



# Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020 Issue 16 PATRON: Mary Browning  
[www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk](http://www.italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk)

## HELLO TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

Hello and welcome to the sixteenth edition of our Newsletter. Well what a very strange year - thank goodness we have had our dogs to help us get through. I hope this Newsletter finds you and your families, especially the four legged ones, happy and well. 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 2021 (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. In this Newsletter we have some informative articles, lovely stories and photographs for you to enjoy.

## Rescue Update for 2020 from our Chairman Helen

As we approach the 'tail end' of 2020, it will be remembered for the Covid Pandemic turning all our lives upside down. The Rescue was kept on its toes and later in the Newsletter you can read the Charity's Covid Diary.

This time last year, the Charity had made great plans for an event to be held in June 2020 and we know that so many IG owners were looking forward to the day. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, the lockdown came and our **IGstravaganza! of Italian Greyhounds & Friends** had to be postponed. The Lowther Castle Estate, our hosts, kindly agreed to transfer this year's event details over to 2021. However, as the months have progressed, we now have the disappointing news that Lowther will not be holding any events in 2021, due to staff cutbacks. As Trustees of the Charity, we felt, given the uncertain circumstances around the pandemic, it would not be prudent to find an alternative venue, but rather to hold our **IGstravaganza!** in 2022 when hopefully the fear of having to cancel the event for a second time will have passed.

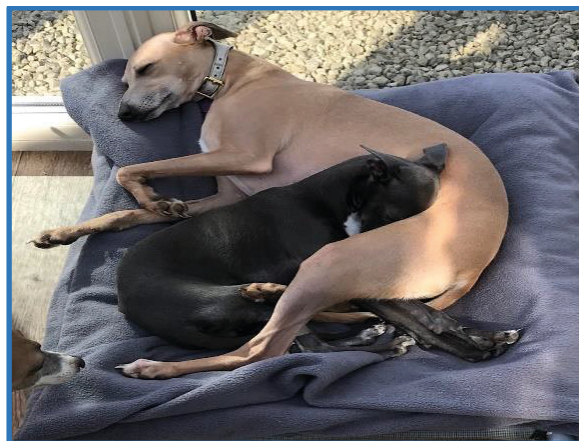
Since our last Newsletter the Charity has rehomed 17 dogs, 4 of which were IG x Whippets, 3 were 'golden oldies' whose veterinary care will be supported by the Charity for the rest of their lives; we are so lucky that we have prospective homes very happy to put the dogs' needs before that of their own, knowing that they will give the dogs some happy years before they cross over the Rainbow Bridge. And this year we have seen a huge increase in the number of rescues requiring specialist Veterinary treatment and the lengthy rehabilitation that follows.

A young male IG was put into rescue with a foreleg fracture, and whilst he was recovering in January, a few months old IG puppy came into our care, she had been born with Grade 4 Patella luxation, the severest form of this genetic condition. This meant she had been born with her knee caps (patellas) on the insides of her hind legs and as she developed so did her skeletal abnormalities, bowing her femurs and tibias, left untreated the increasing pain and disability would have meant that Peggy would have had to have been euthanized.



Her movement was more akin to a bunny hop. That said she was the bravest little dog with a huge personality. Specialist advice was taken from Kentdale Orthopaedic Referrals, and their brilliant Surgeon Graham Hayes said, he felt sure he could help her. She underwent bilateral surgery on both her hind legs, to create a new groove for her knee caps which were then surgically fixed on the fronts of her back legs. As time progressed she was able to exercise more and loved having her sessions with the physio. Her long rehab was shared between myself and Jo and it was such a joy to see her running around with other IGs in Jo's meadow enjoying the glorious June weather. Peggy has been rehomed and lives a very happy life with another IG, her owner teaches Pilates and we gather Peggy and her friend sit on a velvet cushion surveying the class. Not long after Peggy another young adult IG came into rescue, from the same area and he too had recently undergone surgery for a slipping patella, thankfully not as severe as Peggy's and he is enjoying life to the full with his new owner.

Peggy before her surgery



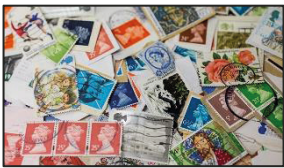
Peggy at Jo's with her favourite friend

In July the Charity undertook the care of a little bewildered IG who had been dumped with two leg fractures. Her story is told in our Covid Diary later in this Newsletter. She too required many months of rehab and thanks to the skills of Graham at Kentdale Othopaedic Referrals and Simon at South Lakes Canine Hydrotherapy, Sophia is back on her feet, pain free and is bringing joy to her owner.

It has been a hectic summer for the Charity. Meanwhile, there are so many people breeding puppies and selling them for such high prices (£3-4K) due to the demand, it is to be hoped the homes they find themselves in are forever.

As always, the Charity is ever grateful to all the kind people who help us in so many ways to help the dogs in need. You really are a very valued part of our small team and we thank you sincerely.

**We all send our best wishes to you and your 4 legged friends and hope that 2021 is a healthier year for all.**



Please don't forget to collect all your used stamps from your Christmas cards and other mail. A very big thank you to Sundra for all her hard work. If you are cutting them out please make sure that you leave enough paper around the serrated edge so that the stamp is not damaged and send them to us at:

**The IGRC Stamp Collection, 43, Sanspareil Avenue, Minster, Isle of Sheppey, ME12 3LE**

## Remembering friends .....



I am saddened to bring the news that *Violetta Cantrill*, of the Viebrin Italian Greyhounds, passed away peacefully on 9 March, after suffering for many years with a heart condition, she was 84.

