



'Greyhounds in NEED' Reg charity no. 1069438

Patron: The Lord Lipsey

Founder: B. Anne Finch

Trustees: Arthur Finch, Martin Humphery, Liz Mason, Humphrey Murphy MVB MRCVS

Administrator: Carolyn Davenport, Treasurer: Geoffrey Levy FCA,

Shop/Sponsorship: Sue North, Bournemouth, 01202 513000,

Overseas Exports & Ireland: Beverley Page, Wales, 01446 796368

Homing UK: Pat Whippis 01784 434735, Membership: Audrey Darbyshire 01784 482233

Merchandise: Adrienne and John Hare 01344 456816 Website: Leigh Dworkin

Spring Newsletter 2004

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Sira, a galgo from Jaen, Spain, is adopted in Italy

Dear Friends of GIN

The charity continues to grow in size and resources and extends its scope further afield. Our income for 2003 is the highest yet; the number of fundraising events over the country increases annually; our data base of interested persons now reaches nearly 7000; and most important, the number of rescued and homed dogs continues to rise as do the number of shelters, small and large, well known and hidden in Spain, whose galgos are now being reached by us. Sadly though, the

number of volunteers in UK and abroad who are able to donate freely whole parts of their lives to the work does not increase! The reality of this is understandable.

Occasionally however, amidst the long hours of labour, heartbreak and anxiety, a breakthrough happens. We are happy to announce we have a new outlet for our rescued dogs! Readers may remember Elisa and Chiara of the Greyhound Adopt Center Italy who helped mastermind the rescue operation from Rome in 2002. They have earned themselves a sympathetic group of supporters round Modena in the north, who have learned to love greyhounds, and, music to my ears, they requested 20 galgos! They arrived there on April 3rd, thanks to Mo Garcia Santos of Pro Galgo in Barcelona and her logistical skills! These fulfil Elisa's many adoption requests now that the dogs of Rome are all homed. Spanish galgos were hitherto unknown in Italy so this is a new venture for all of us and something we could only dream of in the dark days when we were struggling to find solutions for the 370 Irish greyhounds stranded in Rome.

The second miracle is Paws Across the Pond. I've had a vision for some time now that it would be wonderful if each of the many refuges in Spain, struggling for respect for their animals and for recognition in their own country for their work, could be backed up by a group abroad. At the Greyhound Pets of America Convention in Alabama last September, the leading question from the delegates, after my address to them, was 'What can we do?' GPA is the largest greyhound adoption group in USA with 40 'Chapters' all over the States and the inspiration came to me that perhaps each Chapter could 'twin' with a shelter in Spain of which GIN is in fact in touch with 40, the magic figure. Given the pride and adherence to century-old traditions in Spain, if attitudes are to change, it must come from within Spain itself. Hence, the aim is to give support and a voice to those volunteers in Spain, boosting their morale with kind words and reassurance, donations and moral support, so they will not crumble but feel stronger and be able

to voice more loudly the cause of the animals in their own land. 19 groups from each side of the pond are already 'twinned' and relationships are flourishing.



Sira arrives 'home'

The third new venture in the last 6 months was when both Catherine of Levriers en Detresse, France, and Josephine of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium, when the Spanish hunting season was in full swing slowing up the pressure to home galgos from Spain, each asked us if they could rescue a van load each of Irish greyhounds from John Carroll in Limerick! Irish greyhounds often go to homes in Germany and there is a steady trickle going to Scandinavia, but Belgium and France were new outlets for dogs

'For the years I shall have in the long green grass from Ireland. Are yours and yours and yours'

John was delighted to prepare the dogs and carry out both operations himself and both French and Belgian supporters were thrilled and it was good news for 28 retired greyhounds from Ireland.

I thank Carolyn (who valiantly did the difficult preparatory work of this newsletter, which is a little shorter/lighter than usual to allow for the inserts), and Arthur for relieving me of the major part of the GIN admin work. I know I have been a pain in the neck to those who can see I need a rest, but in my view this needs to be done fairly bit by bit until the work can be handled by enough people not to cause stress to those to whom I am handing over the reins.

I urge those making contact with the GIN office to be understanding and receptive to the needs of the charity and to allow Carolyn and Arthur the tools, loyalty and support they need to carry out this very complex and heavy work efficiently, smoothly and with the minimum of obstacles.

As my contribution decreases, I trust you will increase your input to the charity's work to perpetuate its role in shaping the future welfare of the greyhounds and galgos of Spain. Anne



Flauta, a galgo, came from Cadiz into our care in Vic and to Belgium for homing

A measure of the growing recognition of GIN as a major welfare organisation is the excellent news that Lord David Lipsey has agreed to serve as our Patron. Lord Lipsey, who has a pet greyhound called Zak, is a Trustee of the RGF, an Honorary Friend of Greyhound Rescue West of England and a member of the Greyhound Forum. He has recently been appointed as Chairman of the BGRB. His knowledge of greyhounds and his interest in welfare are profound. We are very fortunate.

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DIARY OF GIN ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER October 20th 2003 — March 2004

Rough guide to GIN's activities since newsletter diary. Bound to be some omissions and things forgotten. Can't possibly reflect all of GIN's ongoing work. We've tried to concentrate on major rescue work done, events, and the stuff which comes through HQ here. Apologies to anyone or anything we have forgotten or omitted.

post October 20th 2003 summary (continued from Autumn 2003 newsletter)

English Newsletter completed and sent to print. Multilingual bulletin in 7 languages completed and sent to print. Database of mail addresses updated (now 6500). **Paws Across the Pond** project, arising out of the Alabama visit, between Greyhound Pets of America, GIN and 40 refuges in Spain launched. 39 galgos released from UK quarantine on October 10th go to homes (one went to USA), thanks to all the activities above, the publicity work and the hard work of Catherine Kirkby and Laura Weatherley in processing the offers of adoption.

