

Greyhounds in NEED

Registered charity no. 1069438

Spring Newsletter 2005



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Dear Friends of GIN,

No charity can continue, let alone prosper, which neglects to communicate with its members: hence the bi-annual newsletters where we try to strike a balance between chronicling past achievements and future activities and, alas, reminding our supporters of special and continuing needs. GIN continues to achieve recognition and this comes from various sources: increasingly from our website and from personal contacts made at events, but also from our readership. We do not believe that electronic contributions alone reach all who share our interests, and hence hard-copy messages are essential. It is necessary to state this from time to time, since the sheer effort - not to ignore expense- of production is huge and reliant on a small number of apparently tireless supporters. For them no praise is too much. That said, the format of the newsletters is not set in stone: comments are very welcome indeed.



Dogs at Pep's awaiting homing, wearing some of the many coats kindly made and donated by GIN supporters. Thank you !

The mention of recognition was not idle. Thus, at random: an invitation to speak to a Cat Protection group; nomination of the Canine Cause of the Year Award [see p 17]; a request to have a major presence at a meeting, actually organised in Spain to publicise *in Spain* the still dreadful treatment of greyhounds there, come to mind and give a flavour.

The last example raises a difficult problem, common to most (not all) animal charities. We are emphatically a practical, hands-on society which exists to rescue individual dogs directly found in need. To what extent should we divert resources to influence (other than by direct example) those societies where ignorance, neglect and sometimes downright cruelty cause the need? Anne, in particular, makes attempts to address this, though our resources overwhelmingly go to direct aid.

Finally, we hope that you will enjoy this issue of our newsletter; please circulate it to friends and neighbours and encourage them to join us.

Arthur

2005 RAFFLE

Last year we raised nearly £5,000 in raffle tickets and linked donations - a very worthwhile outcome.

Many thanks to Sue and Penny North for organising this for GIN, and to all of you who responded so generously making it a great success.

We are enclosing a book of tickets with this newsletter for our 2005 raffle and hope you will again be able to help us raise funds for our work for the needy greyhounds and galgos.

Please this time 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, 2005.

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

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News from Geoffrey..... We have got close to completing the 2004 accounts—which will go to the auditor shortly. 2004 total income was £178,000 excluding legacies with slightly weaker results from donations and fund-raising. Barbara Davis got the merchandising up and running, and she had a very busy time at Christmas. The Shop and sponsorship scheme did very well, both out-performing 2003. £178,000 seems a lot of money but much of it comes from lots of £5 and £10 donations, which are greatly appreciated, from a large number of our keen supporters.

Deducting the essential costs of running the shop, fund-raising charges and the costs of buying the merchandise we sold, left us with £143,000 to spend compared with £158,000 in 2003.

It all went—GIN spent £149,000 in total—£121,300 on direct aid for greyhounds, notably £56,000 on our haven in Vic, near Barcelona, £11,000 on vets and refuge costs in Spain. Quarantine costs including boarding, veterinary and transportation amounted to £22,300 largely funded by our Sponsorship Scheme, please see page 11. We spent £5,800 on promoting GIN and the rest went on unavoidable overheads, postage, stationery, computers and email and some very large phone bills—our work is international and the phone bills prove it.!

Fortunately we did receive some legacies. £8,500 for general use which balanced our income and spending for 2004, and £25,000 specifically to develop GIN. The Trustees decided this should be spent on future expansion—perhaps to set up a second shop and for some fund-raising assistance.

2005 has started badly from a financial perspective as we believe the Indian Ocean appeals have depressed our income so far (it is definitely down from 2004) and of course this is the busiest time of the year for helping dogs in Spain, the end of the hunting season. So lots of cash out and not as much as we need coming in.

As you'll read from Anne and Carolyn in this Newsletter, GIN needs our supporters' help, especially over the next few months. We are looking obviously for financial assistance —there's dozens of dogs in Spain and UK waiting for help and we also want more supporters, with the time to get involved in our work.

As mentioned above, we are considering opening a second shop, most likely in the South of England, ideally within driving distance of Bournemouth and Egham, so stock can be moved around to maximum effect. A shop needs a team of people—go to Bournemouth and see how many volunteers help Sue. So if you have the experience of working in a shop and could raise the necessary team from your friends, we'd like to hear from you. GIN can afford to pay a salary to the shop manager, but no-one else.