Violetta joined the Italian Greyhound community in the late 1970's when she was frequently seen showing her dogs and latterly judging the breed. Appropriately, Crufts 2003 was her last judging appointment. Violetta was an IG Club Committee member for many years and it was well know that no one escaped from Club shows without purchasing Raffle tickets from Violetta. As her health did not allow her to travel to shows, Violetta and her daughter Cheryl made many beautiful handmade cards and gift tags which she donated to the Italian Greyhound Rescue to raise funds to help dogs in rescue.

Violetta's world was her family and her dogs and, to Brian her husband and her three daughters we send our sympathy to them at this sad time.



Sadly earlier in the year, Lady Sarah Neill-Fraser aged 89 years and a staunch supporter of the Charity "departed from her mortal coil", as she herself would have said!

Sarah was born into aristocracy; her father was Col. Donald Cardross Flower Erskine, 16<sup>th</sup> Earl of Buchan and her mother Christina Baxendale. She used her mother's maiden name as her kennel name for all her dogs. A lover of dogs from an early age, Sarah showed whippets for a time and then discovered the delights of IGs, and she was very proud of the two IGs she owned, commenting in IG Club's Centenary book published in 2000.



*"These two delightful stars could not shine more brightly for me, radiating quality, type and size, as well as having charming personalities and captivating all those who meet them".*

Sarah took a great interest in all things IG and in particular in those less fortunate than her own; she was very supportive in the setting up of a Registered Charity for the breed, ensuring there will always be support for those IGs in need of veterinary care and rehoming.

As she outlived both her IGs, she decided on a smaller breed and lived with two miniature smooth dachshunds both of whom she showed and achieved a Kennel Club Gold Good Citizens award with one, the first Miniature dachshund to achieve such an award.

Sarah also loved her maran hens and I can recall my Mother and Sarah swapping fertile eggs at a show on one occasion. Her email address made me smile as it was onebrownegg@.... Maran hens are famous for producing dark brown eggs!

I shall miss her phone calls, she had a sharp wit with an amusing turn of phrase that not everyone understood....

To her son Nicholas and brother Malcolm, The Earl of Buchan we send our condolences.



# Pet Insurance - Life Cover or Life Sentence? - A cautionary tale

By Andy Brown

My wife Denise and I have two Iggies, Rafa and Fi. Rafa came to us as a pedigree pup, from small breeders, in 2011 and Fi came from the Charity, as a rescue, in 2013, with an approximate age of three.



## Rafa

I'm sure everyone reading this has, at some point, thought long and hard about pet insurance. There are many choices to be made. Should you self-insure? If you don't, which insurance company do you go with? Should you opt for the policy promoted by your vet or extend your selection to the open market? A quick visit to any 'comparison' website will give you a dazzling array of policy options.

Now, I'm not a professional 'expert' and I can't offer any generic advice on pet insurance. However, through my recent experiences, I do have some insights on one particular aspect of the market. Should you opt for an 'annual' or a 'lifetime' policy?

When Rafa came along, we did our research and decided to go with 'lifetime' cover from The Kennel Club. It appeared to be an ideal choice, a great price, an impeccable brand and peace of mind for the whole of his potentially long life.

When Fi joined us a couple of years later, the natural choice was to sign Fi up with The Kennel Club as well. We even got a second dog discount, happy days!

## Fi



Sadly, it wasn't too long before it came time to understand the customer experience through the claims process.

In his early years, poor old Rafa had a few unscheduled visits to the local veterinary hospital. From an insurance perspective, all was well though. Two large claims were settled after Rafa had survived two close encounters with the operating theatre. Both of these encounters were essentially 'acute' and had vindicated our decision to insure.

### Rafa is very proud of his 'zipper' scar!



In 2016 things changed. Rafa developed a chronic condition (Inflammatory Bowel Disease). Although this was distressing at the time, once the diagnosis was confirmed he quickly recovered. However, it became apparent that he would require the support of a lifelong supply of expensive medication. No problem for us though, the lifetime policy had it covered, vindicated once again, or so we thought. This is when we started to learn about what 'lifetime' actually meant.

Perhaps I was naïve; I thought 'lifetime' meant the policy would endure for the lifetime of the insured, at the same or similar cost, perhaps with a reasonable annual increase in line with inflation. Lifetime cover is more expensive than 'annual' cover precisely because chronic conditions are covered, right? It was beginning to dawn on me though, that we were locked in by the chronic condition and this might have some implications. If we tried to change to new insurers, they would exclude any pre-existing condition. Lifetime is only lifetime if you stay with the same provider. Could this change things for the insurer? They're not meant to 'load' the premium based on claims, but guess what?

When the next renewal notice arrived, the alarm bells started to ring. There was a 28% increase in the premium and the excess went up by £10.00. A few other wrinkles were beginning to emerge.

I had naively thought that the excess was similar to a car policy: our contribution to any claim. Initially this figure had been £85.00. Cynically one might say, this is about the average cost of a visit to the vet. Fair enough though, this charge was made clear up front. In 2016 however, The Kennel Club introduced another element to the excess, a percentage of the total claim, initially 10%. Not looking quite so good for the policyholder now, is it? The other wrinkle was that the excess was per condition per year - obviously if you have a pet with a chronic condition this starts to mount up. Even if your pet doesn't have a chronic condition, you can still fall foul. For example, Rafa had a small accident, in which his left eye came into over-exuberant contact with a tennis ball. It required a number of visits to a vet to test his eye pressure over a three month period. Rafa was fine in the end but since a policy anniversary came during the treatment, we had to pay 2 x £85.00. It also emerged that there was a policy exclusion for 'call out' fees, charged by vets for out of hours treatment. We paid for pretty much all of Rafa's eye treatment!