November 2003

1st Hallowe'en fundraising party, Julie and Steven, Works.,

Mailing commenced of 6000 newsletters

6th Geoffrey, treasurer, to GIN HQ

15th Trustees meeting,

Anita and Love, 2 Barcelona bitches from Vic to France

22nd Table at Chelsea Animal Charity Fair, Muriel,

Street Collection, Dorchester, Sue,

Table for GIN, Christmas Fayre, Staines, Nicky

22nd/23rd Discover Dogs, Earls Court, London, with Monica, Carolyn, Anne, Terry, Sue, Steve, Angela, Martin,

Carol, Phillip, Arthur, Karen, Leslie, Paula, Pat and Pauline

25th External accountant to GIN HQ

26th Arthur to London Forum

28th Carolyn, Pat and Arthur to Notts Quarantine

29th Carolyn & Anne to Calais, 15 greyhounds from Ireland to Wales to France, John, Muriel, Olivia, Beverley & LED

29th Table at Cat Protection League Event, Bracknell, Adrienne and John

30th Anne to fundraising event, Hampstead, Angela and Martin,

22 galgos arrive in Belgium from Vic

December 2003

3rd Mailing of 500 English newsletters to USA

5th 9 galgos arrive in Holland - Betty, Rosario, Nuria, Ulrike

6th 3 galgos arrive in France-Nuria, Gonzalo, Catherine, Christiane,

3 Irish greyhounds flew to Sweden

7th Cowplain Dog Show, Rick & Noreen Restorick, Carolyn, Arthur, Liz, Chris, Steve & Sue

8th Christmas Raffle commenced in Bournemouth shop, Sue and Penny

Isabel of Huesca refuge arrives in Manchester-Alan, Diana

13th Two Irish males fly to Berlin and Vienna- John, Ellen, Birgit, Sean, Aryeann

14th Coffee morning at Riddlesdown, Croydon, Liz, Kath and dogs

19th Eric to Egham HQ

21st Anne and Carolyn to Nuremberg-Gisela, Gisa, Moni, and many others

27th 15 more galgos from Spain arrived for homing with Greyhounds Rescue Belgium

January 2004

1st 3/12 cooperation commences with Amigos de los Galgos, to cover more galgos at end hunting season

3rd Two galgos fly from Spain to USA with Ana Cano. (Kathy Sondej, Cavicchios, Ana Garcia)

6th Pat Whippies to HQ to commence as homing organiser

Handsome 2003 contribution from GIN Germany (Ellen and supporters in Germany)

9th Geoffrey and Martin to HQ

14th Geoffrey, Carolyn, Anne to Bournemouth for NY lunch with Sue and 11 volunteers from the shop.

17th GIN Management and Fundraising meetings at Adrienne and John's house with Geoffrey, Martin, Arthur,

Carolyn, Anne, Sue, Catherine, Pat, Monica, Janet, Jean.

John-John flies from Limerick to Germany

18th Monthly walk Cosmeton lake, Beverley and co in Wales

19th Anne talks at Bracknell WI. Jenny and Adrienne and John with dogs and merchandise

21st Geoffrey to HQ to draw up 2003 Accounts

23rd Eric to HQ

24th Delivery more greyhounds from Ireland by John Carroll for homing (Beverley)

24th-27th Carolyn and Anne to Belgium for NY reception GRB. (Josephine, Isabel, Carlos, Cristina, Bianca,

Marcella, Marc, Marianne Jo, Sabine, Eddy and others)

30th Geoffrey to HQ to discuss 2004 Budget

30th-31st Marcella and Jena to Cadiz to donate, photo refuge, and collect 4 galgos (Halie, Jane, Juan Jesús)

31st Trustees meeting. Geoffrey, Arthur, Carolyn, Humphrey

Book sale, Bob and Barbara Saywell, Bournemouth

Sponsored 48 hr silence by two girls from Glenmoor School, Near Bournemouth

Fundraising/dog food effort by hairdresser Jenny Grace

Decoration Bridport Xmas tree for GIN raises funds

February 2004

6 galgos taken into care by Amigos de los Galgos for GIN (Nuria)

5th Meeting with Lord Lipsey - Geoffrey, Humphrey, Carolyn and Arthur at the House of Lords

5th Instigation of Vet Project - Animales Vagabundos (Juan Jesus, Halie, Dr. Rada, Dr. Sandra, Paul, April, Sara, Antonio, Tony and others)

7th Table top sale, Bracknell, Adrienne and John

11th Geoffrey to HQ

15th 24 'GIN-financed' galgos leave Vic for homing in Belgium (Pep, Mo, Marc, Jo, Marcella, Jela, Marianne, Sabine, Eddy, Josephine and GRB)

17th Arthur, Martin, Angela, Harry visit Sue in Bournemouth

18th 4 galgos from Juan Jesus to Alpha Kennels (Paul and April) for GIN

19th Adrienne to HQ

21st Greyhound Awareness Day. Table at Pets At Home, Cardiff Bay (Bev)

25th Geoffrey & Eric to HQ

29th Greyhound walk, Cosmeton Lake, Penarth (Beverley and supporters)

March 2004

4th Meeting with Geoffrey, Adrienne & John, Arthur, Anne & Carolyn

4th/8th/9th/11th/12th/22nd Eric (External Examiner) to work on 2003

6th Animal Welfare Bazaar, Ealing (Nicky, Carolyn, Geoffrey and Arthur)

7th 8th Liz Mason to Notts Q

13th Two Stalls at Cats Protection and Bracknell Market, Adrienne, John, Nicky and Janet

13th Delivery of more dogs from Limerick to Beverley for homing

16th Pat Whippies to HQ to summarise homing to date

20th Collection at Pet Smart, Woking—Nicky, Arthur, Jenny plus dogs

24th/25th Carolyn and Arthur to International Greyhound Forum, Dublin

27th Pat Whippies, Nicky and Anne to Notts Q

27th Ferndown Street Collection(Sue)

28th Table top sale, Bracknell, Adrienne and John

28th Walk round Cosmeton Lake, Wales

29th Meeting: Trevor, Barbara, Debbie, Dave, Arthur, Pat, Carolyn, Anne



April 3rd: 'GIN' work Agustin & Raquel (left) of Spain transported 20 prepared galgos to Elisa (right) of the Greyhound Adopt Center Italy for homing.

