

Greyhounds in Need



SPRING / SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016



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

Information about us:

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



<http://greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/eshop>



www.facebook.com/greyhoundsinneed



https://twitter.com/galgos_GIN



<http://www.youtube.com/user/GIN1069438>

Founders: Anne and Arthur Finch

Patrons: Jilly Cooper OBE, Dame Judi Dench CH DBE FRSA,
Peter Egan

Trustees: Terry Dickens, Christine Goodwin, Martin Humphery,
Geraldine Jones, Leigh Sobye BVSc MRCVS

Treasurer: Eric Goodley FFA

General Manager: Carolyn Davenport 01784 483206

Deputy General Manager: Tracey Sanderson 01784 483206

Bournemouth Shop: Lynn Jackson 01202 513000

Brighton Shop: Christine Page 01273 674100

Homing UK: 01784 483206

Supporter / Homing Group Cheshire and the North West:

Carol Cushnie 07872621524, Sue & Phil White 01616 206094

Membership / Merchandise / Sponsorship: 01784 483206

Webmaster: Leigh Dworkin

Cover photo: Fer, from Galgos en Familia, Malaga, now homed in Belgium



Drawing by Monica Monti

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Dear Friends,

We have a lot to tell you in this newsletter but firstly apologise for being a bit late getting it in the post. We have just returned from a visit to Spain and wanted to include a report on our visit—please see pages 14-18.

Last year was another busy year for us and I'm pleased to report that thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters, we were able to fund veterinary costs for 414 galgos. These veterinary costs cover the testing for mediterranean diseases, vaccinations, pet passports, treatments for fleas and worms, sterilisations and microchipping. On top of

these initial costs there are sometimes additional costs for extra treatments, scans, x-rays, operations and re-tests following treatments. We also help with some transport costs for moving the galgos within Spain and to mainland Europe for homing.

Last year we were also able to give funding towards transport costs which have enabled 176 greyhounds, 34 from England and 142 from Ireland, to be homed in France by Levriers en Detresse and in Italy by GACI.

Regular readers will know that we support many shelters in Spain, some by offering funding as above and others by sending dog coats, treats etc, kindly donated by our supporters. We receive some lovely coats for the dogs and send these throughout the year, they are always needed and appreciated.

Our Christmas Treat appeal was again very successful, raising nearly £1,400, thank you to everyone who kindly donated. We have sent many boxes of goodies to the shelters in Spain in the last few months.



Mary-Anne (top)
and Sam often come
to the GIN office
to help Berby !



We say "thank you" to Burns Nutrition Limited for again donating nearly 600kg of dog food to the Arca de Noe shelter at the end of last year.

Also a big "thank you" to Jackie and Phyllis (Claws n' Paws) for kindly raising £300 from their local events which enabled us to buy some waterproof coats for the galgos.

Another way we can help shelters in Spain is to fund necessary projects to improve conditions for the

rescued dogs and to make it easier for the wonderful volunteers to continue their great work helping these lovely dogs. More news on the latest projects on pages 12-13.

Our new galgos for homing in the UK arrived in April and are settling in at the kennels—their photos and details are on pages 35 and 36. We are grateful to Sue, Phil and Carol for their help with the galgo rehoming and also for finding homes for some ex-racing greyhounds in Cheshire and the North West. Please read their news on pages 28-29.

I would like to say a big "thank you" here to Tracey and Geraldine for all their help in the office, especially keeping on top of the merchandise orders and information requests. We are all getting ready for the busy fundraising time and hope we have some nice weather for the events. I must also thank Graham, who kindly offered his help, and we've kept him busy putting items on eBay for us. He has now got a full time job but still pops in to help when he can. Also in recent weeks we have had Irene helping us for one or two mornings a week, she has been helping Eric and Geraldine with the Gift Aid claims we process quarterly.

Last, but not least, I must thank all of our loyal supporters for their generosity and support without which we would not be able to offer the help and support we do to the shelters in Spain and to the adoption groups in mainland Europe.

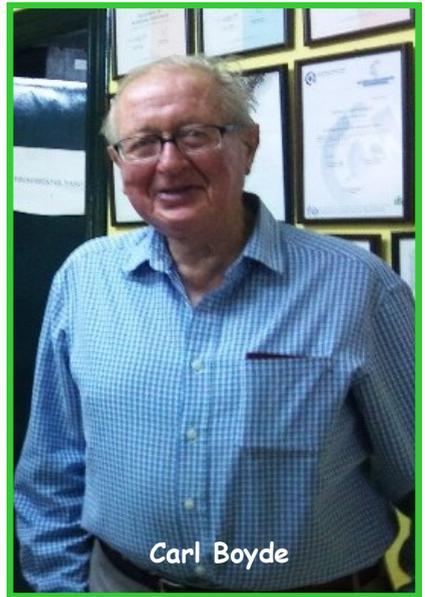
Carolyn



Trustees' pages

It's taken its time but Spring does at last seem to be on the way and it's time to report to GIN's wonderful supporters again.

Sadly, I must start by recording the death of our trustee, Carl Boyde. Carl was a very distinguished and much loved veterinary surgeon who gave us a wealth of advice and help with the health and wellbeing of our rescued dogs. He had a wide experience of his profession, having treated an amazing range of animals including heavy horses, elephants, camels and of course all types of dogs, cats and other pets. He was great company and an all-round good bloke. He will be much missed, particularly by GIN and the other charities he supported and helped.