In 2018, another renewal notice landed through the letter box. Rafa's premium was to go up by 60%! At this point, I thought enough was enough and I raised a complaint with The Kennel Club. My assertion was that a 'lifetime' policy should not give the insurer carte blanche to adjust prices annually without limitations or justification. Now, if you read the small print, I was on a slightly sticky wicket, because the policy does allow for annual increases. In fact, if you really delve into the detail, it says that the policy is an annual policy despite the fact the policy is called 'Lifetime'. One interpretation could be that it is actually no different from an annual policy, except that it includes pre-existing conditions. However my point was that they were being unreasonable.

Predictably The Kennel Club replied by saying that costs of Veterinary treatment and medication had gone up and my dog was getting older etc. They flatly denied loading the premium due to the previous claims. They said they were operating to the letter of the terms and conditions and therefore they couldn't find any reason to uphold my complaint.

Time to involve the Financial Ombudsman (FO).

I raised a complaint to the Ombudsman service in February 2018. This was at the height of the PPI mis-selling scandal so things moved very slowly. In the meantime I kept the policies for both dogs going, not wanting to lose my 'lifetime' cover on either. By this time, Fi's annual renewal had announced an increase of 37%. The total bill was becoming outrageously high (see table).

### Rafa's policy

| Year | Premium   | Fixed Excess | Percentage Excess | Increase over Previous Year |
|------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2013 | £572.04   | £85.00       | 0%                |                             |
| 2014 | £623.64   | £85.00       | 0%                | 9%                          |
| 2015 | £717.00   | £85.00       | 0%                | 15%                         |
| 2016 | £649.56   | £85.00       | 10%               | -9%                         |
| 2017 | £831.84   | £95.00       | 10%               | 28%                         |
| 2018 | £1,331.77 | £95.00       | 10%               | 60%                         |
| 2019 | £1,608.50 | £95.00       | 10%               | 21%                         |
| 2020 | £1,608.50 | £95.00       | 20%               | 0%                          |



## Fi's Policy

| Year | Premium   | Fixed Excess | Percentage Excess | Increase over Previous Year |
|------|-----------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2013 |           |              | 0%                |                             |
| 2014 | £373.68   | £85.00       | 0%                |                             |
| 2015 | £448.32   | £85.00       | 0%                | 20%                         |
| 2016 | £519.00   | £85.00       | 10%               | 16%                         |
| 2017 | £710.04   | £95.00       | 10%               | 37%                         |
| 2018 | £914.73   | £95.00       | 10%               | 29%                         |
| 2019 | £1,148.99 | £95.00       | 10%               | 26%                         |

After much delay, some of it apparently due to a wider investigation about pet insurance, I finally received the adjudication in October 2019. The Financial Ombudsman had found in my favour.

However, before I could break out the champagne, I remembered to read the small print. The Ombudsman had not found that the premium increases were unreasonable but that The Kennel Club had set my expectations wrongly when I initially purchased the policy. Subtly different and I would get no commitment from The Kennel Club to take action on future premiums or indeed take action on policy conditions for other customers. I was offered £750.00 as a one off payment in compensation. This was not what I had fought for, so I wrote back to the Ombudsman and rejected their findings.

Simultaneously The Kennel Club also rejected the Ombudsman's findings.

We seemed to have reached an impasse and the case would now be referred to a senior Ombudsman for further adjudication. At this point I thought I would inform them of the rapidly increasing cost of Fi's policy. Initially I was told this would have to be a separate complaint but later it transpired that this could form part of the case.

## Fi





Time dragged on without further updates from the FO. Rafa's 2020 renewal landed on the doormat in January with no increase over 2019!!! For a moment I thought the message had got through, then I read the small print. Although the premium and the fixed excess had remained the same they had doubled the variable excess to 20%. I decided that maintaining the 'lifetime' cover was just not viable.

I checked with the FO that cancelling the policy would not impact my case. I checked the likely costs of self-insurance. I looked at options with other insurance providers. I found that my two IG's of middle age were pretty much uninsurable. No one would offer a lifetime policy and annual policies were also pretty scarce. So self-insurance it was. Incidentally my calculations on medication costs have shown that Rafa's medication is available from on-line suppliers at between 25% and 33% of the cost charged by my local Vet's practice. Even if you add the necessary prescription costs and examination fees, this is a significant saving.

Then, out of the blue, on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 the FO contacted me and said that The Kennel Club had done a U turn and accepted their decision. Also, that they had offered £500.00 compensation for Fi's policy. The total compensation was now £1,250.00 and, since I had cancelled the policies, it didn't make sense to pursue the 'premium capping' objective I had set out with. I decided to take the money and move on (feeling somewhat smug).

I'm not sure how self-insurance will work out. I can appreciate that it's not for everybody and I'll let you know how it performed in five years time. In the meantime the message is: don't be naïve like me, read the small print, understand the implications and above all, when some is marketing a 'lifetime policy', don't be taken in.

