

Greyhounds in Need



SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2010



*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: Sue North 01202 513000

Brighton Shop: Christine Page 01273 674100

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

Sponsorship: 01784 483206

Webmaster: Leigh Dworkin



Drawing by Monica Monti

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Dear Friends

We hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter which will bring you up to date with our work over the last six months.

We have many events planned this year thanks to supporters around the country who regularly, whatever the weather, give up their weekends to run tables and stands to raise funds for GIN. We would like to thank you all now for the great support you give to us. Full details of the events are shown on pages 17-19.

Thank you to everyone who helped raise £542 for Christmas treats for the greyhounds and galgos both here and abroad - they were very much appreciated !

We continue to raise funds by recycling ink cartridges and mobile phones. We have lots of envelopes at HQ plus some display boxes if you need one for your place of work/local shop - please call us on 01784 483206 and we can get these in the post to you.

Our current group of quarantine galgos all have homes waiting for them on 30th April. Release Day is a very special, emotional day and it is nice that each time more and more people come along, often with their own dogs, to see the galgos come out of the kennels and leave with their families to start a new life. The next group will be arriving in May - their photos and details can be found at the back of the newsletter.

If you are in the Bournemouth area on 5th June please pop along to the GIN shop where Sue and Penny will be holding their 10 year Celebration Fair and BBQ - more details on pages 14 and 15.

Carolyn

Trustees' Page

The year so far has been a very busy time for GIN and this looks like continuing.

You will be able to read in this newsletter about all our activities helping galgos and greyhounds at home and abroad.

I would like to draw your attention to some of our new initiatives.

We have been truly staggered by the worldwide support for our on-line petition to the Spanish Government. This has attracted signatures from over 40 countries and all the 50 US States. What encourages us most is the very large number of Spanish people who have signed and so often added impassioned messages calling for action by their Government. This shows us that there are many in Spain who have become aware of this problem and who really want to see improvements in their nation's standards of animal care. The petition is shown on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

We feel that this awareness will be advanced in the future by our new education initiative aimed at primary schoolchildren in Spain (please see pages 8 and 9 for more details)

Our new shop in Brighton has got off to a good start, thanks to the efforts of Christine and her helpers. Do take a summer-time trip to sunny Brighton and visit our shop where all supporters are sure of a great welcome. More news on the shop on pages 20 and 21.

As ever our thanks are due to Carolyn and her helpers at HQ who have cheerfully borne all the additional work involved in these new enterprises.

Martin

Petition to the Spanish Government

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we were working on setting up a petition to the Spanish Government during the time Spain holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Our on-line petition (below) went "live" on our website on the 8th February 2010 and will close on 30th April, 2010. We have, at the time of going to print, over 15,000 signatures from all over the World and would like to take the opportunity here to thank everyone who has kindly signed this petition which we will present to Don Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Presidente del Gobierno de Espana. (Prime Minister of Spain)

If you haven't signed yet, please follow this link and add your name to help the galgos.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/18/stop-cruelty-to-spanish-greyhounds-galgos>

.....
To: Don Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, Presidente del Gobierno de Espana

*We, the undersigned, address this petition to the Spanish Government during Spain's Presidency of the Council of Europe. This petition is sponsored by **Greyhounds in Need**, an English registered charity devoted to the rescue, treatment and rehoming of Galgos Español, the native greyhounds used in Spain for hunting.*

It is very well known in Spain and abroad that these dogs are routinely abandoned or killed by their owners at the end of their first hunting season.



Photo by Marcella Zappeij

Such killing is sometimes carried out by extremely inhumane methods including hanging and is often accompanied by mutilation including branding and other forms of physical injury. Many galgos are simply abandoned, having been neglected, or have obviously been mutilated to disguise their identity. The welfare groups in Spain, which are signatories to this petition, have ample recent evidence that these barbaric practices continue unabated. Concerned people in Spain estimate that over 50,000 galgos are killed or abandoned each year.

As a measure of the size of this problem, we would inform you that Greyhounds in Need alone spends some Euros 130,000 each year on its work in Spain and in rehoming elsewhere, dealing with only a small fraction of the galgos abandoned. To this must be added the considerable sums expended by the many rehoming groups in the UK and other European countries, and the Spanish refuges who help export galgos.

We call on the Government of Spain, during its term of office in the Presidency of the European Union, to enact and enforce humanitarian legislation to protect the galgos of Spain from such barbaric treatment. This would help bring Spain to its rightful position alongside other European nations in according proper standards of protection to its animal population. It would also free foreign charities from the burden of coping with the results of this lack of protection.

This plea is supported by many Spanish citizens and organizations, who fervently wish to see their great nation giving proper respect and humanity to these suffering creatures.

.....

The Treaties that form the European Community do not currently cover animal welfare so European-wide legislation is not possible and only the Spanish government can legislate to end the barbaric treatment of greyhounds in Spain.

Educational Booklet—

Visit by Mada

We were very pleased to welcome Mada and her husband Rafa to the GIN office in Wraysbury last month. Mada runs the RECAL refuge in Almendralejo and although we have worked with her for many years now taking galgos she has been able to rescue, we had never met.

