



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2017 Issue 13 PATRON: Mary Browning www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Goodness! Is it that time of year again? Hello and welcome to the Thirteenth 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 2018 (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. Also there is important information that prospective owners should be aware of. Friends have kindly sent contributions which I am sure will have us all smiling and nodding in agreement. There are loving and moving contributions from owners who has lost their beloved IG 'companions' during the last year in our section entitled 'Rainbow Bridge'.

Rescue update for 2017 from our Chairman Helen

As I write the Charity's update on our rescue activities since the end of 2016, another year is almost drawing to a close. With no summer to speak of in the north, my dogs can count on one paw the number of days they could sunbathe this summer. The loss of my Mother, Eleanor, at the end of November last year has certainly made for a very different year for me, with many reflections of how my Mother who loved IGs, loved talking to people enquiring about the breed and helping in any way she could. She must have folded and packed thousands of Christmas cards over the years.



To date the Charity has rehomed 169 dogs in the 14 years of its existence. Nine dogs have so far been rehomed in 2017, four of these were young dogs under 12 months of age and one, only 5 months old who came to us having already been in five homes during his young life. This endorses the fact that the people regularly breeding, and unheard of, in the established IG fraternity are not concerned whether the home is the right home, so long as they get their money - £1,200-1,800. The Charity receives many calls from potential IG puppy buyers asking for help in finding a 'good breeder', in many cases they have already answered a number of adverts and have had their suspicions raised when the seller does not ask any questions of the buyer and the foremost importance is, when are they going to pay the deposit to secure their puppy.

In order to help people who do not wish to support commercial breeders we have included an article on our website which covers this topic and breeding licenses. Commercial breeders (people who breed and sell puppies for financial gain) should have a breeding license issued by their local council.

However, we know of only one online puppy sales site that requires the advertisers' commercial license number to be given. Therefore, prospective owners need to be alert and not simply rely on a license number to identify commercial breeders.

UK Law states in the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999 that a local council-issued dog breeding license is required for anyone who keeps a breeding establishment (including private dwellings) which meets any of the following conditions:

- Anyone "in the business" of breeding and selling dogs (trading) needs to be licensed regardless of the number of litters they have in a 12 month period. For example, if the person is breeding and selling dogs for commercial gain and/or regularly advertising puppies/dogs for sale.
- England and Scotland – if in a 12 month period their dogs give birth to 5 litters or more, regardless of whether they are in the business of breeding and selling dogs.
- Wales – if in a 12 month period their dogs give birth to 3 litters or more, regardless of whether they are in the business of breeding and selling dogs.

You can read the full article on our website: www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk.

We continue to receive many health-related enquiries and are always very willing to help and give advice where we can. Sadly, there seems to be an increase in the number of dogs suffering from steroid responsive meningitis and autoimmune disease, one has to ask if these diseases are a result of vaccines - we do not vaccinate our children every year so why should our dogs be any different?

Many thanks are due again this year; Sundra our avid stamp collector raised a wonderful £70 for the Charity through the trimming and selling of all your used stamps. She is still collecting them and would love to beat last year's total, so please send your used stamps to: The IGRC Stamp Collection, 43 Sanspareil Avenue, Minster, Isle of Sheppey, ME12 3LE.

Thank you also to Mary and Stephanie who are forever busy with their sewing and crochet hooks, making items for the charity to sell, whilst a number of kind people have donated items to enable rescues to have their own cosy bedding, collar and lead, or coat. A riding club kindly organised a fun dog show and donated a percentage of their takings to the Charity.

And most of all, a huge thanks to the people who willingly assist us in helping to home check, collect and transport rescues very often requiring urgent attention. All our efforts are made worthwhile by the dedicated families who open their homes and hearts to our rescues, giving them such a happy life.

Wishing all readers and their IGs a very peaceful Christmas



Lily – by Anthony and Robyn Pogrund

Last year we finally lost our I.G. Travis at the age of 16. He was the second I.G. we had adopted and was a rescue. We were heartbroken by the loss. After a few lonely weeks, we approached the I.G. Rescue and completed the appropriate documentation, which is important to assess the suitability of a potential new owner. We originally preferred to adopt a younger I.G dog or bitch, but would consider any age really.