As a final message—please remember Gift Aid, which I've covered in the last few Newsletters. Send us a form with your donation and we can claim an extra 28p for every £1 you give GIN. Gordon Brown is genuinely trying to help the voluntary sector and we are only taking limited advantage. If you are a UK taxpayer you can really help GIN at no cost to yourself. Please email or write to me if you have queries, but please don't let us miss the Chancellor's generosity.

Geoffrey

GREYHOUNDS IN NEED

REG.CHARITY NO. 1069438

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Title..... Forenames..... Surname.....
Address.....
.....Postcode.....

I want the charity to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000, including my annual subscription, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, as Gift Aid donations.

I enclose a donation of £.....

I declare that I have paid an amount of income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on my donation (currently 28p for each £1 which I donate).

Signature..... Date.....

NOTES

1. Please notify the charity if you change your name and address while the declaration is in force.
2. You can cancel the declaration at any time by notifying the charity – it will then not apply to donations you make on or after the date of cancellation or such later date as you specify.
3. If in future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration (see note 2)
4. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self Assessment tax return.
5. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity. Or you can ask your local tax office for leaflet IR113 Gift Aid.

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

April - NATIONAL SUMMER RAFFLE TICKETS

GO ON SALE, CONTACT 01784 436845

Dog Show in aid of GIN, organised by North Herts Dog Training Club, contact Di on 01462432074

May 2nd—GIN stall at Dog Show in Birmingham, contact HQ for more details

15th—GIN stall at Hound Club of East Anglia Open Show, Thornhaugh, Peterborough. Contact Sarah 01799584373

16th—Sponsored walk, Dorset, contact Sue at the shop

30th—GIN has a stall at the Animal Lovers Day, Brighton, contact Christine on 01273 603348

June 4th—BBQ at the GIN shop, contact Sue

18th—GIN has a stall at the Englefield Green Fayre, contact HQ for details

26th—GIN has a stall at the Greyhounds R Us Show in Wiltshire, contact Sue

GIN stalls at Royal Holloway Garden Party and Magna Carta day, Egham—dates to be announced.

July 2nd—GIN has a stall at the PAT Dog Show, Hamworth, contact Sue

24th—GIN stall at Dogs Trust Show, Merseyside, Contact HQ for more info

31st - GIN has a stall at the Dogs Trust Evesham Open Day, contact HQ for details

Walk at Virginia Water—date to be announced

31st NATIONAL SUMMER RAFFLE DRAWN

Monthly walks

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

August

6th—Dorchester Street Collection, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact 01305 262320

27th Egham Country Show, GIN has a stand, contact HQ for more details.

September

18th - Motorcycle Ride (Richard & Lynn Stevens)

See page 16 and contact Sue for more details

24th—Autumn Fayre, Dorset, contact Sue on 01202 513000

Dog Show in aid of GIN—date to be announced

October

8th—Dorchester Street Collection, help needed please with greyhounds/dogs if possible, contact 01305 262320



Maggie Forbes-Buckingham, friends and rescued greyhounds at a street collection for GIN which raised £280 !

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....A Blessing of the Animals, World Animal Day—4.10.04.

Last year, following a very heavy summer schedule of GIN events held up and down the country and abroad, we decided not to hold our own service as we did so memorably in 2003, but to join the Franciscans in their Blessing of the Animals held at Chilworth Friary just south of Guildford. Nuria Blanco from Amigos de Los Galgos Madrid flew over to join us, as reverence for greyhounds is something very dear to her heart. She brought as an offering to be blessed, a little poster showing her galgos we are jointly helping to care for in Madrid. October 4th being a weekday, the Blessing took place within the Octave, the following Sunday. Brother Juniper, Guardian of the Friary and Parish Priest, kindly agreed to us joining them. The parish, with their hamsters and poodles must have wondered who on earth had invaded them on their day!! Strangely, the rabbits who were expected, decided to stay at home....Grateful thanks to Brother Juniper and Chilworth Friary for allowing Greyhounds in Need to share their day. (pic by Angela showing Brother Korneliusz with Michael and Angela's two greyhounds from Hampshire)



Discover Dogs 13th/14th November 2004 Thanks once again to Cheryl Miller of The Retired Greyhound Trust, we were invited to share the Breed Booth at Earls Court Discover Dogs, which has been passed to greyhound rescue groups by the Show Greyhound Club, to promote greyhounds as a breed. Of course our major aim at such an event is to promote greyhounds as pets. Thanks are due to Cheryl, Terry, Arthur and Carolyn who put together the stand (Terry driving us plus equipment there and back!) to Gareth and Kate for bringing Sophie and Mr. Mac all the way from Bournemouth, to Pat (our rehoming lady) for helping on the Saturday, to Pauline and Peter for bringing Fay and to Debbie for bringing Spirit and Skye. Also thanks to Sue of the RGT and her husband, son and dogs for manning the booth with us both days and to Ivor Stocker for keeping us well stocked with literature on greyhounds as pets. A grey weekend!