Carl Boyde

As you will see from the account by Carolyn in this issue, a highlight has been the visit just completed by Leigh, Carolyn, Tracey and myself to three rescue centres in Spain. Two of these were people we had not met before and I found it, once more, inspiring to be able to understand the truly dedicated work done by Spanish volunteers to bring help to the long-suffering galgos and other animals.

We must always remember that this work is done in what is, in many ways, a hostile environment where the police, the local authorities and most of the general public are either indifferent or actually hostile to efforts on behalf of animals.

We are continuing to widen our work in Spain, concentrating more and more on education and the improvement of infrastructure of rescue centres. We see education as the only way forward towards a time when the cruelty comes to an end. This will not be soon, but we must all keep in mind the true aim of animal welfare which is a time when we are no longer needed!

Meeting the galgos at

At the same time we, of course, continue our efforts to find good homes for rescued galgos. While numbers are holding up quite well, this is becoming harder and harder in times of economic uncertainty. We are most grateful to those of our supporters who have experienced the joys of adopting one or more of the world's most wonderful dogs. Please pass the word as widely as possible. Supply is no problem!

A sad feature of this past period has been the trustees' decision to terminate the lease of our Brighton shop in August. Whilst Christine and her volunteers have made noble efforts to increase trade, it has proved impossible to generate sufficient sales to cover our overheads and to produce a surplus to boost our funds.

I must thank our many devoted supporters who continue to provide the funds we need to carry on our vital humanitarian work for the galgos as well as sending much-needed blankets and coats for our dogs who suffer so much from the cold and by supporting our increasingly successful on-line merchandising scheme.

As usual, I cannot close without expressing our and your thanks to all our dedicated staff and volunteers, without whom we could do nothing.



Martin



ChairmanofTrustees@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

Our Patrons

I have always admired Annette Crosbie and the wonderful work she has done for many years for retired greyhounds in this country. However, I had never heard of Greyhounds in Need so, when a chance meeting took place at Kenwood in Highgate between my daughter Finty Williams and Angela Humphery, and we learned about GIN, it seemed like an omen that we should support this charity.

I am very pleased to be a patron of Greyhounds in Need. It is appalling how these beautiful animals are treated and I applaud GIN's efforts in rescuing

them. Hopefully, with your help, we can raise the profile, attract more supporters, and put an end to this abuse.



Judi Dench

Judi Dench



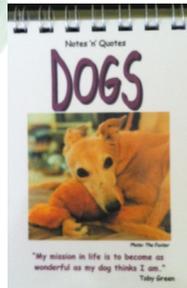
Peter Egan meets Berby at GIN HQ

MEMOIRS OF A PARTY ANIMAL - My Seven Decades in Animal Welfare by Angela Humphery *"This is a heart rending but vitally important book, anyone who loves animals should read and act upon it."*

Jilly Cooper



Please visit our on-line shop where you will find lots of gifts for you and your four legged friends !



<http://greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/eshop>

Education

Our trip to Spain last October included a visit to Arca de Noe, Albacete. As mentioned in our last newsletter we had offered funding for the building of an Education Centre/ Exercise Area and wanted to see how this project had progressed. The majority of the work has been completed now, just some trees to be planted when the weather is right and some extra shade to be provided for the dogs and the visitors.



Carmen is running the programme in and around the Albacete area and has lots of ideas on how to move this project along. She has received good responses on the whole to her requests to visit schools and now that the children can come to the shelter to meet the dogs and spend time with them it is certainly helping.

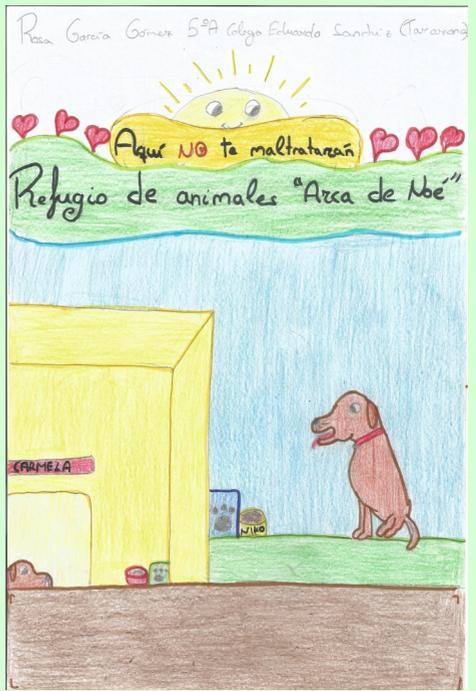
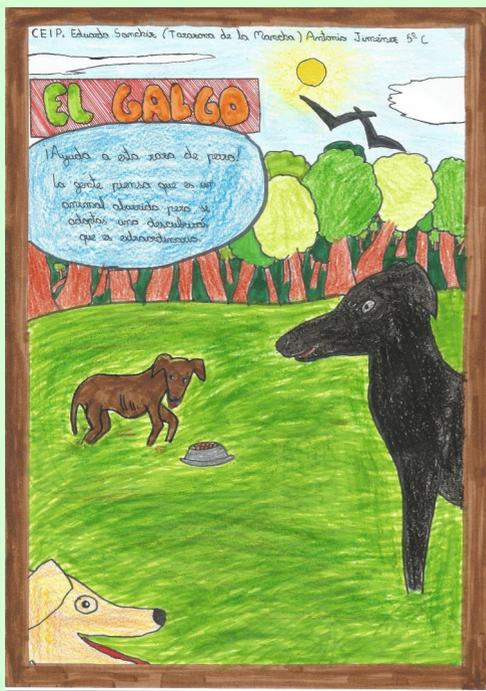
Some schools have given the project good support and it was encouraging to hear from Carmen that one group of children arrived at the shelter with donations of dog food and blankets for the dogs.