We are able to offer financial help to Mada to enable her rescued galgos to be tested, treated if necessary, and transported to Pep's kennels in Barcelona. Pep continues their preparation for homing by carrying out sterilisations etc.

The majority of galgos we take from Mada are homed in France and Switzerland, thanks to the adoption groups we work with in these countries. However, we bring a few galgos to the UK and it was lovely for Mada and Rafa to meet Mary-Anne again.



Rafa, Mada, Geraldine and Mary-Anne outside the GIN office in Wraysbury



Mada, Martin and Geoffrey at GIN HQ

Mary-Anne, originally from RECAL, came to the UK in 2009 and has been adopted by Geraldine and Tom. Geraldine is a volunteer and helps us in the GIN office. Mary-Anne comes to work with her and looks forward to meeting Lurchy and usually manages to make herself comfortable in his bed - he gets his own back by pinching her biscuits when she is not looking !

We have also sent many parcels of kindly donated coats, medicines and blankets to RECAL to aid their work as you can see in the photo below. Mada sends her "thanks" to everyone for these, they are much needed.

As well as rescuing galgos in her local area Mada organises exhibitions and events to raise awareness of the plight of the galgos and also to encourage people to regard them more as pets and offer them a home.

She is very keen to help us with our Educational booklet and has already enlisted interest and support from other refuges and schools in and around the Extremadura region of Spain.

Mada came to the UK to meet us to discuss the booklet which is aimed at young schoolchildren, in an attempt to instil in them an understanding of the needs of all animals as sentient beings and also a realisation of the dire plight of Spanish galgos.

The experience of many animal welfare groups teaches us that it is to the rising generation that we must turn if any lasting good is to be achieved.

We are all excited about the launch of this booklet and are very grateful to Mada for the work she has already done in Spain to help get this project off the ground and also for her enthusiasm and ideas for the future.



Galgos at the RECAL refuge wearing coats kindly made and donated by GIN supporters



News from the Treasurer It's time for another look at GIN's finances. In 2009 supporter income fell by 3%, probably a good performance in the recession. Merchandise was also affected with sales down £2000. The good news came from the Bournemouth shop, where sales of donated goods rose by £7000. We opened a second shop in Brighton in August 2009, which made a good start, but produced a loss for the period to the end of 2009, to be expected as it takes time for a shop to become established. Sales are going well and we are confident of a successful future. We benefited from two large legacies in 2009, totalling £95000. So, overall, income in 2009 stood up well. Of course we cannot rely on future legacies and it is therefore important that fund-raising efforts continue.

We get many donations by cheques sent to Wraysbury and our sponsorship scheme receives supporter assistance by standing orders. I would like to remind supporters of our two online facilities, Just Giving and Charity Choice. Just Giving is a large operation, whose online systems enable supporters to credit a donation to GIN's account and charge it to the supporter's credit card. It is widely used for sponsorship—for example someone running in a Marathon could set up a special account to benefit GIN and tell all their friends to sponsor them via this Just Giving account. Any supporter who would like to help GIN in this way, please contact Wraysbury and we will help them set up an account for GIN. Just Giving is a commercial organisation and charges GIN a small fee and commission, while the Charity Choice system is free to registered charities.

Donations and also payments for merchandise can be made via Charity Choice and again the supporter's credit card will be charged. This works very well for merchandise—phone our office, tell us what you want, we'll calculate the total, then you pay via Charity Choice and within an hour GIN will be notified of your payment, and by then the parcel will be ready for posting.

Please don't forget Gift Aid, the method used by the Government to help charities. I've written about it in many previous newsletters, and am pleased to say that both Just Giving and Charity Choice offer Gift Aid declarations, so GIN gets the extra cash.

One other method of helping GIN is available to working supporters. All large employers and many small ones, have a Payroll Giving system, known as GAYE, under which charitable giving is taken from gross pay, i.e. tax is reduced. So if you are a standard rate tax payer and donate £5 per month to GIN, this will actually cost you £4 per month, while GIN will of course get the full £5. If you are interested in helping GIN in this way, contact your payroll department, and if they operate GAYE, ask them to set up a regular donation to GIN.

Please contact me at Wraysbury if you need further details on any of the areas I've covered above.

Geoffrey

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 and vital to help us continue our work.

Cheques and postal orders, payable to Greyhounds in Need, can be sent straight to us at : ***Greyhounds in Need, 33, High Street, Wraysbury, Middlesex , TW19 5DA***

Regular donations and membership renewals can be made by monthly standing order mandate, please see page 12 . If you pay UK income tax and / or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim please complete the Gift Aid form. Once a Gift Aid Form is signed by you, we can claim tax back on any previous donation you have made from April 6th 2000 and of course all future donations.

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.

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.

I would like my donation to go towards :

Veterinary costs

Transport

Galgos in quarantine

Veterinary supplies

Coats, collars, leads, muzzles

Boarding

BANK STANDING ORDER MANDATE

Full name.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

I would like to help Greyhounds in Need with an annual / quarterly / monthly gift of £.....