Thanks once again to Liz Goumas and Kath Powell for organising another coffee morning at Riddlesdown to raise funds for GIN.

Sarah Connatty and Sue Stoddart are great supporters of GIN, helping us throughout the year with fundraising. Last December they joined forces and went along to a late night shopping event in Essex and raised over £100 !



Many thanks to you both !

A wonderful day was had at the ESK show at Eastbourne with Jessie (greyhound) and Alfie (owned by Rita), being



prize winners in the Irish Brace class—they were pipped to first prize by the entry of a Great Dane and a tiny Pug puppy—an impossible to beat combination ! Also congratulations to Penge (owned by Lesley and Barry from East Sussex) for being classed as the “dog the judge would most like to take home”. Many thanks to Rita and Christine who are busy most of the year fund raising for GIN and a special thank you to everyone at ESK for again organising a Dog Show in aid of our charity.

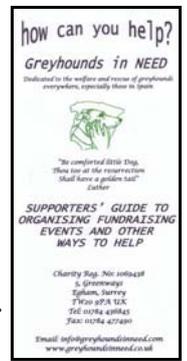
Many thanks once again to Marion Garnett for inviting us to have a stall at the Animal Welfare Bazaar in Ealing on the 5th March. Arthur, Geoffrey, Nicky and Carolyn went along and looked after the stall, raising over £200.

Also on the 5th, Sue and her helpers raised over £400 from their street collection and sale of merchandise in Dorchester.

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.

CAN YOU HELP? - LEND A HAND ?

We are very fortunate to have many supporters helping us by raising funds towards this work and promoting greyhounds as pets. However, we are always looking for more 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 a number of opportunities for running stalls and participating in events. We enjoy these; 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! On this page we give some details of other ways supporters can help our charity and have prepared a "How can you help?" leaflet with more ideas. Please call us if you would like a copy of this leaflet or would like one of our fund raising packs to get you started ! Telephone 01784 436845.



My wife Angela and I have discovered that we can raise good money for charity and have a damn good party at the same time. Last summer we threw a special appeal lunch party for GIN at home and made £1000 !

The secret is to rope in a few friends who are good cooks to make a heap of tasty cold food and to buy enough white wine at rock bottom prices. If you are able to buy from a discount warehouse you can also buy all manner of food and wine plus plastic glasses, paper napkins etc. in bulk at surprisingly low prices.

So you've got the ingredients—now you put the bite on about 30/40 of your good animal-loving friends to buy tickets, and pray for a fine day, so that you can get rid of them into the garden. We have found that most caring people are happy to pay for a jolly good lunch with free wine and help a worthy cause. Of course, we also run a raffle to get a bit more money out of them.

It is very helpful if a well known supporter or practised speaker can come and give a short address. In our case, last year, it was the charismatic and inspiring Anne Finch. A few words from her and they all burst into tears and opened their wallets !

By this quite simple process we have found that we can turn an outlay of £100 into £1000 and have a lovely party with our friends.

One final trick—get your wife to do most of the work !
Martin Humphery (Trustee of GIN)

Sue North at the GIN shop in Bournemouth could always do with some extra pairs of hands to help with the workload. She has many reliable volunteers helping in the shop on a regular basis but could always do with help with the following :-

- Helpers and dogs are always needed at street collections in the Dorset area to help raise funds and let the public see what lovely pets greyhounds make. The main areas we have collections in are Dorchester, Bournemouth and Ferndown. Ringwood and Salisbury are areas Sue feels we could hold street collections in and would be happy to help with the paperwork if volunteers are able to help with these
- The shop can supply bric-a-brac if anyone can hold car boot sales for GIN. (This would need to be collected from the shop)
- Offers of help with transporting some donated goods to local kennels and packing up items to go to Spain is always welcome.
- Helping Barbara in Dorset with packaging/posting of merchandise orders . Help is very much needed following the newsletter mailings when many orders are received.

