy of our "How can you help?" leaflet or you would like one of our fund-raising packs to get you started ! Please phone us on 01784 436845

how can you help?
Greyhounds in NEED
 Dedicated to the welfare and rescue of greyhounds everywhere, especially those in Spain



"The comforted little thing,
 Thus too at the resurrection
 Shall force a golden seal"
 Luther

SUPPORTERS' GUIDE TO ORGANISING FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Charity Reg. No. 1010495
 5, Greenways
 Egham, Surrey
 TW20 9FA UK
 Tel: 01784 436845
 Fax: 01784 436846

Email: info@greyhoundinneed.com
 www.greyhoundinneed.co.uk

Bikers for Greyhounds rideout



What a great day we all had, the weather was fantastic and we even managed to leave Avon Forest Country Park on time. All made it to the lunch stop at Warminster, even though some of the bikers did a few extra miles on the way. After some munchies and a chat all set off on their homeward journey. Donation of £253 was made for Greyhounds in Need, special thanks to Martin (Honda Deaville) for getting his friends to sponsor him. Well done all and thank you.

Coffee Morning on Riddlesdown Common

Kath Powell and Liz Goumas ably assisted by Flossie, Ruby, Phoebe and Ellie, just before Christmas, raised the splendid sum of £278 at a Coffee Morning on Riddlesdown Common. They hope to repeat the event in 2006 on December 17th and would be delighted to welcome anyone at this increasingly and popular seasonal event.



Details from HQ nearer the time.

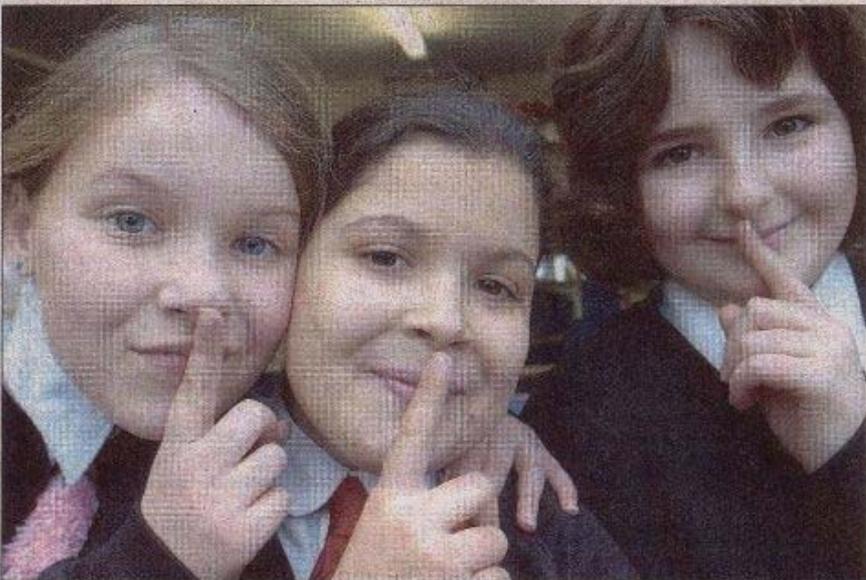
Soundless pounds for hounds

A YOUNG animal lover, concerned about the way racing greyhounds are treated, gathered nine of her Year 5 friends to take part in a one-hour sponsored silence during a school lunch-break.

Nine-year-old Harriet Pilbeam, a pupil at Archbishop King Middle School, decided to take action after coming across a charity called Greyhounds in Need, on the internet.

Her mum, Mary, of Hunnyhill, Newport, said: "Harriet was struck by the plight of unwanted and retired racing greyhounds. She decided she wanted to do something to help and canvassed her friends to help her raise money."

The lunchtime fundraiser was overseen by Year 5 teacher Andy Glaysher and all pupils managed to complete the task, raising nearly £100 for the greyhound charity.



From left, Bethany Fox, nine, with Shannon Jennings, ten, and Harriet Pilbeam, nine, who took part in the sponsored silence.