Carmen has organised competitions for the children, one involves them drawing pictures of the story they have been told about Nico the galgo and what can happen to the galgos in Spain when they are no longer used for hunting. The three winners of the first competition, are all from the Eduardo Sanchiz School and their pictures are on page 11.



Carmen and Sole visited us in February to meet with Sam and Emma, the education consultants, to discuss the next step for this programme. Carmen showed us the presentation she gives to the students and how she varies it depending on their age. We were able to talk about ways forward for the project and

are now looking at creating a website, linked from our main website, which will be accessible to teachers and pupils allowing them access to certain areas of the site and the ability to use and print off material as and when needed. The site will be maintained and updated regularly to ensure it is kept active.



More drawings can be seen on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/greyhoundsinneed

2016 Projects



Arca de Noe, Albacete have a small clinic at the shelter and many operations, treatments are carried out there throughout the year. In 2015 we were able to fund veterinary costs for around 180 galgos rescued/taken in by them.

When we visited last year Sole told us that the laws were changing and in order to continue carrying out veterinary work at the shelter their current clinic would need remodelling. We all felt that it was less stressful for the dogs to undergo veterinary checks, sterilisations at the shelter clinic rather than be moved back and forth to the vets in the town as well as saving work for the volunteers who would need to transport them.

They will need to have a bigger hospitalisation room, a larger preparation room and will require more equipment in their surgery room in order to comply with the new laws which come into force in June 2016

We were able to discuss this necessary work and talk through the plan (shown above) when Sole and Carmen visited us recently. It was agreed that we would offer funding for this project and Leigh, our vet Trustee, has been able to source some of the veterinary equipment needed with the Arca de Noe team. Work commenced a few weeks ago and should be completed soon, well within the deadline. We will report on this on our website and in our next newsletter.

Galgos del Sol, Murcia



We have supported Tina of Galgos del Sol almost from the beginning of her work for the galgos by giving funding towards veterinary costs for some of the galgos she has rescued. Our last visit was in 2011 and Tina and her team have achieved so much in the last five years.

We visited again last October and were able to see the land where the new Galgos del Sol centre would be built. This is a huge project and will take time to complete but we were able to see that work had started on the first kennel block.

Tina showed us the plans for the project and discussions followed. We could all appreciate that once the work is complete life will become easier for Tina and her team. Having all the dogs in one place, and having a centre where people can visit and help care for the dogs until they are homed would make a big difference.

The urgent work was to get the kennel blocks built and move the galgos from the rented fincas to the new centre. We have now been able to give funding to sponsor 15 kennels in the second kennel block. Work has started already (photos right) and should be completed very soon.



Sharron (Fast Friends Greyhound Adoption), Marylou Hecht (Galgo Podenco Support), Leigh and Carolyn (GIN). Front row Tina (Galgos del Sol) and Martin (GIN)



Visit to Spain

In April we made another visit to Spain. This time we flew to Faro in Portugal and then drove the short journey across the border to Ayamonte.



We met with Claudette from **APAPA** (Asociación Protectora de Animales y Plantas de Ayamonte). We have supported APAPA for some years by funding veterinary costs for some of the galgos they rescue, as well as sending donations of coats, medicines, blankets etc. Like most shelters in Spain they help all breeds and with our help have been able to take in more galgos. They see some very sad cases like Bogart and Chanel.



Back row: l-r, Claudette (APAPA), Leigh, Martin, Carolyn and Tracey (GIN). Front row: l-r, Adriana (APAPA) with Estrella and Mara Engracia (APAPA) with Edna

Their shelter is in the middle of a pine forest and after our meeting with Claudette we drove to the shelter to meet the APAPA team. Joseph is the Manager and he lives on site. We were welcomed by all the dogs, and cats, and moved in and out of their kennels to dodge the very heavy rain. When the rain finally stopped we could spend some time in the main exercise area and did manage to give the dogs some treats and a few cuddles before we left.

Claudette finds homes for the galgos in Holland, Portugal, Spain and Germany and receives good feedback from the adopters which is very important.

They have a good team of volunteers but always need more. They have been able to home dogs locally and organise some fundraising events to raise awareness of their work and to encourage more support. They are keen to promote the education programme and are currently looking at new ideas for this which we hope to report on in our next newsletter.

We said our goodbyes to Claudette and her team and drove to Almendralejo, a journey of around three hours. We were met by Mada of RECAL. We have supported RECAL for many years by funding veterinary and transport costs for the galgos they rescue and first visited in 2010. The galgos that come to the UK come from RECAL, our latest group are on pages 35-36.