Marcella flew to Faro to fetch 6 prepared galgos from Cadiz to Belgium for homing.

Nuria drove to France with 3 prepared galgos from Madrid to Levriers en Detresse for homing

Tennis Party in New Jersey, USA

The Tiger Racquet and Fitness Center in West Caldwell, New Jersey donated an evening of court time to raise money for GIN, thanks to the initiative of our long term supporter, Kathy Sondej. The amazing sum of \$475 was raised towards our work for the galgos of Spain. Kathy herself is a keen tennis player and has herself adopted two galgos from Spain and helped over the last two to three years with the meeting at JFK airport and homing of scores more galgos brought over by Iberian pilot Ana Cano from Madrid.

We are indebted to Kathy for all her support, fundraising efforts and most generous donations of beautiful, saleable items from America over the years.



Gastapan from Ana Garcia Martin in Madrid, flew with Ana Cano to USA to be adopted by Kathy

DISCOVER DOGS at Earls Court London,

November 22/23 2003

The Greyhound Trust once again offered us the chance to have a presence at Discover Dogs and thanks to the 'Show' Greyhound Club who were happy with this, we assumed the role of promoting the greyhound in the Breed Booth. This we all enjoy most of all of course! Cheryl Miller of the Trust in addition invited us to bring along four Spanish galgos for the Retired Greyhound Parade.



Hallowe'en Fundraising Event

Many thanks to Julie Diamond, Steven Gray & Jay (a rescue greyhound from the Dogs Trust) who raised £250 for GIN from their Hallowe'en party on 1st November 2003, held in Warwickshire.

Great fun was had by all and many of their friends and family were extremely generous in supporting the event.



Companion Dog Show in aid of Greyhounds in Need

Many thanks are due to Rick and Noreen Restorick for organising the Cowplain Dog Show in Hampshire on 7th December 2003. This was the final show of the year (held indoors) and was well attended. We were all very pleased to see so many dogs and owners who had attended the various shows throughout the year take part in the finals. The fancy dress class was wonderful.



Riddlesdown Coffee

Morning Kath Powell and Liz Goumas kindly held a coffee morning for dog owners, walkers and dogs on Riddlesdown Common, Croydon, on Sunday 14th December. They raised £250 in donations towards our work for greyhounds in need. Many thanks to all who attended and especially to Kath and Liz for arranging this.



We at GIN HQ take this opportunity of thanking all those supporters who have valiantly dedicated time, effort, talent and personal funds to donating goods like dog coats, blankets, duvets, antiparasitics, gifts for resale and other items and resources and for carrying out fundraising projects for GIN. 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.

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 01446 796368

April

11th/12th Thame Country Show, contact 01784 436845 for details
18th London Marathon—sponsor forms from HQ or GIN Shop 01202 51300

24th Street Collection, Cowbridge, contact Bev 01446 796368

24th Street Collection, Dorchester, contact Sue 01202 513000

24th Table Top Sale, Cowbridge Town Hall, contact Bev 01446 795530

NATIONAL SUMMER RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE, CONTACT 01202 513000 OR 01784 436845 FOR DETAILS

May

1st Pets at Home, Bridgend, contact Bev 01446 796368

3rd Winkfield Row May Day Fair—GIN has a table, no dogs, sorry. Contact Adrienne and John for more details 01344 456816

3rd Wellington Country Park. GIN has a stall. Contact 01344 456816 for details

8th Stall at Pet Information Day, Ferndown, contact Sue 01202 513000

16th RSPCA Dog Show—GIN has a stall. Contact Adrienne and John on 01344 456816 for more details.

16th Annual Sponsored Walk, Hengistbury Head, contact Sue 01202 513000

31st GIN has a stall at Animal Lovers Day, Brighton & Hove Greyhound Stadium. Contact Christine 01273 603348

June

5th Summer Fayre & BBQ at the GIN shop, 952 Wimborne Rd (opposite Somerfields) Moordown, Bournemouth. 01202 513000

6th Garden Party Royal Holloway. GIN has a fundraising table Contact 01784 436845 for more details

12th Magna Carta Day, Egham High Street, GIN has a fundraising table. Contact 01784 436845 for more details.

19th Englefield Green Fayre, GIN has a fundraising table, dogs welcome, Contact 01784 436845 for more info.

19th Street Collection, Bournemouth. Contact Sue 01202 513000

22nd Stall for GIN at Kenilworth Dogs Trust Open Day

July

3rd Street Collection, contact Sue 01202 513000

4th Ruth O'Donovan's Dog Show, Wiltshire, GIN has a table, contact Adrienne for more details 01344 456816

10th Stall for GIN at Odstock Fete, Wilts (Hayley 01722 323860)

11th Ilchester Fair, GIN has a stall, contact HQ 01784 436845

11th Collection at Pet Smart, Hartlepool, contact Sue Short 01429 221933

11th Dog Show in Gloucester in aid of GIN. Contact 01784 436845

31st Street collection, Somerset, contact HQ 01784 436845

August

1st Dogs Trust Open Day, Evesham. GIN has a fundraising table. Contact 01784 436845 for more details

14th Wag & Bone Show, GIN has a stall, Details 01344 456816

28th Bracknell Band Stand, GIN has a table, dogs welcome, contact 01344 456816 for more information

Egham County Show—Date to be announced.

September

5th RSPCA Chobham, Gala Day, 01344 456816

12th Anne to participate at GRWE Dog Show, Ross. All welcome with dogs. Contact GRWE 07000 785092

10th/11th/12th Richmond Dog Show, Guildford. Details later.

16th Anne to GPA Convention, USA

Advance Notice of Autumn Events

(please check website or contact HQ nearer the date)

Oct 3rd Bracknell Get Together, contact 01344 456816

Oct. 4th World Animal Day. Events under discussion. Contact HQ

Oct 9th Street collection, Ferndown. Contact Sue 01202 513000

Nov 6th Street collection, Dorchester. Contact Sue 01202 513000

Dec 8th-12th Christmas Raffle (Shop) - contact Sue for more info.