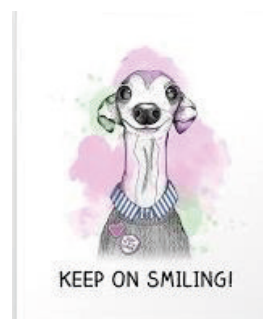
NB The Kennel Club branded pet insurance is provided by Agria Pet Insurance Ltd





**One of a Thousand Daily Conversations While Walking an IG  
By Paddy Bostock**

*Child:* Can I stroke your dog?  
*Me:* Of course you can.  
*Mother:* It's very cute.  
*Me:* Yes. I think she knows it too. *(Cindy smiles.)*  
*Child:* It's tiny. Yes, but she thinks she's big. Not frightened of anything.  
*Mother:* She's a Whippet, right?  
*Me:* No, an Italian Greyhound.  
*Child:* What's her name?  
*Me:* Cindy.  
*Mother:* *(Proudly.)* Buongiorno, Cindy.  
*Cindy:* *(Sniffing her bottom.)* Raaf, raaf.  
*Child:* Is she a baby?  
*Me:* No, she's fully grown.  
*Mother:* *(Incredulous.)* That's as big as they get?  
*Me:* Yup. That's it.  
*Child:* Skinny legs.  
*Me:* Yes, but you want to see her run.  
*Child:* How many miles in an hour?  
*Me:* Twenty-five.  
*Mother:* Wow! Is she hypoallergenic?  
*Me:* *(Not knowing what "hypoallergenic" means.)* Mmm...  
*Child:* I want one of those, Mummy. *(Cindy licks child.)*  
*Mother:* *(Ignoring child.)* She probably needs a lot of attention.  
*That's when I explain about Velcro dogs, and tell mother it's a twenty-four-hour job though it's well worth it. Then I whisper children need to be very careful with them, and it may not be advisable with little kids. Finally I check my watch.*  
*Me:* Gosh, is that the time?



## Covid Diary

*By various Trustees*

While a significant part of 2020 saw the country in lockdown and experiencing restrictions on the normal ways of life, things did not pause or ease for the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. The IGRC remained on hand to provide support and advice to Italian Greyhound owners and although the application process for prospective homes was suspended for several months, the number of enquiries from people wishing to adopt a rescue did not stop. The emails, phone calls and messages increased despite the pandemic and the traffic to the IGRC's website more than doubled during the first couple months of lockdown with almost 8,000 visitors per week by mid-May. Here, some of the Trustees have put together a mini-diary to provide readers with an insight into day to day running of the Charity during the Covid pandemic.

### *The emails...*

Much has been covered in the news about the increasing demand for puppies during and following lockdown. Whether people were working from home or furloughed, many families made the decision during the Spring and Summer of 2020 to introduce a puppy to their households. With movement restrictions in place preventing home checks and stopping visits to see the puppies within their home environments, some may wonder why so many people decided to discard the advice so often given when recommending how to find a reputable breeder and how to recognise the warning sides of a puppy farmer or commercial breeder. Despite the concerns raised by large, national charities, the demand for a getting a dog during the pandemic never waned.

The incoming emails sent to the IGRC reflected the trend being experienced in the wider society. We are used to receiving enquiries on a daily basis via our website but the volume received during lockdown, and well into the Autumn, was significant. Although the IGRC website published a blog that was specifically dedicated to explaining our position during the lockdown and despite the other clear messaging on the website regarding the temporary suspension of the online registration form, the enquiries kept coming through thick and fast. Sadly, the vast majority were wanting a dog or a puppy and they were wanting one straightaway. Many had evidently not researched the breed properly and clearly had a false impression of an Italian Greyhound, thinking them meek, mild and easy to handle.

With each reply, the IGRC always provides advice and an olive branch to further educate those that are new to the breed and who enquire but unfortunately, as soon as we say "we do not have a rescue available for adoption", the email trail stops and no further replies are received from the enquirer. Where do these people go? One can only surmise that they are turning to the internet and contacting the first breeder they find advertising a litter. Is it any wonder, therefore, that puppy prices have rocketed?

Of course, amongst these enquiries, there were the genuine emails that we received either from people who had long been interested in an Italian Greyhound and who were more than understanding of the IGRC's restricted operations during lockdown. There were also emails from owners who were seeking advice for their Italian Greyhound or Italian Greyhound crosses and the Trustees are always on hand to assist and advise in these instances. In summary, while the pace of our lives may well have slowed up considerably, the rate at which the IGRC's inbox filled up never eased since March 2020.

### *The phone calls...*

Alongside the recurrence of an abundance of emails, the IGRC's phonenumber was not quiet either. For five months the Charity could have usefully employed a telephonist to deal with the 8+ daily calls we were receiving.

The Rescue's contact number was obtained by visiting our website, therefore the majority of these callers were aware that we were not taking applications to adopt an IG, yet in many cases the first question asked was "have you got any dogs or do you have any puppies?" Alarm bells instantly ring, and the caller goes rather silent when they are asked what they know about the breed, have they a fully enclosed garden and what is their daily work routine. One can only assume these particular callers were driven to enquiring from rescue for an IG, thanks to the people cashing in by breeding their IGs and charging exorbitant prices of £3000 - £4000 and in some cases pocketing £12,000 - £20,000 in a 17 week period. One wonders if HMRC will eventually catch up with them!

Others, had long hankered after an IG, and with lockdown and time on their hands it gave them an opportunity to fulfil their desire. There were also the callers one feels genuinely sorry for, as they resolutely wanted to follow our advice given on the website to not buy from an online advert. But the trusted breeders who only breed when they want something to keep for themselves, quite rightly postponed their plans, knowing that if there were any puppies to rehome, the chances were that lockdown meant it would be difficult to socialise puppies and it would be almost impossible to get them to their new homes.

There has been upsetting stories of Whippet puppies being transported by commercial Pet Couriers during the restrictions. The poor young puppies many of whom will never have been away from their mothers let alone be used to car travel, had to endure long journeys in a van before being delivered to their new home. Is it any wonder that a number of these puppies were ill when they got to their new homes? This action summed up the selfish attitude of a lot of people whose only thought was getting what they wanted now.

A number of online adverts appeared for IG puppies for sale who had only been in their new homes for a number of weeks and the owners realised they couldn't cope when they had to go back to work.