The above article and photograph have been provided courtesy of The Isle of Wight County Press

Thanks once again to Rita Hawkins and Christine Page for attending many events for GIN in the Sussex area. Also to everyone at ESK for organising another successful Dog Show in aid of GIN.

Here is Miguel a Spanish galgo owned by Audrey and Bill Darbyshire. Miguel and Audrey took part in the Datchet WI Wraysbury walk and Miguel was the star, apparently refusing point blank to go under or over any stiles or go through gates. No amount of coaxing would persuade him, much to everyone's amusement.



We apologise for not being able to publicise in this bulletin, due to lack of space, the results of every event. We appreciate all you do, in front of, and behind the scenes for our greyhounds in need.

News from Anne: The International work

As many of you know, I stepped down as Trustee in November 2003 on retiring from my nursing job, having reached the big 'six oh', with the intention of commencing a very overdue repair job on my life which had gone to rack and ruin after 17 years of greyhound rescue work. It didn't quite work out like that.....I even tried escaping to the Isle of Wight (family connections here), but those little darlings with their skinny legs and long long tails followed me here over on the Solent..... Well they would wouldn't they!

Yes, it has been easier now that Carolyn and Arthur cover all the UK work in Egham, but I've been carrying on the International work here on the IOW, most of it being by email, telephone, and other internet services. Spain is amazingly well-served by the internet and I would guess that every refuge and individual rescuing dogs uses it 100%, as we do, for distributing information and advertising dogs in need, sending out their photos, and seeking homes and solutions for them at home and abroad. It's a phenomenon that would have been deemed inconceivable only just 7 years ago. A galgo picked up today on the motorway in Spain can be shown in the living rooms of sympathisers in 6 or more countries tomorrow.

This actually of course increases the work load for us and much of the time we face inundation, but with clever delegation, imagination and perseverance, until now, we have covered most of the requests for help that have come into our ken. .. but we would not be able to cover more than we do at present.

It is heartening to see other groups in Europe expanding and even new countries, like Denmark, joining in the work to save galgos. It is pleasing too to see refuges like Arca de Noe in Albacete, Kimba in Cadiz, Recal in Almendralejo, trying to improve their facilities and making plans to move forward, copying our procedures, carrying out vaccination, testing and sterilisations themselves and making their own arrangements with the homing groups for the export of their dogs. But it is not as easy as it sounds. They may not have electricity or water; they have very little money; and one of the biggest threats to the galgos in Spain is robbery by gipsies. Having a galgo in your refuge almost guarantees a break in and the tragedy of such happenings stays with the volunteers for ever. As well as losing their galgos, other dogs get loose or die in the process, and there may be costly structural damage. So how do we all deal with it? In Albacete they keep all galgos in a volunteer's private garden.....the neighbours aren't that happy. Kimba have just built an amazing wall, mimicking Colditz, with financial help from Holland. We try to take galgos as fast as possible if a refuge feels threatened.. They can sense this because of the type of visitors they get. This happened when Mandy Hooker and I were in Arca de Noe last year.... we knew their galgos had to be moved to Vic the next day or they would have lost them so they dropped everything and did just that, even though it was a huge journey of 350 miles each way..... Those particular dogs mostly came to UK in the end. It all sounds almost medieval, doesn't it, what animal lovers have to contend with in Spain... It is certainly light years away from what holidaymakers see in the Costas, and I think for most Spanish city dwellers too.



Chocolato, originally from Ana Sanchez in Cordoba, now in Holland (Pic by Marcella)

Next some recent news, but first, extracts from an account by a GIN supporter whose idea it was to go to Spain on an extended holiday with partner and camper but made the mistake of ringing me first to ask if she could do something!