Monthly walks, last Sunday, every month with Beverley Page and supporters around Cosmeton Lake, Penarth, Wales
 Contact Bev on 01446 796368



LEND A HAND!



We are always looking for volunteers to man our stalls and events up and down the country. This is not trivial! Often means being on one's feet for 9 hours plus hours of travelling to and from. GIN is being offered an ever increasing number of opportunities for running stalls and participating in events but the actual work of it usually falls on our same old faithfuls who loyally stumble out of their pits at some unearthly hour on a Saturday or Sunday morning, load their cars to the gunnels and return knackered to face their own household chores at the end of their precious weekend off work! We do enjoy it; we bring our dogs; we have a laugh; and it is essential for the ongoing rescue work of GIN, but if this task could be shared, it would be a little easier for us and if there is an event taking place, near you, why not contact us and give us a hand! Please let us know on 01784 436845



Nell, helping Maggie Forbes-Buckingham with a street collection for GIN last October in Yeovil, Somerset.

£360 was raised!

FUNDRAISING AND DONATIONS

All funds raised at events and sales etc are remitted to GIN's central account and the Trustees who are at the helm of the Charity and have the best overview of its entire work and commitments, 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. Regular incomes from Sue's shop and the sponsorship scheme and Adrienne and John's merchandise sales are remitted monthly to the central account. We issue written guidelines to assist fundraisers which we hope answer any queries, but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us.

Strange as it may seem, banks only rarely notify us of the arrival of donations sent straight to the account and often we get very little detail of its source, 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.

Beverley Page writes from Wales.....

Happy Homings in Wales.....After just missing the last newsletter, here is Milgi (meaning 'greyhound' in Welsh) with his young owner proudly showing off his winnings in the local paper. Eddie and Sarah Marcelsanca attend many Craft Fayres and shows during the summer months, at which Eddie displays his craft of carving walking sticks, whilst Milgi sweeps the board with his good looks and lovely temperament. Here he is winning his latest trophy, the Saul Cup, at a show organised by Greyhound Rescue West of England. Sarah and Eddie took to the streets of Bridgend on Saturday 13th March and made a collection of £193 for GIN. Eddie even decided to venture into the local betting shop. I bet that caused a stir (excuse the pun). Well done both !



*Millie and Me
Lucy Fisher with perfect pet Millie, an ex-racing greyhound who has found a loving home, wrote to the South Wales Echo, winning a prize for her letter.*

*Remember the Plight of Greyhounds
I am writing this letter because I want people to be more aware of the horrid time greyhounds have when people race them.*

Last year I, my brothers, my sister and my mum decided we would have a dog. At the dogs' home someone asked if we had thought of having an ex-racer greyhound. We looked on the internet and we were shocked about the horrid things that often happened to greyhounds when they weren't winning any races. We decided there and then we would have one.

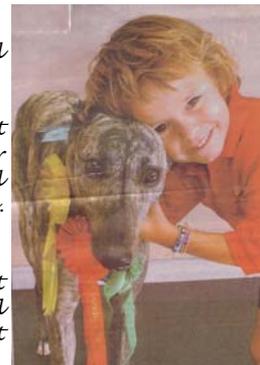
When the greyhounds aren't winning any more, some are beaten, hung, shot and electrocuted. When racing, many have to sleep on a cold concrete floor and scavenge for food because they get very little to eat or drink. They are so skinny it hurts their bones and makes them sore.

We went to Greyhounds in Need and spoke to Bev who invited us to go on a greyhound walk. The dogs were loving, quiet, good natured and gentle.

Some weeks later we got our greyhound and called her Millie. She is so lovely. In September last year the fireworks started and went on until Christmas. Millie has had to go and live with our Nan because she was so scared of the fireworks going off all the time because it reminded her of the tracks. She couldn't be left alone while mum was a work. We still see her and love her lots. I have sent a picture in of her for you to see how happy she is.

If you are thinking of having a dog, remember greyhounds are lovely pets. Also next time you bet, please think about it and help us stop greyhound racing.

Lucy Fisher, age 11, Cardiff



Milgi (Welsh for greyhound), with his young owner, Llewellyn, wins the Saul Cup at the GRWE Show 2003

(pic by Howard Balston from a local Welsh newspaper)

Penny Young (a volunteer for GIN) sent a letter to the Penarth Times promoting our monthly walk in the run up to Christmas. Luckily Valerie and Jim Downey from Penarth read the article and came to our next walk. They fell in love with the greyhounds and later 2 Irish girls travelled from Ireland to begin their new life with them in Wales on January 24th. John Carroll who boards the greyhounds in Ireland and transports them to us, was able to meet Val, Jim and Matt, their son, giving some helpful advice and following through with them the final stage of delivery, the best bit.

That same weekend we homed a little Irish girl called Sheena to live with Jed and his grandparents Stuart and Valerie Web from Hereford, who, after penning a lovely poem dedicated to Sheena, suggested a competition for the best poem in the next newsletter. One photo shows Sheena quite nervous and unsure as we arrive to deliver her, and another photo only a couple of days later apparently already totally relaxed. What a difference! Jed keeps us posted on how Sheena is improving on a regular basis, and even gave £10 of his pocket money the day we arrived as a donation. It's lovely to see young children taking a keen interest and wanting to help the greyhounds. This is the generation we must rely on and educate to carry on with our work.

Suzie and Dave Riggs adopted their first greyhound Genie from John Carroll in Ireland. They, like most of us, have been bitten by the greyhound bug and have since adopted Beda and Angel, two needy Galgos from Spain, who are enjoying life in Pen-Y-Graig.

We continue to arrange greyhound awareness days at Pets at Home stores. These prove to be very successful both for rehoming and raising funds.

