

Welcome to the September/October edition of the Hector's News Letter

Hi Everyone.

I hope you are enjoying the summer. Hectors has seen some more gorgeous dogs come into the rescue and I really want to thank you all for taking on a rescue dog.

We have had two great dog shows this year firstly a fun show at Acorn Kennels, followed by our annual show at Ellesmere. I really hope you enjoyed them both and so did your four legged friends. We now have a 3rd coming up which is at Oswestry town centre, please see our events page for more information.

For many of you who follow us on Face Book will now know we now have an Instagram account. If you would like to follow us or send any pictures of your beautiful hounds to go on Instagram just send them to me via text on 07877384417 with a few words about the picture.

Hectors are in desperate need of volunteers. If you and your hound could help us I'd be so happy, the more volunteers we have the more dogs lives we can save. This is why you see me running around like a headless chicken at events and I don't get chance to see you for chats and cuddles with your dogs.

Your help can be from giving us views and fresh ideas at meetings, telling us about new venues, arranging play days for dogs, taking a kennel dog out for the day, even the slightest thing you do really helps us. Please contact me if you feel you would be able to help in any way.

We are always looking for stories as well, if you have a funny tale to tell, a poem or silly pictures please feel free to send them in.

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

Sharon, Dave, Sheila, Helen Connolly and Lesley along with their gang of 4 legged friends spent a day in Chester holding a street collection and raised just under £300. The star of the day was definitely Gypsy who spent most of the day on her back enjoying cuddles from everyone.

A week later Sharon, Dave, Sheila, Helen Wilkes, Lesley, Joan Davies and Tony spent a few hours in the beautiful Victorian town of Llandudno holding a street collection and raised £252. The weather was lovely and warm and Ruby enjoyed some ice cream, unfortunately she forgot to share it with her four legged friends much to their disappointment.

At the end of July Sharon, Dave, Sheila, Lesley, Tony and the hounds spent a few hours at Prestatyn shopping park chatting to the general public and raised £160. Emma Davies came over to help us along with her little old lady Harley who is 12 years old.

Rhyl street collection was next on the agenda for Sharon, Dave, Sheila, Lesley Helen Wilkes and Tony plus the hound gang and raised £116. Whilst most of the hounds lay down having a nap Teddy was refusing to lie down and stood up all day just in case he missed anything that was going on. Nosey Boy Teddy.

Helen Connolly, Joan and Freddie had a stall at the Threapwood Show. Helen said "we helped raise awareness of the plight of greyhounds during and after their racing careers and it was especially nice to see Harry the Saluki pup with his family and canine friend".

Our Fun Dog Show in Ellesmere was a huge success and once again the weather was extremely kind to us. £1,839.79 was raised which is fantastic news. The fun classes went down a treat especially the musical hoops which is similar to musical chairs but no chairs in sight, just hoops. We were also fortunate enough to have Adam Clinton attend as one of our judges. Adam is one of the assistant trainers where we get lots of our track dogs from. Lots of the dogs who attended the show originally came from Adam so it was a great chance for him to meet up with a few of his fans. One fan in particular was Percy. Adam told us the story of why he became so attached to Percy and it goes like this. Basically when Percy's mum was in labour with her litter Adam stayed up all night overseeing the situation. Hours later it became apparent that the vet was needed and a caesarean section was required for mum. Adam was expecting there to be quite a few puppies but in actual fact mum gave birth to only 2 "HUGE" puppies. Adam went on to say that from that moment on he had a very special bond with Percy and spent many a happy hour having cuddles with him in his kennel. Having been so involved in the process to go without saying that this was a very special bond.

Percy recognised Adam straight away at the show and it really was a very special moment for everyone who witnessed it.

RAFFLE WINNERS

The full list of prize winners is available on our website and FB page, in the meantime here are the top prize winning numbers. All winners have now been notified.