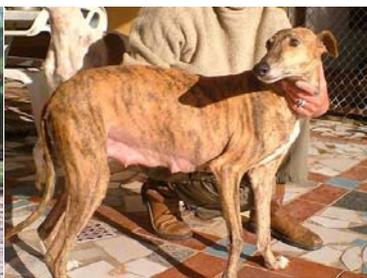
"Chocolato (with the elephant ears) is the reason I am here working with Paul and April at Alpha Dog Hotel! Before leaving England, I phoned Anne to ask if Martin and I could bring any supplies to Spain in our camper van. Typically Anne-style of course, she knew of a desperate dog who needed collecting from the Mayor of all people, who had sheltered him for a few days at his farm nr Cordoba. At Villa del Rio, only a drive through the Pyrenees and then a couple of days more through Spain, we arrive and meet Mayor Bartolome and Paqui, his flamenco singing wife. Chocolato is handed over in a catatonic trance of utter fear, and we were given a huge Christmas box of chocolates. Off we go again and four hours later arrive at the US base of Rota near Cadiz, and meet Paul who is an expert on dog training and psychology, as well as running Alpha. So we follow him to where Chocolato will live and be rehabilitated and learn that humans are kind, and that life is fun..... Bribón (see page 8)



Paul (left) and Martin at Malaga airport with Lucky, Orlando, Diana (who was treated for near fatal adult heartworm) and 11 yr old wailer, Ringo, who had spent 4 yrs in Kimba refuge before coming to Alpha.



Airis (originally from Arca de Noe, Sevilla) arrived in Alpha after being hit by two cars and having been operated on of sorts. Her wounds were a mess. After much nursing care, she has gone to Holland into the care of Belinda here



Africa here, and her 3 pups and Klaus came from the 'hovel' in Sevilla shown on BBC Scotland 15/2/06. Klaus had a deep groin wound needing continual dressings and he was very nervous and traumatised. He has since taken control of the 3 pups to give mum a rest and plays with them all day

was the first Spanish galgo we met. He shook uncontrollably the whole time, and had deep scars on his legs and body and would not look into your eyes. April was temporarily away in England, and as Bribon was terrified of men, my arrival was useful, so we decided to park up nearby on the beach so I could come in each day, sit in his kennel and talk to him and stroke him. He and the others there needed constant kindness and care to undo the dreadful suffering and cruelty they had previously experienced. They could not be touched and hid and cringed from anyone and anything.....From my experience here, very few galgos could go straight to homes and it would be a total waste of time and money to do so, and more importantly, would mean many very stressed and unwanted galgos. I think it is vital that they receive this professional care first from Paul and April and have the time to be in a quiet, kind environment. "

*Pip MacFarlane, Zennor Greyhound Rescue, Cornwall, England
21/2/06 (abridged + + due to limited space)*

Summary of Rescues 2005



Pep at Barcelona airport with Peace from Almendralejo and Zito with 3 legs from Albacete; bound, with 3 others, for Brussels, thanks to Virgin and Greyhounds Rescue Belgium

A rough calculation of the number of Spanish galgos rescued, financed and maintained by GIN in 2005 was 300. In addition, we were instrumental in assisting the export and homing of approximately a further 130 or so dogs directly from the refuges in Spain, by associates of ours in Europe, Scandinavia and the USA. The number of retired greyhounds from Ireland being exported to and homed by our associates in Europe and Scandinavia (thankfully now independently of us) financially and logistically, is astonishing; (perhaps 250 in 2005). Well done all!



Most of our rescued galgos come from Balbino in Albacete, and many are adopted thanks to Josephine in Belgium. Both seen here with galgo Monki at a fund-raising event in Antwerp

This 'direct-aid' work in Spain of course comprises our major expenditure. It is expensive to board dogs even at our discount rate and pay for their veterinary care and sterilisations, but we are very fortunate to have such worthy, reliable, generous and hard working associates in Spain who carry this out; Pep in Vic, Nuria in Madrid, and Paul and April in Cadiz.

Closure of Meridiana Track Barcelona 21/2/06

This sudden news hit us all: the cessation of activities is due to tax problems.