Beverley Page

Beverley asks please for extra help in her area of south and west Wales to help carry out this work of finding homes for the dogs of Ireland. Home visiting, supporting new adoptants, promoting greyhounds as pets, helping with promotional and fundraising events and ongoing transportation within Wales etc. All would be welcomed!
Please contact Bev on 01446 796368

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**There was a young Greyhound
called Sheena
Who was trained in an Irish
arena,
But then she retired,
Well, I think she was tired,
And the grass became very much
greener!**

(poem by Stuart and Valerie Web)

'Sheena has already chewed up a book, two toys, some bread and a frozen waffle but only gone to the toilet once in the house. She loves to be groomed and fussed over and loves to play in the garden with me. She has settled in very well and we have got her a dog tag(in case she forgets who she is)'

Love from Jed and lots of licks



Bev arrives with Sheena from Ireland



Sheena now settled into her home



Adopt a greyhound in need

THE VALE of Glamorgan branch of Greyhounds in Need is keen to find new homes locally for retired racers.

In the run up to Christmas, there is always a rush of people buying puppies for their families. But there are thousands of greyhounds who suffer terrible abuse at the hands of their owners when they become too old to run profitably.

Penny Young, who helps with Greyhounds in Need, said: "We have regular shipments of dogs

from Ireland, where 20,000 greyhounds are bred into racing each year. We rescue the dogs from being sold on to tracks in Spain, Rome, and even unregistered tracks in Wales.

"Greyhounds meet terrible ends when they are no longer considered useful, but they are loving, kind and gentle dogs. We look for families who want a pet, and re-home the greyhounds. They make wonderful family dogs. They love children and even get on well with cats - if puss will allow them to.

"We give families a week with the dogs to make sure they settle in, and then they are invited to come on regular walks with the other re-homed pets once a month. We never leave them without support."

If you would like more information, call Penny on 01446 749761 or Beverly on 01446 796368.

Alternatively, go along and meet the regulars to ask any questions at their next walk on Sunday, November 30. The group will be meeting at Cosmeston Park at 2pm.



Harvey, a galgo, now in East Sussex with Alison



Figaro from Rome now with Christine Miller



Lopez from Rome now in Devon with Angela and George

News from Pat Whipps.....

Having only started my role of Homing Assistant in January I must thank everyone for their support and assistance. I have been amazed at the keenness of home checkers, in fact one lady asked for the first time to do a home check told me she was “honoured” to be asked. Wendy and her staff at Nottingham have been extremely helpful and supportive, as has Debbie at Kildara Kennels (Ron’s Dogs).

I visited Nottingham with Arthur and Carolyn back in November just after the 8 Galgos arrived and thoroughly enjoyed the day. We were welcomed by the staff and the dogs were adorable and so happy and friendly. I returned home having fallen in love with all eight! It has been interesting and exciting since the beginning of January getting the applications, arranging home checks and then arranging visits to either Nottingham or Kildara. All 8 of the Galgos in Quarantine are now reserved and will be going into loving homes when their quarantine period is completed in May.

Unfortunately one of the Galgos, Rosi, had a bout of “happy tail” and managed to damage her tail necessitating it having to be shortened back to about 4 inches. Rosi gave us all a bit of a scare but is now doing very well and is still a happy girl. Joanne, her new “mum to be”, sent her a get-well card which the staff at Nottingham read out to her! Many thanks to Suzie and Abigail, two of the new owners, for the beautiful photos they took and sent us of the dogs on their visits to Nottingham.



Herido (Joe) a galgo from Caceres, Spain, happily homed with Paul and Zoe in Dorset

Working closely with Debbie, homes have been found for Mac, Laura (now being thoroughly spoiled by her new owner and having fish fingers cooked for her breakfast), Cilla (who has quickly been nicknamed “couch potato”) Blue Boy and Jet. Bay City Brass is reserved for a home in Maidenhead plus Olly and Star are reserved for a couple who are shortly moving into a new house. Once the couple have moved and they have had suitable fencing erected, subject to another home visit, Olly and Star will move in with them for their new life. In the meantime, the couple regularly visit Kildara Kennels to bond with the dogs and get them used to walking and playing with them. A home was also found for Sky but unfortunately she had to be returned to the kennels due to one of the new owners developing a bad allergy. Iony, who had to leave her home due to her owner becoming ill, has now been re-homed in Berkshire, and Finch and Crosbie have recently been re-homed together in Leicestershire. The two lurchers, Dalby and Lester are shortly moving into a new home in the Country. Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter we may have some photos of the recently adopted dogs in their new homes.



Iony a galgo from Cordoba, Spain with Lottie, and James and Julia in Berkshire

There are several homing applications at various stages of processing at the moment so there should be a few more dogs finding loving homes in the not too distant future. It only remains for me to say that so far I am enjoying what I am doing and looking forward to continuing to do so. Pat

A Note from Debbie Buxcey of Kildara Kennels....

Over the last few months the homing at Kildara has been very successful, mainly due to two things. The first being that we now have our own website (thanks to Dave Lambourne for all the time and effort he puts into it) and secondly, our working relationship with GIN has become much closer. This has culminated in many excellent homes and wonderful new owners for our dogs. Our greyhounds have gone to live with other dogs, cats, horses and sheep! Even our severe abuse case, Ebony, who was beaten within an inch of her life two years ago has been successfully homed. Mac waited for two years after retiring from the track to find the right home and he has now taken up residence with Sophie in Bournemouth. We had quite a challenge put to us. A family came to us through GIN who have 3 children, the youngest of which has special needs and therefore they wanted “just the right dog”. Cilla went to join their family and everyone, including Cilla are over the moon! We currently have 15 dogs available for homing but this changes regularly. Please visit our website via the link on the GIN homing page for up to date details. There will be many exciting changes taking place over the summer months at Kildara and although it will involve lot of hard work, we can hardly wait!



Jack from Kildara now with Betty in Bracknell

Looking forward to a very successful homing summer.

Debbie

Jose - One year on

When we collected Jose from the Barwick's kennels in Surrey, they told us what a super dog he was, and they seemed genuinely sorry to be parting with him. They also warned us that a lady named Ruth was very concerned about where he was to be homed, as she had been sponsoring him for a long time. We realised that we must be taking home a very special dog. HOW RIGHT THEY WERE. Fourteen months later, he is still very special!