We were deemed suitable to adopt, within a relatively short time, having successfully adopted two previous I.Gs and hoped we would find another dog /bitch sooner than later. We did not take our position for granted in any way, and realised we would have to wait for some time. We were contacted by Jo Amsel, one of the IGRC's Trustees, some weeks later. Through a third party, she



had rescued an I.G. Cross, called Lily from an unacceptable rural situation. Lily had not been treated well and was desperate for a new caring home. Lily was temporarily living with Jo and her numerous IGs, plus other dogs and, although we hadn't really considered an I.G. cross breed, we were immediately won over by Lily's pictures and the description of her demeanour and character, which proved to be completely accurate.

We quickly decided to adopt her and travelled to Jo's home to meet Lily and take her home. Jo was so welcoming and helpful and had some very useful tips regarding Lily. A very reasonable adoption fee was required, the money needed to help run the Charity.

We never looked back from there. Lily is a most wonderful girl, enthusiastic, physically very strong but incredibly gentle in character, like a 'giant' IG. She is unusually striking and beautiful and we are constantly being stopped by strangers on foot, bicycle and even cars by people wanting to meet her. We are very happy and cannot imagine life now without her. My only advice to potential adopters is to be open minded about adoption, not to be fixated on a new IG puppy and to consider any IG or cross that needs a home. Incidentally, Lily was spayed at the appropriate time and the I.G.

Rescue generously covered the cost in full. A wonderful organisation run by caring and dedicated people.

"Not a Whippet" – by Matt Tipper

A conversation I overheard the other day between Franco aged 5 and Norman (ex-rescue) aged 2 1/2.

[Disclaimer- any opinions expressed about Whippets are Franco's and not mine.]

Franco-I'm getting sick to my back legs of it.

Norman-Me too!

Norman-.....Hang on, sick of what?

Franco- Nobody knowing what we are! Every single day I hear them getting it wrong. You would think that, ever since that celebrity lady with the big bottom got taken in by one of us, people would start recognising our breed, our heritage, and our prestige.

Norman-You mean the lady who puts the presents through the door every morning? The lady I bark at? The lady with the fur on her face like dad? I like that lady, she's fun!



Franco- No Norman, that is the postman. The postman is not a celebrity nor is the postman owned by one of our kind as far as I know and finally, but most importantly, the postman is in fact a man.

Norman- He does have a big bottom though.

Franco-Are you sure when the horse kicked you in the head it didn't do any permanent damage?

Norman- I like horses.

Franco-Ok, let's try this. I will talk and you will listen. Can you manage that?

Norman- I like listening.

Franco- How many times has someone asked if you are a whippet puppy?

Norman- I like whipp...

Franco- I TALK YOU LISTEN.

Norman-.....

Franco- Good boy.

How many times have you been asked if you are a whippet puppy?

How many times have you been called an Italian

Whippet or a Spanish Greyhound? Have I told you about that time when I was a puppy and the small human asked Dad if I was a Whippet puppy and he told the little urchin that I was in fact a giant rat!

How many times has someone neglected to do their research before even considering approaching us. Most of them don't even kneel before us!



How many times has somebody gone to stroke you on your head without first washing their hands or at least slipping on some velvet gloves?

Do I look like a Whippet?! How many puppies do you know with as much grey fur on their face as me?

Do Whippets dress as well as we do?

Do Whippets snuggle as well as we do? Whippets are owned by people who live in houses on wheels!

WE ARE NOT AND NEVER WILL BE WHIPPETS.

We are Italian Greyhounds - know us, fear us, respect us, love us. We do not go out if the sky is grey and wet. We do not sleep in the beds of animals. We eat what we like when we like. We bark only when we deem barking is necessary. **DO NOT** brush our teeth, **DO NOT** trim our nails, **DO NOT** tell us off and **DO NOT** treat us like real dogs. I feel like starting a REVOLUTION, calling our brothers and sisters across the

world to stand up proud and show the world that we are not just a breed- WE ARE A SPECIES

Norman- I think Dad said it tastes like Rhubarb

Beware the Squints –Michael Walker

On 25th May this year I took my lovely little IG x Whippet, Lenny, to his vet concerned that his right eye was sometimes squinting and/or half closed, something that was more noticeable when out walking. There was no discharge or sign of a watery eye.