I-r—Mada (RECAL), Leigh (GIN), Maria (ADANA), Martin, Carolyn, Tracey(GIN)

The last project we funded was the building of exercise paddocks and it was wonderful to hear from Mada that these have been so successful. The dogs can be regularly exercised, nervous dogs, especially galgos, can be socialised more easily and Mada told us that adoptions have increased in recent years.

More galgos are handed in now and some galgueros will hold on to their galgos until RECAL can take them in. Mada told us that although more volunteers are needed she is getting more support from the local community. They recently set up a project for people to donate plastic bottles for recycling and this has proved popular and helps raise much needed funds.



Leigh with Thor



Tracey with Aroa



Mada with Tico

The galgos at the shelter now will soon be leaving for Pep's kennels in Barcelona and once they leave more can be taken in. Mada and her team have worked so hard at RECAL and we could see what a difference the major improvements have made to the quality of life for the dogs whilst they wait to be adopted. We were able to discuss future projects and one project is providing more shading in the exercise paddocks as the dogs soon destroyed the trees! We await more details from Mada regarding the different options for this and hope to report back on this in our next newsletter.

Eva from **ADANA** (Badajoz) came to meet us in Almendralejo and we then travelled with her to Badajoz, about an hour away.



ASOCIACIÓN DE DEFENSA DE LOS ANIMALES

We met Eva last year in Albacete and it was good to meet her again and also to meet the ADANA team. We



have supported ADANA by funding veterinary and transport costs for galgos they help who are homed in Italy or Slovenia.



Lucas

They don't have their own shelter but place their rescues in foster homes and we met one of their foster Mums who was looking after Lucas. He is a lovely long haired galgo who loves fuss, he kept going amongst us all for strokes and cuddles. He will be going to his new home in Italy soon.

this must be done and they work tirelessly campaigning for a better life for animals in their area.

ADANA help all breeds and report **all** dogs that come into their care to the authorities. They feel very strongly that

They have noticed that people are becoming more interested in the abandoned animals and feel that changes for the better have started. They work hard on the education programme and on raising awareness of the problem for animals in Spain, in particular, the galgos. They feel very strongly that this is the way forward.

ADANA organise many education visits to local schools and have been using the GIN material for the younger children. We were grateful to Elena and Susanna for arranging for us to attend one of their visits at the Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria , San Roque.



Susanna had prepared a powerpoint programme showing cases of cruelty as well as happily homed dogs. The children sat silently watching this and were encouraged to ask questions at the end of the programme. Many could not understand why people



had been cruel to the animals and were glad to see the photos and videos of homed dogs. They seemed genuinely interested asking many questions and were in no rush to go to their next lesson !

It is heartening to see the shelters in Spain pushing forward with the education programme. All appreciate that change will take time but seeing the reaction of the children in the classroom we can feel more positive that the future will be better for many dogs, cats and other animals in Spain.

This trip was a busy one, but very worthwhile. We covered over 400 miles in a few days and a special thank you here to Leigh, our veterinary Trustee, for safely driving us around.

During our visit we had the opportunity to have meetings with Claudette, Mada and Eva about their plans for the future and possible ways we can help. We now await more details/quotes from them on new projects. They have all asked us to thank you, our supporters, for your kind donations, material and financial, which enables us to give support to many shelters in Spain and adoption groups in Europe who are all working hard for the galgos.

**More photos of our visit can be seen on our website:
www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk**

Can you offer a home to Titania?

Titania, now called Tania, is still looking for her forever home. She arrived in the UK last September.

She is a lovely looking, small, black, female galga, approx. two years old, who is currently being fostered and sharing a home with two galgos. She is very affectionate and soon became attached to her foster Mum.

She has settled well, likes her food, has been clean and very good in the home.

Tania enjoys her walks but is quite strong on the lead. Her foster family use a harness as well as a collar and lead to give more control. After her walks she settles back in her bed and can be left for a couple of hours.

She is wary of people, especially a group of people and she needs a bit of time to accept them and realise that she is not going to be hurt. Tania gets on well with the galgos in the foster home and appears alright with larger dogs when out walking. However, she is a bit interested in smaller dogs and needs to be muzzled at the moment.

We feel she would do better in a quiet home, not with young children. It would be nice if she could be homed with another dog, preferably a quiet laid back dog. She definitely needs a home where the family have the time to spend with her to continue to help her gain her confidence outside and learn to accept that other dogs are not a threat to her.

If you feel you can offer a home to Tania please phone Carolyn or Tracey on 01784 483206, or email us info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk





How you can help GIN

We are very grateful to many supporters who work hard throughout the year fundraising for GIN but we are always in need of more helpers.

If you feel you can organize an event, have a table at a car boot sale, organise a street / store collection, sponsored walk please contact us. We can provide literature to display and if you live near our shops we can provide items to sell.

We can promote these events on our main charity website, Facebook and Twitter pages and do mailshots to supporters in the area to encourage support.

These events are very important for the charity as they not only raise much needed funds but they raise awareness of our work and the plight of the galgos. It is also good for the charity to have new members join us, often after they have picked up literature at an event they want to help, and some people have gone on to adopt one of our galgos.