Jose from Rome and Sasha from Mallorca, now happily homed in Cornwall

Michael, my husband, was very disappointed at first because Jose would not let him near him. When he walked into a room Jose walked out the other door, or disappeared upstairs! Jose still goes upstairs sometimes when we have a visitor he does not know, but that is the exception now.

Jose is very friendly to people he knows, or dog owners he meets regularly. He is still unpredictable with small dogs, especially "Westies" and those that rush at him, so I always carry his muzzle. The only time he showed any real chasing instinct was when a cat walked across the paddock in front of him. I have never seen him move so fast. He caught the cat as he hit the fence! Fortunately both survived. Jose suffered multi puncture wounds, a bruised shoulder and was very sore next day. I don't know what the cat's injuries were - it escaped through the fence. I have seen it since but not in the paddock.

We were warned by Kim Barwick that Jose had tender feet. This is still true, but I am sure they have toughened up a bit. He is still careful when he walks but he is very enthusiastic to go out, even along our gravel lane and in the woods. In fact he gets very excited when the leads are taken off the hook, but he cannot compete with Sasha for wild enthusiasm. She is positively manic when she sees a lead. I have to admit that Jose took quite a long time to register enthusiasm and excitement, but he wags his tail a lot now.

Jose is no problem to feed. He likes everything, and regularly checks the kitchen bin to see if I have foolishly put any thing tasty in there. Usually it is only an empty wrapper we find in his bed.

We were told, when we had him, that Jose does not bark. The Barwicks had never heard him. The first time we heard him was when he barked at a small dog that ran out near him in the woods. Fortunately he was still being walked on a lead at that time. He does not bark very often, but it is usually at small dogs. That is the reason I do not yet entirely trust him with small dogs. Mostly he is good but cannot be relied on.

I am pleased to say we met up with Ruth in June at her "Show". She recognised Jose as we walked across the field. We had not met her before. It was super to be at the show because we met so many lovely GIN people - Arthur, Carolyn, Sue North, Adrienne, John and of course, Ruth. Jose won two Second prizes. We were all very pleased with that.

So, thank you, Anne, for suggesting we homed Jose. We all love him dearly, especially Sasha, our other GIN dog. Jose still does not show the wild enthusiasm for life that she does, but he is a very happy and loving dog. Thank you for letting us have him!

Michael and Margaret

Mr Mac Retires to Bournemouth

Mr Mac's Emerald, to give him his full name, has been lucky enough to find a loving home in sunny Bournemouth. He's 6 1/2 now and had been waiting for a home of his own since he retired from racing at the age of 5. We hoped to find a companion for our



other greyhound, Sophie, and went to the Kildara Kennels to see if they had any dogs that would be suitable (she was always friendliest with the boys). Much to our surprise, the normally flirty Sophie was not impressed with our suggestions and looked decidedly uninterested at any of the hopefuls that came her way. We then noticed a large, very pale fawn dog prancing and barking at us in an excited manner and wondered if he could illicit a little more curiosity from Sophie. She seemed much more interested and the pair seemed to get on very well together as we took them both for a walk around the nearby woods. It must have been those big brown eyes of his that did it as we very soon agreed to collect him a couple of weeks later. Sophie obviously hadn't appreciated that this doggy blind date would ultimately result in the (albeit rather nice) chap she met a couple of weeks earlier coming home with her! Mac, however, looked as pleased as punch to be given a warm, comfortable home with his own bed in each room of the house. We gave him a warm bath, during which he was so relaxed he started to fall asleep, and wrapped him up in some toasty warm towels - a very far cry from his days spent at the track. He immediately made himself at home and within only a couple of days looked extremely comfortable dozing amongst the blankets and cushions in his basket. At first, Sophie seemed very unhappy with having to share the home she had had to herself for nearly three years and we wondered if we had made the right decision in adopting another dog. There was a great deal of bickering and squabbling from the pair as they sorted out their position in the pack.

Patience has paid off and he and Sophie are becoming fast friends (literally). They still have their differences, of course, Mac is very much a pie and chips sort of chap whereas Sophie's more of Caesar Salad with a white wine spritzer kind of girl (or at least that's what she'd like you to think). Mac's character is starting to show through and he's quite laid back about everything, he doesn't mind the vacuum, washing machine, TV or computer - things that we thought would alarm a new dog. Nor will he exert himself over anything but the most exiting of events; strange cats appearing in the back garden; squirrels and only the squeakiest of furry toys. After a few days Mac had already learned to run up and down the stairs on his own, was housetrained and could go to bed on command. Now, after two weeks, Mac has learned his own name, can sit, come when called (nearly), and has learned that whenever we have to go out without them he gets a great big treat! He has settled in very well and enjoys everyone's company. Sophie is busy training her new "accomplice" and the pair are now starting to explore all the opportunities that are denied a dog on their own.

Looking forward to the future,

Gareth & Kate



Amy and James Osborne from Ystrad Mynach in South Wales welcoming a new arrival from Ireland on 8/11/03



Gwenna from Ireland homed with Tracey and Ian in Wales by Beverley



Flyn (Harlem) from Rome is doing very well. He's been happily homed with Tracey for over a year now.

Homings UK and Abroad



Anya, from Ireland, homed in Finland with Riikka who says she is now 8,5 years old and still "killing" toys !



Elsa, from Ireland, enjoying herself in the snow in Sweden where she now lives with the Paulsson family



Papu from Ireland now in Finland with his companion Douglas !



Hannibal from Rome now in Germany with Anne-Marie and Gunter



Winner from Rome now in Germany with Joerg Feuerstein



Kitty from Ireland now happily homed in France by Catherine and Levriers en Detresse



Tiza, a galgo from Caceres, Spain, now homed with the Pullen family in Cornwall



Mord- Nitus, a galgo from Spain now with the Judge family in Sidmouth



Dougal a longhaired galgo from Spain, brought to UK in 2000 here seen with Patti in the rabbit hutch(!) at Cheryl and Nigel's in Tring, Herts.



Sarah, now 16 years old, here seen on the Isle of Wight this Autumn.. She was one of our earliest rescues from Spain in 1992. With the help of Pascual Esteban, a lover of greyhounds in Valencia, she was bought from the Barcelona track, with two other Irish bitches, supposedly for 'breeding'. Pascual drove them to safety to his kennels in Valencia from where Anne promptly flew with all three to UK and to quarantine.



