

Erin News

www.erinhounds.co.uk



Welcome to the 5th edition of Erin News - find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 250th hound.

A friend in need is a friend indeed

Last year, a lady who runs a small horse rescue in Kiltimagh, County Mayo had seen a little dog, Riley, wandering around the town. She lived close to his 'owners' and knew Riley was left to roam streets and it was only a matter of time before he got knocked down. She spoke to the owners a couple of times but nothing changed, so she asked them to allow her to rehome him. He came into the care of North West SPCA then Erin Hounds. He subsequently went on to make a huge difference to a little boy called James, in England and his mum tells us how:

"The decision to get a dog was not taken lightly. I have a young son with a rare syndrome called Sturge-Weber and although James is happy and running around, it is a very complex condition and he can be a full time job in himself. I was a veterinary nurse once upon a time and have always had a soft spot for 'skinny' breeds like greyhounds. With all things taken into consideration, I sent an email to Erin Hounds. I had seen them at the local carnival where they came along to show off the dogs and raise awareness. Once the email was sent, the ball was rolling and our home check went fine, knowing I would need a higher gate, that was already being dealt with. I wanted

Erin Hounds' homechecker to meet James, to give her an idea of what our situation was and with the formalities out of the way, the search began.

Within a couple of weeks, we were sent some photos of a lurcher called Riley. He was in Ireland but soon would be arriving in kennels over here. Once he was on English soil, James and I went down to meet him for a walk. James was excited and liked Riley but he wasn't all over him. Riley was very calm and not fazed by James either!! The only issue was Riley disliked the car but we felt that would be easily overcome in time and with training. So on Christmas Eve 2012, (I know...I hate the thought of pets/Christmas and I committed the sin of getting a dog at that time of year but we have a very quiet Christmas and he would definitely be "for life"!!) equipped with our ID tags for Riley Bones, we collected him and brought him home, he took over the sofa within 12 hours of being here and we have not had a look in since.

I had never thought the friendship between Riley and James would have been so special though. Riley has become the most amazing companion for James. They are inseparable and Riley is so very calm and tolerates all the hugs, kisses, walks and stories that James throws his way. Riley is now the only 'person' that James tells everything to and even though James won't tell me about his school day or what he feels, he will tell his dog. I just listen in to the conversation!! Riley has settled in to our routine and he and James have their morning team talk in James' bed. Somehow Riley always knows when it is story time last thing and appears in the bedroom for that too.

Riley is well known at school now too, he has his own fan club providing daily strokes. James has even used Riley in his school work and although he has learning difficulties and is below average academically for his age, he has enjoyed writing and drawing stories about him and his dog. Riley has helped him so very much and that



was unexpected to say the least. The bond between them is amazing and although Riley enjoys his quiet time when James is at school, he is always happy to have him home too. I never thought the decision to

get a dog would have been such a positive one, neither had I expected the friendship of a lurcher and an 8 year old boy to be so very special. All in all we are lucky to have such a great dog (Riley is also lucky that

James' mum understood that rescue dogs can make fantastic pets, Ed).

Erin Hounds own **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**: from an Irish bog ~ side road to the TV screen

Erin hound, Autumn (now Keeva) was wandering along the road just before Ballinasloe, near a travellers' hunting ground on a bog. She had been seen a few days previously on the edge of that road but went back into the bog and disappeared. Eventually she was picked up, standing on the road looking lost. After adoption, she was taken for a free registration health check to Leonard Brothers Veterinary Centre in Nantwich and was filmed being examined by celebrity vet Steve Leonard for a BBC TV programme. Thank you to Paula and Simon for giving Keeva such a loving home.



Did you know?

A child's future risk of suffering from allergies goes down if they have lived with a pet during infancy, according to a study in the journal Clinical & Experimental Allergy and children who live with a dog during their first year of life have 31% fewer respiratory tract infections. Children who live with dogs also have 44% fewer ear infections than children who don't.

Comfort Giver

Thank you to Clare, of Creature Comforts pet shop, 5 Queen Victoria Street, Macclesfield SK11 6LP for her very generous donation and her ongoing support of Erin Hounds. Inspired by owning her own rescued greyhound, she looks forward to helping you find the perfect treat for your pet or helping you get things ready for adopting a hound.

Dreamy dog days

The trainees at Macclesfield Community Garden Centre creatively "upcycled" unwanted fabric samples into sumptuous coats for all the Erin Hounds taking part in the procession

at Marple Carnival. Unlike last year, the weather was kind and the spectacle of volunteer Rick as Joseph leading a band of technicolour dream-coated hounds through the streets bagged Erin Hounds third place for the "Best walking group" with the theme of "Showtime". Our rescued hounds carried off their role with grace and decorum in a busy, noisy environment which could not have been further removed from kennels in rural Ireland, showing how adaptable and accepting they can be.



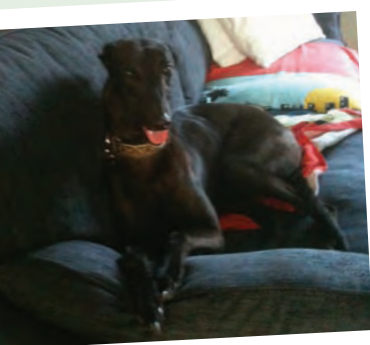
Better to have loved and lost...

... than never to have loved at all. We were shocked and saddened to hear from Anne of the sudden death of her greyhound Neo (Harps Leon- born May 2008) from a mysterious illness preceded by a day's vomiting and diarrhoea. He was a dearly loved first greyhound and a good friend of Dexter, another Erin Hounds' greyhound adopted by Anne's sister. Anne and her son had adopted Neo from Erin Hounds despite him having broken his leg in racing. After his death, having unsuccessfully tried to trace Neo's sister who had raced in Manchester and concluded that she was probably one of the unlucky ones and no longer living, she opted to adopt another Erin hound and made a very generous donation to Erin Hounds in memory of Neo. Along came Saoirse (now Luna) and here is what Anne says:

"Neo was my first greyhound and I loved him, it's as simple as that, his knobbly hock and his bald thighs, his beautiful face, and over the months, seeing him change from a timid boy into a fun loving clown. 15 months later all that fun, loyalty and love was gone, I was shocked and devastated. No dog could replace Neo and I missed him desperately.

I still looked at websites about ex-racers, whose lives so far have been miserable and who have been mistreated, abused and injured. Several weeks after Neo passed, I realised it didn't mean I loved Neo less if I adopted another dog - in a way it honoured his memory. I saw Luna and yes I did have some second thoughts, Luna is entirely different to Neo, she has been with me a few months now and yes, I adore her. The feelings I have for Luna do not alter my feelings for Neo, but she has made a bad time better. I hope we have a long time together to create our own memories. I might get hurt again but I will have given another

greyhound the chance of a good life. The love and loyalty I receive from my new greyhound make it all worthwhile. Luna loves the sofa, walks well on her lead and is very interested in everything. She is a little bit needy, wanting attention all the time but that is settling down as well. She is interested in any dogs and is friendly, loves people and being made a fuss of.



Luna

Anne was touched by the following. We dedicate it to all the Irish greyhounds and lurchers who die without ever knowing love or comfort:

A dog's last will and testament

Before humans die, they write their last will and testament, give their home and all they have to those they leave behind. If, with my paws, I could do the same, this is what I'd ask:

To a poor and lonely stray I would give my happy home; my bowl and cosy bed, soft pillow and all my toys; the lap which I loved so much; the hand that stroked my fur and the sweet voice that spoke my name. I'd will to the sad, scared shelter dog, the place I had in my loving human's heart, of which there seemed no bounds. So when I die, please do not say, "I will never have a pet again for the loss and pain is more than I can stand" Instead go find an unloved dog, one whose life has held no joy or hope and give my place to him. This is the only thing I can give...the love I left behind.

Anon.

Condolences also to Rudi's owners and grateful thanks to them for welcoming Erin greyhounds Freddie and Rocket into their lives, Ed.

Thank you also to Anne's sister for donating to Erin Hounds in memory of her aunt.



No grass grows under Tia's feet.

While in foster, awaiting a forever home, sassy Tia decided to further her chances of a home, by taking her Kennel Club Good Citizen Bronze Award which she passed first time.



GRAI Area

GRAI (Greyhound Rescue Associations Ireland) includes the many rescue organisations in Ireland who have a particular affinity with greyhounds or are breed-specific to greyhounds. GRAI focuses solely on greyhounds within the racing Industry by gathering and exchanging information, supporting each other and circulating details of dogs in need and lobbying the racing industry for accountability. They promote greyhounds as pets to encourage the population of Ireland to see these dogs in a different light and break many of the longstanding myths and misunderstanding these dogs face as pitifully few greyhounds are homed as pets in Ireland.

A main focus for GRAI is the Walk for Greyhounds through Dublin City Centre each year. This year's walk is on Saturday September 21st - so if you find yourself in Ireland then, please do come and join Victoria. For many people, meeting a greyhound at the walk, is the first time they have ever stroked one or seen one close up.

Michael Ring TD is the Irish Minister of State for Tourism and Sport. If you are uncomfortable about holidaying in Ireland while there is woeful failure to enforce animal welfare legislation such as the Irish Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 and while racing is actively promoted in countries with dire reputations for animal welfare such as China, then contact him to tell him how you feel: Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 michael.ring@oir.ie or ministerring@dtas.ie

To find out more and help GRAI achieve their aims see www.grai.ie

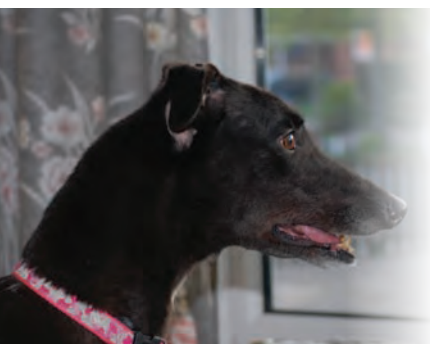
Where are they now?

For 2 and half years Dee waited for a forever home. Her needs were nothing major - a biggish garden, no cats and someone happy to keep her on lead out walking. She featured in a newsletter and the longer she was on the website the more overlooked she became. She was blocking a much needed foster home, when along came a lovely couple who fitted the bill. They love her to bits and often bring her along to support us at events. (Don't let history repeat itself for Dolly - see below. Ed) .

Here are a few words from Dee's new family: Dee has now been with us for well over 6 months and even on the coldest, wettest and most miserable days she brings sunshine into our lives. When Dee first arrived she had to contend with chickens, squirrels, pheasants and my 150 rescued pigeons. Her eyes were on stalks and you could see she was thinking 'I bet they would taste nice'. However, she now accepts them and at fund raising events does not bat an eye when pigeons come near her. She is now happy to come and help me put them to bed at night but I do make sure she has been fed first! Dee is quite clothes conscious and will often select her coat for the day and is particularly fond of her 'Christmas outfit' even in April! She loves her walks especially if it involves a car ride as well. She enjoys all the comforts of life, especially her heated blanket in winter and likes to make sure the blankets on her futon are as they should be. Recently, another Erin Hound, Millie, has joined us and Dee loves the company and is more than happy to share her bed with Millie. Both Dee and Millie shared a birthday recently and enjoyed their sausage party!



Delightful Dolly



Dolly is looking for a home which is similar in many ways to the home which suited Dee (sausage parties are not obligatory! Ed). She is a beautiful and intelligent girl who needs a cat-free home with a garden where she can have a blast from time to time as she cannot be let off lead in public places. Like Erin hounds Ardal and Ted who were once reactive to other dogs

but now live in their forever homes as good citizens, our dearest wish is that Dolly can move on from her foster home to continue her education with a committed owner too. Are you the one she has in her sights?

Humans race for hounds

Thank you to Andy for running his first half marathon in Sheffield in 2hrs, 16 mins and 44 seconds and to Colin and the Greenfield's greyhounds running club for their on-going support. Also a big thank you to Nicola, Brax's owner, for her generous support and to Sheffield's Vets4Pets, Millhouses for holding a sponsored walk in aid of Erin Hounds on the day of the national "Great British Greyhound Walk".

Calling all “non - 40mph” couch potatoes.

Do you search the internet, shop online or have scrap or unwanted goods you would like to get rid of? If so, you can help Erin Hounds without even getting off the sofa! Look at these greyhounds in an Irish pound and ask yourself if ‘clicking a key’ is really too much effort to help save them?



1. Change your search engine to Easy Search **www.erinhounds.easysearch.org.uk**. Erin Hounds get 0.5p per completed search which soon adds up.
2. Register with Easy Fundraising so Erin Hounds get a % when you shop with Argos, Marks and Spencer, Amazon, Vodafone, Tesco and many more at **www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/erinhounds**
3. Sell goods on ebay through Paypal Just Giving stating what proportion of the proceeds you would like to go to Erin Hounds **http://donations.ebay.co.uk/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=57336**
4. Contact “ Give a Car” if you would like them to take away a vehicle, old white goods, mowers etc for scrap and donate the proceeds to Erin Hounds **www.giveacar.co.uk**
5. Sign up for a Pets at Home “VIP” store card so you can donate your “lifelines” to us, whichever store you are shopping in. Register for a VIP card at **<https://vip.petsathome.com/>** and nominate Erin Hounds as your chosen charity. To do this you will have to enter Altrincham as the “Home Store” then choose Erin Hounds from the drop-down list.

We look forward to continuing our active partnership with the Altrincham store.



Twin your pet

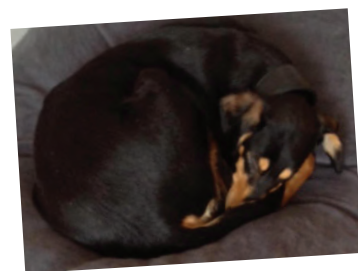
When you glimpse the wild origins of your dog or cat's behaviour, remember their ancestors; wolves and big cats need help if they are to survive in the wild. If you are looking for a novel gift, why not twin a pet with its wild counterpart and receive a personalised photographic sponsorship certificate

See **www.savingcatsanddogs.org**



A very happy outcome for one hound and her friends:

Thank you to everyone who voted, enabling us to reach second place in the Animal Friends insurance company's Facebook vote. We received a fantastic four figure sum to help with our work. As far as one lurcher, called Zola was concerned however, we came first. A lady found out about Erin Hounds as a result of seeing the Animal Friends competition promoted on a supportive rescue's website and went on to adopt Zola.



Hounds for health and happiness

Did you know that studies show that pet dogs decrease the risk of heart attacks, reduce stress and lower blood pressure (depending upon what they are doing ! Ed)? Dog owners don't need scientists to tell them that they also bring structure to the day, a reason to get up in the morning and a connection with the outside world . Many of our adopted hounds have been doing their bit to improve the lives of others such as Bert, adopted from Erin Hounds in 2009, having been deemed suboptimal for racing and surrendered to be destroyed.

As an emergency blood donor at the local veterinary referral hospital, Bert helps ill or injured dogs on their road to recovery. Being a large, fit and healthy lad he is able to donate a unit of blood with no ill effect and enjoys the cuddles and special supper that he gains in return. A great lover of people, Bert also helps out by allowing veterinary students to examine his muscles and joints whilst they revise for their exams.

Bert's most important task though is providing comfort and affection to "his" people. Bert lives on a former council estate and likes to take a full and active role in the community. Many of his neighbours are retired and elderly, often with little or no family locally. Bert enjoys nothing more than visiting his neighbours and spending a little while providing a listening ear and friendly nuzzle. He and his adopted brother, rescued lurcher, Wilf, have even persuaded a number of folk who were previously frightened of dogs that they are just gentle, if slightly silly, giants.

A life for a life

Greyhounds like Bert, Reuben, Prue and Billy, having had their own lives saved by Erin Hounds, now save other dogs' lives by giving blood. Greyhounds as a breed are physiologically well suited to giving blood and to find out more visit

www.petbloodbankuk.org or call **01509 232 222**. If your hound is under 9 years of age, over 25kg, in good health and of a relaxed nature, they can donate blood. Routine screening of the blood takes place prior to donation and the process is fairly quick. Afterwards, your hound is thanked with some food and a toy to take home, along with a great feeling of satisfaction.

Phoebe age 12 from Bristol made us a cushion for the greyhounds' use. As Prue illustrates, it is a very comfortable place for a canine blood donor to rest their head.



Forthcoming Events

GRAI walk - noon Saturday 21st September Merrion Square Park, Dublin

Fun Dog Show – Sunday 29th September Macclesfield Treacle Market, Macclesfield Town Centre.

Coffee Morning - Saturday 12th October, 10am - 1pm at Oswestry Memorial Hall, Smithfield Street, Oswestry SY11 2EG

As ever, the hounds have the final say...

How can “dog lovers” entertain buying and breeding more puppies while we (yesterday’s puppies) are dying for homes as “consumer waste”? Be part of the solution and not the problem- adopt don't buy.



www.erinhounds.co.uk

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