The vet applied a drop of anaesthetic and examined the eye for all possible causes even pulling out the third eyelid to check for any hidden foreign object. Nothing obvious was found so it was concluded that Lenny had a mild infection and was prescribed drops three times a day for five days. Things seemed to settle for a few weeks then the squints returned and the eyeball itself seemed swollen so his vet decided that an X-ray was needed to see if there was a problem behind the eye and give a detailed examination whilst under full anaesthesia.

The problem was found to be an Indolent Ulcer 2mm diameter hidden away on the very base of the eye in the right-hand corner and very difficult to find. This would have caused pain and discomfort for Lenny especially in bright sunlight.

www.medvetforpets.com *Indolent ulcers, or recurrent ulcers, are a specific type corneal ulcer in which the outer layer of the cornea (the epithelium) will not adhere to the underlying layer (the stroma). This condition often times occurs spontaneously in dogs over 6 years of age. Certain breeds of dogs (Boxers) are more commonly affected. Regardless of the cause, these ulcers can persist for months if left untreated, causing pain and scar formation.*

Lenny's vet decided to carry out the required surgical procedure there and then whilst already under anaesthesia.

www.medvetforpets.com *The best therapy for these types of ulcers typically involves removal of the unhealthy surrounding tissue (debridement) followed by stimulation for healing using a small needle on the cornea (called a grid keratotomy). Healing from the procedure normally takes approximately 2 weeks.*

The success rate for this form of therapy is about 90%. This does mean that 10% of dogs require surgery, this includes a superficial keratectomy, which removes all of the underlying and surrounding diseased tissue in a surgical manner using a microscope for visualization and under general anaesthesia.

I am happy to say that Lenny appears to have made a full recovery, but Lenny's vet informed me that until recently he had only ever seen this condition in Boxers and Pugs and is now seeing it in lots of other breeds and can offer no explanation as to why other breeds are now showing this condition.



To Lenny

I will never move and not take you with me
I will never put you in a shelter and leave
I will comfort you when you are ill
I will never let you go hungry
I will never let you hurt
I will never desert you when you grow old
Nor will I leave you if you go blind
If that time comes I will be there to hold you
Because I Love you and you are my Family

Note from the editor

Please send any funny anecdotes or photos of your IGs for inclusion in next year's newsletter. Point of contact for any items is info@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

"Rainbow Bridge" – Tributes to the friends we have lost



Remembering Buffy, from Susan Naughton

Sadly Buffy was recently put to sleep – she would have been 16 years old in December this year. Although she was now almost completely blind and hard of hearing, she loved her food and treats and lying in the sunshine. She had a great 10 months with us, and everyone who met her loved our little mouse, every morning she would wait for me to carry her upstairs and she would find her way under the duvet for a morning nap with her daddy. Beth seems to be coping quite well, although has become very clingy to John, but is totally healthy and hopefully we will have her for many more years.

Pictured below is Buffy (left) with her friend Beth



Remembering Pippa and Dusty from Paola Marra:

When Shirley (from IGRC) contacted me about adopting Pippa and Dusty, two 10yr old IGs - I thought that a pair of oldies would fit well into my family of Whippets, be relatively easy-going and quiet, so I agreed and took them on. Little did I know what feisty little monkeys they would turn out to be! Pippa had the knack of scaling cupboards and full height fridge/freezers in order to steal food or anything that smelled of food, whereas Dusty was cunning and stealth-like in her thievery, watching and waiting for someone to turn their back on an uneaten morsel. They kept me on my toes and we never had a dull moment.



I am truly grateful to IGRC for being given the chance to spend five wonderful years with my girls. It was an honour to watch them grow and become confident in themselves and do things they were too frightened to do when they first came to me. They were such sweet, naughty souls who will be sorely missed by so many. They were such an important part of my life and am so thankful to you all for allowing them to come live with me.