Paco, galgo living with the Spences in Scotland



Isabel and Polly with the Mersey behind

Isabel Sanz of the Huesca refuge in Spain visits the Meacocks in Birkenhead to see once again her beloved Polly whom she rescued in the first place in Spain.



Getting Down to it!

(Pic from Sue and David in Wales!)



Brummel



Picador



Romeo

The Roman Soldiers!

As many of you knew, when Rome track collapsed in May 2002, there were 370 Irish greyhounds there, most of them retired, male, and some of very mature years who had been kept in kennels there for many years. Some were as much as 10 years old already when we moved them to homes. Some of our Rome boys and girls date from two years previously when we brought a number to the UK with Pet Passports. It was extremely kind of those families to take on such old dogs, in the knowledge that in some cases, in a few months, they would go over the Rainbow, leaving heartbreak behind. We celebrate the lives of all of them, among them these four boys whose memories many of us will treasure for ever and we thank profoundly the families who kindly took them in and who now grieve their loss.



***Metello**, was retired from Rome track in 2001 and was adopted by Ly Schumacher in Germany. He became their much loved pet and companion to Kat, an Irish greyhound from Barcelona.*



In memory of Jack, beloved pet of Ann Hiorns-Neale in Norwich.

Jack sadly died, apparently of poisoning last May. Ann misses him terribly and has felt driven to writing a book about him. She says 'From when we got him, until his death, his escapades, his character and how I taught him what he knew and how he taught me a few things too. ..He was such a magnetic personality'

Tributes



'Bliss' at a street collection before she died (extract from Ode to the Greyhound, Bliss), by Maggie Sayers
 'One bright morning crisp and clear
 You jumped on my bed with a look so dear
 I love you mum you seemed to say
 Let's go out and start to play
 You golden girl so full of grace
 You're with me now in a better place
 Weep no more you golden child
 You stand before us full of pride
 Your days of cruelty are over
 Now you're with me living in clover
 We love you so my golden friend
 Your days of suffering are now at an end'



***Carmelo**, a galgo from Madrid, had 7 happy months of living in a home in the United States before succumbing to the effects of a rare tick disease, known only in cattle. He had come over from Spain to England before being hand delivered by Anne to Judy who travelled from South Carolina to Pennsylvania to pick him up.*
 'I loved that guy.....' Judy Horton



Galia, a galgo from Spain arrived at JFK airport in 2000 with pilot Ana Cano and meets Kathy from New Jersey

SnickerBar (Galia)

"I keep looking for her smiling face (she was always such a happy dog) but she's not here. I know she's now running pain-free at the Bridge but it's so much pain left here..... and she was so special because she always walked along the top of the sofa and perched there like a bird. When it was time for her to come inside, she would run like a rocking horse and then soar through the air sometimes clearing the arm chair of 4 ft in height. At meal times, she would always jump up on the sofa and do a rocking horse type of dance so we nicknamed her "Dancing Girl" and always fed her on that sofa." Kathy, USA.

Recent transportations from Ireland

20 ex-racers travel from Ireland to Wales and Belgium,

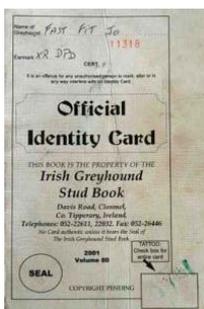
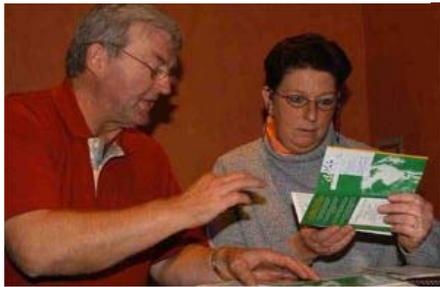
17th October 2003



Josephine meets John and the van at Calais

The Perfect Transport!
This was how Josephine and her supporters of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium described John Carroll's arrival at Calais of 16 lovely greyhounds for adoption from Limerick, Eire. 20 dogs left Limerick and 4 were dropped off in Wales and homed by our supporter there, Beverley Page. Thanks to the Irish Board in Limerick for preparing them and covering all costs! The pictures tell the rest of the story!

John going through the paper work with Josephine



Fast Fit Jo with new owners.

Who is the luckiest, do you think?



John-John Cuchùlainn

Ly Schumacher's latest addition to the family, John-John, arrived at Düsseldorf airport on 17th January 2004, met by Ly and Kat, as well as Uschi (who took these photos) and two of her dogs, Celine and Gispa. Thanks go to Uschi for the reception and to John (after

whom J-J C is named) from Eire for the rescue.

Ly says:

"John-John C. is really a sweet boy and a great cuddler. He is a very, very lovely and brave boy and we love him very much."

From Ireland to Germany, Austria and France

Two male Irish ex-racing greyhounds were flown on December 13th 2003 to homes waiting for them in Vienna and Berlin, thanks to Ellen Poppendick and Birgit Laminger who found the homes and to John Carroll and the Irish Greyhound Board in Limerick who kenneled and prepared the dogs and arranged their transportations, and to Sean and Aryean who adopted them.

Dulce (black and white) from Ireland and Paprika (brindle) from Rome, now living happily together in France.



15 ex-racers travel from Ireland to Wales and France

28th-29th November 2003



Catherine in France meets John from Ireland

Following the success of the 16 Irish ex-racers who travelled just a few weeks ago from Limerick into the care of Josephine Van Den Bergh of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium for homing, John Carroll this time transported 12 more ex-racers to Catherine Madry and her supporters of Levriers en Detresse, dropping three dogs off in addition on the way into the care of our homefinder Beverley Page in Wales.

Carolyn and I braved a gale on the Channel and terrifying drive (at least for passenger Carolyn, especially when we finished up completely lost in the rain, cold and dark, to our horror, poised on a railway line!) to meet everyone in Calais!

