

Hector's Greyhound Rescue News Letter November/December 2017

Hi everyone

Well it's very much autumn, the leaves are dropping off the trees and laying a blanket of colour. The nights are drawing in as the clocks have gone back an hour and you suddenly notice your hound isn't so keen to go out in the wet, windy weather. To help keep your hound nice and warm Hector's have a great collection of dog coats, rain macs and blizzard coats in stock. Please get in touch with us if you would like to purchase one or need any advice regarding which coat is suitable.

As most of you will know we work closely with Acorn rescue which is based in Whitchurch. Acorn is the pound responsible for the intake of stray dogs in the Wrexham and Shropshire areas. We are going to be setting up donation stations across the counties where you can drop off things such as bedding, treats and food for the poor old stray dogs and we intend to have a gathering of volunteers at the kennels on Christmas Eve giving the dogs some love, treats and cosy warm beds. Keep an eye out for more details on where you can visit one of the stations to drop items off.

RECYCLE, RECYCLE, RECYCLE

As you will all know here at Hectors we supply you with a collar, lead, muzzle and ID disc when you adopt a dog from us. We appreciate that most people like to purchase their own further down the line and we would ask that you consider returning the unwanted items to us so that we can reuse them. Any items that you wish to return to us can be sent to Hayley Bradley at:

[34 Hammonds Place Gobowen Shropshire SY11 3PA](#)

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING

Sharon, Dave, Sheila and Lesley held a street collection in Conwy on 16th September and as usual the dogs were a great crowd puller. £303 was raised which also included a generous donation from Scott and Steph who came along especially to see us and made a really generous donation in memory of their greyhound Katy.

On the same day the Shropshire team held their first ever dog show on the Bailey Head Oswestry and raised £759. It was a great morning that was enjoyed by all and it looks like it's going to go ahead next year too. Well done everyone.

Saturday 28th October our Shropshire volunteers attended a special Fancy Dress Halloween market in Oswestry. A total of £242 was raised which was brilliant.

On Saturday 14th October Fred, Stuart and co, plus Jackie Roberts and co attended a store collection at Stan's shop in St Martins and raised £85. Well done folks.

HIGH FLYING JACKIE

In the last news letter you may remember the story about Jackie who had decided to do something with a bit of a difference in order to raise funds for Hector's.

Here's Jackie's story of how things went when she did her wing walk.

On the big day we travelled to Brighton Aerodrome near Selby in Yorkshire. I had to be there for 11.30 am for my briefing before climbing up onto the wing for my flight. I was beyond excited. I had my husband Ian, my brother David and his girlfriend Samantha and our friends Jim and Jill to cheer me on.

Once I was strapped in on top of the wing the plane taxied to the end of the runway and we were off! Take off was awesome and I was soon flying high over my supporters, waving at them and loving every second of it. We flew over the canal where a few people were fishing and they started waving at me as well.

As I was not a nervous wing walker the pilot did quite a bit of twisting, turning and banking over. After 15 minutes it was all over and we were landing, but if the pilot had said we could go straight back up, I would have gone. It was that good!

The final total raised is £1,000. People have been very generous, especially my husband's workmates in Portable Foods, Wrexham who have raised over £500.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me.

HAPPY ENDING FOR BERT

You will all probably remember Rupert, the poor greyhound that came into us following the horrific injury to his back leg after being thrown out of a van on the A5 by travellers. Following major surgery and a very long rehabilitation period Rupert has now been adopted by his foster family. He is now known as Bert.

We love a happy ending. Enjoy your life lovely boy.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

October marked the first birthday of the puppies that were born after we rescued Angel, a lurcher who arrived with us heavily pregnant. On 10th October 2016 she delivered ten beautiful healthy balls of black fur. They have since all grown into gorgeous, happy, very affectionate and VERY energetic youngsters! All ten puppies found their forever homes but unfortunately due to changes in the owners circumstances three were sadly returned. Poppy and Bertie had been homed together so we were

keen to keep them together if at all possible. Luckily we were successful. They are now very happy in their new home.