We hope that all the puppies sold during the last 6 months have found their forever home. But just as the country prepares itself for a second Coronavirus wave, we are preparing for rescues coming our way once the furlough period ends at the end October.

### *Lockdown puppies...*

2020 has certainly been a year to remember but not for very pleasant reasons. For some of us who are fortunate enough to have outside space and are in a situation where we can easily go for a walk in the countryside, it could have been worse but for most people it's been a very difficult time.

Perhaps then, it's understandable that people are looking around for something that can divert their attention from the lockdowns. Unfortunately, this has meant that many of them think that this is the right time to get a puppy when in actual fact it's a very bad time to get a puppy. The rationale seems to be that they have time to house train and generally care for a new member of the household but they seem to be forgetting that when they go back to work-which hopefully they eventually will be able to do - that puppy who has been used to having people around all the time, will suddenly be left alone for long periods of time. We expect to see a lot more dogs with separation anxiety.



The rising demand has been well documented even appearing in the national newspapers and news reports. This has led to a huge increase in the price of puppies, doubling or even trebling the pre-lockdown prices. There will always be breeders that will take advantage of the situation not worrying what will happen to the puppies afterwards.

The Charity is doing its best to educate prospective purchasers not to pay ridiculous prices and preferably to wait until their situation becomes more settled.

The increase in people applying for a rescue (many offering totally unsuitable homes) or asking for advice before buying the breed has honestly been exponential. This might be an overused word during the Covid crisis but we are afraid it does apply here. What the reasons are for the sudden interest in the Italian Greyhound we really don't know although we do know that we are not the only breed where the price has gone up so much. This seems to be applying more or less across the board including crossbreeds. Recently a litter of crossbred Italian Greyhounds/Whippets were advertised at £1500.

We reiterate constantly that Rescue is not a place to try and get an Italian Greyhound on the cheap because it seems many people think that we are. Naturally the Charity is concerned about the future of some of these puppies but we will always be on hand to give help, advice and rescue where needed.

### *Caring for rescues & their recovery...*

Fortunately, we only had one rescue that needed our attention during the lockdown and a kind gentleman, who was on our list to rehome an IG having lost his to old age, happened to live pretty close to where the rescue needed to be collected and he volunteered to collect the dog and temporary foster him for us. Needless to say, the temporary care turned into permanent care, so a very happy ending all round for the rescue and the adopter.

*Sophia pictured below at the beginning of her recovery*



Shortly after the lockdown restrictions were lifted, it came to our notice that an IG had been handed in to a Veterinary practice having been picked up in a remote area with no collar or tag, but she was chipped. We were told the chip was out of date (the breeder was recorded and presumably whoever she was sold to, had not updated their information on the chip). The little girl, very tiny and only young, was posted on Facebook in the hope that her owner would claim her.

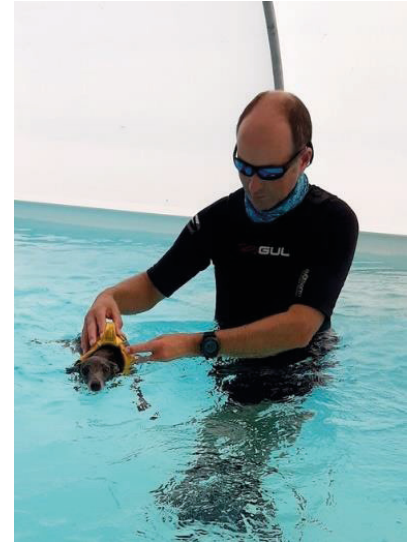
We were told she had an injury. The rescue always follows up cases like these and the Vet practice revealed she had a foreleg fracture, which had been supported and pain-killing drugs administered. The Vet initially thought they would amputate her leg and following persuasion by the Charity they agreed that the leg should only be amputated as a last resort. In the event of her owner not claiming her after 7 days the

Vets would hand her over to the Charity knowing that we would ensure she went to a specialist orthopaedic Referral Hospital to have her fracture mended. Nothing was heard for a few days, until one evening the Vet called to say that it was a different scenario than they originally thought, as they had just discovered she had in fact got two broken front legs, which meant on grounds of welfare she needed urgent treatment.

Thanks to a very willing volunteer she was collected the next morning and taken straight to Kentdale Veterinary Orthopaedics, where specialist Surgeon, Graham Hayes MA Vet MB Cert SAS DipECVS, performed bi-lateral surgery on the little girl's legs. It was most distressing to learn from Graham that she had a previous leg fracture on her right leg and the new fracture had appeared below the plate inserted to fix the previous break; the bone was starting to calcify around the end of the plate, indicating that this leg must have been fractured for at least 14 days. Meanwhile, her left leg fracture was a recent fracture.

Thanks to Graham's skill, two plates were inserted in her legs and, she required a lot TLC, which was only to be expected given the physical pain and mental anguish she must have suffered. How any human being could have abandoned her in such pain and unable to escape danger is really beyond comprehension, just as the breeder not offering to help a little dog they had bred and sold. Nine weeks on, Sophia as she has been christened, walks with perfectly straight legs, loves the company of other dogs and most importantly craves human companionship, even after her traumatic time. She is currently having hydrotherapy to build up her muscles and is proving to be a real water baby.

*Pictured right shows Sophia undergoing hydrotherapy as part of her recovery and rehabilitation*



## A difficult rescue

*By Samantha Bland*

One day in May 2019, a very exciting message came through that all who sign up onto a list for a rescue or a breeder wait for. 'We have a dog here. And we really think she'd fit perfectly into your family'. Your heart does a little flutter as you, without hesitation, ask to know more. 'She's 8 months old, has had two broken front legs that have had many complications and has had three surgeries. They are very much still healing. She's a feisty girl who needs a firm hand cause she will happily push the boundaries but is also super friendly and we wanted to know if you'd like to come meet her'.