Name of your bank.....

Address of your bank.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Bank sort code -..... -..... Account Number.....

Bank Instruction:- Please pay the stated amount on the same day each year / quarter / month, starting on / / /

Signature Date.....

giftaid it

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

Name in full.....

Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Date of completion

Telephone (home)

Email

I would like Greyhounds in Need to treat all donations that I have made for the past six years prior to this year (but no earlier than 6th April 2000) and all future donations that I may make until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations.

Membership Thank you to everyone who renewed their memberships again for 2010 and also welcome to the many new members joining us this year.

For new supporters wishing to become members please complete the form below and if you are a UK tax payer please complete the gift aid form on page 12 too !

Our membership fee is £12 per year (£6 minimum for non-wage earners), All members receive a membership card and a little gift from us.

All GIN members are now entitled to a 5% discount on their merchandise orders. Please write your membership number on the merchandise order form when you send it to us.

Many thanks

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 £12 (£6 minimum for non-wage earners)to cover the period **1st January 2010 to 31st December 2010**

If you are a UK tax payer please complete the form on page 12 so that we can claim gift aid on your membership.

New Member

Renewal

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

Address:.....

.....

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

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

Date:.....

Bournemouth Shop News

Hi Everyone

This year is a very special one for us in Bournemouth; we are celebrating 10 years of successful fundraising through the shop and by holding various events, and have found lovely homes for numerous needy dogs along

the way. During this time I have met some wonderful people and gained a deep insight into the sinister world of greyhound racing. Nothing could ever have prepared me for this difficult journey !

Thankfully more and more people are becoming aware of what wonderful pets greyhounds and lurchers make. They, too, have been smitten by their gentle and laid back temperament. Greyhounds are truly very special dogs.

A very busy summer is looming ahead with many events already organised including street and store collections, our annual sponsored walk and, the highlight of this year, our 10-year Celebration Fair and BBQ at the Greyhounds in Need Shop, Bournemouth. (Please see page 15)

We will need lots of help to make these events successful so please let me hear from you very soon!

THE GALGOS/GREYHOUNDS NEED YOUR SUPPORT !

Regards,

Sue

Greyhounds in Need Shop, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 513000



Sue and Snoopy

GREYHOUNDS IN NEED

Reg'd Charity in England & Wales No 1069438



SUMMER FAIR & BBQ

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

SATURDAY 5th JUNE

10.30am—2pm

GREYHOUNDS IN NEED
SHOP/GARDEN,
952 WIMBORNE ROAD,
MOORDOWN

01202 513000

Cakes* *Tombola
Gifts* *Bric-a-brac
BBQ



Current quarantine Galgos— The six Galgos currently in quarantine are all reserved and will be released from quarantine on 30th April 2010.



Martina (left) and Tara were the first to be reserved and chose Sussex as their future home.



Danko decided he would travel to Cambridgeshire to start his new life.



Boss worked his charm on a nice lady in Wiltshire



Andrea waited patiently for a family in Kent to visit her and fell in love with them straight away.



Matias kept his cool while waiting for his new family who live in Yorkshire.

Pat

Forthcoming Events in aid of GIN Full details of these events are given below and these and future events will be shown 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 & Mollie for more dates/details on 01202 723540 or 07957 295 120. Proposed dates for future walks are :-18th April, 13th June, 18th July, 15th August, 12th September.

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 on 02920 212592

April

18th - Dog walk and treasure hunt. GIN volunteers, together with their friends from the North West Branch of the RGT are organising a Social Dog Walk and Treasure Hunt in Delamere Forest, Cheshire, from 10am to 3pm. Walkers will leave from the Linnere Lodge Visitors Centre, in Delamere Forest, CW8 2JD at regular intervals. Cafe, car parking and toilets are available. More information from Sue and Phil on 0161 620 6094.



24th - Fun Dog Show and Spring Fancy Dress Event at Weavervale Garden Centre, Winnington Lane, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 4EE. GIN have very kindly been invited to organise a Fun Dog Show to celebrate the expansion of their Pet Department. There will be a special prize for the best Fancy Dress which celebrates the arrival of Spring. GIN volunteers will be fundraising and awareness raising from 11am to 4pm. The Dog Show will take place from 12 noon. More details from Sue and Phil on 0161 620 6094.

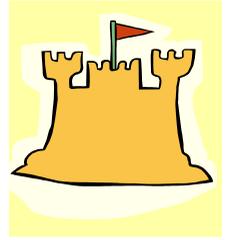


24th - Street collection in Evesham, Worcestershire. Helpers needed please. More details from Sue Boone on 01527 869395.



May

1st - Fundraising at the seaside. Come along and enjoy a day at the Seaside GIN volunteers will be at Cleveleys Town Centre, near Blackpool from 10am - 4pm. Please ring Sue or Phil White on 0161 620 6094 for more details.



2nd - The Great Northern Greyhound Gathering, Marbury Country Park, Comberbach, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 6AT. Gathering of all our greyhound friends. Please contact Sue and Phil White on 0161 620 6094 for more details.

