

Greyhounds in Need



SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER—2009



*We are dedicated to the welfare
and rescue of greyhounds
especially those in Spain*

Information about us:

Greyhounds in Need

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 1069438

Registered UK Office:

33, High Street, Wraysbury, Middlesex, TW19 5DA, UK

Tel: 00 44 (0) 1784 483206, **Fax:** 00 44 (0) 1784 482501

Email: info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

Website: www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

Founders: Anne and Arthur Finch

Patrons: Jilly Cooper, OBE

Alexandra Bastedo

Trustees: Carl Boyde MRCVS, Terry Dickens,

Martin Humphery, Liz Mason

General Manager: Carolyn Davenport 01784 483206

Treasurer: Geoffrey Levy FCA

Bournemouth Shop & Sponsorship: Sue North 01202 513000

Homing Officer UK: Patricia Whipps 01784 434735

Supporter/Homing Group Cheshire : Carol Cushnie 01925 470992

Sue & Phil White 0161 620 6094

Membership Secretary: Audrey Darbyshire

Merchandise: 01784 483206

Webmaster: Leigh Dworkin



Drawing by Monica Monti

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Dear Friends of GIN,

It's newsletter time again! Hardly seems possible that six months have passed since our last newsletter and we have lots to tell you. We have changed the format of our newsletter this time and hope you like it. Postage costs seem to increase all too often and switching to this smaller size makes an amazing saving for us on the postage of around 4,000 newsletters twice a year.

Thank you to everyone who kindly returned the post-cards we enclosed in our last newsletter indicating their wishes regarding future copies. Many of you have chosen to receive the newsletter via the internet, in colour, which helps reduce our printing and postage costs. If you mislaid the card it's not too late to let us know, please just drop us a line and put the following address on the envelope - **FREEPOST RRZB-YUEX-UAUU** - no stamp is needed. Alternatively please send us an email to info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

We are enclosing a book of raffle tickets for our annual Summer Raffle. The draw will take place on 31st July. We hope you will again buy some tickets to help us raise funds towards our work, this raffle has always been very popular and we hope it will be again in 2009. Please return cheques and completed stubs to the GIN office in Wraysbury. If you would like more tickets please give us a call on 01784 483206.

We are pleased to welcome Lynne to GIN. Lynne joined us in November 2008 and helps in the office with the administration work, answering the phone and helping with the processing and despatch of the merchandise orders. Also, special thanks to Geraldine, a local volunteer, who regularly comes to the office to help us and in recent months has spent a lot of her time working on the gift aid claims.

We would like to take the opportunity here to thank all of you for the help you give to GIN without which we would not be able to carry out our work in Spain.

Carolyn

Patrons for GIN

The trustees decided that GIN would benefit from having patrons who will be prominent personalities with a real interest in our work.

I am delighted to tell you that we have been fortunate to obtain the agreement of two such people to become Patrons of GIN.

JILLY COOPER OBE is well-known to everyone. She is a long time supporter of animal welfare causes and the devoted owner of her greyhound "Feather".

Jilly is, of course, a hugely successful author of many best-selling novels as well as a highly respected journalist and broadcaster.



Jilly Cooper and Feather



CAM ALEXANDRA BASTEDO CREATIVE ARTIST MANAGEMENT LONDON TEL: 071 407 5144

ALEXANDRA BASTEDO is well-known as a very successful film, stage and television actress. She has for the last 30 years run her own animal sanctuary in Pulborough which today is home to over 150 animals including donkeys, ponies, cats, poultry and sheep, as well as dogs.

I am sure that both our new Patrons will help to spread awareness of our vital work for galgos and greyhounds and we welcome them most warmly to the GIN family.

Martin

A New Venture for GIN

Last year the trustees decided that we should do something special to mark our 10th Anniversary.

We can all take pride in what we have achieved. Since GIN started several thousand beautiful galgos, who would otherwise have been left to a horrible fate, have been rescued and rehomed with loving families all over Europe. GIN's example has been followed as a number of other galgo rescue groups have sprung up in Spain and Europe, working like us to rescue and rehome abandoned galgos. These are achievements worth celebrating!

Rather than wasting money on a celebration party, we were determined to do something of lasting benefit to these long-suffering dogs. We have long realised that the best way to change attitudes in Spain is to start with schoolchildren. After all, every child starts off loving animals and, as other charities working abroad have found, if you teach a child to care for animals they will do so for the rest of their lives and, eventually, pass compassionate feelings on to their own children.

So we have decided that we should try to set up an education programme in Spanish primary schools. Of course, this is a huge undertaking in a country as vast as Spain and we realise only too well that we can only start in a very small way and hope to plant seeds which will take root and spread. But, after all, every humanitarian movement has started with a handful of people and often become successful on a much wider stage. Indeed, we have seen our own charity grow quite quickly from the lone efforts of our founder, Anne Finch, to become a real force for good amongst abused animals.

The preparation of teaching materials is a highly specialised skill and so we decided to enlist the help of an experienced firm of educational consultants, who have worked in this field for major animal welfare charities.

They have now prepared very impressive drafts of a whole set of teachers' materials and guidance notes, which are intended to be used in conjunction with a school's English classes. Once we have refined these drafts, the next step will be to consult our friends in Spain.

We hope to kick off the scheme in Albacete with the help of Balbino, Maria and their team at the Arca de Noe refuge along with a local bi-lingual teacher, who is keen to take part.

We show you here a picture of the front page of the teaching book. It's very early days, but we are all excited about this project. Watch out for more news in the next Newsletter.