If you feel you can help or would like more information on any of the above please give Sue a ring on 01202 513000, or pop into the shop at 952 Wimborne Road, Moordown, Bournemouth.

Send a book of stamps ! This still continues to be a very helpful way of donating to the Charity, especially for the smaller pocket. Cuts our ongoing unavoidable costs and is worth its value in as many pennies !



The Summer is a good time for GIN supporters and workers—lots of fetes and dog shows at which to put in a presence and let people meet our wonderful dogs. However, an unfortunate fact of life is that we have a very long, dark winter to get through when fund raising efforts - in my case tombola tables—are out of the question and this is where shops and businesses and our collecting tins come into their own. I embarked on my winter "career" with some trepidation expecting many refusals including some less than polite . In fact I have made many friendly acquaintances through my visits. Of course there are refusals—some shops support a particular charity; some have a policy of having none; some worry about the responsibility—but always kindly done and some objections can be overcome after a chat. I always take a box in with a piece of string attached and show where I can 'tie it down' .To those counters that already have charity boxes, I point out that many people like an animal charity box amongst the ones for humans, and this is a point which has influenced several of my shops. I regularly empty these boxes, giving an official receipt for the funds raised and remit these to Greyhounds in Need. If you feel you can help GIN by placing collecting boxes in your area, please give them a ring on 01784 436845.

Rita Hawkins

FUNDS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!
THE 2005 GALGO APPEAL

We are encountering a phase in the development of this welfare work for the Spanish bred greyhounds, the galgos, which is historically unique. We enter an uncomfortable period, probably unavoidable, when both the dogs who are in need and we who are caring for them, need all the help we can get. Here's why:

This work for the galgos began in the mid 1990s, when both the tragic manner under which these dogs lived and died in the countryside and the immense scale of the problem, were totally unknown, not only outside Spain but also within the city areas of Spain itself. We exposed it, also alerting greyhound lovers abroad to the problem, and together with the shelters in Spain, we have between us all, managed to rescue and export to safety thousands of these dogs over the last few years.



Galgos in the care of the shelter Arca De Noe, Albacete waiting for help

Each of us have fought in our own corners for justice for these dogs, and in 2003/4 legislation started to be introduced in most autonomies of Spain insisting on the identification of all dogs with microchipping and the imposition of a fine for shooting or hanging galgos and other hunting dogs. The fact that at the end of the hunting season (Jan/Feb) killings and hangings still continue with impunity and that the patrolling authorities do not even have chip readers, is simply adding to the fact that now in order to avoid a fine, galgo owners are finding other cruel methods of getting rid of their dogs, by at worst taking them to a remote place and breaking their legs, or at best, tying them to the door of a refuge or dog pound known as killing stations. However, rest assured, these barbaric practices are **not going unrecorded**, and are being publicised wildly over the internet and elsewhere, and some people in high places are getting rattled.....

They tell me from Spain that 2005 is the worst year they've ever seen for the abandonment of galgos. We are being inundated with pleas for help. Groups abroad are responding as best they can, trying to find adoption families. With ever tightening EU rules on animal imports and health matters and the fact that these dogs have been totally neglected while hunting in Spain, are totally unvaccinated, full of parasites and subjected to Mediterranean tick and mosquito diseases, for the safety of all they need to be taken in, monitored, cleaned up and treated first before export. With sterilisation, this can take anything from 4 to 8 weeks. We in our charity carry this out mainly in a vet's kennels in Vic in the north east of Spain and to a lesser extent in the far south west in Cadiz, and have in our care, broadly speaking, 100 dogs at any one time. **This costs money, a lot of money**, and takes the lion's share of GIN's annual income. This 'direct aid' work is the principle objective of our commission, and what we strive for the whole year around.

Ironically this manic period, following the end of the hunting season, falls just at the quietest, most fallow time in the charity's year; with few fundraising events because of the weather; following Christmas when few have got money to spare; and hits us between the Autumn and Spring newsletters when there is always a dip. This year, too, the Tsunami tragedy, quite rightly, has moved many already to dip into their pockets.

Can you possibly help us? Many of you I know love these dogs and would not mind me nudging you to let you know we are up against it..... It's all a matter of sharing out the load.