8th & 9th - Thundersprint Motorbike Show and Race. Northwich Town Centre, Cheshire. For more details please ring Sue and Phil 0161 620 6094.



Drawing by GACI

16th - Annual sponsored walk at Hengistbury Head, Dorset. Please come along to this very popular walk which Sue has been organising for some years now. The walk will start at 11am, for more details and sponsor forms please phone Sue on 01202 513000.

22nd - Street Collection in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. 9.30am—2pm. Please phone Sue at the GIN shop in Bournemouth on 01202 513000 for more details. Helpers welcome.

June

5th - Celebration Fair, 10.30 - 2pm, to celebrate 10 years of the GIN shop in Bournemouth. [More details on page 15](#)

13th - Saddleworth Summer Show, Oldham. 10am—5pm. Lots of acts, side shows and events so please come along. More details from Sue and Phil on 0161 6206094

19th - Englefield Green Village Fair, Surrey, Please come and visit the GIN stand at this annual fair, lots to do for all the family.

19th - Wraysbury Fair, Middlesex, GIN will once again be at this popular village fair which is very near our office. For more information please ring Carolyn or Lynne on 01784 483206



26th- GIN stall at Winton Carnival, Bournemouth, 10.30am—7pm. Offers of help please to Sue at the Bournemouth shop on 01202 513000.

30th- Street Collection in Dorchester, Dorset, 9.30am—2pm Helpers welcome please. Contact Sue at the GIN Shop on 01202 513000 for more details



July

3rd & 4th - Fundraising at the Morrison's Supermarket, Saxon Street, Denton, Manchester M34 3DS. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed. Please come along and help.



4th - 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

30th & 31st - Collection day at Sainsbury's, Alder Road, Parkstone, Dorset. Helpers needed please. If you can come along and give a hand please ring Sue—01202 513000.

August

15th "Fun Dog Show" at the Home Farm, Tatton Park in Cheshire.

Please contact Sue or Phil White on 0161 620 6094 nearer the time for more details.

28th - Egham Royal Show, Surrey - please come along and visit the GIN stand, dogs welcome. More details from Carolyn and Lynne on 01784 483206.



September



4th - Fundraising at the seaside. Come along and enjoy a day at the Seaside GIN volunteers will be at Cleveleys Town Centre, near Blackpool from 10am - 4pm. Please ring Sue or Phil White on 0161 620 6094 for more details.

October

27th - Street Collection Dorchester, Dorset. Helpers welcome please. Contact Sue at the GIN Shop on 01202 513000 for more details.

December

5th - Christmas Meet and Greet at Wistaston Memorial Hall, Church Lane, Wistaston, near Crewe, Cheshire CW2 8ER from 1-5pm. There will be stalls as well as the opportunity to have a chat, a cup of tea and a mince pie. There will also be a Fancy Dress parade and you never know, Santa may make another guest appearance! More details from Sue and Phil on 0161 620 6094.

Brighton Shop News

The Brighton shop has been open now for over six months and is doing very well thanks to the hard work of Christine and her volunteers. They have been very lucky with the huge amount of donations that have been brought along to the shop.



The shop window is changed regularly and this seems to be a popular way to attract more customers - often items in the window catch people's attention and are soon sold.

Christine has her regular visitors, some with their own dogs, and Christmas was a special time - St George's Road had late night opening and despite the bad weather people turned up to enjoy a hot drink and mince pie, Carol singers joined in too. Babs, a volunteer at the shop, made little stockings for all the regular doggy visitors who came along to collect their treats—please see photos on page 21.

The shop sells household items, clothing, toys, DVDs, CDs, books, bric-a-brac plus our own greyhound related merchandise all at reasonable prices.

If you can help in any way in the shop, sorting out donations, pricing items, serving customers, or if you have any items that you would like to donate to GIN please give Christine a call on 01273 674100 or pop into the shop at—

**19 St. George's Road,
Kemp Town,
Brighton, BN2 1EB.**

Opening hours are -Monday to Friday 10am - 5pm,
Saturday 10am-4pm.

Telephone / Fax: 01273 674100



Homing Feedback — the one reward a homing officer needs is to know that owners and dogs are happy together and we most certainly have had a huge amount of good feedback. When we speak to an owner we always ask how their dog is getting along but feedback is freely given without having to ask for it. Of course we get to hear about problems and offer what advice we can but we get so much positive feedback it makes the job so much easier as it definitely helps to be able to tell would-be adopters how others have got on with their dogs. Feedback is not only the written or spoken word but is wonderfully illustrated by the many photos we receive. Some of these photos prove that Galgos can live happily with cats and other small furrries.

Viv in Gloucestershire says of Freddie (Colonia) "she is loved by everyone she meets, both 2 and 4 legged. I have 2 cats now and they both adore her (she is so warm to snuggle up to) and Freddie puts up with all the attention - head rubbing and licking etc. Who said greyhounds and cats don't get on!!!! "



Freddie and Friend



Anne and Peter in Cambridgeshire fell in love and adopted Fern (Marina). Anne says that Fern is so sweet and quite a character. They just love her to pieces and they now can't wait to take Danko home . They also have 2 other hounds.