Niko, happily homed in the UK

Galgo Schools Resource



Martin

NEW! GIN Car Sticker available now
— please see the enclosed
Merchandise Catalogue for more details

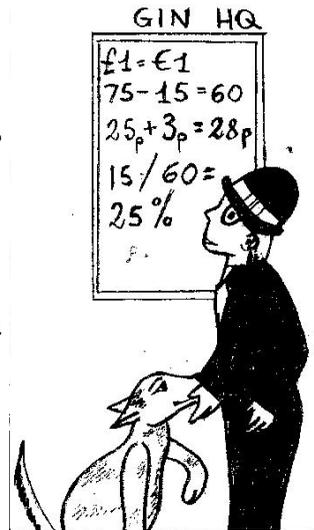
A VIEW FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

This Newsletter, instead of lots of numbers I'm going to give you the view from the Treasurer's Desk-although in spite of GIN's progress and greater office space, no such desk exists. At current HQ the space I fight to occupy is actually owned by Lynne and also grabbed by volunteers, visitors and sometimes our auditor. If I do get settled, I must cope with Lurchy, who prowls the whole office making sure that he has first bite at anything edible, also getting noisy when anyone rings our doorbell.

When I do get a chance to reflect quietly on GIN's financial position, 2008 was a good year, although supporter income is down and the last three months, which include Christmas, were disappointing, as the poor economic climate in UK took its toll on GIN. This is common to most charities, we know, but worse still for GIN, the slowdown in income came at the same time as the slump in the value of the £, and as most of our aid to galgos is spent in Euros we have seen our costs rise (comparing January 2008 with January 2009) by 40%. GIN still has adequate reserves so we will not cut-back on our help for galgos, but you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter that Carolyn has written about the veterinary bills we pay in Spain, and how we need supporter involvement in this area so that even in these tough times GIN can expand its work in Spain.

The old British hate figures used to be double-glazing salesmen and estate agents-in 2009 it's greedy MPs and bankers! While Gordon Brown has unlimited billions to spend on saving the banks, he helps charities more modestly via Gift Aid. This was introduced by the Labour Government and does produce millions of pounds of tax rebates for registered charities. GIN's tax rebates in 2008 totalled £8800, around 40% of the amount GIN could get if all our supporters signed a Gift Aid declaration.

Some of our supporters think Gift Aid is complex and even costs them money-neither is true. Let us suppose that over the course of a year a lady supporter gives GIN £60-perhaps in a number of donations or even by £5 per month to the sponsorship scheme. If this supporter signs a Gift Aid Declaration, the Inland Revenue deems that she has paid GIN £75, but deducted £15 of tax at the standard rate. As we always advise, don't sign the Declaration unless you



Drawing by Monica Monti

pay enough UK tax in the same year as you donate-in the example she must pay at least £15 UK tax. The Revenue says OK-the supporter has paid enough tax to cover the £15 "deducted" from the payments to GIN, so refunds the £15 to GIN, when we make a claim. Clearly the rebate to GIN has cost our supporter nothing-indeed if she is a 40% tax payer her tax bill will be reduced as a result of making charitable donations.

To finish the arithmetic, GIN receives £60 plus a £15 rebate, 25% extra. Thus if supporters make a Declaration, GIN receives an extra 25 pence for every pound received and at present the Government supplements each 25p it pays to charities by a further 3p, so GIN gets the 28% extra you will see mentioned on all charities' fundraising leaflets.

A Declaration remains in force until cancelled by the signatory-please study the form below. Only sign if you are a tax payer and your tax will cover the tax rebated to GIN (25% of your donation). So if you are a UK tax payer, please help GIN by signing a Gift Aid Declaration-if everybody did so GIN would be £10,000 better off each year, which would be good news for a number of galgos. Don't hesitate to contact me if you need further information. **Geoffrey**

giftaid it

GREYHOUNDS IN NEED GIFT AID DECLARATION
REG.CHARITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES NO. 1069438

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 UK income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on my donation.

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

How You Can Help GIN

There are thousands of abandoned galgos in Spain, needing GIN's help. Our international work, rescuing, treating and finding homes for galgos, is very expensive and all financial assistance is very welcome.



Centeno, from Albacete, now homed in France thanks to GIN and LED Photo LED

GIN's supporters can help in a number of ways -

- * fundraising at shows and local events
- * organising local dog walks and street collections
- * sponsoring galgos in quarantine
- * joining GIN's membership scheme
- * buying our merchandise or visiting our shop
- * leaving a legacy to GIN in your Will
- * sending a book of stamps
- * recycling old ink cartridges
- * making dog coats for Spain
- * making donations

donations can also be made ON-LINE by visiting our website and clicking on one of these buttons

Donating other items needed for Spain -

- * collars, leads and muzzles
- * feeding and water bowls
- * antiparasitics like Frontline and Drontal
- * wound sprays
- * bandages



Full details of all the above are on the GIN website

www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

or can be obtained from the GIN office—01784 483206

Membership Our voluntary membership scheme was started some years ago to help raise funds towards the printing and postage costs of the newsletter. We are grateful that so many of you have become members over the yearsbut we could do with more !

The scheme runs for the calendar year and this has caused some confusion as our newsletters do not go out at the beginning of the year so we have been thinking of ways to improve the scheme.

Each December, starting in 2009, we will write to current members to let them know that membership renewals fall due the following January should they wish to renew.....we hope they will !