After eating something that he shouldn't, George had to have surgery which then led to complications and he was given only a 20% chance of surviving. However, he is stubborn like his mum and a real fighter, and has made a full recovery. He is now back with his foster mum and is looking for his new home.

Happy 1st Birthday Puppies!!

Visit our Facebook page to see pictures of the other puppies who are equally as cute.

BRIDGET AND HER BUNDLES OF JOY

The maternity ward here at Hector's is open once again. A lurcher girl named Bridget found herself in the worst situation imaginable, homeless, unwanted and pregnant. On 17th October she gave birth to 7 puppies under the watchful eye of Sue. Unfortunately one puppy didn't make it but the six others are doing really well.

Keep up to date with all the progress on the new arrivals by visiting our Facebook page and also our website.

FUTURE EVENTS AND INFO

Sunday 12th November 11 am - 1 pm Fred's Fun Dog Walk, Oswestry Old Race Course, Racecourse Common, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7HL

Situated on the Welsh/English border the walk takes us around the figure of eight. The 18th Century Horse Racing Track is surrounded by stunning views.

All breeds of dogs are welcome (on leads please) also anyone wishing to join us without a dog, or simply wanting to come along to meet our greyhounds are very welcome. Basic refreshments will be available.

Directions from Oswestry town centre - Take the B4580 road signposted to Llansilin, follow the road out of the town and up the steep hill for about two miles. At the crest of the hill follow the signs to the Racecourse Common.

Saturday 25th November 10 am - 12.30 pm Hector's Christmas Fair. United Reformed Church, Colwyn Avenue, Rhos on Sea, North Wales, LL28 4RA

Entry is £1.00 to include Tea/Coffee and Mince Pie/Biscuit. There will be a Christmas Raffle, Bric a Brac, Christmas Hamper Prize draw and a Name the Teddy competition plus Sharon Ann Originals and Pet Charms with Love, both selling hand made dog related products.

This is a perfect morning to do your Christmas shopping with your hound, or for your hound! Please come along and support us.

Friday 1st December 6pm - 9pm Oswestry Christmas Live Market, Bailey Head Market, Oswestry, SA11 1PZ

The ever popular evening Christmas event is a firm favourite with our volunteers. The streets are closed to traffic and Oswestry comes alive with fairground rides, live music, ice ring and Christmas market stalls. Please come say hello.

Sunday 3rd December 12 noon Winter Wonderland,

Acorn Kennels, Heath Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AA

Hector's are turning Acorn Kennels in Whitchurch in to a Winter Wonderland, complete with a Santa Grotto just for dogs to visit their very own Santa Claus and receive a present, bring you camera to capture your dog's visit to Hector's Santa.

There will be hot refreshments available, lots of stalls with Christmas gift ideas for all the family and of course for your dog. There will also be stalls with homemade cakes, raffles and much more.

Wear a festive Christmas hat and join us for some Christmas Carols and you may win a prize.

Saturday 23rd December 10.30 am - 3.30 pm Store Collection, Sainsbury's, London Road, Whitchurch, SY13 1NJ,

Come along, say hello and wish us all a Merry Christmas whilst popping a pound in the bucket for the dogs in need.

AS RECOMMEND BY FREDDIE

Station Grill, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, SY22 6AD Tel: 01691 828478

email: info@thestationgrill.co.uk

This superb restaurant is right on my door step, the bar area is dog friendly and has carpets on the floor (so dogs are comfy) and the restaurant menu can be served in the bar.

There are a couple of good walks that can be started from the car park to either work up an appetite or to slim down again.

Fred also recommends that you regularly check your leads for general wear and tear.

Check the stitching and also lubricate the catch.

Just a drop of light oil will ensure that the clip will work and not get jammed open. A little oil will also prevent the spring from rusting. I would dread to think of the consequences should this happen.

CHRISTMASES PAST - As told by Shan Griffith

We never forget any of the greyhounds that have touched our lives, they all take a little piece of our hearts when they leave us, but they also leave behind some wonderful memories. Often the most memorable and funny are from the time when a Greyhound first arrives, many years later you still say "remember when?!"