To give you a rough idea of costs and how help could be given:

1. To process one dog from its 'raw' entry to our facilities in Spain to being fully rehabilitated, maintained and sterilised ready for export costs us about £300 per dog.
2. The transport abroad can cost about £50
3. Are you yet a member (annually £10), or a sponsor (minimum £5 per month) to help a galgo through quarantine? These share out the load and provide a regular income on which we can depend.
4. Can we persuade you to buy something from our Merchandise catalogue? We have nice some Christmas cards being sold off.....
5. Even simply a book of first or second-class stamps would help us to offset some unavoidable costs.
6. How about doing a 'car boot' for us, or do a 'bring and buy' at your home with coffee, or use the appeal as an excuse to have a party inviting your friends and family to buy a ticket for it! You could add a raffle or tombola..... We can provide you with posters and tins and a fundraising pack.



Galgos fully prepared and waiting for homes in Pep's kennels in Vic

Please make all donations payable to 'Greyhounds in Need' and mark it for the 2005 Galgo Appeal. We have a Donate On Line facility on our home page— www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk Bless you all for caring!

Anne

Meet some of the personalities involved in our International work !



John Carroll delivered in Jan/Feb 27 Irish ex-racers from Limerick to Catherine Madry of Lévriers en Détresse, France.

Beatrice Parnot of Cani Seniors, France receives on March 5th at Brussels Airport , four elderly galgos from Vic, Spain



Elisa (right) and Chiara (far right) of the Adopt Center Italy, receive 17 Galgos from Vic in December and February. Emilia (above) and her husband did the driving.



Pep the vet, and his partner Laura, take care of hundreds of GIN' s dogs in their kennels, in Vic north of Barcelona and prepare them with veterinary care and sterilizations for export. Here they are bringing dogs to the airport.



Josephine (with mike) , her daughter Bianca, at Greyhounds Rescue Belgium's New Year Event. Balbino from Arca de Noe, Albacete is their guest. Above Jacqueline who, alternating with Marcella, flies to Spain frequently to bring back dogs.



Paul , with April, at their boarding kennels Alpha kennels in Cadiz, and Jane at her home in Epona near Sevilla, both prepare rescued galgos for export .Here they are at Malaga airport delivering dogs to a member of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium for homing .



Nuria of Amigos de Los Galgos in Madrid, rescues and prepares dogs for us. Many are homed in France or Holland. Nuria also helps by receiving and redistributing to the various refuges in Spain medical and other supplies and coats from USA and UK and as a gifted linguist, she helps with translation work.



Almeria, a deerhound cross from the Villamartin dog pound nr Cadiz represents the help our work has received recently in the way of adoption and donations, from Monette Daubenfeld and Wandhond Frenn Letztebuerg of Luxembourg.



Moni and Gisela regularly take in our galgos and greyhounds from Spain and Ireland into the House of Hope in Tierheim Feucht near Nuremberg, Germany



Peter and Simone Doepp of Podenco Association e.V ,Germany , here seen at Vic last November preparing to load 16 galgos for their transportation across Europe to homes .



Eva Hedström of GIN Sweden, seen here at Crufts this year with Amanda from Ireland



Araceli (L) of Arca de Noe , Albacete and Maria José © of Refugio Kimba, Cadiz, who do the tough primary rescue work in Spain.



Transportations We rely very heavily on our sister groups abroad to help with the homing of the dogs we are able to rescue . Many transportations are carried out throughout the year and below we give news of just some of these. We extend gratitude and admiration to all involved at the 'coal face' in Spain in this heartbreaking, stressful and difficult work and to Pep and Laura at the boarding kennels and surgery in Vic, and April, Paul and Jane in Cadiz, where the dogs are maintained and prepared. We thank all our loyal supporters at home and abroad who help us to help the many individuals and groups in Spain and elsewhere with support, funding, transportation, homes and other assistance.

More lucky galgos leave Spain for homing in Belgium



At the airport, Laura with Trompeta, Lara and Lucero

We are extremely grateful to Josephine, Marcella & Jacqueline for travelling regularly with Virgin Airways to Spain to pick up more galgos for homing by Greyhounds Rescue Belgium . We thank too Pep and his partner Laura for driving the



Marcella at Brussels airport with 10 year old Zaida from Albacete

dogs from Vic to meet them at Barcelona airport, and to Jane, April and Paul for taking the dogs to Malaga. All dogs are safely homed !