From January 2010 the membership fee will be increased to £12 per year (£6 minimum for non-wage earners), all members will receive a membership card and a little gift from us and will be **entitled to a 5% discount on their merchandise orders.**

TO: Membership Secretary, Greyhounds in Need, 33, High Street, Wraysbury, Middlesex TW19 5DA

I should like to become a Member of Greyhounds in Need and I enclose my cheque/postal order/other for the annual fee of £10 (£5 minimum for non-wage earners) to cover the period **1st January 2009 to 31st December 2009.**

giftaid it

If you are a UK tax payer please tick the box so that we can claim gift aid on your membership.
Full details on page 9 Thank you

FROM: Name:.....(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address:.....

.....

.....

..... **Postcode**.....

Tel No:..... **Email address**

Date:.....

Dear Friends of *Greyhounds in Need*,

Most charitable organisations will be concerned in these difficult financial times that their Members and Supporters will have problems keeping up their membership and generous contributions that are essential to their work.

Greyhounds in Need is no exception to this, the Charity's costs have increased alarmingly in the rescue, and veterinary care needed in our centres in Spain. Specialised Transport from our Care Centres in Spain to the Re-Homing Centres in other parts of Europe increase each year. Our thanks must go to the dedicated people who staff these centres, most are volunteers.

GIN being based in the UK with its main work in Europe has been hit particularly hard by the exchange rate Sterling/Euro and this will continue for some time to come. You can help *GIN* continue its work by subscribing to *GIN* Membership, any increase in income from membership will help us to plan each year just how many galgos we can help. Single contributions will assist further and are always very welcome. Please be assured your money will always be used in the rescue and welfare of abused Galgos/*Greyhounds* whatever their condition.

GIN Newsletters and our updated Website keep *GIN* supporters fully informed of the work *GIN* is involved in and the difference supporters' money is making to the very miserable and often painful life of these exceptional dogs.

If you already subscribe to *GIN*'s work our grateful thanks go to you, if not and you are able to help financially even in a small way, please telephone Carolyn at *GIN*—01784 483206, your help will always be appreciated by the many desperate Galgos/*Greyhounds* seeking a loving home, only through *GIN*.

Many thanks,
Best wishes to you all.
Terry Dickens,
Trustee, *Greyhounds in Need*.

A Visit from Greyhounds Rescue Belgium

GIN welcomed three officers of Greyhounds Rescue Belgium to Wraysbury on Friday 6th February. They were Josephine, the GRB Chairman, Marc, who is responsible for GRB's accounting and legal matters and Marie-Jane, who is in charge of GRB's membership and administration. The GIN side was headed by Terry, with Carolyn and Geoffrey in support. GRB is an extremely efficient homing group, working for Irish greyhounds as well as galgos and is GIN's biggest homefinder as it finds homes for more of GIN's galgos than any other European homing group. The GRB team had flown over especially for the meeting, with a long list of points to work through.



*Josephine with Capuchino
from Albacete Photo GRB*

The main drivers for the meeting were the strength of the Euro, which has increased GIN's costs in Spain by 30% plus over the course of 2008, difficulties in transporting galgos from Spain to Belgium and the UK and the general economic climate, which both groups feared might depress income and make people less able to offer a home to a galgo.



*Marc & Marie-Jane with Cayetana, who
they adopted in October 2008. Photo GRB*

In spite of the gloomy economic background, the meeting was very positive as new ways to work together and help each other were found. Both GRB and GIN believe they are financially strong enough to see through the downturn in 2009 and by cooperating expect to keep up the number of galgos homed in Belgium. All present felt the meeting

well worthwhile and that it had cemented the excellent relationship between the two Charities.

Forthcoming Events in aid of GIN 2008 was another busy year for our supporters who, week after week, attended local events, organised dog shows, street collections, dog walks, car boot sales, all to raise funds for our work and raise awareness of the plight of the greyhounds and galgos. 2009 looks like being just as busy, details of events booked so far are given below and these and future events will be put on our website www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

If you feel you would like to become involved in fundraising for GIN please phone us on 01784 483206 or email info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk for a fundraising pack which includes a "[How can you help](#)" leaflet with lots of ideas for fundraising.



Drawing by GACI

Sunday walks near Bournemouth The walks are approximately 4 miles long and take around 2 hours. Please contact Keith and Mollie for more dates/details on 01202 723540 or 07957 295 120. Proposed dates for future walks are :- May 17, Jun 28, Jul 26, Aug 23, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 13.

Monthly walks in Wales Please come and join the Sunday monthly walks (last Sunday, every month) with dogs and supporters around Cosmeton Lake, Penarth. Contact Sarah Broughton on 02920 212592

MAY

2nd May - Street Collection in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Helpers welcome please, with their dogs. Please contact Sue on 01202 513000

2nd May - Cleveleys Awareness Day, 10am-4pm - Come along and enjoy a day at the Seaside. GIN volunteers will be fundraising and raising awareness of Greyhounds in Need, in Cleveleys Town Centre, near Blackpool. Please ring Sue and Phil in Cheshire on 0161 620 6094 for more details.

9th & 10th May - Cheshire Thundersprint. Speedy bikes to help speedy dogs. We will be fundraising at the Thundersprint, a whole week-end of motorbike entertainment in the centre of Northwich, Cheshire including a unique motorbike sprint event. Free admission and free parking. For more information phone Sue & Phil in Cheshire on 0161 620 6094



MAY—continued

16th May - A "Hair and Hounds Day" at Chetwynd Hair Design, Wolstanton, Staffordshire from 10am to 3pm. Cakes, teas, tombola etc. Please contact Sue & Phil in Cheshire on 0161 620 6094

17th May - Annual Hengistbury Head Sponsored Walk, Dorset, starts at 11am. More details nearer the time from Sue on 01202 513000.



17th May - "Fun Dog Show" at Lyme Park, near Stockport in Cheshire. More details nearer the time from Sue or Phil White on 0161 620 6094.