"Raven (Raika) (left) is much calmer than Gracie (Peluda) who makes me laugh out loud with some of her antics. It is so nice to have two such lovely dogs with such different personalities - so thank you again." Vivien in Cumbria



Arfa (left) lives in Norfolk with Yvonne and Shakir (Diana) lives with Jan in Norfolk. Much to the delight of both Yvonne and Jan, Arfa and Shakir became best buddies. Jan has since adopted Blaise (Fortuna)(below) who fits in very well.



Archie with guinea pigs

Wendy writes of Sadie (Paulette) "She has been here for 2 months and I can't imagine life without her. She is so placid and her personality is slowly coming through. I consider myself very lucky to have Sadie, she was worth waiting for".



Linda writes "I thought you might like to know how Enrietta (now Ennie) is getting on in her new home. She's been absolutely brilliant the way she has settled in with us - I don't think we could have had a better dog! She was able to go off the lead after just 3 weeks and comes back when called."

Please continue to send us feedback about your dog/s as we like to know how they are and love to have photos.

I would like to conclude with my usual plea for home checkers. If you think you could help in this way please email me at:

patriciawhipps@ntlworld.com or call 01784 434735 Many thanks

Pat

Tribute to an Angel: Calvin 1/7/01-18/11/09

Unlike any other dog I've owned, I've not been able to talk about his loss until now, two months later.

Calvin was a tall gangly galgo, rescued initially by Bartolome in Cordoba, Andalucia, and known previously by his coursing name, Curro, and by the name given to him by the kennel girls in Spain, Mus, because his little face resembled a mouse's and they spelt it wrong! Under that misspelling, he was imported to the UK and quarantined in Nottingham where I first met him. He was homed for 5 years with Debbie in Bridlington until illness hit her family. I took him on in March 2008 and he lived here on the Isle of Wight with me and my three other greyhound/galgo bitches.



TRIBUTES

Life was bliss for him here. He loved the beaches, chasing a ball, racing round my garden, bravely jumping against the fences terrorising the neighbours' dogs, and embarrassing my elderly genteel females with his over-enthusiastic behaviour, like lunging at other customers' meals in pubs... Unlike other greys and galgos, he loved men. He would excitedly approach and examine every new man we met on our walks, as if looking for someone.....I guess it was Bartolome! I know Bartolome, and I'm not surprised he longed to greet him again! In early summer of 2008, he started to show signs of weakness of his back left foot as if the tendon in the hock area could not fully lift it. He still ran after balls and loved his walks despite the cumbersome task of dragging his back half along behind him. It didn't seem to bother him though it bothered spectators. To cut a long story short, he was referred to a specialist canine orthopaedic centre in Godalming where a scan revealed a seriously protruded cervical disc causing increasing paralysis and general muscle wasting. Now I realised why in spite of his excellent appetite, he was so thin. A greyhound with a metabolism naturally low in fat, relies almost entirely on muscle for flesh and his muscles were wasting due to nerve damage. I was faced with the decision to have him euthanased or allow the surgeon to try to repair the disc. He was only 8 years old and his bones appeared healthy and frankly it was the only chance he had so we went ahead.

The six weeks following surgery were not easy as he had to be confined, and monitored 24/7, but with the dedicated help of my sister and friends, we managed it and he remained happy and comfortable throughout, unaware of the seriousness of his condition or its possible implications. But the paralysis was not improving and tragically it was found on follow-up X-ray that the repair was not holding and could implode on the spinal cord itself. We took him home and he was euthanased later on my sofa here at home, leaned on by his best friend, Taz. I can say hand on heart that he did not know pain and suffering. He was happy with his lot to the last. That is what I found toughest. If he wasn't bothered by his paralysis, why should we be?
I still ask myself that question.....

Anne

I am sad to have to tell you that I had to have my lovely **Nero** put to sleep on Saturday. He had deteriorated greatly in the last month and had stopped eating. His back legs were going and he had lost interest in going out. When he collapsed on Friday I knew it was time and my vet came to the house and put him to sleep.

His ashes will go in my garden where he had such fun digging enormous holes! I got him from you in May 2004 when he was 7 years old and my days have revolved around him for 6 years. **Vera Bain**

In January we lost our beautiful **Spring** (alias Paqui) she was nearly 14 years old. She had major surgery on her neck about 5 years ago and never fully recovered. When we got Pipo 3 years ago we thought Spring was on her last legs then...how she proved us wrong! she was "my girlie" she was my best friend and my "spring ding" and because of her fabulous ears was also called Dobbie (the house elf, from Harry Potter). God Bless my girlie.x

Sue

ZOE (racing name ONOMASTICA) 4.10.94 – 23.10.09

Zoe came to us in the autumn of 2000 – a small, sturdy, black girl that no-one else seemed to want. She had been exported from southern Ireland to race in Barcelona several years before and I think her strong disposition had been her saviour during her time out there.