Galgos go to Greyhound Adopt Center Italy. We are very happy that thanks to our supporters in



Dorin, from Andujar, with his new family in Italy

Italy 17 more lucky galgos have found homes there. As well as Emilia and Riccardo who funded the trip themselves, we thank Elisa Manna, Chiara and Claudia and her helpers at the Ferrara kennels and of course Pep, Laura and Pilar at Vic who helped with the loading.



Here is a lovely picture of Emilia's own dogs in Italy

Galgos going home !

Thanks to Simone and Peter of Podenco Association e.V Germany, Catherine of Levriers en Detresse France, Moni and Gisi of Das Haus Von Hoffnung in Feucht and Josephine and Marcella of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium, 21 of our lucky galgos left Vic on 13th/14th November to homes. In addition, dear Moni flew from Valencia to Nuremberg with 7 galgo pups and an adult, from Balbino in Albacete.



Moni in Wiesbaden with Marea and Etna and Perla

Our thoughts go out to Ellen and Fred Poppendick. At the moment. Ellen, who has been our loyal friend and worker for the dogs since Anne began this work in the early '90's, is currently seriously ill in hospital. In recent years, Ellen was the power behind the homing of 113 greyhounds from Rome track in 2002 when it collapsed. We remember all her efforts over the last 10 years, with much love and gratitude and wish her well at this difficult time.

Homing update from Pat.....the Galgos who started quarantine in June 2004 were in a way much slower to find homes than the previous group. I believe this was due to the fact that it was in the middle of the holiday season. Believe me though once the main holiday season was over the homes started coming really fast until only one dog remained – the gorgeous Gringo. When Joanna first approached me about him, having seen his photo on the website, she acknowledged that some work needed doing on her garden fence before she would pass a home check. Fence mended, home check passed, Quarantine Kennels visited and Gringo had stolen Joanna’s heart just in time for the release day on 8th December.



Gringo on his Boxing Day walk

Despite being a damp, misty and rather dull day the whole atmosphere soon brightened as new owners began arriving excitedly anticipating taking their dogs home for the first time. I don’t think that anyone felt the cold as the warmth of the occasion took over, helped greatly by the refreshments and hot drinks once again so kindly provided by Wendy and her staff.



Inca feeling really at home

There has been lots of voluntary feedback from the owners and it seems their individual choices of dogs were the right ones. Inca is apparently “the perfect dog” for her owners, getting well used to the sofa and looking like she owns it!

Those people who have set their mind on having a Galgo are quite prepared to wait and once they have chosen the dog for them they often go back to the quarantine kennels once or twice before “release” day, taking treats not only for “their” dog but the others as well. I feel that sometimes the dogs choose the owners rather than the other way round!



Bessie (was Lady Dawn) (right) from Kildara fully accepted by Woody who was there first.

There are reasons why certain people prefer to offer a home to an ex-racing dog from this country as against the Galgos. Sometimes this is because they understand what an ex-racing greyhound is about but usually it is because they want a dog “now”.

Once people have completed their homing questionnaire and passed their home check it is possible that they can visit Kildara, choose a dog and take it home there and then. This is possible due to the close co-operation with Debbie who is always readily available to help match the right dog with the right home.



Lola the Lurcher pup loves her new “big brother” Ozzy (was Hugo) from Kildara

It is amazing how the dogs settle in so quickly and integrate into their new families. Sometimes it is hard work but it is so rewarding.

Pat

Greyhounds & Galgos looking for adoption

Our charity tries to help greyhounds everywhere but especially those dogs who were exported abroad to southern Europe for racing or who were bred abroad and suffered abandonment and cruelty and who have no chance whatever of salvation. These dogs are beyond the reach of other UK rescue groups who already have their hands full.

We home most of our rescues in northern Europe but a small percentage, despite quarantine restrictions, we bring to the UK to help share the load. All are wormed, vaccinated, sterilised/castrated and should have had dentals before adoption. If you are interested in adopting one of our lovely dogs, please contact our Homing Assistant, Pat Whipps on 01784 434735, or email: greyhomes@houndhouse.fsnet.co.uk for a homing pack which gives you general information on keeping a greyhound as a pet. Please see page 11.

We try to help ex-racers in the UK and have successfully homed from Kildara kennels in Surrey some 27 greyhounds in the last year. GIN has offered to continue helping with the homing of these dogs. See some of these homed dogs above and on page 13. We would like to thank everyone at Kildara, especially Debbie for their help on the homing front.