JUNE

1st & 2nd June - Collection at Tesco's, St. Peter's, Worcester. Please contact Sue Boone for more information, times etc. Sue is always looking for more helpers so if you can spare an hour or two please give her a ring on 01527 869395.

3rd June - Street Collection in Dorchester, Dorset. Helpers welcome please, with their dogs. Contact Sue on 01202 513000 for more details.

6th & 7th June - Fundraising at the Morrison's Supermarket, Saxon Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DS from 10am to 4pm. Anyone who could spare an hour to come along and help would be most welcome. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed. Please contact Sue & Phil on 0161 620 6094 for more information.

13th June - The Great Northern Greyhound Gathering, Marbury Country Park, Comberbach, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6AT. Please Contact Sue & Phil White on 0161 620 6094 for more information.

13th June—GIN stand at the Rubery Fete, West Midlands, please contact Sue Boone on 01527 869395 for more details. Helpers needed please.

20th June—Collection at Asda Supermarket, Bromsgrove, please contact Sue Boone on 01527 869395 for more details. Helpers needed please.

20th June - 12noon - 4.30pm - Englefield Green Village Fair, Surrey. We will once again have a stall at this very popular Village Fair. Please contact Carolyn or Lynne on 01784 483206 for more details.



JUNE—continued

20th June - 2pm - Wraysbury Fair, Middlesex. GIN will again have a stall at this Village Fair which is very near our office. More details from Lynne and Carolyn on 01784 483206. Two fairs on the same day, so we will need help.

27th June—GIN stall at Winton Carnival, Bournemouth, please contact Sue on 01202 513000 for more details.

28th June—GIN stand at the Dogs Trust Open Day, Evesham, please contact Sue Boone on 01527 869395 for more details. Helpers needed please.



JULY

5th July - Annual GIN picnic at Virginia Water, Surrey

We will meet at 11am in the car park and then make our way to the picnic area. Please contact Carolyn or Lynne for more details—01784 483206.

11th and 12th July - GIN stall at the Michelin Priory, Sussex, more details from Rita on 01323 833652.

12th July - Liverpool Dog Show - GIN stand at the Annual Open Day and Fun Dog Show at the Dogs Trust, Liverpool, from 12-4pm. More details from Sue & Phil on 0161 620 6094

12th July—GIN stand at the Wilmslow Fun Dog Show, Cheshire. Please contract Sue and Phil on 0161 620 6094



AUGUST

9th August - "Fun Dog Show" at the Home Farm, Tatton Park, Cheshire. More details from Sue & Phi White on 0161 620 6094

15th August - GIN will have a stall at the Ashington Festival, West Sussex. More details from Rita on 01323 833652.

16th August—Appleton Thorn Fun Dog Show, Cheshire, Please contract Sue and Phil on 0161 620 6094 for more details.

29th August—GIN stand at the Blue Cross Open Day, Bromsgrove. Please contact Sue Boone on 01527 869395.

29th & 30th August—GIN will be at the ever popular Egham Royal Show. Please contact Carolyn or Lynne for more details—01784 483206.

SEPTEMBER



5th September - Cleveleys Awareness Day, 10am-4pm - Come along and enjoy a day at the seaside. GIN volunteers will be fundraising in Cleveleys Town Centre, near Blackpool. Please ring Sue and Phil in Cheshire on 0161 620 6094 for more details.

Remembering Unica –

TRIBUTES

on a very cold day in February 2000 the most beautiful greyhound covered in pure white velvety fur with pretty brindle markings on her head and ears arrived at my home and it was love at first sight. She came straight to me and yet she was frightened of just about everything and absolutely terrified of men including my brother who is very kind and gentle. As the weeks and months passed by she outgrew a lot of her fears, became firm friends with my brother and no longer ran away from strange sounds and sights. She always struggled with strangers and had to get used to people one at a time, never wanting to be in a crowd. She was the perfect dog and never one bit of trouble. She was my inspiration to become the homing officer for GIN as thanks for rescuing her from racing in Mallorca. Last October I lost my wonderful girl after suffering two minor and one final massive stroke. I was lucky to have her almost 9 years but I still miss her terribly.



Pat

Penny (Carpina) -

In December 2005 we collected a lovely, if shy, brindle Galga from the quarantine kennels at Cottam. Staff told us it took them two weeks to get a collar on her and she was the only one who would not come up to the bars of the cage, when visitors came near she retreated to the back. She accepted us immediately as soon as we got home and, with a lot of love and TLC, she gradually became less frightened of others. She was such a wonderful companion but sadly, after a very short illness she died. Despite her shyness, she would accompany us on street collections for Greyhound charities and was loved by all who knew her. Her Spanish name was Carpina but we renamed her Penny. She enriched our lives and made us many friends. She was 8 years old. Our sincerest thanks to GIN for giving us such a lovely greyhound. Linda and Stan Ames



Annie, a galga homed with Elsa and John was sadly put to sleep recently, she had been poorly for a while and her kidneys were failing.

She is much missed by everyone

We were sad to hear that **Gloria**, a galga from Albacete who came to the UK and was homed by Mandy to Angela in Devon passed away earlier this year

Harry, a galgo homed in 2002 with Diane and Alan in Liverpool sadly passed away earlier this year. He is much missed, especially by galga Polly.



Our beloved greyhound **Teseo** had to cross the rainbow bridge. We got the diagnosis that he suffers from pulmonary cancer. Our vet released him from his suffering at home in the presence of his family. For 6 years he enriched our lives and we would not want to miss any second with him and we miss him so much... Regards Michaela and Maurice and the dogs Zama, Gitano, TROY, Colina and Mona. Germany.