1ST Prize Winning Ticket - 0180 T Jones

2ND Prize Winning Ticket - 0097 P Thomas

FUTURE EVENTS AND INFO

Sunday 10th September - Fred's September Walk, Alyn Waters Country Park, Mold Road, Gwersyllt, Wrexham LL11 4AG. 11am start.

The car parking is free and facilities including toilets and café are available near the car park. Please remember all dogs on leads.

Saturday 16th September - Conwy street collection, top of High Street, Conwy, LL32 8DE, 10.30-3pm. Weather permitting.

Come along and help Teddy, Jojo, Percy, Ruby and Gypsy raise much needed funds for the hounds.

AS RECOMMEND BY FREDDIE - The Coffee Shop, Visitor & Exhibition Centre. 2 Church Terrace, Oswestry SY11 2TE. Tel; 07855298704. Opens at 10am daily.

The coffee shop is run by Carol Roberts she is supported by Ellie her rescued Schnauzer and also Charles.

What a location steeped in history and character. Make a visit and step back in time. Enjoy the excellent menu and tea served in funny teapots.

Visiting dogs are treated as VIP's. They receive a bowl of water and a treat before their accompanying humans can get a look in.

While 'taking tea' one day Carol pointed to us a visiting couple from somewhere near Watford who were on holiday without their hounds. We had a hound chat and they turned up on our Erddig Park walk. They were most welcome.

The Visitor and Exhibition centre is easy to find. The centre is behind the church, St Oswald King and Martyr.

DOGS LOOKING FOR A HOME

RUBY

Poor Ruby has been returned to the rescue after only four months in a home due to a relationship breakdown. Through absolutely no fault of Ruby's, she is sadly unable to stay in the family home. However Ruby is very resilient, she strolled back into her old foster carers house and settled back in as if she had simply popped out to the corner shop. Ruby is three years old, happily lives alongside two other greyhounds in her foster home, she is fully house trained and walks well on a lead, she is not cat safe.

Ruby is incredibly beautiful, she also owns a pair of amazingly expressive ears! You really have to meet Ruby in person to fully appreciate how beautiful and wonderful she is, she also has a beauty that oozes from deep within her soul. Ruby loves to play and would love a home with a large garden and someone who has time to play with her, she would be best suited for a family with older children as she can be a bit exuberant when she plays. We would prefer she went to a home with previous sighthound experience.

SHELLY

Shelly is five years, she was born in Ireland but has spent much of her Greyhound racing career in England. Shelly is in foster care living happily alongside two resident greyhounds, although this has been a huge change for Shelly from living in a racing kennel she has taken it all in her stride and absolutely nothing has fazed her, except possibly for mirrors which she is still trying to work out!

Shelly house trained immediately in her foster home, she walks well on the lead, she is good travelling in a car and she has enjoyed the company of a visiting spaniel. Shelly is not cat safe. For more details about Ruby, Shelly or any of the other dogs we have available for re-homing please do get in touch via our website "contact page"

<http://www.ectorsgreyhoundrescue.org/contact-us.html>

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR FOSTER CARER'S - As told by Sheila Bridge

Adopt and save one, foster and save many

Okay, I hold my hands up and admit I'm totally addicted to greyhounds and my addiction needs feeding.

I had always had three hounds at a time, but when two of them passed away suddenly, within a fortnight of each other I decided to begin fostering. So I adopted one and took a foster in, not knowing whether I would be able to say goodbye when the time came for him to go to his forever sofa, but I did even though he took a piece of my heart with him, as have all my fosters since. Fostering is not for everyone many people feel it is too traumatic saying goodbye but as long as I know where the dog is going and I feel ok with his new family then I'm happy for him to take the next big step in his life. The problem with us humans is that we think no one can look after the dog as well as we can and that's why it can be difficult to say goodbye. By adopting this attitude we are depriving others of the joy a greyhound will bring to a home and denying a dog the right to a happy family life. Greyhounds are very adaptive and usually settle quite quickly.