Sponsored events can be added to our Justgiving site making it easier for people to sponsor on-line

<http://www.justgiving.co.uk/charity/search>.



Our Facebook page is receiving many "likes" this has also led to home offers for our dogs. Events can be placed on there to attract more visitors/sponsors. If you have time please visit and "like us" You can add photos and news of your own dogs on here and message other greyhound and galgo owners, exchanging ideas and offering help/advice to new and potential adopters.

<http://www.facebook.com/greyhoundsinneed>



Our Twitter account is also growing in followers. Please visit to read our news and retweet our messages to help spread the word.

https://twitter.com/galgos_GIN

Please continue to send us your used British and foreign stamps as these are sorted and sold in special packs on the internet. Also if you have any unwanted silver or gold jewellery—even if broken, or foreign coins please send these along to us as funds can be raised from these items.

Donations can be made to GIN in a number of ways:

Cheques and postal orders can be sent to our office in Wraysbury.

Regular monthly donations can be set up by standing order.

Donations can be made on line at



OR



You can also now donate to GIN by text. If you would like to give a donation to help a homeless galgo, please text **GINN33 £(amount)** to **70070**.



We now have an account on ebay where items can be sold and 100 % of the proceeds go to GIN. It is possible for our supporters to sell their items on ebay (if they have an account) and ask for a percentage or all of the money raised to go to GIN.

Why not become a member of GIN—our membership fee is £12 for the calendar year (£6 for non-wage earners).

We are fortunate to receive many coats for the galgos and send these to Spain throughout the year.

We have the coat pattern on our website - <http://www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/howyoucanhelp/coat.htm> but can email or put a copy in the post to you if you feel you can help us.

Other items always needed in Spain -

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

Please don't forget to recycle



your old ink cartridges to help GIN— we can provide postage paid envelopes



Fundraising

We are again organising a Summer Raffle. The draw will be on **Friday 22nd July** and this year the top three prizes are – **1st prize - BBQ, 2nd prize - Luggage Set, 3rd prize - Sandwich Toaster.** We enclose herewith a book of tickets and hope you will again take part. Cheques, payable to Greyhounds in Need, and raffle stubs should be returned to us at 33, High Street, Wraysbury, Middlesex, TW19 5DA. If you would like more tickets please call us on 01784 483206, or email us info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk and we will put them in the post.



Events are now being planned around the country for the summer fundraising season—dog shows, walks, store collections, stands at local shows.



Please regularly visit our website
www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk
for news on forthcoming events

You can now help GIN when you shop on-line by using

easyfundraising
.org.uk

Easyfundraising is a great way to raise money for charities, schools, sports clubs, community groups, and other good causes just by shopping online. You don't pay anything extra. Just shop on-line via the easyfundraising.org.uk website. Over 2,700 retailers can be found on the site including Amazon, eBay, Tesco, M&S and Argos

TRIBUTES

Red was a very handsome fawn and white greyhound who would have been fourteen years old on the 14th August 2016. Sadly, we had to help him pass peacefully away one snowy morning in early March of this year.

Red had been a top class racer but when he retired he proved to be gentle and unassuming, a real gentleman. He showed no interest in cats nor initially in small dogs, but unfortunately he was attacked by two terrier type dogs whilst doing what he liked best, pottering around on nearby Oldham Edge, his favourite walk. After that he did become very wary if small dogs came too close to him.

Red wasn't too keen on attending any events. He always wanted to come with the others but then he didn't like too many people fussing him, he was always glad to come home. Red put up with a succession of bossy greyhound girls who shared his home, including Lucy, Chick, Tina and Polly. He used to find a quiet spot on his own duvet and go to sleep.

He came with us on several holidays, to Cornwall, Devon and Norfolk. We have lovely memories of him on the beach at Crantock in Cornwall last April and we were hoping that he would still have been with us in June this year when we are returning to the same cottage. Sadly it is not to be. Hopefully he is pottering happily on another beach, reunited with the friends who have passed away before him.

Red, we miss you very much, you were our very special boy. All our love, Sue, Phil, Maddie, Tina, Polly and Trish xxx

We were sorry to hear that Netty had to say goodbye to **Leila**. Leila lived with Netty and her two galgos and enjoyed good health until some kidney problems were diagnosed and despite medication her condition deteriorated. She was 11 years old. Netty said she was a very ordinary greyhound with a very special spirit. She is much missed.

We are very sad to report the passing of **Sam**, who was much loved by Sandra, Tony and their family. He was a big lad and went off to his new home, after an event at Pennington Flash, in the back of a Nissan Micra. Sam was a real character and was well known in the Staylbridge area. He had a long and happy life and will be sadly missed.

Hello GIN, It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of my **Gracie**, whom I adopted from you in February 2012. She was a spook, very fearful, and it took her almost the 3 years to even get used to my husband. I never heard her bark, and she never played or even roached. But she was my heart dog and a more loyal soul I'll probably never find. About 6 months ago she started getting ill and was eventually diagnosed with liver failure She passed at the vets very peacefully, with my husband and I by her side. She has taken a bit of my heart with her. Thank you, GIN, for giving me two wonderful dogs now - Ellie and Gracie. Marcia

Jen and Roy, have lost their lovely **Tom**. He was 12 years old and had been losing weight and having problems with his waterworks. They miss him very much.