Flyn, was previously Harlem. He was one of the group of dogs GIN rescued when the Rome track went bankrupt and we adopted him from you in March 03. Sadly we have recently had to have him put to sleep, due to liver failure. He would have been 15 this coming January so he reached a very good age I guess.

He was the gentlest and most easy-going dog we've ever known and we miss him dearly. His passing was very peaceful and he'd spent the weekend getting spoiled with cuddles and treats and he'd had a few strolls in his favourite park. He was born 7/1/94 and passed away 15/9/08 - we loved him very much.

Tracey and Mark

Lena - adopted in 2001, was sadly put to sleep recently as she was suffering from arthritis and was fast losing the use of her hind legs. We believe she was about 14yrs old. She was a beautiful and gentle lady and will be terribly missed by all who came into contact with her especially my wife as Lena was her faithful companion over the years whilst I was at work. We have had dogs for the past 40 years - Lena was that special one.

Tony Pullinger

Montenegro 1.1.96 – 31.10.08. Monty was rescued by S.A.T. in Alicante and adopted by Helene and Bob Trott in 1999. He arrived at their home looking like a walking skeleton but soon started to put on weight. He enjoyed 9 happy years with them and their other dog Sadie.



Leah, We were sad to hear that Nicky had to say goodbye to Leah at the end of last year. Leah had attended many GIN events over the years, in all weathers, and was always admired by visitors to the GIN stands.

Dena - 2004-

2008 You are so sadly missed. In the few years I had the pleasure of having you and Sol in my life you bought nothing but joy with your sweet and trusting nature. Last



October you suddenly lost the use of your legs and I found out that you had a tumour on your spine and crushed discs that were caused by this and I had to make the heartbreaking decision to let you go as you were in such terrible pain. You are always in my thoughts every day, rest in peace my sweet little girl. Liz Mason

Nico (Spray) 1995-

2008 - Sadly in June this year we lost our dear old friend Nico, a Rome dog formerly known as Spray. We chose him because he was described in your newsletter as a 'lovely handsome amiable guy' It was the perfect description. He was the kindest, sweetest-natured gentle giant, very much loved by all the family. Our grandchildren adored him, he was such a happy old boy and always looked like he was smiling, even towards the end when he found it difficult to walk and had other health problems. He was always friendly and loved everyone. He collapsed and died at the age of 13½, we still miss him dreadfully. It was a privilege to have known him.



Love Pat and Alan Farrant

GALGO RELEASE DAY- If a dog has to be confined for 6 months in quarantine I can't think of a better place than Precious Pets to do so. Our thanks must go again to Paula and Steve who together with their dedicated staff take such good care of our dogs and make Release Day so special.

The months leading up to the release were not the easiest of times but it all came out well in the end. We have to accept that people do pull out along the way for all sorts of reasons and it is better they do this earlier rather than later if they have any doubts at all.

On the day, having made the journey through road works, traffic, fog and being stuck behind slow moving lorries we finally arrived to the usual warm welcome of Precious Pets where refreshments were ready and very excited adopters were waiting in anticipation of taking their beautiful dogs home.

The necessary paperwork was then completed for each owner, followed by the call for each dog to be brought out, then the excitement, the photo calls and the realisation that the long awaited day had finally arrived.



On the left is the first dog out, Peluda on her way to Cumbria with Vivien.



On the right is the last dog out Hamlet, kindly taken for fostering by Bali until his w o u l d - b e adopter could

have her home check. This was successfully carried out on the day after release by Sue to whom I am very grateful for moving so quickly. Hamlet was fostered for less than 48 hours and was then on his way home to Berkshire with Carla.

Continued.....

I have been doing the homing of the Galgos for more than five years and I still continue to get feedback about many of the dogs right from the first group I homed which is really good for my morale. I love to hear how the dogs are getting on and especially if the news includes a photo or two.

What is even better though is when people either come back for another Galgo to replace one they have sadly lost or come back for a second one because the first one is such a delight to them. This time we had Jan from Norfolk back for Fortuna (now being called Blaise) as a friend for Shakir (was Diana). Jan was accompanied by Yvonne with Arfa who she has had since late 2003.

We were lucky to have visitors to the Release Day again. People who already own Galgos just wanted to come along, show off their dogs and share in the excitement of others as they took their dogs on to their new lives. It was lovely to see Dawn and John with Rafi and Hobbs who have both progressed so well. I was also very pleased to see Elsa and John Waywell with the lovely Inca . Thank you to all those who took the time and trouble to come along including Carol and Sue from Cheshire.



Although the day started a bit grey with fog the sun did come out eventually and it is my guess that had something to do with Galgos "coming out".

Please keep looking at our website where there will be more photos of release day.

PAT

News from Cheshire

The Cheshire Branch of GIN has continued to thrive thanks to the brilliant support of our ever expanding group of fantastic volunteers and our events are always well attended and thoroughly enjoyable, due in no small way, to the great enthusiasm shown by everyone. As a result of this support we are delighted to say that we no longer need to use boarding kennels for our GIN dogs as we are now able to place our dogs with our core team of fosterers.

We have been overwhelmed by the kindness of our volunteers when we have approached them to ask for their help with fostering. Our foster families help to prepare the dogs for living in a home after most of them have spent their lives living in kennels. By the time they move on they are usually house-trained, lead trained, used to traffic and all the usual household noises such as televisions, vacuum cleaners, washing machines etc. The dogs will have been taken to the vets to be castrated or speyed, microchipped, vaccinated, any dental work that they need. A doggy MOT! Above all the dogs will have been given lots of TLC.

This facility is invaluable in allowing us to properly assess each of our dogs and the homing process is proving to be far more successful as the fosterers provide ongoing support and advice to new adopters. We pride ourselves on homing for quality rather than quantity and as a result, no dogs have been returned to us since working in this new way.

Some dogs have been lucky enough to be adopted by their foster families. These include Bobby, a blue boy who has been adopted by Paulette and her family ; Arthur who was adopted by Jennifer and Roy and Amy who has recently found her forever home with Hazel, John and her greyhound friend, Jess.

Jennifer and Roy deserve an extra special mention as they have fostered Terry the galgo, JJ a very handsome young black dog and Jake another wonderful black boy. They are presently fostering Eddie, a very cuddly white and black dog for us. Talking about Jake, who is so laid back as to be almost horizontal, he has found his perfect home with Anna and Mike. They had to wait for the right dog to come along and when Jake arrived such was their commitment that they have had their apartment carpeted because Jake didn't like the laminate floor!

Special thanks to our other foster families who include Jules and Rob who are fostering Poppy for us; Emma and John who are fostering Sally the galgo; Edith and Ced who fostered Scoot; Jenny who fostered Summer; Jenny and Jim who fostered Susie ; Jo who fostered Barney and Carol who fostered Shana.



Fasene and Summer at the Wilmslow Garden Centre

Although there are many achievements within the branch, we feel that the greatest success story has to be that "Summer" has at last found his perfect forever home with Christine and her galgo, Fasene. Summer is settling in very well with his new family which also includes 2 cats and has already been to help us at a recent event, his behaviour was impeccable and he was unphased by being surrounded by lots of other dogs as well . Thank you so very much Christine for adopting this little chap who was so often overlooked because of his past problems and more recently because of his age. We look forward to seeing Summer at lots more events.

We certainly have a busy year ahead with lots of fundraising activities including 3 fun dog shows and we hope to raise lots of money to assist GIN with their vital work in Spain. New adopters have expressed their interest in joining in our activities and they will all be made very welcome at the events. We are planning a couple of new venues for 2009 so please keep up to date by looking at the "Events" page on the GIN website. A big thank you to all the volunteers for their tombola gifts, home made cakes, dog beds, knitted coats and snoods and all the other donations which you tirelessly provide to help raise funds for GIN.

Carol, Sue and Phil



We would like to say a special "thank you " to Sian for all her hard work on our behalf, fund- raising and rehoming greyhounds in Wales. Sian kindly took over this work some years ago and we were very grateful. She is now stepping down to enjoy a well deserved rest. The photo on the left shows Kia, one of the many greyhounds Sian and her helpers have homed over the years. Many thanks Sian from all at GIN!

News from the shop Our shop continues to do well despite many charity shops expressing their concern over the lack of donations. We did go through a quiet patch for a couple of weeks when it snowed but now everyone is in the midst of Spring fever and clearing out their cupboards.

One of our supporters, Peter Crawley, kindly organised a Street Collection in Fordingbridge just before Christmas and together with three helpers and their dogs managed to raise £206.08. He was so thrilled he is organising another for May 2nd.

We are also organising two more collections in Dorchester this year for 3rd June and 28th October. If you can offer help with these please contact Esme on 01305 262320 (Dorchester) or me on 01202 513000. We are also having a fundraising stall at the Winton Carnival in Bournemouth on June 27th. Last year this event was attended by thousands of people who enjoyed a fantastic day out. Why not pop along and support us?

Many thanks for all who gave donations for the dogs Christmas treats; the total was a heart-warming £899! This was split between the refuges in Spain, the quarantine dogs and the greyhounds in kennels in Cheshire and Wales.

Verwood Rotary Club

A big Thank you once again to Verwood Rotary Club for their kind donation of £100 to Greyhounds in Need. It really is very much appreciated, especially when there are so many charities and organizations around who are also very worthy causes. My husband and I were again invited along to receive the cheque, and it made you feel good to see how many people give their time and effort to raise the money and the variety of groups who benefit as a result of this. Our thanks must also go to Peter and Val Crawley for their continued interest and support.
Stephanie Cartwright

Although generally there has been a marked increase in dogs for rehoming we have been very lucky in this area in finding good homes for several greyhounds and lurchers. My grateful thanks for Lin Dorey of Greyhound and Lurcher Rescue who has offered her help with this.

Our annual sponsored walk at Hengistbury Head this year will take place on Sunday 17th May. Last year we raised £1012.87 - I hope we can increase this amount in 2009! Sponsors forms and details from the shop on 01202 513000.

Have a good summer and hope to see you at the shop or one of our events.

Sue, Greyhounds in Need, Bournemouth

The Spanish Galgos in Quarantine - April - October 2009

Can you offer a home to one of our rescued galgos and/or sponsor one of them during their time in quarantine?

The galgos (breed name galgo español) are Spanish bred greyhounds used widely by hunters in the rural areas of Spain, for coursing hares with betting.

We help as many galgos as we can by funding their veterinary treatment and boarding in kennels in Barcelona and Cadiz. We also fund veterinary treatment in other areas of Spain, namely - Albacete, Almendralejo, Cadiz, Jaen and Murcia, and contribute, when possible, towards the transportation costs incurred moving the dogs from refuges to kennels/adoption groups. The galgos we help are homed mainly in Belgium, France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland thanks to our contacts abroad.

However, twice a year we bring some galgos into quarantine. All are sterilised, micro chipped and have been tested and found clear of Mediterranean diseases before they come to the UK.