So, of course a week or so later, off we went to meet her with our other Italian Greyhound, Savannah, to see how they interacted. When we saw her we all fell in love, Savannah included. Her legs were still not healed, she had to be kept on lead 24/7 and was not allowed to jump around. Also a lot of the things an 8 month old dog should know we would have to teach her or retrain her as most of her short life had been spent on crate rest. We went home to chat about it and after some lengthy conversation came to the decision we would love to be her forever family.

It may sound like a fairytale with a happy ending - dog has a bad start to life and then gets to go to this glorious forever home where she will be happy forever... but that was only the beginning... there was a lot more to be done.

We went and picked up our new little girl, whom we named Jasmine or Jaz due to her sassy nature. We took our new fur child and her sister for the three hour drive home (with wee stops obviously) and she was clearly quite nervous but happy to be out adventuring. When we got home she went and explored our house and our garden as much as she could having to be constantly monitored and on lead. 24/7 having to have her on lead or in a crate for the first few weeks after she came home was tough. She was still only a baby, had a lot of energy and desperately wanted to play and Savannah also didn't understand why her new friend wasn't able to run around with her in the garden. Trying to keep a puppy calm is no easy feat and I salute her foster mother for doing such a sterling job with her for the months she had all her bandages and complications. We got there in the end but it was so tiring and felt so unfair for her.



Our first walk also brought up a problem we didn't quite realise we were going to have. We went on the usual walk we took Savannah on to our local park and her friend Toby the Cavachon was there. As soon as Jaz saw him she screamed so loud I couldn't even explain to you how horrifying it was and it was constant the whole time we were there. She was terrified of this new dog who wasn't an IG and I couldn't let her off the lead to do a normal introduction because of her legs still being fragile. It never occurred to us she hadn't really met dogs out on walks before and this became a massive fear for her. She was always fine with the dogs at her foster home but clearly for her this was different. Anytime a dog was around, even in the very, very far distance Jaz would scream and panic and freak out.

Walking for a while became a real struggle and was just so sad to see her so frightened it became miserable. We began to dread walking and I began to question myself and my abilities to take care of these dogs. Especially this precious girl with the difficult past who was entrusted to me. Did they judge us wrong? Was I wrong for saying yes? Am I what is best for this little girl?



The Rescue were so amazing with giving me advice and walking through it with us. Always encouraging us with her. But it was so hard for so long. We went to trainers and got told to just not go out anywhere where there would be other dogs. Just take Savannah and leave Jaz at home. I was devastated to hear this. We spent so much money on trainers who just couldn't give Jaz what she needed either. But I had to have a change in perspective... I was determined to not give in. Jaz would be able to come on adventures with us. She would enjoy life and she would be happy and care free. What she's always deserved but my goodness, it took a long time.

Many days of running around in empty fields looking insane working on recall, playing games to build trust with her. Teaching this feisty but clever girl tricks and other games to keep her focus and out of trouble at home. Sitting at the edge of parks feeding her treats for being quiet around other dogs and giving her the opportunity to make friends with dogs when she was comfortable. Walking down the road and crossing streets so she could see the dog and slowly become acclimated to walking next to them.



So many months, tears, treats, cuddles, laughs, adventures ... later things got better. She stopped screaming, just went to barking. I'm not going to say she's quiet now, she still barks at dogs if they look at her funny or run at her but we can deal with that as she's allowed to tell them she's uncomfortable or unhappy. She's made many friends, been to Crufts on Discover Dogs as an ambassador for Italian Greyhounds, been to dog shows and dog festivals, paddle boarding, punting along the river, beach trips, holidays, group dog walks, photo shoots, agility training, copious cafe and pub visits and she's thriving. She's still not easy. She still keeps us on our toes along with her sister but she has everything she deserves (and possibly more.... maybe a little spoilt).

It's nice to think of rescuing a dog. But a rescue is a rescue for a reason, and they will need a lot of help, a lot of time and a lot of effort. You will cry, you will laugh, question all your life decisions. They are so worth it but only if you have and are willing to put in the time and effort needed. Jaz

needed a lot from us, but I honestly can't say who changed who for the better at this point. Jaz, we love you so much and are so thankful that you are ours. Thank you for teaching us so much.





## Rescue Crystie's Story - By Stephanie

On 9<sup>th</sup> August 2014 I received a call from Helen about Crystal- who became Crystie. A 7½ year old unspayed bitch who had been handed over to the IGRC for rehoming. Helen described a 13in pale fawn bitch who weighed almost double what she should and during her time in Helen's care she had needed the extraction of rotting teeth.

Crystie came to live with me and my first IG rescue, Roo, and I was met by the sweetest face attached to a very overweight body and this subdued, withdrawn little girl came to light up my life. Subsequently, Helen said she thought Crystie was depressed, and so it proved to be. It was many months before she uttered a sound, wagged her tail for the first time or showed any interest in her surroundings whilst out on a walk.

On her adoption papers Helen listed the state of her teeth, her obesity and the fact that both of her front legs had been fractured and surgically repaired, the left one had healed straight, but the right one had a backward bend to it and it showed slight arthritis.



Now, 6 years later at 13½ years old Crystie is a different little dog with a delightful sense of impish fun, she has lost weight gradually and is now a good shape with a tuck up and waistline. Instead of lumbering slowly upstairs she now flies up, two stairs at a time, and often leaps high in the air with excitement when her food is being prepared! With the passing of time her hearing has almost gone, but we still communicate with yips from her and handclaps/hand signals from me. She has needed her remaining molars extracted so only has three teeth left but greatly enjoys her food.

