



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2016 Issue 12 PATRON: Mary Browning www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Hello and welcome to the Twelfth Edition of our Newsletter which we hope you will enjoy reading. On behalf of the Trustees I would like to thank all our Friends and supporters for their continued support which is greatly appreciated. Enclosed is a Friends Renewal Form for 2017 (unless you have set up a standing order) which we require you to complete and return to continue your valuable support of the Charity and to enable us to reclaim Gift Aid, where appropriate.

We have an insight into the ongoing investigative work that this charity is involved with and also important information that prospective owners should be aware of.

Some friends have kindly sent contributions which I am sure will have us all smiling and nodding in agreement.

We also have a loving and moving contribution from an owner who has lost their beloved IG companion during the last year.

HELEN - UPDATE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The Charity has certainly been kept on its toes since our last Newsletter in November 2016, we have rehomed 19 dogs and helped a further two who fortunately found good homes, and whose owners have benefitted from the Charity's practical support.

Some of the dogs suffered a bereavement with the remaining family members unable to look after them, other youngsters were rehomed as a result of owners not properly researching the requirements of the breed or understanding their need for constant human contact. These dogs can be quite a challenge not having had any routine or proper training in their young lives, but with the right understanding owner they are able to adjust and make wonderful pets. It is very heartening for the rescue to hear that a rescue dog that had been left for long periods with his previous owner is now enjoying the thrills of agility on a regular basis.



We have had a number of elderly dogs this year and it takes a very special person to adopt these dogs, especially when they are able to put the rescues welfare before that of their own feelings, particularly if they have recently lost a much loved member of their family. The Charity has a policy of undertaking to fund veterinary treatment for rescues of 10 years and older as we appreciate IGs often reach ages of 15 or 16 years, when they are more likely to need veterinary treatment in their advancing years. It is though, sad that the commercial breeders can't make provision for the puppies they breed in the event of changed circumstances. They generally 'sell off' their breeding dogs and bitches when they are no longer of use to them to make way for younger more commercially viable dogs/bitches. With one IG recently grossing £7,150 for its owner from one litter of four puppies it is easily made money in 17 weeks, as most commercial breeders sell their puppies far too young at 8 weeks of age.

The Curious Case of the Italian Greyhound, Chinese Crested Crosses.

The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity along with other interested IG owners, try to keep an eye

on IGs advertised on the Internet. A particular pair seemed to be passing from one breeder to another. The advertisement for their puppies depicted the bitch as looking like a very poor example of an IG.

After a few years the pair were sold to a pet home but were soon advertised again and fortunately a kind ex owner who had bred and shown Champions, bought both of them. She thought that the bitch looked a bit odd and so sent a DNA swab to the Wisdom Panel which helps determine what breed/s a dog might have in their genetics. The Wisdom panel has a very good database of IG genetics and determined that the bitch was in fact 25% Chinese Crested! Since the original breeder also owned Chinese Crested and sometimes advertised crosses in her local paper, it all fitted.

However the Kennel Club required yet more evidence and so the little girl was examined by two judges that award Challenge Certificates (Three Challenge Certificates from three different judges are required before a dog gains the title of Champion) in IGs. Both concurred that she was not typical of the breed. This however still did not satisfy the Kennel Club, but we were able to show that the registered colours of the progeny were not genetically possible from that particular pair and so their progeny and any progeny following on were removed from the Kennel Club's pedigree database.

Since then the boy, called Benson who came from the same breeder, has also been tested and he has found to also be 25% Chinese Crested although he looks a lot more like an IG! Another breeding bitch was found advertised recently and her looks indicated that she might have come from that same breeder -and indeed she was - after investigation she was also found to be 25% Crested. Her case and those of her progeny, is also under review at the Kennel Club.

So what of the breeder? Well she appears to have moved and had given up breeding so it would be very hard for duped owners to do anything about it. We can only be grateful that she has stopped breeding but there remain quite a number of 'registered' Italian Greyhounds that are not in fact pure bred, even though their owners may well have paid a high price for their so called pedigree puppies.

However, justice has been done for one unscrupulous Italian Greyhound breeder....

A Rhydyfelin woman who continued to run an illegal, unscrupulous dog breeding business from her home, despite a previous prosecution, has been prosecuted again by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and this was their Press Release.

Susan Thomas, 57, is now banned from breeding dogs for five years and has been served an order to reduce the number of dogs she keeps. She must also complete a 12-month supervision order and investigations into her "business" finances, an estimated £10,500, continue.