Around 600 Irish greyhounds (the exact number is not known yet) mainly females, are in the Santa Coloma kennels towards the outskirts of Barcelona. Most will be racing stock, as 50 retirees were taken recently. All the rescue-groups in Europe know about it and are poised to help, albeit it is not an easy time for us all because of the grave galgo problem at the moment.

The Spanish Racing Federation, track management, owners and Generalitat (Catalunya Govern) are at the moment discussing how the removal of the dogs will be carried out.

We have been told that all the dogs are vaccinated and micro-chipped and that the dogs are presently undergoing health checks. To find homes instantly for such a large number of dogs is not possible, so as well as transport and funding for vet care and sterilisations, affordable kennelling, preferably abroad where homes will be sought, would be high on everybody's 'wish' list.



Pics by Marcella

Meeting of Protectoras and the FEG in Sevilla 26/1/06

On 26th January in Sevilla, we had the third meeting of Protectoras with the new President of the Federacion Espanola de Galgos, Senor Francisco Salamanca. The first two meetings were held last April and May. They came about as a result of my being contacted by Sr. Salamanca shortly after he had been appointed President in January 2005, to discuss welfare.

Paco Salamanca is a greyhound veterinarian and I have maintained contact with him since I first got involved with the dog tracks in Spain in 1991, sending him regular reports of our findings and our work. I had met him briefly on 3 occasions in different parts of the country.

I immediately saw an opportunity for opening up discussion between the Spanish Protectoras and the Federacion, on the lines of the Greyhound Forums that we currently hold (since 1994) in London and Ireland between the racing authorities and the rescue bodies. It is my point of view that only the Spanish can really sort out the problem of the galgos in Spain. We can help, provide rescue and encourage and be a catalyst, but in the end, we cannot possibly have the influence it takes to persuade the Spanish authorities to curb the present tide of indiscriminate breeding, abandonment, mistreatment, and wanton and negligent exploitation that occurs to these poor animals in the galgo Regions of Spain. This can only come from Spain's own animal lovers.

Since I've come to know quite a few (!) of them over all these years of working in the field, I invited members of various refuges from different parts of the country who deal with the galgos, to meet together and take this opportunity to share their experiences, speak their minds, discuss round the table what possibly could be done to begin to exercise controls of identity, breeding, retirement, etc, to implement existing protection laws and to halt the tide of mistreatment, abuse, robberies and trafficking that follows where there are no controls.

It is not going to be a quick or easy ride. These early meetings are mainly providing a necessary platform on which the gravity of the problem is being described from around the country and assessed. I think it has come as a bit of surprise to the FEG that the very negative accounts of the abuse of galgos related from around the country do tally with each other and show consistency and are now impossible to disbelieve, ignore or belittle. These can no longer be termed 'isolated cases'. There has to be acceptance on all sides, of the seriousness and urgency of the problem before solutions can be sought.



Meeting in January in Sevilla between two members of the Spanish Racing Federation (FEG) and 11 Protectionists from refuges throughout Spain

Homing UK and Abroad



Karlos - (who was observed one night in Albacete in Spain, being dumped out of a van into the street) a very special home with the Lamborghini family.



Seven galgos went to Levriers en Detresse. We are grateful to Catherine Madry and to LED's volunteer Wilfred Tourteau for taking these and other galgos from Vic for homing.



Danny, a galgo from Albacete now happily homed with Fiona in Scotland. She says he is "spoiled rotten, but he's worth it !"



Lana, now homed in Germany photo by Ursula in Dusseldorf



Jaymee was born in Ireland, sent to Spain, moved to France and is now residing in Japan with Sandy and her family.



Moni kindly travelled to Albacete with Erika to collect Luba who is now happily homed in Germany. (pic by Marcella)

Moira (below right) from Villamartin, Cadiz, now homed in Belgium thanks to Maria at Kimba, Josephine and Marcella



Bribon a very scared dog from Kimba, homed now with Marita and her cat and ferret in Norway



Please keep sending in your news and photos of dogs you have kindly adopted through GIN. We love to know how you all are and try to include as many of your stories and photos as we can in our newsletters and on our website www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk