

Welcome to March/April 2017 edition of the Hector's Greyhound Rescue News Letter.

### Happy St. David's Day

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING – Puppy update as told by Helen Wilkes

At eight weeks old they started to leave for their forever homes. Poppy and Bertie were the first to leave for their new home together in Oswestry, Ffion had a name change to Skye and lives with her family in Nantwich, Ludo moved to Shrewsbury with his family including another dog for a companion and George has gone to live with a Vet on the Wirral so he will be well looked after. "Little Dave" also moved to Oswestry where the children decided to rename him Khan. Max now lives by the sea in Barmouth and adores his owner's young nephew. Zane joined a family with three children and 2 cats near Llangollen and changed his name to Neville. Stanley also lives in Shrewsbury with another dog a cat and a kitten as playmates and has already suffered a slight mishap following some boisterous play – breaking two toes! Gladys did leave us at eight weeks for her new home but sadly, due to changed circumstances, she had to return to us, but happily she has now found herself another home in Deganwy. To keep up to date with their progress remember to visit our website and Facebook page where there are lots of pictures of them all too.

### FUTURE EVENTS AND INFO

Sunday 19th March - St Patrick's Day Walk, meet 11 am at Chirk Castle, Chirk, Wrexham, LL145AF

Join Hector's for a walk to celebrate all that is St Patrick. A bit of dressing up will add colour to the day so dress to impress. There are a number of walks to suit all. Dogs welcome (on leads please). Why not get sponsorship and help Hector's Greyhound Rescue raise funds or donate on the day. All National trust members please bring your membership cards. Car parking is free drinks and goodies available.

For more details contact Fred on 07775570963 or email Fred

at: freddebrun@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April - Sainsburys Store, Black Gate Stree, Oswestry, SY11 2EF

Come along and meet the team along with hounds Belle, Manny and Freddie at the store collection

Saturday 22nd April - Garden/ Craft Fair, 9.00 am - 1.00 pm at Oswestry Memorial Hall, Oswestry

Hector's hounds will be waiting to greet you, enjoy a cup of coffee and delicious homemade cake before you browse the garden and craft stalls and of course Hector's merchandise stall.

#### HECTOR'S GRAND RAFFLE

We have secured some amazing prizes for the Hector's Grand Raffle. The raffle will be drawn at the Hector's Garden Party in Abergele on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June. Tickets will be available at the event but you can also purchase them prior to the event by emailing Hayley at: hayleybradley1971@outlook.com payment can be made by cheque to secure your tickets. Amongst the prizes are:

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2 night break at Church Bank B & B Beaumaris, Anglesey

2 night break at the Feathers, Ludlow 2 night break at Blackthorn Farm B & B

Anglesey,

(Dogs welcome)

2 night break at Whitehall B & B, Rhos on Sea 1 night break at Hillcrest Guest House,

Llangollen, (Dogs welcome)

1 night break at Glasgwyn B & B, Llangollen

1 night B & B at The Beaches Hotel, Prestatyn

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## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A FOSTER CARER

As Hayley will mention later in the News Letter we are full to bursting point here at Hector's and subsequently we have had to resort to using kennels to house some of the greyhounds we have recently taken under our wing because we simply do not have enough Foster carers to look after them. Whilst this is not ideal it is definitely much better than the alternative that could have been the only option left for these poor beauties. One of our foster carers once said

*"if you adopt you can save one, if you foster you can save many".*

The majority of our dogs come directly from the track. Life in kennels is regimented and therefore the dogs will be used to routine. A calm home environment with an established routine will help the dog settle quite quickly. The fostering period is a time to assess the dog's personality and behavioural traits. A time for the dog to acclimatise to sights and sounds never encountered. We have a dedicated team who are able to talk you through any issues you may have and also offer advice and support when needed. If you feel that fostering is for you then please get in touch with us. There is also a short training course available which is designed to help you even further and the team are always on hand to answer your questions.

## GREYHOUND HEALTH CARE – Garden Hazards

Spring will soon be here, the calendar says so, in next to no time we will be out in our gardens making them look good.

Have a good look around your garden and see what dangers lurk. A wheel barrow stored with the handles up can be a potential hazard for your greyhound, a trailer tow bar sticking out can be another accident just waiting to happen.

Where do you store those bamboo canes you use to stake plants, when you dig do you always put the digging fork away. It's worth taking a few minutes to look around your garden and trying to assess what dangers are there you may be surprised.

There are also a number of plants that are poisonous if digested by our pets

Daffodil (especially the bulbs)

Castor oil bush (dogs love the seeds)

Cherry laurel (common hedging plant)

Laburnum (and related species)

Lilies / Lily of the Valley (especially toxic to cats)

Philodendron (popular ornamental house plant)

Click on the link below for a more comprehensive list and also signs to look out for should you be unfortunate enough to have a pet suffer such issues

<https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads/factsheetpoisonoussubstances09.pdf>

OVER TO YOU –As told by Hayley Bradley

It's been a funny start to the year in the rescue. So slow for the poor hounds needing homes.

Hector's is totally full to the brim with beauties that have left hardships off the tracks, and are now sitting in the kennels or in foster just waiting for love.

First in this year from Ireland is a baby girl called Misty. She is so cute you must look out for her, and only 16 months old. Then in hot pursuit came Alice a racer that came direct off the track, so programmed and traumatized by the big wide world she doesn't even know how to look at you, spends her day in the kennels just waiting for some kind soul who understands the life of an ex racer that hasn't ever experienced kindness. On the same day Millie flew into the rescue as swift as she could out of racing kennels, she is a gem, two years old, not fazed by what she had been through and very trusting. Lucky for her Sheila her foster mum went to collect her from kennels as she had a massive bleed after her spay and gave us a big fright, but is now coming on in leaps and bounds.

We also had a young lurcher boy returned through no fault of his own called Ben, left

behind up Long Mountain, near Welshpool in Powys. He was skin and bone, and needed more love and attention than what a lady could give. Never understand why people want a dog if they don't have the time. We have a waiting list now for ex track dogs sitting in racing kennels, and it's getting as long as my arm, so if you can help promote us in any way I would be really grateful as it really is a difference between life or death for these hounds.

Don't forget to send us some pictures of you hounds, I love to see them and hear from you, just don't get much time these days to stay in touch with you all.

*Best wishes*

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