Christmas is a time when you reflect upon past Christmases and greyhound Christmases are no exception. Our very first greyhound over twenty years ago is remembered every year. On Travis' first

Christmas Eve we went out leaving a neat pile of Christmas gifts on our dining room table waiting to be delivered on Christmas morning. We returned a couple of hours later to find every present had been opened and there was nowhere open to buy more wrapping paper!

Frostie was a newly acquired stunning black and white boy who we took away for a weekend in Yorkshire. He was behaving so well we took him to Bampton Cliffs RSPB Nature Reserve. We had a lovely walk, then walked him back through the gift shop and cafe rather proudly as all eyes were on our magnificent dog. He however spied a realistic (and expensive) hedgehog doorstep, which at the speed of light he "killed" in front of everyone.

Freckleton, our nearly ten year old greyhound has to endure the humiliation every Christmas of the "Remember Freckleton's first Christmas?". Freckleton, when left home alone, unscrewed a lid of a large jar of Liquorice allsorts and ate the contents. An amused Vet said he should be fine, but had a little chuckle while they said Liquorice is a natural laxative. Freckleton was absolutely fine for about six hours until 10.00pm, when he suddenly rushed to the kitchen door. All would have been well if only he hadn't had to reverse back into the kitchen so I could open the door to let him out. Even he stood with his mouth open in amazement at the once white kitchen units now covered in the black, Liquorice explosive diarrhoea. Luckily I was in front of him, otherwise there would have been a white cartoon person shape on the cupboard doors!

Have a safe and Happy Christmas with your Hounds.

DOGS LOOKING FOR A HOME

ARTHUR

Arthur is an eight and a half year old greyhound, he has lived happily in his "forever home" for five years following his retirement from racing. Sadly due to his owner's ill health he has reluctantly been handed to Hector's. Arthur is a really adorable, sociable dog. He walks well on the lead, loves children and is good with all breeds of dog, he also still enjoys a mad five minutes playing.

Arthur has tugged at the heart strings of everyone at Hector's, his waist line hints at the fact that he has enjoyed the finer things in life and he must be completely devastated to find himself homeless again. Arthur would be a fantastic, very loving companion. He needs only a couple of short daily walks and some of the finer things in life! Arthur has distinguished good looks with beautiful white flecks through his coat. He is a truly lovely dog and really doesn't deserve to feel sad.

RODNEY

Rodney is a three year old gorgeous greyhound who has recently retired from racing. He is a really happy chap, who loves to play and is eager to please. With his pleasant disposition, he is a happy

go lucky boy. Rodney would make an amazing addition to any family and would love to join in family activities.

There are also lots of other greyhounds looking for a forever home. To find out more details please visit our re-homing page on the website.

www.ectorsgreyhoundrescue.org/greyhounds-for-rehoming.html

OVER TO YOU - As told by Lisa

Sally sausage came into our lives in August 2017. We had thought about getting a dog for a long time and fell in love with greyhounds as a breed, there is something very special about them. We had spoken to a few people about getting a greyhound but were told that because we work and have a cat, it would probably be impossible to find a suitable hound. Then one day I stumbled on Hector's Greyhound Rescue and spoke with the lovely Hayley. She was so positive and enthusiastic. Pretty sure she would find us a suitable dog she phoned within a week to tell us that she would be getting Sally sausage a beautiful 3 1/2 year old fawn coloured greyhound. We went to see her and fell madly in love. Hayley cat tested her and found she was safe (our cat defiantly rules the roost). Hayley very kindly looked after Sally and got her used to everyday life while we were on holiday. We have now had Sal for about 6 weeks, it has amazed us that she has settled in so quickly. The cat has now accepted her and Sally has been very gentle towards him. Sally has made our family complete and we really couldn't imagine life without her. I had read a lot about greyhounds and read that they can be lazy but hadn't quite realised how much. In the morning she really doesn't want to get out of bed and has to be coaxed out with treats she loves nothing more than lying spread out on the sofa. Saying that she does go running with me (more very slow jogging) up in the Shropshire hills and can now manage a couple of miles. She walks with me to school to pick up the kids and has been known to try and pinch cuddly toys from young children walking by. Sally loves nothing more than cuddly toys and pillows and will sneakily pinch the girl's things and put them in her bed!!!! She will hurtle around the garden and have a mad few minutes and then collapse in a heap. She is just the best thing ever and we feel VERY lucky to have her. If you are thinking about re-homing a greyhound then I would defiantly recommend it.