The arthritis in her right foreleg was becoming more apparent with aging, but I've seen a marked improvement in it since starting her on daily Glucosamine. This comes in a treat form, which she loves and is available from Pets at Home. It is manufactured by Beaphar and is called Glucosamine Easy Treat. It costs £5 for a packet of 60 treats.

Perhaps some other readers with elderly arthritic IGs might benefit from this information.





**Mavis the Rescue**

**Owned by Gina and Bob Mitchell**

**“Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Mavis”**

## Golden Oldies

Earlier this year, two rescue Italian Greyhounds, both aged twelve years old, were placed into the care of the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity. Their previous owner had sadly passed away and both dogs were somewhat bewildered when they came into the Charity's care. They were rehomed together and their new owner kindly shared this message to update the Charity on how well both dogs had settled into their new home.

“We are just loving having them. They are just the sweetest little dogs. They're helping me with my work and they've met their Grandpa (my Dad who thinks they are just adorable). They've been out to our local pub for lunch on Friday and today we went to a country cafe for a coffee and cake and a walk.

Last night Daniel, our son, slept with them downstairs on a blow up mattress. We just absolutely love having them with us and we're loving all the cuddles. Thank you for letting us look after them.”

What a heart-warming message and such lovely photos showing how two golden oldies can complete a family home.





## Rainbow Bridge - Tributes to the friends we have lost



### *Remembering Mocha By Robin Butler*

Mocha was always the best of dogs and although he was 'mine', my wife was very attached to him especially after her Whippet died. Mocha was always the most companionable of dogs, always pleased to see us and never had a bad issue in his mind; he never growled or showed any displeasure and we did our very best for him. Throughout his life, Mocha was very happy and he brought happiness to all around him. He was 15 years and 9 months old when he died.



Mocha in 2018



Mocha with his dear friend Sashka (the whippet)

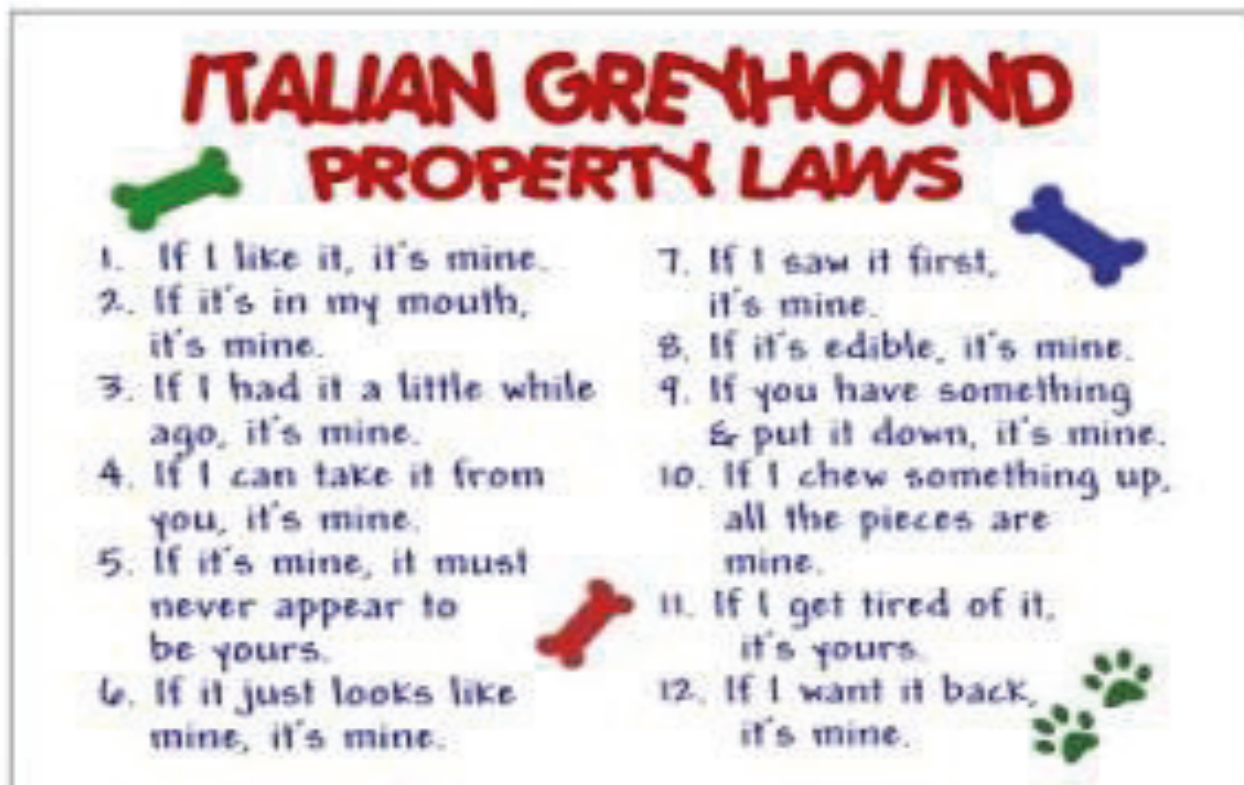
Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog; it merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs your heart is very big.





**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](mailto:info@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk)



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**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 level of Friends membership called 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 refer to the next page for details regarding the Friends and Friends for Life memberships.

# Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity

## Friends Application Form



I/We wish to become a **Friend(s) of Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity** (open to all ages).