For me fostering feeds my addiction. Every few months a new dog comes bringing with it new challenges and experiences. It never fails to surprise me the speed at which greys settle into a new environment when all they have ever known is kennel life. Most of them are very quick to house train and quick to find the comfiest bed! Admittedly I have the assistance of my two greys who are calm chilled dogs which helps a foster to feel relaxed. The more relaxed he is the more receptive he becomes to training. A foster home is basically a "school" where the grey is taught, house training, manners (hopefully), to walk nicely on the lead and to be introduced to other dogs of all shapes and sizes. He also needs to accept all the strange noises in the house such as the washing machine and the vacuum cleaner.

Like many rescues, Hector's relies on foster carers to rehabilitate and evaluate the hounds in their care in order to find suitable homes. Hector's is currently looking for more foster homes - could you do it?

The rescue can offer a two hour training course, based on discussion to help you decide whether fostering is for you. Hector's also provide food and pays all veterinary fees whilst the dog is in your care.

When you adopt you save one, when you foster you save many. You could be the first to see a tail wag, take a treat or get a kiss from a rescue hound that really deserves the chance of a new life.

If you believe you could help Hector's by becoming a foster carer, or would like to discuss it, please contact Hayley via the website.

TWIZZLES DIARY

Hi everyone it's me again, Twizzle. I'm sure some of you will remember that I wrote to you all in the last newsletter about my journey from being a rescue greyhound to finding my forever home.

I am a very happy boy and my new owners and the other three greyhounds that I live with are very busy. I like having a family to call my own.

On Saturday 19th August my human owners said I had an important job to do so along with the other greyhounds we set off in the car to Wellington Fire Station. It was very noisy with lots of people and big red machines with flashing blue lights and loud sirens. I wasn't scared because my owners spoke gently to me and stroked me. A young lady called Emily came to see us and explained what our role was. I listened carefully and found out we were helping her with a charity called Smokey Paws. I didn't know there was such a charity.

The charity funds the purchasing of breathing masks specifically designed for using on domestic pets and also farm animals who have suffered the effects of smoke inhalation. The apparatus is kept on board the fire engine and on hand should they be required. The packs have three different sized oxygen masks, oxygen lines and leads in them. Emily told my owners that fire engines don't automatically have the kits supplied and therefore the charity is trying to fund raise to ensure every fire engine is kitted out with the necessary equipment.

A fire officer came over to stroke me and he told my owners that he had recently used one of the masks on a sheep who had suffered smoke inhalation in a barn fire. The sheep was given oxygen through one of the special animal masks and made a full recovery. Isn't that fantastic!

The charity has a web site

www.smokeypaws.co.uk

It relies completely on volunteers and fundraisers, so if you are interested please look at the web site for more information.

I was a very good boy at Wellington Fire Station. There were lots and lots of humans and so many little humans that wanted strokes and cuddles. I think I was a very good advert for Hectors Greyhound Rescue. I heard lots of people talking to my owners about adopting a greyhound. I hope some of them try and find a greyhound of their own. They won't regret it!

Emily said I needed the larger of the three masks because of my long nose! Can you see Bella by my side? She lives with my owners along with Toby and Joey.

I will share more of my adventures in the next newsletter.

Goodbye from Twizzle

OVER TO YOU - As told by Helen Connelly

In foster with me at the moment is a sweet little greyhound girl called Meara. We collected Meara at the beginning of August and took her into our home as a foster dog. Meara was born and raised in a field in Ireland, had never known human love and kindness, bred to race but at only 2 years old hasn't. Her companions were her litter brothers and 150 other hounds. She must have had to fight for food and probably living outside in all weather.

In all my time with rescue greyhounds I have never seen such a frightened little soul. When we arrived home she came out of the van with her tail tucked well between her legs, stressed panting and trembling. She must have thought "another journey and where to this time"?

Our 3 hounds may have been a bit overwhelming at first so she met Betty to start with, a laid back lady who knows all about roaching on the couch, then Nelson and Ted and soon all 4 were getting to know one another.