Life with a Galgo

Hi folks - Purdy here again - first of all apologies to those of you who think I am hogging the limelight having now had a piece in each of the last two GIN Newsletters! It's just that I am enjoying life so much these days I want everyone to know how happy you can make a galgo by giving them a place on your sofa and in your heart!

I have been here over a year now - having arrived in Rugby on 10 January 2015. Little did I know what the future held but I think I am truly loved as I often hear the words 'an absolute delight' - 'adorable' etc and I trust that Mum and Dad are referring to me!!

I have already been a 'calendar girl' and no doubt some of you have seen me as 'Miss April' in the GIN 2016 calendar. Considering I had only been here a few months I think my modelling skills had already started to show. However, my attention span still only lasts a few minutes so Judy has to be quick to catch me at my very best!!

I think I mentioned in my previous update how much I love my food - well that hasn't changed. I sit patiently waiting whilst my meal is being prepared and even hold up my paw in anticipation whilst chattering my teeth..... except now, in my enthusiasm, I tend to grab the arm of whoever is holding my bowl. However I am constantly being reminded that it is not the 'done thing' to bite the hand that feeds you!! Not that I am ever in danger of drawing blood you understand! I like to think that my bid for attention is more of a nibble than a bite!

I overheard that my name is under threat and may well be changed.....Purdy may become 'Purvy'. If you touch my hind quarters even gently - my back legs jump up and down involuntarily. Even if one of the other dogs brushes closely past me - the same thing happens. I just can't control my actions and I am told that I look like that Weimeraner on the TV that does the Irish dancing. Still, my Dad is of the opinion that 'computer graphics' have been used for the TV dog - whereas my actions are entirely natural - and the source of some amusement I might add!! It can make putting a coat on me a bit tricky as I bounce and squirm and fidget on the spot.

Now - Christmas 2015 was my first Christmas in a home although not my first in England. By 25th December last year I already had a red 'reserved' against my



name on the GIN website which showed I was 'spoken for' but I was not due to be collected until 10 January. Christmas Day with Mum and Dad brought the traditional meal of turkey and we dogs also had some things called 'pigs in blankets' - these turned out to be cocktail sausages wrapped in bacon. I don't mind what they are called as they tasted delicious!! However, I almost got given a very unexpected gift... a one way ticket back to Spain! Fortunately it was the 'Season of Goodwill' and Mum and Dad relented! Mum was knitting a toy greyhound for one of the smaller Spanish rescues to raffle to raise money for needy hounds. She had folded up her knitting bag - confident that it would remain untouched - however a very inquisitive galga just couldn't resist a look! There was a massive ball of wool in there and temptation got the better of me. I had great fun unravelling it ... but think it took very much longer for Mum to rewind it!

My squirrel 'fetish' has not waned one bit over the past months and I will still sit in the garden for hours on end just waiting for him to appear. I spend so long out there that I have a coat put on me so that I don't get frost-bite during my vigil!! Anyway - that's all once again from a very happy 'adorable' little white galga!... and in the words of the movie that's always shown on TV at Christmas so I'm told....It's a wonderful life!!

Love from Purdy aka Perla

Happy Homings UK and Abroad



Amaya, originally from Albacete,
now homed in Italy



Flossie enjoying her holiday
here in the UK



Morena from Albacete, now
homed in Slovenia



Kiara from Galgos en Familia,
now homed in Belgium



Myra with her new friend Primrose



Mosca cooling down in Spain

Happy Homings UK and Abroad



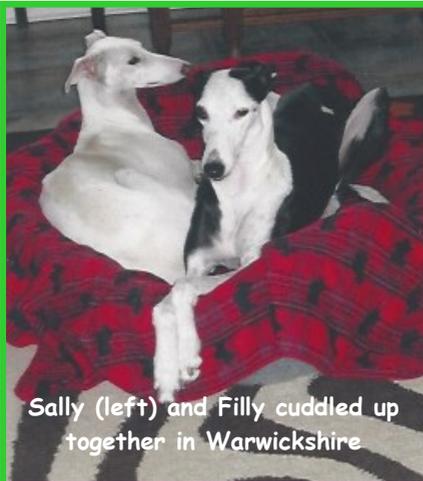
Cleo (left) and Ella happy together in Essex



Freya, originally from Albacete, now homed in Italy



Kallessi from Galgos en Familia with her new friend in Belgium



Sally (left) and Filly cuddled up together in Warwickshire



Cheeto, happily homed in Belgium thanks to Greyhounds Rescue Belgium

News from Cheshire and the North West

Sue, Phil and Carol, volunteers from the Cheshire and North West Branch of Greyhounds in Need are pleased to have been asked to highlight, through the Newsletter, details of what has been happening recently in the Branch and some of the events we have planned for the coming months.

The autumn and winter months were cold and wet here in the north west, so it is nice to be able to look forward to meeting up again with our fellow volunteers when the warmer weather finally arrives. We even had to cancel our attendance, at the last minute, at the much anticipated Dickensian Day in Lymm because of the horrendous weather forecast, which sadly proved to be correct. This was our last event of the year and we all look forward to the pre-Christmas get together whilst raising much needed funds for GIN. The cold and the rain would have been too much for even the hardiest of souls and their dogs, so the disappointing decision was rightly made.