About 10 French volunteers were there with their vehicles for the ongoing journeys of these dogs who were being distributed to their different destinations over France. Catherine and Raymond will tell the next stage of their journey and no doubt who slept with whom that night in their hotels! Amazing how these dogs know exactly what to do when faced with a human bed in a room and maybe the volunteers didn't have as much sleep as the dogs did that night for lack of space!

Sincere thanks to John, his daughter Muriel and to Olivia for accompanying him and helping handle the dogs and not least to the Irish Greyhound Board for preparing the dogs and for covering all costs!

Anne



Siegfried

In the words of Birgit in Vienna,
"Siegfried is the most beautiful and the best greyhound all over the entire Austria!"

He arrived in a very good shape, has a beautiful coat, white teeth and super muscles.

His character is unique - no aggression or shyness, he is curious and inquisitive about everyone and everything, and friendly to

everybody.

We took our 2 girls (a Sloughi and a Galga) to the airport - and they welcomed each other, and then they jumped all together into the car . . .

There are no problems with the new and strange surroundings, no problem with the food - he even respects our cat - and now they all are deeply asleep!!"

Speedy

3 yrs old, came from Eire to Berlin.

Sean says:

"We picked him up at Düsseldorf Airport - and everything worked out fine - as expected.

From the beginning the greyhound himself was absolutely perfect! He is very loving and well socialized and is doing well with other animals. So he already has a friend, black Roger - (see photo from first walk with him and his master, who took the pics.) Speedy so far is doing great in every situation. He is very lazy, but so loving and likes to be with people. Sometimes he would start to bark when I was away.-

He is now perfectly healthy, mentally, and physically. It took about 1 week for him to adjust to his "German" food and a little longer to start feeling like one of the family! We are very happy to have him with us!"



News from Spain.....



Photos taken by Marcella Zappeij at the Campeonato de Espana de Galgos en Campo Copa de S. M. El Rey 17th January 2004, Barciencia, Toledo



Extracts from Report by Josephine Van Den Bergh of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium.....

....we went to Toledo, to the town of Barciencia, where the “Campeonata de España de Galgos en Campo” (Spanish Galgo Coursing Championships) take place every year. Several other associations, like Galgos Sin Fronteras, Amnistía Animal, Ecologistas en Acción, went there too, to protest silently against the awful conditions the galgos are kept in and the terrible way they are treated. This area is well known for its wine and cheese, but also known for the cruel way its animals are treated.When we finally arrived, the Guardia Civil stopped us. They did not want us to join the galgueros with our big papier mache galgo with a noose around its neck, because they thought it would not be safe. In the turmoil they produced, the galgueros surrounded Cristina and the Guardia Civil had to interfere. The incident that followed shows how violent galgueros and gypsies can be: two of them started to fight and in the fight, one of them stabbed his adversary with a knife in the neck.

Thousands of people attended the spectacle in which a hare was released and 2 galgos tried the best they could to defend the honour of their master. It is sad to know that these innocent, unsuspecting galgos, once they are no longer of ‘use’ to their owner, will be killed without mercy in a cruel and horrifying way.We followed the people from Amnistía Animal, who had seen a galgo lying along the road. And indeed a little further we found the poor, emaciated creature that had died of lack of food and water, at the side of the road. As if that hadn't been enough, we also found a young galgo, bathed in its own blood. When we turned it over, we saw that it had been shot in the breast. His faithful service to his master had been rewarded with a deadly gunshot. When you are confronted with such meaningless violence and suffering, you long for your own, safe environment at home, and you are thankful that the galgos you rescued, have escaped from this dire fate. Could someone who kills a poor creature so mercilessly and violently ever love another human being? We all stood crushed and silent along the road. I am convinced that the people who claim that things in Spain have changed and that the hunters take good care of their dogs, are those too who kill and torture animals and that they are only trying to conceal and excuse their own atrocities.

Even the Guardia Civil told us that they know what happens to the galgos in Spain, but as they live in the same villages as the galgueros, they don't dare to take actions. I was horrified by the thought that people are capable of ignoring their conscience, their hearts and minds to such extent and prefer not to see the intolerable cruelties that take place right under their noses.For us it had been a long, stirring and emotional day. “



On 11th February, rescuers from El Arca de Noé, Albacete, pulled two galgos out of this well to safety above ground. Most galgos are not so fortunate.

Shelters all over Spain become overwhelmed with abandoned galgos especially following this Final Championship meeting which heralds the end of the hunting season. This municipal dog pound in Cadiz had 500 galgos come through its doors in 2003. Early this year, GIN backed and helped finance Halie Hovenga and her Vet Project Cadiz team of American and Spanish vets and dog lovers from the American Naval Base in Rota, to vaccinate, de-parasite and blood test 60 galgos due to leave the pound for two international organizations who help home them abroad.

‘What can we do to help?’ and the scheme Paws Across the Pond (with GIN UK and GPA USA cooperation)

This was the leading question following my address at the Greyhound Pets of America Convention in Alabama in September 2003. I have given much thought to this over the years and have come to the conclusion that given the pride, adherence to tradition and resistance to change characteristic of Spain, our hope lies with supporting and backing those few hard working volunteers in Spain who are the precious members of their society who want to see



Ron from GPA Northern Virginia USA visits Guadalupe in Zaragoza, Spain

change. At the moment, many suffer humiliation and hostility from their own people. The idea came to me that maybe we could try to twin each of the 40 shelters that GIN is in touch with in Spain with each of the 40 GPA chapters all over the USA. I feel that if we can boost their morale with kind words and reassurance, donations and moral support, that they will not crumble but feel stronger and be able to voice more loudly the cause of the animals in their own land. Spain is a democracy and there is now a chance for the voices who speak on behalf of their animals, to be heard. This is my plan for the future. Already 19 groups in USA have ‘twinned’ with as many groups in Spain and the scheme is already flourishing. It is something that will take time to develop and mature, but we are undoing centuries of abuse and ignorance and hopefully with the use of the internet and ease of communications these days, progress will be more rapid.



Donations from GPA Emerald Coast USA arrive in Madrid