Thomas faced Cardiff Crown Court on November 16 after pleading guilty to the below four offences at an earlier hearing at the same court:

1. Keeping a breeding establishment without a license from the Council, contrary to the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973
2. Failing to ensure the needs of the dogs were met, an offence under the 2006 Animal Welfare Act
3. Engaging in a misleading commercial practice, contrary to the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008, namely making false statements about her name and address.

4. Contravening the same regulations by placing adverts and falsely implying she was not acting as a breeder.

The charges follow a second investigation into Thomas, of Heol Y Bryn, by RCT's Licensing team in December 2013. Officers were contacted by the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity, which reported concerns regarding Thomas' breeding, advertising and sale of puppies and the conditions dogs were kept in.

The rescue had been contacted by a man from Bristol who had travelled to Rhydyfelin to view Italian Greyhound puppies being offered for sale online by Thomas, with a view to buying one.

He found three separate litters of puppies in the house and was concerned by the overwhelming smell of urine and mess in the house and the impact it was having on the dogs' welfare, so he contacted the rescue which, in turn, contacted RCT Council.

At the time of this report, it had been 18 months since Thomas had faced Pontypridd Magistrates' Court the first time, in May 2012, where she was convicted of failing to register with the Council, a legal requirement for anyone producing four or more litters a year, and for failing to allow the dogs in her care to exhibit their normal behaviour patterns, an offence under the Animal Welfare Act, by keeping them locked in cages for hours at a time. She was fined and given a 12-month conditional discharge on this occasion.

Despite this, she continued to breed and failed to register with the Council. Evidence seized by officers from Heol y Bryn in January 2014, following the latest report, uncovered paperwork, calendars, photos and online adverts proving she had produced at least five litters of puppies since her last court appearance.

One of the dogs found in the house during the search warrant was heavily pregnant, bringing the total number of litters to six, and dated photographs found on her computer suggested at least two more litters were born, but whose births were not registered to avoid raising concerns about over-breeding.

Mating records showed one dog had puppies in May 2014 and was mated again that September. The Breeding and Sale of Dogs Welfare Act 1999, which would have been applicable to Thomas had she met her legal requirement to register, states a bitch cannot be bred again for a minimum of 12 months after she has had a litter. Had Thomas been licensed, this would have been an offence.

Further investigation of the online adverts Thomas was placing to sell the puppies showed she was selling them as Phillip Williams from a Cardiff address. No one of this name or address exists. Thomas was selling the puppies under false details and the online profile she was using stated she was a "member" not a "breeder". The false name and address was deemed to be an offence under the Fraud Act and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading regulations. The fact she didn't present herself as a breeder was also deemed an offence under the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations.

All of the information was seized during a search warrant which was executed at Heol Y Bryn by Trading Standards officers, accompanied by vet Karen Davies of the Maesglas Veterinary Group.

When officers arrived they were told there were 12 dogs in the property but their search actually uncovered 26 - three Chihuahuas, 16 adult Italian Greyhounds and seven Italian Greyhound puppies. There were pens, cages and baskets in the kitchen and the back garden.

There was dogs' mess on the floor, the carpet was wet and littered with dirty puppy pads and

there was an overwhelming smell of urine.

Vet Karen Davies completed a report on the dogs' welfare and concluded they were at risk of sores because of the urine-soaked floor and distress was caused to older dogs due to the number of younger dogs in close proximity. The dogs were also at risk of injuring themselves on the litter they were surrounded by. These conditions were deemed to be an offence under the Animal Welfare Act.

Thomas admitted the offences and was placed on a 12-month supervision order and banned from breeding dogs for five years. She has also been placed on a limitation order, which also runs for five years, to reduce the number of dogs she has to four. This means as the dogs she has in her home move on or pass away, she cannot replace them and can only have a maximum of four dogs.

Licensing officers were unable to interview Thomas in any detail about her operation due to the fact she was not well enough to be interviewed.

However, Thomas told the court that she loved her dogs and cared for them, but admitted she may have overstretched herself with the sheer number of animals she had in her home.

She also told the court she had been suffering from poor health and was addressing this, but it had left her overwhelmed by the situation and perhaps not able to deal with it as she should.

Paul Mee, Service Director for Public Health and Protection, said: "The legal requirement for breeders to have a license from the Council is there for good reason. It is so the integrity of the business can be monitored and the welfare of the animals involved maintained.