New venue

We have found a new venue over the winter which has proved to be very popular with our volunteers, at the Dogs Country Club, Lowton, which is close to Warrington and to Wigan. Here there are secure fields and a sand paddock where dogs can have a run in freedom and safety. We have booked the venue for a private two hour slot, just for our greyhounds, galgos and lurchers and have enjoyed two sessions so far.

I am sure we will be booking again for later in the year, possibly a barbeque in the summer, so keep an eye on the GIN Events page if you are interested in coming along.

Spring and summer events

Our first event of the year is to be held on **Saturday May 7th** and is the first of our twice yearly visits to the popular Lancashire seaside resort of **Cleveleys**. We will be fundraising on the main street from 10am to 4pm. Our second visit will be on **Saturday September 3rd**.



On Bank Holiday Sunday May 29th GIN volunteers are organising a **Fun Dog Show at the Village Hall, Appleton Thorn in Cheshire**. We organised a Dog Show there a few years ago which was very successful so we are delighted to have been invited back. The Dog Show will start at **12 noon** and there will be 10 classes with rosettes to 6th place. There will also be a barbeque which is being organised in the Village Hall.

On Saturday June 4th we have been invited back to **Barking Berry's Fun Dog Show** which is being held in **Central Park, Westhoughton, near Bolton** from 11am to 4pm. We attended this event for the first time last year, it was very busy and we did very well even though there were a lot of other animal charities there.

On Sunday July 10th we are once again holding our popular **Fun Dog Show at Marbury Park, near Northwich in Cheshire from 12 noon**. 10 classes with rosettes down to 6th place.



On Sunday July 17th we will be in **Fleetwood on the Fylde Coast** for the very busy **Tram Sunday** event. GIN volunteers will be manning our stall from 11am.

On Saturday August 13th we will be fundraising at the **Morrisons Store Denton near Manchester**. We are always made very welcome by both staff and customers at the store but this year the only weekend they could offer us clashes with the **Tatton Park Dog Show** so we are only able to collect at **Morrisons from 10am to 4pm on the Saturday**.

On Sunday August 14th we will have a stand at the **Tatton Park Dog Show** in Cheshire, so a busy weekend, lets hope we are lucky with the weather. For more information regarding these events, at which you will be made most welcome, please contact Sue or Phil White on 0161 620 6094 or check the Events page on the GIN website.

Smudge

I am delighted to be able to report that Smudge, who featured in the last newsletter as needing a home, is now living happily by the seaside in North Wales with his new mum and dad, two Westies called Sooty and Sweep as well as several cats. Our grateful thanks to his foster family, Ellie, Derrick and their children, as well as their cats, who helped him to get ready for his new home.

George

Ellie and Derrick are presently fostering George, who is also proving to be cat friendly and who will soon be looking for his forever home. If you might be interested in adding another dog to your family then please do get in touch.

Sad goodbyes

The winter months have not been good for several of our older four legged volunteers who have passed away, including **Tom**, who is much missed by Jen, Roy and his greyhound brother, Arthur ; **Layla**, who is sadly missed by Mary, Derek and their family ; **JJ** who has left Fiona, Bob and their family heartbroken by their loss ; **Barney** missed by Tim, Amy and their children with whom he grew up, as well as our own **Red**, who would have been 14 in August and who we miss terribly. What an important role our dogs have played in all our lives, through them we have met some wonderful people and established long lasting friendships. It never gets any easier when we have to say goodbye to our much loved dogs, but fortunately they have left us with many happy memories to remember them by.

Sue, Phil and Carol

GIN volunteers, Cheshire and the North West

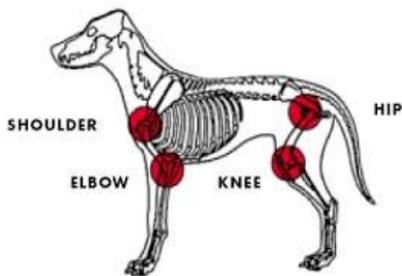


Cheshire-Northwestrehomeing@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

Vet's Corner—Canine Osteoarthritis: Q & A

What is Osteoarthritis and Why is My Dog Affected?

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative problem that affects one or more of the joints in the body. Commonly affected joints include the hips, elbows and stifles. Symptoms of osteoarthritis are joint pain and stiffness, difficulty rising/sitting and 'slowing up' on walks. These symptoms arise because the cartilage that normally provides cushioning and protection to the ends of the bones in joints is damaged or has worn away. Without this protection, the bones rub directly on each other causing pain.



Age also plays an important role in the development of osteoarthritis, as the cartilage can 'wear out' over time. Other factors, such as the joints not fitting together properly (also known as joint dysplasia), obesity, previous joint injuries or joint surgery can accelerate the development of osteoarthritis.

How Do I Know if My Dog Has Osteoarthritis?

If you notice the symptoms of osteoarthritis you should seek the assistance of a veterinary surgeon. There are many other conditions that affect the bones and joints that can present with symptoms similar to those of osteoarthritis. It is important to obtain an accurate diagnosis so your dog can receive the best level of care.

What Medications Can Help My Dog?

The main aim of managing osteoarthritis is to provide pain relief to ensure your dog remains comfortable. There are many different types of medication that can provide pain relief but the most commonly used drug is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID).