We already had a gentle, black lurcher, Cleo, of the same age and even though they tended to ignore each other they also showed a kind of understanding. At first, Zoe was very aggressive towards other dogs, always wore a muzzle and was also unpredictable with people. She would never be cuddled and even when you stroked her she would often try to nip and warn you to stay away – what a blessing when she had all her decaying teeth removed! Even though her aggressive behaviour upset me I could understand why she might be behaving in this way and rather than give up on her I intended to ensure the rest of her life would be happy and comfortable. Over time she mellowed a little and always enjoyed being near Cleo for company.

During the last couple of years Zoe suffered with stomach problems but despite this she still soldiered on into her sixteenth year until her back legs became very weak. Even though she could not walk far she enjoyed going to the park in the car, taking a short walk and then lying contently in the sun for a while watching other dogs around us. I even managed to stroke her on occasions – she seemed to be really enjoying a little affection during her last days.

When it was time to finally say 'goodbye' she attempted one last nip... at the vet! We do miss her.

Sue North, The Greyhounds in Need shop, Bournemouth



Badger who died in my arms, at the vets, was simply my best friend and the best dog in 30 years I have known. His last action was to lick my hand, which was so Badger. Everything he did, he did out of love and he went from being a traumatised galgo to being calm and confident. The seven years friendship Badger and I had were the best years of my life. Gold Bless you Badger. I still love you and always will. A heartfelt thank you to all those who supported Badger and I during his battle with leukaemia and surrounded us with love and care and those who carry on the work with the galgos of Spain. **Jenny**

Our Princess Nuria The day you came to your forever home on the 3rd April 2009 was like a breath of fresh air in what had been a very hard and sad six months in our family life. We were so happy to bring you home that day, at last we had something to look forward to. It was a shaky start getting used to all the new smells and sometimes very loud sounds of a home you had never known.

Soon enough though you were ruling the house sleeping on everyone's bed apart from your own! I remember an evening we had to fight for the sofa and guess who won princess Nuria! As soon as you heard the jingle of your lead or the "walkies" word your ears would prick up even if it was only the one. In the short seven months you were with us, you brought so much happiness to our family and we have such great and funny memories of us getting to know each other. The night you decided to jump the garden wall and spend the night in

Windsor great park was one of the longest of our lives, getting everyone involved in the search party and up all night worrying where you were, only to find you at the back door in the morning waiting for your breakfast. I bet you gave the bunnies a hard time that night. Saturday the 21st November 2009 brought one of the hardest decisions we had to make. Your kidneys were failing and life was draining from you, I looked into your eyes and they told me what I had to do. Special thanks to Carolyn for your much needed support on that day. We miss you so much but will always have special memories to remember you by. We thank GIN for giving us the opportunity to give Nuria the best seven months of her young life. God Bless.xxxx **Tracey and family**



News from Cheshire

Spring has finally arrived here in the North West after a cold and seemingly endless winter. We thought that the snow and ice would never melt. Thank goodness we didn't arrange any events for early in the New Year.



*Sue and supporters fundraising
at Pets at Home, Cheshire*

It was a pleasure to meet up with many of our friends and fellow volunteers at our first fundraiser of 2010, which was held on March 14th, Mothers Day, at Ashton Pets at Home.

We have a fantastic group of loyal volunteers, all of whom share our passion for greyhound and galgo welfare. It was heartwarming to receive so many phone calls and emails asking when the next event would be. Many friendships have begun at our events. We don't just fundraise we socialise as well.

In December 2009 we organised a Thank You lunch for our volunteers which was well attended and very enjoyable. The GIN Trustees very kindly made a generous contribution to the cost of the lunch. This recognition of their support and commitment was much appreciated by all the volunteers.

As we predicted in the last newsletter, 2009 was a record year for fundraising here in Cheshire and the North West. We hope to do even better in 2010 as we have been invited back to many of last year's most successful venues. Our Fun Dog Shows have proved particularly popular and we are organising events at Appleton Thorn, near Warrington and Weavervale Garden Centre, near Northwich in the coming months.

We are looking forward to our twice yearly visits to the seaside, to Cleveleys, near Blackpool in May and September and to joint events with our friends from other greyhound charities including a Treasure Trail in Delamere Forest in April and The Great Northern Greyhound Gathering at Marbury Country Park in May.

May is a busy month with the two day Thundersprint in Northwich where hopefully all the bikers will be equally as generous as they were last year.

Our branch of GIN did not home as many dogs in 2009 as we did in 2008 as there are now several other charities who are active in the area. This can only mean better opportunities for finding loving homes for more dogs. We already work very closely with the North West branch of the RGT and are beginning to establish links with the newly formed branch of the RGT which is based at the Belle Vue race track in Manchester.

On the next page you will be able to read about our involvement in the successful homings of Bonny, Kylie and Tom across the Channel. These were exciting new ventures and we hope to be involved in similar transportations in the future.

Charity, who was mentioned in the last newsletter, has been adopted by Jenny and Jim, two of our volunteers and fosterers. Jenny and Jim had only recently lost their rescued lurcher, Jasper. Carlo, who is being fostered by another two of our volunteers and fosterers, Carol and Steve, is shortly going to be adopted by them. Earlier last year they had lost their handsome young greyhound, Charlie. Charity's brother, Jasper, has been adopted by John and Rob. Jasper is now living with Rasta the galgo after the untimely death of his little greyhound friend, Scoot. It is amazing how the passing of one much loved dog can open the door of opportunity for another dog who is in need of a home.