Remembering Sapphie

All rescues that come into the Charity's care receive the best possible veterinary care, we can provide. One little lady who received more veterinary treatment above all others was 9 month old, Sapphie. In February 2007, Shirley our Rescue Coordinator, noticed that this little girl kept appearing on the internet for sale - in fact 3 times in 7 months - and suspected she needed help. Sapphie was small, underdeveloped, and fell over easily.



It transpired Sapphie was suffering from a nasty congenital condition called a Liver Shunt. Whereby the blood bypasses the liver due to a blood vessel defect, which results in toxic waste products, which would normally be broken down by the liver, being transported to the brain causing brain irritation and convulsions.

Malnutrition, depression, vomiting and diarrhoea are also symptoms. Sapphie underwent two operations at The Queen's Veterinary School Hospital, Cambridge, to correct the blood flow to the liver.

In all, Sapphie's treatment lasted 17 months. Throughout this time, she was cared for by Chris, and her late Mum, Norma. A dear friend of the Charity's helped to sponsor some of the costs for Sapphie's treatment; she made a complete recovery and was adopted by Chris as they had formed such a strong bond, which was to last until Sapphie was 10 years old in November 2016. Sapphie leaves behind her a trail of very happy memories, a little dog with such a big heart who never lost the trust in human nature despite the fact that her breeder and three previous owners, did not seek veterinary help for her. One of her brothers has sired at least 70 puppies and we hope that the congenital Liver Shunt that Sapphie inherited has not been passed on to many more Italian Greyhounds.



IGRC is getting a YouTube Channel

The Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity will have its own YouTube Channel shortly. The aim of the IGRC YouTube Channel will be to share informative and educational video content which will be valuable to both owners who already have IGs and those who are researching the breed. It is hoped that this new video content will support and complement the information which is shared on the Charity's website. From health to general welfare and canine wellbeing, the videos will cover a variety of topics including dentition, diet, exercise and much more. Over time, it is hoped that Charity will build a series of videos which will be useful to those interested in Italian Greyhounds.

Please keep in touch with the IGRC's website and Facebook page for further details.

Don't forget the IGRC's Blog!

In 2016, the IGRC started a blog which is available to read on the Charity's website (www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk/about-us/blog/). This blog is designed to help owners of Italian Greyhounds/Italian Greyhound crosses as well prospective owners who are considering getting an IG. The latest blog covers the topic of microchipping and highlights the importance of complying with the new legislation. And, previous topics have included "Is an IG the right breed for you?" and "Don't be tricked or fooled by unscrupulous breeders".

The blog is there to inform, advise and educate. In addition, the IGRC likes to cover more light-hearted subjects within the blog such as sharing the tale of a rescue IG and their adventures! If you have an interesting IG tale to share which could help form our next blog, then please get in touch. Simply email: info@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk.

Calling volunteers to assist with transporting rescues

The IGRC relies greatly on the kindness and generosity of volunteers who give up their time to assist rescue IGs and IG-crosses in their time of need. One important aspect of the rescue and rehoming process is the safe transportation of dogs. The Charity needs volunteers based

throughout the mainland UK so that coverage throughout the country can be offered for IGs in need.

If you are interested in helping the IGRC and would be able to assist with transporting dogs in your local area, please let the Charity know. Please email team@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk with your name, contact information and areas that you would be willing to travel to in order to collect or deliver rescues. Any help that volunteers can offer is and always will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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 has introduced a new level of Friends membership:

Friend for Life. 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.