"Susan Thomas is well aware of this legal requirement as she found herself in front of a court in 2012 for exactly the same reason. Yet she continued to operate as a breeder without securing the license she knew she had to have.

"As a result of this, the business activities taking place at her home were not monitored or regulated, which resulted in over-breeding, poor conditions for the animals and welfare issues.

"It also meant the public were placed at risk as they were being misled about the nature of the business they were buying a puppy from and the name and address of the person making the sale was false, which meant any future issues or recourse would have been impossible."

Helen Lister, Trustee and Chairman of the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity, said: "The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity will always take seriously any information passed to them regarding the welfare of Italian Greyhounds. It is pleased that these longstanding welfare issues of a particularly sensitive breed have come to an end. It also sends out a signal to any other breeders who think they can 'puppy farm' Italian Greyhounds."

Following the above conviction Susan Thomas has received in February 2016 a Life ban from all Kennel Club regulated activity.



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

**** As we go to print with this Newsletter, the courts have fined Susan Thomas a total of £11,560, made up of £4,000 proceeds of crime, £7,500 costs & £60 victim surcharge.**

Our delightful breed is very fortunate in having so many people who help to look after it. Our role as Trustees of the Charity is helped enormously by many people, who report adverts concerning IGs that they feel uneasy about, prospective puppy buyers who report bad experiences when they go to buy a puppy from a breeder, to all the people who creatively raise funds to help future rescues and the kind people who drop everything to pick up rescues needing our care or for checking out prospective homes, we are very grateful to you all.

In the last year The Charity has welcomed two new trustees who between them have a wealth of experience of Italian Greyhounds and their breeders.



Helen Rishworth is Trustee Secretary and has been involved with dogs all her life. When she was growing up, she was in the puppy pen and the dogs running around!

'At home, she has "all three sizes" with her two Italian Greyhounds being joined by Whippets and the Greyhound and then, for good measure, there are two naughty but very delightful Miniature Smooth Haired Dachshunds. It is safe to say, there is never a dull moment in Helen's household!'

Helen has been showing dogs since the age of five and has had IGs for about fifteen years. Having been involved in showing from a young age, she has competed in junior handling competitions through the ranks winning several notable finals over the years. She had the pleasure of handling and owning IGs in the Artmeis and Rilloby partnerships and enjoyed success both here in the UK and overseas with Champions titled at home and further afield. Since Helen's first IG, Sean, she has been in love with the breed. 'They are such characters, each and every one, and they steal your heart from the moment they enter your lives. Italian Greyhounds are not a breed for the faint hearted and, living with Whippets and Greyhounds as well, I can assure you the little IGs are the ones who make you work the most – don't be deceived by their smaller stature, IGs are a sighthound at heart!'

Helen has many strings to her bow, she is a Kennel Club Member, Breed Note Writer for IG's in a weekly Dog Paper, Committee Member and News Letter Editor for The Greyhound Club and Assistant Show Manager for The United Kingdom ToyDog Society. Yet she still can find time to offer assistance through the IGRC to help those IGs who require the Charity's help in finding them the right home for life, in appreciation for the way that IGs have enriched her life. Furthermore, she likes to help advise those who are genuinely interested in the breed to ensure that prospective IG owners are not lured in by puppy farmers and their unscrupulous breeding practices.

Jo Amsel – Trustee



Joanne has owned Italian Greyhounds for 25 years. Her first IG was called Gladys and was rescued by her breeder from a home where circumstances meant that she was not getting the care that she should. She was just a year old. Gladys started Jo's love affair with this magical breed. Coming from a background in Show ponies and Whippets, she currently has 12 Italian Greyhounds from age range 2 up to nearly 16 years, plus a Dachshund and a Spanish Galgo Rescue.

Jo has travelled extensively to the United States and Europe showing her IGs and is a good person to ask about travelling abroad with your IG. She is also dedicated to ensuring the good

health of all IGs and is very happy to help with any particular problems owners may have regarding diet or health issues.

Jo has foster cared and home checked for IGRC in the past and is fortunate in having her own paddocks for exercising dogs which makes it a pleasure for Jo and our foster IGs, many of whom have never had the joy of free running. Being placed in the Midlands is also ideal when it comes to home checking and helping transport our Rescues where needed.

IGRC Blog

By Helen Rishworth

At the beginning of this year, the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity started a Blog which is available to read on the Charity's website. An informal affair, the Blog is designed to be informative for prospective IG owners as well as interesting to those who have already welcomed IGs into their lives. It is hoped that the Blog will be a source of humour for readers as well as being informative about both IGs and the work of the Charity.