Do look out for our events in Cheshire and the North West (pages 17-19) and please don't hesitate to come along and say hello. We will be very pleased to see you.
Sue, Phil and Carol.



Can you offer Tommy a home ? He is a small greyhound with a large personality. He is loving, affectionate and house trained. He walks excellently on the lead. He jumps in the car at any excuse and travels well. Tommy is currently in a foster home in North Manchester. He needs a special quiet home with experienced owners. For more information please contact Sue or Phil on 0161 620 6094



English Greyhounds—Ebony, Kylie and Tom In July 2009, the day before we went on holiday to Cornwall, I received a phone call from a retired English couple, Thelma and John, who had seen a beautiful black greyhound called Ebony featured on the GIN website as needing a home. Apart from our holiday, the other two problems were that Ebony had just been homed here in the North West and the couple lived in Brittany in Northern France!

This was the beginning of a wonderful story of co-operation between volunteers from the Cheshire and North West branch of GIN, GIN Head Office and friends across the Channel. As a result three ex-racing greyhounds have found their forever homes in France and Belgium.

From first speaking to Thelma and John I felt as if we had known each other for years. They were originally from Devon but now had a beautiful home with an acre and a half of land in Brittany. It sounded and looked like greyhound heaven! They were looking for a black greyhound as a new friend for their nervous rescue lurcher, Sally, whose greyhound friend had recently passed away. They had previously homed two rescue greyhounds who had both lived long and happy lives.

When we returned from holiday we learnt that Ebony's home in the North West was not working out as we had hoped. Ebony, now Bonny, needed to be moved and we set the wheels in motion to transport her across to France. This was a steep learning curve as none of us knew anything about Pet Passports or the logistics of taking dogs across the Channel.

Thanks to our fantastic volunteers, Bonny went to her new home with Thelma, John and Sally in September 2009. Bonny has really landed on her paws and we have received some beautiful photographs of her settling

into her new life in Brittany. Many thanks to everyone for the parts they played. Sandra and Graham are now our experts on Pet Passports after liaising with the vets and DEFRA; Jules and Rob who fostered Bonny and then very kindly transported her across to France; Jennifer and Roy who fostered Bonny when she first left the kennels and not forgetting our now good friends Thelma and John for contacting us to offer a home to a very lucky greyhound girl.



Kylie and Tom

Thanks to the excellent relationships which GIN has established with Josephine's Rescue group we were asked if we could arrange for a group of ex-racing greyhounds to be transported to new homes which were waiting in Belgium.



Tom has found a nice bed in Belgium !

We were able to identify two dogs with the temperaments we thought would be suitable, Kylie and Tom. Two beautiful black dogs with white markings.

With the help of our volunteers newly gained expertise with Pet Passports and Cross-Channel Ferries we again set the wheels in motion. In November 2009 Kylie and Tom were successfully taken to Calais by Jules and Rob where they met up with Josephine and her group. We have received some wonderful reports and photographs of both dogs settling into their new homes in Belgium.



Kylie now enjoying life with her new family in Belgium

Our thanks to everyone who worked together to ensure the successful homing of Kylie and Tom. These include Roy and his staff at the kennels; Jenny and Jim for taking them to the vets; Sandra and Graham for their help with the vets and the Pet Passports, Jules and Rob for fostering and then transporting them safely to Calais. Above all, thank you to everyone in Belgium for offering homes to our ex-racers and for the support we received from Carolyn at GIN Head Office and from the GIN Trustees.

Hopefully this is just the start of the story and the beginning of a relationship which will lead to more dogs finding loving homes across the Channel.

Sue and Phil White

Our Work Abroad We have had a busy start to the year and at the time of going to print fifty-six galgos have left Spain to start their new lives in Belgium, France, Italy, Slovenia, and Switzerland.

This has been possible thanks to the great co-operation we have with many refuges and adoption groups abroad.

Wilfrid of Levriers en Difficulte lives in the Pyrenees and is finding more and more homes for the galgos. The events he organises are well attended, especially the walks. He recently went to Vic to collect Celia, Siena, Claus and Uma, originally from Albacete, and Lucas and Ines, originally from Madrid. More photos and a video of Wilfrid's last visit to Vic can be seen on our website. He is now planning his next visit to collect 6 more lucky galgos who will get the chance of a new life in France.



*Wilfrid and supporters
in Avignon*



*Vanilla from Madrid
now homed in France*

In Normandy we are fortunate to work with Jacqueline and Max and their group, Association Sauvetage de Levriers. They were able to take 37 galgos from Vic last year and have already been to Vic to collect Zara, Vainilla, Patan, Torcaz, Carmina and Diva originally from Albacete, Madrid and Almendralejo. They have another trip to Vic soon to collect some more galgos.