Surprisingly she has immediately taken to playing with toys and teddies. She is great on the lead and looking forward to going on some real walks soon not just in the garden. She is as quiet as a lamb and quick to learn.

Meara is clean in the house, apart from one initial accident, this being the first evening before the others had had chance to show her the ground rules. But what a quick learner! Every night since then she has been quiet and clean.

I honestly haven't done any toilet training at all. I did think I'd collected the wrong dog but she's Meara alright and she is turning into a model hound.

As for lead trainingI haven't done that either. She walks perfectly to heel. She has been out in our lane and seen cars and tractors. No reaction. She has been to Alderford Lake and has just looked at the waterfowl and also other dogs, no reaction. We even stopped for tea and her manners were impeccable. Her only foible.....well, don't leave your phone or anything which smells of you on the kitchen table. She so much wants to bond she collects her own little treasure trove if you don't watch out. My crocs are usually on the lawn!

She alternates her choice of bed - couch with or without Nelson alongside her, roaching or curled up with some of the dollies and she also loves to lie on the mat in front of the patio doors so she can see the garden birds and has also taken to having a nap in the crate, she just decided she wanted some crate time one day and wandered in for a sleep.

Work to do in time: separation test, cat safe test and more van training, she doesn't really like to travel at present. She is such a star and will make a lovely little pet I'm sure.

GREYHOUND HEALTH CARE - Greyhound Toe Injuries

Fractures

There are three bones in each toe and all can suffer from breaks. Fractures can be a single fracture line or multiple fragments, and some will involve the joints. Supporting the foot with dressings will allow many fractures to heal rapidly but the disadvantage is that the bone cannot be set leading to a misshapen toe and subsequent lameness.

The preferred treatment method for unstable fractures is the application of an external fixator comprising of several pins inserted through the skin above and below the fracture site and joined with an acrylic connecting bar. This allows stabilisation and alignment of the bones.

Fractures that extend into the joint always result in arthritis as the joint surface loses its profile causing a joint instability. Healing results in a joint with a reduced range of movement or even a solid joint. However the dog usually copes with no lameness or loss of form.

Dislocations

Dislocations of any of the three toe joints are common and are sometimes referred to as knocked up or sprung toes. Clinical signs include a swollen joint or possibly a bent toe or toes. Traditional treatment methods include pin-firing, surgical ligament replacement and surgical ligament repair, none giving predictable results.

The application of an external fixator across the joint, applied to either the top joint (metacarpal/tarsal phalangeal) or middle joint (P1/P2) gives predictable excellent results with minimal surgical interference. The fixator is left in place for three weeks. The principle behind this treatment is that if the joint is held in its normal position for a period of time scar tissue replaces the torn ligaments and provides sufficient support.

Dislocation of the nail joint is simply treated by permanent nail removal taking away the lever across the joint.

Pads

Pad lameness is usually from either a penetrating foreign body or a corn. The former will have an entry wound and will often exude serum. However this can be easily confused with a corn.

Corns

A corn is a circular area of hard pad that may appear to have an entry wound in its centre. They are thickened areas of pad tissue and some have a root that invades the tissues under the pad. Lameness can be profound and is often worse on hard ground and can be likened to walking with a stone in your shoe. This condition is seen almost entirely in sighthounds. For more details on corns refer to our January/February 2016 News Letter.

Split webs

The webbing is the skin between the toes. If the leading edge is cut then the web will often split further each time the dog runs. Cutting back the web as far as the main pad prevents further tears and does not weaken the foot.

Sand burns/split foot

A sand burn is a superficial abrasion of the skin over the tendons to the central toes of the back feet. It is due to the action of the sand on the tightened skin. If this abrasion becomes full thickness it is called a split foot. Treatment is by cutting back the web to the outside of the split and is 80% successful. If the split recurs then the central web can also be safely cut back and is usually successful.

**Best wishes
Hayley and the team at Hector's Greyhound Rescue**