**Annual Individual** Friends Membership **£5.00**    **Annual Joint** Friends Membership (at same address) **£8.00**  
*Annual Membership will generally fall due for renewal on the 1<sup>st</sup> January each year thereafter.*

**Life Individual** Friends Membership **£120.00**    **Life Joint** Friends Membership (at same address) **£150.00**

I/We also wish to make a donation of **£**\_\_\_\_\_ (optional) to the Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity' or you can pay by Standing Order or BACS transfer. Our bank details are: National Westminster Bank, Sort code 53-61-07, Account Number 61386499, please include your name in the reference field. Please confirm by email to treasurer@italiangreyhoundrescuecharity.org.uk when your payment has been made and the amount, otherwise we do not know your membership has been paid. Thank you.

**NB. You must not have been banned from keeping animals nor have any court proceedings outstanding barring you from owning animals. The Trustees of Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity reserve the right to refuse a person as a 'Friend' of the Charity.**

(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)

I/We agree to my/our contact details being held securely for 7 years, which will only be used for charitable purposes.

*giftaid it*

### "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 the completed form to: **IGRC Treasurer: Dr Neville Bowman**  
**Roselin House, 7 Berrys Meadows, Spreyton,**  
**Devon, EX17 5DU**  
**☎ 01647 231121**





# Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity 2020

Please note that due to high printing costs we only have a limited number of cards in some designs ~ order early to avoid disappointment.

## 2021 IG Calendar

£9.50 each or Two £17.50

Featuring:

- 12 full colour IG pictures
- UK Bank Holidays
- Space to write appointments



(15 x 21 cms)

*Waiting for Santa by Gaynor Bowman*  
6 cards for £6.95 Wording inside card:  
Wishing you a Happy and Magical



**New for 2020 Christmas Kiss by Fiona Thomson**  
MA (hons) MFA Scottish Contemporary Artist 10  
Cards for £6.95 wording inside: Seasons Greetings



*Puppies First Christmas by Mary Browning*  
10 cards for £6.95  
Wording inside card:  
With every good wish for  
Christmas & the New  
Year.



*Brother & Sister – Art Cards by Christine Varley*  
suitable for framing 16 cms square.  
£1.75 each Blank inside



*Festive Fun by Bridgette Lee*  
10 cards for £6.95 Wording inside  
card: Seasons Greetings



**Supersoft Snuggly blankets - £7.95**  
Hand crocheted and donated  
by a loyal 'Friend' of The  
IGRC.  
Assorted colours.



**Handmade Fleece Dog Toy** With squeaker £4.95  
Owl~Parrot~Dolphin~Spider~Rabbit~Mouse~Octopus



**Fleece Vests - £11.50**  
Small, Medium, Large & X Large  
In a variety of colours &  
patterns



**All the above toys & vests are made and donated by a kind lady, to raise funds for Rescue.  
We cannot therefore guarantee your chosen colour.**

Order form over page 1.....

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# Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity 2020



*Soft Leather Waist Bag*  
**£9.00**  
Features an adjustable strap and 7 pockets, for leads, treats & pick up bags



*Solid Brass Key Fob*  
**£6.25**



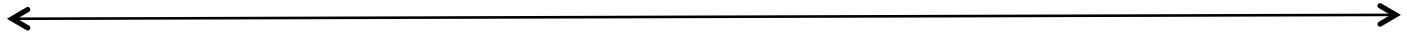
*Car Sticker*  
**£2.00**



*Shopping Bag for Life* - **£4.95**  
Strong webbing handles, can be used as a shoulder bag too.



*Handmade Wooden IG Key/Lead holders* - **£12.45**



## ORDER FORM *all prices include 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Postage to a UK address*



| Item   | Colour/or size            | Price each/Pack | Quantity | Amount £ |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Christmas Kiss Christmas Cards   | 10                        | £6.95           |          |          |
| Waiting for Santa Christmas Cards  | 6                         | £6.95           |          |          |
| Festive Fun Christmas Cards  | 10 for                    | £6.95           |          |          |
| Puppies First Christmas Cards  | 10 for                    | £6.95           |          |          |
| Brother & Sister Art Cards   | each                      | £1.75           |          |          |
| 2021 IG Calendar   | Each<br>2 for             | £9.50<br>£17.50 |          |          |
| Snuggly Hand Crocheted Blankets  | each                      | £7.95           |          |          |
| Fleece Dog Toy, Owl, Parrot, Dolphn, Spider, Rabbit, Mouse, Octopus<br><i>*Please circle which one</i> | Each                      | £4.95           |          |          |
| Fleece Vests * please circle size  | *small, medium, large, XL | £11.50          |          |          |
| Leather Waist bag  | each                      | £9.00           |          |          |
| Brass Key Fob  | each                      | £6.25           |          |          |
| Shopping Bag for Life  | each                      | £4.95           |          |          |
| Wooden IG Key/Lead Hooks   | each                      | £12.45          |          |          |
| Car Sticker  | each                      | £2.00           |          |          |
| <b>Cheques ONLY. Payable to Italian Greyhound Rescue Charity</b>                                       | <b>Total enclosed</b>     |                 |          |          |
| <b>The IGRC has NO facility for Credit/Debit card processing.<br/>*** WE DO NOT ACCEPT CARDS ***</b>   |                           |                 |          |          |

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|------------|--|---------|--|
| Your Name: |  |         |  |
| Address:   |  |         |  |
| Postcode:  |  | Tel No: |  |
| Email:     |  |         |  |

Send to: Helen Lister, IGRC, Yew Tree Cottage, Near Orrest, Windermere  
Cumbria LA23 1JT  
Tel: 01539 448057