The galgos shown on the next two pages have just arrived at our quarantine kennels in Gloucestershire. We will know more about their characters later as they relax and develop. Ages are mostly approximate. They can be visited over the next 6 months by prior arrangement with Pat, our Homing Officer.

Raika, Marina, William and Bucay came from the Arca de Noe refuge in Albacete. **Mary-Anne** came from RECAL in Almendralejo and **Timida** came from the Cuenca kennels near Albacete.

If you are interested in offering a home to one of our galgos please contact Pat, our Homing Officer, by email patriciawhipps@ntlworld.com or by phone - 01784 434735. Pat can then send you our homing pack .

If you would like to sponsor one of the galgos during their time in quarantine please contact Sue at the GIN shop on 01202 513000 and/or complete the sponsor form on page 27.

Our New Galgos



William, a black male galgo with some white markings on his chest. He is approx. 2 years old. He was rescued in Albacete

Timida, a dark fawn female galga rescued from the Cuenca kennels. She is approx. 5 years old



Mary-Anne, a white female galga, quite small, approx. 5 years old. She has a bent ear. She is a little frightened but not aggressive. She is fine with other dogs. She was rescued in Almendralejo

Marina, a light brindle female galga rescued in Albacete, approx. 2 years old





Raika - a black female galgo
from Albacete
approx. 4 years old



Bucay, a white/fawn male galgo
from Albacete,
approx. 2½ years old

Sponsor a Galgo I would like to sponsor a galgo and wish to give Greyhounds in Need (*Circle as appropriate) *£5 per month *£10 per month *£25 per month *Other amount £.....per month OR £1,000 one-off payment for one galgo for whole 6 months of quarantine, cheque only. The galgo I wish to sponsor is(optional)

giftaid it

If you are a UK tax payer please tick the box so that we can claim gift aid on your sponsorship. Full details on page 9 Thank you

NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR BANK

Bank.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK

Please pay the above amount on the same day every month starting on the.....until further notice

Sort Code..... Account Number.....

Account Holder's Name.....

Account Holder's Address.....

..... Post Code.....

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

Please return this form to "Greyhounds in Need Shop", 952 Wimborne Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH9 2DG

Our work abroad

The early part of every year is the worst time for the abandonment of the galgos. The hunting season lasts just 4 months and once this is over many galgos are abandoned and often brutally killed.

In some areas of Spain there are laws that dogs must be microchipped. One would hope that in these areas galgos found abandoned could be traced back to their owners but sadly this law can work against the galgos. Owners have tried to remove these microchips themselves when they abandon the dogs so that the dogs cannot be traced back to them and those we work with have found galgos who have bled to death after this has been done, some found tied to the refuge doors.



Bollilo at the refuge

Recently Balbino of the Arca de Noe refuge in Albacete asked if we could help with a galgo they had rescued called Bollilo. Neither he, nor his volunteers, could believe their eyes when they examined the galgo back at the refuge. Someone had removed the microchip from his neck and pulled the resulting



wound together with what seemed like thick thread/garden string.

Fortunately for Bollilo he was looked after by Balbino and his veterinary team, and later by Pep and Pilar, and as you can see from the photo on the left here he is now enjoying his new life in France, thanks to Wilfrid of Levriers en Difficulte.



Another galgo we were asked to help was Socrates. He was rescued and taken to the Arca de Noe refuge. He was in a pitiful state with so many wounds on his body but after lots of TLC he too has recovered and is enjoying his new life in Switzerland, thanks to Manuela and Levrier Swiss Adoptions.



The photo above shows Socrates, on arrival at the refuge, and below you can see him enjoying some home comforts in Switzerland

Neus, a 9 year old male galgo was found in a very poor state, his teeth appear to have been filed down, probably to stop him damaging the hares he was trained to hunt. Not surprisingly he is very nervous and tries to escape from everyone, even those wanting to help him! Pep and Pilar have been getting him used to walking on a lead and he is slowly gaining confidence. We hope he will soon be homed in France - he will need a very special home.

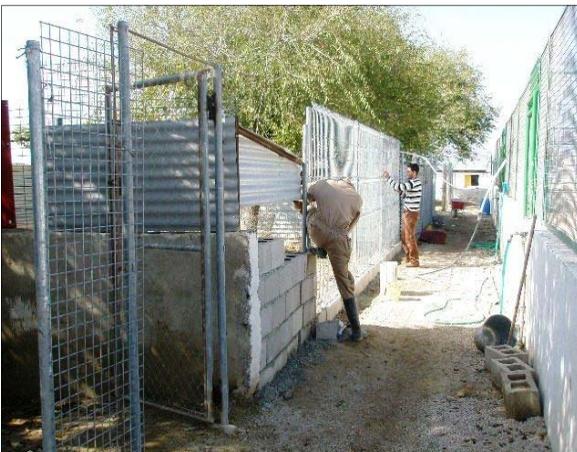


One galga, Ayenda, gave birth to three pups soon after she arrived at the Arca de Noe refuge. Wilfrid, of Levriers en Difficulte kindly offered to take the mother, and her pups - Pin, Pan and Pun to France for homing. We are told they are growing quickly and like gardening - well, they are digging lots of holes, ready to put plants in ?

The photo on the left shows Pep, at Vic with two of the pups—Pin and Pan.

In 2008, eighty eight galgos left Albacete for homes in Italy and Slovenia. GIN funded their veterinary care in Albacete and contributed towards the transportation costs.