In Provence we work with Kathi of SOS Levriers - she also regularly visits Vic to collect galgos for homing in France. One lucky galga, collected by Kathi recently, was Lyra, shown in the photo on the right. She has already settled in very well with her new family.



*Lyra in France thanks to
Kathi and SOS Levriers*

We are grateful again to Josephine and Greyhounds Rescue Belgium (GRB) for organising flights from Barcelona for our new galgos for homing in the UK - they will arrive early May - please see pages 34-36 for more details.

In February this year Manuela of Levriers Swiss Adoptions went to Vic to collect 10 more galgos for homing in Switzerland, including Riko and Flaca, shown in the photo on the right.

Josephine of GRB flew to Alicante in January to collect Kirsty, Merrick, Diesel and Seve from Noah's Arc, Murcia and then to Malaga in February to collect Divino, Seno, Pejiguera and Valentin, all originally from the Villamartin refuge in Cadiz.



Riko from Almendralejo and Flaca from Albacete enjoying themselves in Switzerland

Twenty galgos were transported from Albacete to Modena in March where they were met by Elisa and her group, GACI, and Nina and Nina from Slovensko Drustvo Pomochrtom who had many new families waiting to collect their galgos.



Josephine and a new arrival from Murcia

GIN has been able, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, to fund the veterinary care at the refuges and/or kennels along with covering boarding costs and contributing towards transportation costs for the above and many more greyhounds and galgos. Many thanks to everyone involved for making all of this possible.

Carolyn

Visit by GACI In December 2009, two ladies who help run GACI, Elisa and Lilly, came to meet GIN at Wraysbury. GACI is a greyhound homing group based in Modena, North Italy, finding homes for greyhounds from Ireland and galgos from Spain, which GIN finances. In 2009, GIN organised the delivery of 68 galgos to GACI, for homes in Italy and Slovenia. GIN paid veterinary and sterilisation costs of £9400 for these galgos and contributed a further £2100 towards the transport bills for getting the galgos to Modena.



Geoffrey with Elisa and Lilly from GACI at GIN HQ

The meeting was needed to help both sides understand how the two organisations worked and to see if we could work together more closely in future. We discussed liaison problems with some of the Spanish refuges and transport difficulties when moving galgos from Spain. Several areas of interest were identified-GACI would like to import greyhounds from an English trainer, and GIN would be pleased to get involved if this were practicable-GACI produces a marvellous calendar, which might be adapted in 2010 for GIN to sell in UK.



Elisa welcoming another galgo from Albacete

Elisa is a graphic designer by profession and produces GACI's magazine. This was much admired and we will investigate whether some of this design and printing expertise could help GIN. Lilly speaks excellent English, Elisa slightly worse, but their linguistic skills were far better than the GIN management team, whose only Italian is a few operative phrases. The meeting lasted productively to lunch time, when we were joined by Monica Monti, GIN's London-based Italian volunteer, who helped balance the nationalities more evenly.

It is always nice to meet face-to-face with people who have worked with GIN for several years. Both sides enjoyed the discussions and the increased knowledge of what the two organisations do, will lead to even more galgos being happily homed.

Geoffrey

How You Can Help GIN Our international work, rescuing, treating and finding homes for galgos, is very expensive and all financial assistance is very welcome.

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 shops
- * leaving a legacy to GIN in your Will
- * sending a book of stamps
- * recycling old ink cartridges
- * making dog coats for Spain
- * making donations
- * making donations towards veterinary costs
 - Initial testing for the Mediterranean diseases (€40-60)
 - Vaccinations, treatment for fleas and worms (€40 +)
 - Sterilisations (€80-130)

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 by phoning, or writing to
our Wraysbury office—01784 483206,
Email: info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

The Spanish Galgos 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. We also fund veterinary treatment in other areas of Spain, namely - Albacete, Almendralejo, Cadiz, Jaen, Madrid 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. If you would like to **sponsor one of the galgos** during their time in quarantine please complete the sponsor form below and return to Greyhounds in Need, 33, High Street, Wraysbury, Middx. TW19 5DA.

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 12.

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.....

Our new galgos are shown below and overleaf and are at the kennels in Barcelona being readied for their journey to the UK. They will arrive at the quarantine kennels in Gloucestershire early May. 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.

Canuto, Aurelio, Marco Polo, Casilda and Anita are from the RECAL refuge in Almendralejo and Musa is from Galgos sin Fronteras in Madrid.

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 .



Canuto, a 2 year old dark brindle male galgo rescued in Almendralejo.

He is a little timid but is fine with other dogs

Aurelio, a 4 year old male galgo.

He is brindle with some white markings

He was rescued in Almendralejo





Marco Polo— a 5 year old, sweet, quiet, docile male long haired galgo, rescued by Mada of the RECAL refuge in Almendralejo

Casilda, a 2 year old, brindle female galga from RECAL, Almendralejo. She is very friendly



Anita, a 4 year old white female galga, she is a little frightened.

She was rescued by Mada of the RECAL refuge in Almendralejo



Musa, a very sweet female galga, with long hair, approx. 3 years old. She is very nice and friendly and was rescued by Cristina in Galgos sin Fronteras, Madrid