NSAIDs reduce pain and inflammation within the joint. They are prescription only medications therefore a vet needs to prescribe them for your dog. This medication comes in liquid or tablet form and are given to your dog with food. A blood test may be required if your dog takes NSAIDs for a long period of time

to check the health status of his or her internal organs. This is to ensure it is safe and appropriate for NSAIDs to be used. Tramadol is an opiate based medication that is also a pain reliever. It can be used instead or as well as NSAIDs depending on the overall health of your dog and level on pain control required. NB: Tramadol is a human medication and usually your vet will seek additional consent before prescribing such a medication.

What Lifestyle Changes Can Help My Dog?

Weight loss is an extremely important part of helping to manage osteoarthritis in overweight dogs. The heavier the dog, the more pressure and strain is put on the joints often resulting in higher levels of discomfort and faster progression of osteoarthritis. Weight loss can be achieved through calorie restriction and exercise plans.

Appropriate exercise plans can ease joint stiffness, build up muscle mass and contribute to weight loss and therefore can help slow the progression of the condition. The main principal of exercising a dog with osteoarthritis is creating a regular routine that does not cause pain/discomfort. The plan for each dog will differ depending on how severe the osteoarthritis is and the fitness level and weight of the dog. Hydrotherapy is a form of exercise that can help build muscle mass to support the joints without putting excessive pressure on the joints.

What Adjunctive Therapies Can Help My Dog?

Acupuncture can be used in combination with lifestyle and medical management of osteoarthritis. It involves placing multiple fine needles into specific areas of the skin and leaving them in place for a short period of time. Over repeated sessions, many owners feel this helps improve their dog's mobility.

Joint supplements are non prescription medications that can help support the environment of the joint and in some cases help slow the progression of developing osteoarthritis. Examples of joint supplements include glucosamine, chondroitin, green lipped mussel extract, and poly-unsaturated fatty acids. Most joint supplements come in tablet form and are often used long term.



Leigh Soby BVSc MRCVS

September Galgos update

Seven galgos from our September group are now in homes. **Zeth** was the first to leave and he is now living with Mike and family in Scotland. **Rubia**, the most nervous in this group, and **Mari**, are living in Cheshire with Judith. **Latino** soon found a home and he is living quite near us in Uxbridge. **Lorina**, the oldest in this group, is also living near us in Berkshire with Susan. **Gemela** (now Ella) has been adopted by Diane in Essex and now lives with galga Cleo. **Bronte** (now Wilson), a nervous boy, has settled very well with Marcia and her family in Datchet.

Titania, now called Tania, is still waiting for her forever home—please see page 19.

Our new group of eight galgos have arrived, they are settling well, their photos and details are on pages 35 and 36.



Lorina



Zeth



Gemela (Ella)



Bronte (Wilson)



Rubia



Mari



Latino

Sponsorship



Our sponsorship scheme was started some years ago when we brought galgos into quarantine, for later homing in the UK. We have continued the scheme for the galgos we are still able to bring into the UK and this continues to help with the costs involved in carrying out the necessary veterinary care needed to comply with our import regulations as well as helping with the boarding costs we incur in Spain, whilst the dogs are undergoing checks/treatment, and in the UK until they are homed.

As the dogs are homed quite quickly it has become harder to allocate particular dogs to our sponsors and for this reason we changed the sponsorship scheme to cover all the sponsor dogs and we write to sponsors with news on them when they arrive and as they are homed. We are very grateful to our sponsors for the support they have given us over the years.

Our September group received lots of interest—you can read about them on page 32.

Our new group arrived in April their photos and details can be found on pages 35-36. 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. They are all 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 these galgos** while they are being prepared for homing please complete the sponsor form on page 34 and return it to us.

If you feel you **could offer a home** to a galgo please give us a call on 01784 483206 or email us info@greyhoundsinneed.co.uk

Our full homing pack, which includes the homing questionnaire, is available to download from our website -

www.greyhoundsinneed.co.uk





Sponsorship

I would like to sponsor the galgos and wish to give Greyhounds in Need (*Circle as appropriate) *£5 per month

*£10 per month

*£25 per month

*Other amount £.....per month

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.....

REFERENCE: SPONSORSHIP

Account Holder's Name.....

Account Holder's Address.....

.....

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

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

Email address.....

Please return to: Greyhounds in Need, 33 High Street,
Wraysbury, Middlesex, TW19 5DA.

Our April Galgos

Sparky, a male galgo, approx. four years old. He is nice with people and other dogs and is very playful with lots of energy.



Nico, a brindle male galgo, approx. seven years old. Good with people and other dogs. He was handed in to the shelter.

Triana, a brindle and white female galga, approx. two years old. She is a quiet dog but friendly.



Tamara, a female galga, approx. two and a half years old. She is very friendly with people and other dogs.



Cantinera, a long haired cream female galga, approx. six years old.

She is a little shy until she gets to know you.



Ronaldo, a white long haired male galgo, approx. two years old. He is good with people and other dogs.



Tarkan, a brindle and white male galgo, approx. nine years old. He is a calm dog and was handed in to the kennels. He needs a nice home now.

Entumia, a brindle female galga, approx. three and a half years old.

She is good with people and other dogs.