To give you a flavour, here are some extracts from the Blogs shared so far...

"Hello everyone! My name is Whisper and I am an IG puppy who was rescued through the IG Rescue Charity in 2015. I am now very happy with my new owners and my four-legged companions. The story I am going to tell is that from an innocent walk that we went on recently which involves me, my four friends, sheep, and the police."

Blog #1 Whisper's tale: an IG, some sheep & the authorities!

"When the decision to get a dog is made, the research into which dog will be most suitable must begin. When considering which breed to choose, you must evaluate your home and lifestyle. Some breeds will be better suited than others... Choosing the right puppy or dog, from the right breeder, at the right time, is central to both your dog's happiness and your own."

Blog #2 Patience is a virtue

"The unscrupulous breeding of Italian Greyhounds has been fed by the increasing popularity of this beautiful breed – when there is demand, supply is being generated by some with little or no thought for the welfare of the brood bitches, stud dogs and their puppies. The recent prosecution of Susan Thomas (Francole), who has also been banned for life by The Kennel Club, is one case which demonstrates how the authorities are monitoring and punishing those whose breeding practices fail to meet welfare standards. Unfortunately, (and this happens in many breeds, not just Italian Greyhounds), unsuspecting prospective owners can be unwittingly brought in by unscrupulous breeders so, if you are thinking of introducing an IG into your home, please approach breeders with your eyes wide open."

Blog #3 Don't be tricked or fooled by unscrupulous breeders

"Here we will focus even more specifically on the Italian Greyhound- their character, their personality, their needs – in an attempt to help prospective owners decide whether an IG is the right breed for them. The IGRC receives enquiries on a daily basis from people who are interested in welcoming an IG into their home. Many people have already carried out thorough research into the breed while others are in the early stages of investigating more about IGs. This blog will hopefully answer some of your questions about this beautiful breed which has captured the hearts of so many."

Blog #4 Is an Italian Greyhound the right breed for you?

So next time you are online, visit the IGRC website and sit back with a cup of coffee and enjoy a read of the Blog!

LETTER TO HELEN FROM MICHAEL



18 July 2016

Hello Helen,

It is 12 months to the day that Lenny adopted me, and I became his carer and companion. I can say without the slightest hesitation that it has been the most wonderful and remarkable 12 months of my life (and I hope of Lenny's) every morning I wake and see his wonderful little face on the bed next to me and wonder what I did to deserve him. If there can be love between a dog and

his carer, then Lenny and I are lucky enough to have found it.

I cannot thank you enough for making this possible, and of course for your continued work in making the life of other dogs so much better. I hope and pray that every dog that comes into your care finds what Lenny and I have found.

Very best regards, Michael.

By Matt with Norman in mind

Greyliens

There's something you should know about the dogs they like to race,
They can sometimes act like they've come from out of space,
They come in all shapes and all sizes,
You'll see some at shows and they even win prizes,

There somethings I should tell you about these tiny hounds,
They'll spend all their days following you around,
They are only happy if they are by your side,
But they can be timid and will sometimes hide,

They may seem frail and they may look fragile,
But they are born to run and are ever so agile,
They feel most happy when they're running free,
Or under a blanket on your lap in front of the TV,

Only they will decide when they are toilet trained,
And don't ever expect them to go out in the rain,
If it's cold outside you'll have to wrap them up warm,
Getting stares from passers-by will become the Norm,

You can't go for a walk without getting stopped,
Whether you are out in the park or going to the shops,
People will ask about your dog but I have to admit it,



I'm getting tired of explaining he's not a puppy Whippet!,

These very special dogs may have very special needs,
Like needing more time and attention than any other breed,
But the love you give them you will get back tenfold,
They will snuggle you all night especially if it's cold,

These are highly strung hounds and perhaps a little odd,
They are 90 percent angel and 10 little sod,
They will take over your heart and take over your bed,
And they'll always be hungry no matter how much they are fed,

These miniature sighthounds will bring you so much joy, mm I want two'.

IN MEMORY OF RESCUE- GYPSY ROSE - 2001 – 2016 by Jean Lambie-Logue & Family

In the year 2000 I lost "Monti" my show whippet aged 16yrs.

I have always loved these breeds: - whippets, greyhounds and Italian Greyhounds and thought, "how about a rescue dog?" This time I did some research and approached the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity.

A lovely lady called Shirley- Rescue Coordinator at the time (now retired) - answered the phone. When I rang she said I could be eligible but needed a "home check". So everything was moving on. All went well and I was put on the waiting list.