We are lucky to work with Elisa and her team at the Greyhound Adopt Centre, Italy (GACI) and Nina and her group Slovensko Drustvo Za Pomoc Hrtom in Slovenia. Both groups work hard on promoting greyhounds and galgos as pets in their own countries and GACI are now intending to participate in dog shows, both nationally and internationally, to promote their work and encourage people to adopt a greyhound/galgo. So far Elisa reports that many towns and cities all over Italy are keen to take part.



In 2008 we were able to give a donation to Arca de Noe in Albacete to help with the improvements they are making to the refuge.

They have been building new kennels to accommodate the growing number of dogs they help and provide a quarantine area for dogs needing extra care/treatment.

We also take galgos from Albacete to Vic, Barcelona, to Pep' s boarding kennels and are currently taking galgos into Vic from Almendralejo, Jaen and Murcia too.

GIN funds their boarding and veterinary care at Vic. Pep re-tests the dogs for the Mediterranean diseases and sterilises them and as soon as they are fit and healthy transportations to the homing groups can be arranged, and most of these galgos travel by road from Vic to their new homes in France, Switzerland and the UK.

Carmen of Arconatura Linares in Jaen sent a desperate email to us earlier this year asking for urgent help as they needed to move their galgos as they had suffered break ins at their refuge and many dogs, some under treatment, had run off. One galga we helped was Rebecca, she was so very frightened and Carmen was pleased that we could take her and others very quickly to Vic. They are now all homed in France and Switzerland.



Rebecca ,above, on arrival at the refuge in Jaen

Saskia and Juan at the San Anton (Villamartin) refuge in Cadiz continue their work for the galgos. Over a 2 week period, earlier this year at the end of the hunting season, they took in more than 75 galgos. We have been able to cover the veterinary and transportation costs for the galgos we can take from them to April and Paul. These galgos are re-tested for Mediterranean diseases and sterilised ready for homing in Belgium. GIN funds these costs along with their boarding costs at April and Paul's boarding kennels, near Rota, and the healthy galgos are then taken to Malaga airport ready for their flight to Brussels to meet their new families.

As well as taking galgos from Villamartin for homing we were also able to



give a donation to the refuge to improve the conditions for the dogs that come into their care. They have been making the kennels more secure and covering the kennel runs to give some protection for the galgos from the wet and cold weather.

We are pleased to be working with Gail and Andy, an English couple, volunteers at the Noah's Arc refuge in Murcia. Already this year Charlie, Shadow, Armando and Princess have left Murcia for new homes in Belgium. One galgo, due to leave soon, is Elliot. He is a young male galgo who Gail and Andy rescued after he had been hit by a car in the town. X-rays showed that he had suffered several fractures to the hip. The bones are knitting back together and Elliot is not in pain and is using his bad leg. It is possible he may walk with a limp but he is certainly very agile and getting better all the time.



There are so many sad stories and photographs received at HQ on a regular basis and these are very upsetting for us all but what it must be like for the volunteers at the refuges day in and day out is hard to imagine.

The refuges struggle to raise funds for their work and are grateful for all donations they receive. Mada of the RECAL refuge in Almendralejo organises exhibitions to show what happens to the galgos and to explain what wonderful pets they can be, but rehoming a galgo in Spain is not easy.



Recently she has had support from some musicians who have made a CD of their music and the funds received from the sales will go towards a sterilisation programme for the dogs at RECAL.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we continue to share, with as many refuges as possible, the many coats and blankets we receive throughout the year. They are always needed and very much appreciated.



Galgos at the Villamartin refuge, Cadiz

We have been fortunate to also receive, and send to Spain, a large donation of blankets from IFAW and many medicines from the Worldwide Veterinary Service.

The costs involved in helping the galgos has increased considerably for us recently due to the weak pound.

The costs of caring for rescued galgos starts with the refuges and individuals who carry out the primary rescue care -

- * **Initial testing for the Mediterranean diseases can cost around €40-60**
- * **Vaccinations, treatment for fleas and worms can cost a further €40 +**
- * **Sterilisation costs vary around Spain but can be between €80-130**

The galgos we home are all microchipped and all the necessary pet passport paperwork is prepared for the various countries they are transported to.

In 2008, GIN paid veterinary bills totalling around £20,000 for Arca de Noe—Albacete, RECAL—Almendralejo, Noah's Arc-Murcia, Villamartin-Cadiz to help these refuges with their work for galgos.

If you would like to send a donation to help GIN with these costs please send cheques, payable to Greyhounds in Need, and add a little note saying "for veterinary costs" and we will make sure this money is used to enable us to continue supporting the refuges with the huge veterinary bills they have.

Homing UK and Abroad



Five galgos from Albacete on arrival in Slovenia thanks to Nina & her team

Aman, from Jaen, now homed in Switzerland thanks to Manuela and Levrier Swiss Adoptions



Amy, an ex-racing greyhound, homed in Cheshire thanks to Carol, Sue and Phil

Arrival in Modena, Elisa of GACI welcomes the galgos from Albacete



Finnuala, from Ireland, now living happily in Norway with Verna





Coelo (front), from Albacete, now homed in France thanks to Jacqueline and Max of Association de Sauvetage des Levriers

Paul from Alpha Boarding Kennels at Malaga airport with Lulu, Artemis, Gittah and Shalimar ready for their flight to Belgium



Ayenda, from Albacete, stretching out in her new home in France thanks to Wilfrid and LED



Lucy, from Gail and Andy at Noah's Arc, Murcia, on arrival in Belgium



Platon from Albacete, and Xena from Cuenca, cuddling up together in their new home in France thanks to Kathi of SOS Levriers



Aristoteles, from Albacete, above at the refuge in Arca de Noe and below enjoying the snow in Switzerland thanks to GIN and Manuela of Levrier Swiss Adoptions