CHRISTMAS DOGGY SHOE BOX APPEAL

Hector's are running a Christmas Shoe box Appeal to help our greyhounds and the other homeless dogs in the kennels to have an enjoyable Christmas. For most of them this will be the first Christmas they have known. We would love these dogs to enjoy this special time as much as those who have found their forever homes. If you can help please fill an old shoe box with food, treats and toys and send it to: Hector's Greyhound Rescue, c/o Acorn Kennels, Heath Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 2AA, or bring it along to the Winter Wonderland event on Saturday 3rd December.

GREYHOUND HEALTH CARE - FIREWORKS AARRRGH

It is the season of bangs, flashes, whizzing and screeching - the sight and sound of fireworks -

which can be very scary for many animals, so in this edition of Greyhound Health Care we asked our resident Behavioural Advisor Sheila Bridge for some advice for keeping not just your greyhound but indeed all pets safe and secure.

Here is what she had to say

As humans we all have our own ways of dealing with fear because we are capable of rational thinking. Dogs have two responses to fear. Fight or flight. If your hound is frightened of fireworks there are several things you can do to help him.

Whether he is scared or not, plug in an Adaptil diffuser, ideally a week before the event. It mimics the pheromone from nursing bitches, which calms and quietens pups so predators won't hear them. I also use Adaptil when bringing a new foster into the house - it works! You can find this product in good pet shops such as Pets at Home and Farm and Pet.

If your dog tries to hide from the noise, create a "den" for him a few days before the event. This refuge should be available to him at all times whether you are at home or not. Choose a place where he already likes to hide away - maybe your bedroom. Darken the room, keeping windows and curtains shut. Give him something to "nest" in, such as a pile of bedding and old clothes so he can bury himself. Sprinkle with a few drops of lavender aromatherapy oil as a relaxant. Play some music at a level that can mask the noise from outside and provide plenty of drinking water. Make sure the Adaptil is plugged in in this room.

If your hound prefers to be with you rather than hiding, but is still scared, try a Thunder Shirt. The principle here is to swaddle the dog helping him to feel secure. I swear by Thunder Shirts in all sorts of scary situations they really help to calm a dog. Again, close windows and curtains, turn up the TV and use Adaptil.

There are several products in pill/liquid form for calming dogs, Silken, Rescue Remedy, Scullcap and Valerian. If in doubt, talk to your vet.

I once was persuaded to buy a CD of scary sounds, such as thunder, fireworks, and gunshots. The principal is to introduce these noises over a period of time, starting with the volume very low and gradually building to full volume. All went well until we reached max volume when one of the dogs ran into the room, looked at the CD player then gave me a look which said "You can't fool me that is not the real thing". So not a product I would recommend.

Make sure you take him out to empty himself BEFORE the fireworks start, it will save having to get the carpet shampooed later.

Remember NEVER cuddle him and tell him all will be ok. Ironically cuddling in a scary situation

heightens his fear. Staying calm yourself and talking quietly to him is more constructive.

Last but not least don't forget your other fur babies - cats, rabbit's hamsters etc. . . . Cats will respond to Flyway, the same principle as Adaptil. Move rabbit hutches into a shed or garage cover the hamster cage, stable horses, and make sure the cat is indoors.

Here's hoping we all get through Bonfire Night peacefully, but don't forget New Year's Eve is also an excuse to let fireworks off - so BE PREPARED!!

Hector's are always looking for fresh ideas to improve the rescue and promote the plight of the greyhound please get in touch with us if you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes

Hayley and the team at Hector's Greyhound Rescue