Three weeks later Shirley rang to say a couple in Salford that helped out the Charity had rescued a half whippet cross/ Italian Greyhound.

Apparently the poor thing had quite a few homes. She was about six months old and being sold in a pub by a young lad who could not afford to keep her (or so he said,) I was so excited and my son Terry said "Mum I'll take you there because I know how much you want another dog".

On the way there I was thinking about a name for her and I came up with Gypsy Rose due to the knowledge of her past life. Well, when I saw her I had to have her.

She was lovely, blue/ white half whippet/Italian Greyhound, and she ran to me. I saw the signals..... (PLEASE TAKE ME HOME WITH YOU!!!)

However, the fun began when we brought her home as she proceeded to: - dig the lawn, ate all the plants and when she had finished with the garden lawn.... the house became under attack!

The hall; my bed; my carpets, even my video tapes. It was as if she was trying to dig her way out but we suspected it was the result of what she had been through as a puppy

So we persevered and we still laugh about the antics she got up to which could be quite scary.

By the end of three months she had turned into a beautiful dog and had gained our and her trust with our patience. She had however decided that she owned the house a WE were all HER puppies. Well the happy ending!

After eighteen months we thought Gypsy Rose needed a play mate. So went back to the Italian Greyhound Charity for their guidance and purchased a blue Italian Greyhound with a pedigree that would mean if it could speak it wouldn't speak to the likes of us. But we took Gypsy Rose to approve of her new play mate and of



course by the breeder. They hit it off straight away and little "Bertie" as I named him, loved his new Mum.

They ate out of the same bowl, played together, slept together and even sunbathed together. I never got a look in on my sun bed. (Picture) They were inseparable.

We all miss our Gypsy Rose. What a character.

She passed away peacefully in June this year. I know little Bertie will remember the lovely times he had with her but now he looks so sad and so lost. We all had so many beach holidays and cherish what a lovely caring dog she became.

I would very much like to thank the Italian Greyhound Charity Rescue for all their help and happiness they have brought me with my doggies and all the hard work they have done in the past and present day.

THANK YOU!

From Sue Brassington [guest editor]

Just a note to give our thanks to Stuart Dunham for the eleven years of editing our newsletter, our thoughts are with you and your family and send you best wishes for the future.

A brief introduction of myself to you all. I first met Italian Greyhounds whilst walking on Rhyl promenade during family holidays and I had my first one when I was ten. Some of you will have very fond memories of Mrs. Moseley who had the 'Oxslip' prefix.



Since then I have been lucky to have a number of Italians as part of my family. I am a retired primary school teacher with four grandchildren, two shire horses and at the moment I have two girls who are re homers from this charity, Lilly and Judy, so you can see there is never a dull moment.

[Finding the sunniest spot in the caravan on holiday]

Would you like to become a 'friend for life'?

In today's fast-paced world, it is easy to let the odd thing slip by. At the beginning of each year, after the excitement and chaos of Christmas, many of us have subscriptions or membership renewals which are due. No matter how many reminders one sets, there is inevitably one renewal which may get forgotten albeit not intentionally.

With this in mind, the IGRC is pleased to announce that they are introducing a new level of Friends membership: Friend for Life. At present, you can become a Friend of the Charity with annual renewal. This new tier of Friendship invites you to become a Friend of the IGRC for life, paying a one-off membership fee (either single or joint). As a Friend for Life, you will be supporting the Charity and its work, while also receiving the Newsletter for updates on the ongoing work that the Charity does to support the welfare of IGs. Furthermore, you will never have to remember another IGRC renewal! Once you become a Friend for Life that is precisely what you are.

Please see below for details regarding the Friends and Friends for Life membership.

Life Individual Friends Membership of the IGRC - £120 – Annual Individual - £5

Life Joint Friends Membership of the IGRC - £150 – Annual Joint - £8 for two people residing at the same address.

If you are able to do so please complete the Gift Aid Declaration so that the Charity can benefit

further from your membership subscription at no additional cost to yourself.



2017 CALENDAR



12 Full colour pages
Featuring delightful images of Italians, from puppy to golden oldie.

Only a limited number available.

£7.95 each or two for £14.00 inc P & P to a UK address.

From: **IGRC, Yew Tree Cottage, Nr Orrest, Windermere LA23 1JT**

Cheques payable to IGRC please.

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents, as opening our hearts to a rescued IG.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Healthy 2017

TRUSTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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