Trustee contact details



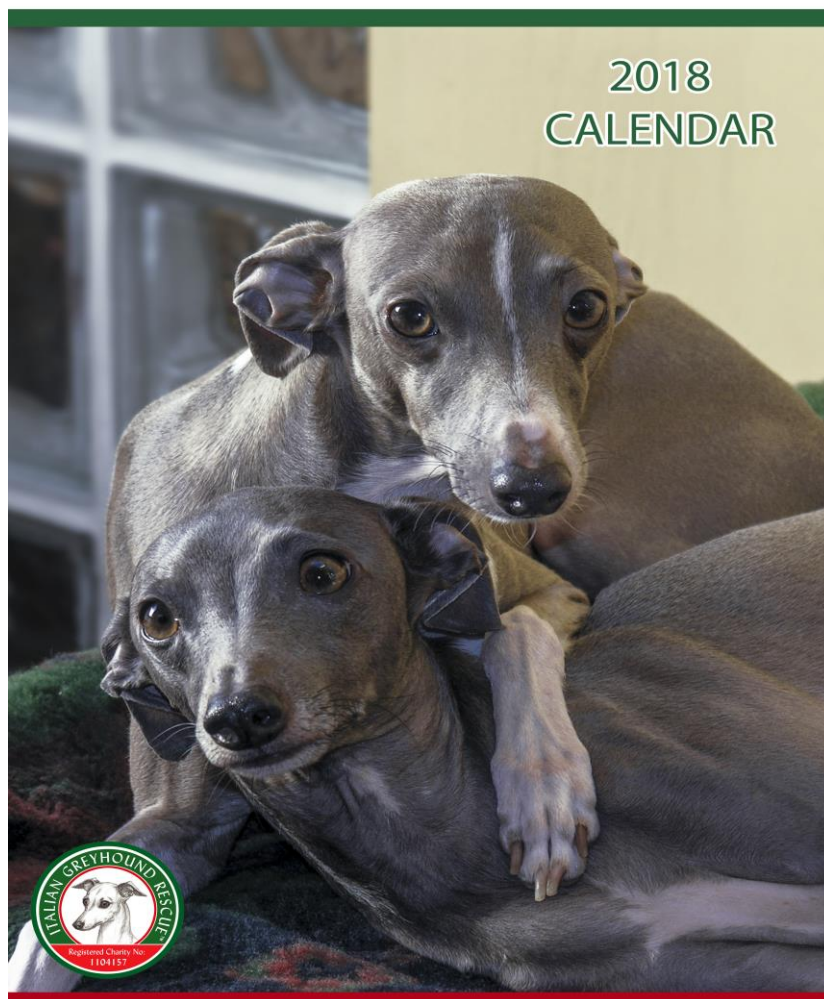
Chairman/Fundraiser – Helen Lister tel: 01539 448057

Secretary – Helen Rishworth tel: 01249 701659
Email – info@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk

Treasurer – Neville Bowman tel: 01837 851933

Adrian Bickers tel: 01462 835641

Joanne Amsel tel:01327 876181



Spectacular 2018 IG Calendars

Featuring:

- 12 colour photos of IGs
- Space to write appointments
- Principal IG Show Dates
- UK Bank Holidays
- £8.50 each or two for £16.00
(inclusive of uk postage to one address)

Cheques payable to: IG Rescue Charity and sent with your name and address

IG Rescue Charity
Yew Tree cottage,
Near Orrest,
Windermere,
LA23 1JT



Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity Friends Application/Renewal Form

I/We wish to become a **Friend[s] of Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity/Friend[s] For Life** [open to all ages].

NB. You must not have been banned from keeping animals nor have any court proceedings outstanding barring you from owning animals.

I/We enclose a cheque or postal order for **£5.00 / £120.00**, made payable to **Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. (£8.00/£150.00** for joint Friends at same address)

Subscription will generally be for a one-year period, however, it will fall due for renewal on the 1st January each year thereafter.

I/We also wish to donate the sum of £ _____ [optional] to **Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity.**

Total amount enclosed £ _____

(1) Fore name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr) _____ Surname _____

(2) Fore name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr) _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Age (if under 18) _____
(Please ask your Parent or Guardian to sign if under 18)

Do you have any objections to your details being kept for Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity use only? Yes No

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"Increase the value of your donation through Gift Aid"

Using gift aid means that for every pound you give, we can claim an extra 25 pence from hmrc, helping your donation to go further. To qualify for gift aid, what you pay in income tax or capital gains tax must be at least equal to the amount we will claim in the tax year.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

I want all donations I've made and all future donations to be Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise. I pay income tax or capital gains tax and want Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity to reclaim from the Government gift aid on my donation.

Signed _____ Date _____

Thank You For Your Support!

Please return completed form to:

**IGRC Treasurer
Mr Neville Bowman
Lashbrook House, Jacobstowe
Devon EX20 3RQ
☎ 01837 851933**

The Trustees of Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity reserve the right to refuse a person as a 'Friend' of the Charity