

# Erin News

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ERIN HOUNDS

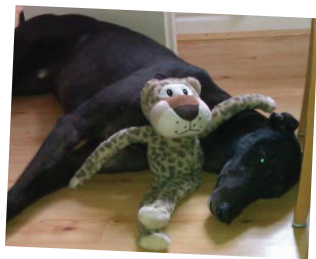
Welcome to our second edition of Erin News - find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards finding a home for our hundredth hound!

## Gunner's story

Gunner McCormack, a black greyhound, was born December 2007. He ran 6 races, the last being on 10th Dec 2009 at Galway when he was documented to be 30kg. He came to Erin Hounds' attention months later weighing only 18kg. After special feeding and tender loving care, during which a greyhound's legendary forgiving nature was very much

in evidence, he was ready for adoption. No sooner had Gunner realised his ribs would never again rub painfully on a concrete floor, Autumn, a black greyhound bitch from the same breeder, came to Erin Hounds' attention, sadly in a very similar state, only 2 months after racing and so it goes on.....without your help, we couldn't save these dogs or tell their stories.

A word from Gunner's new mum: *Gunner has made friends with our two cats. He goes jogging every morning with my husband although he has to be dragged down the stairs and out of the door! For his evening walk, he tries to run upstairs and hide, hoping we won't find him. Though we refer to him as "lazybones", he comes home from each walk with such joy and enthusiasm for his food-understandably so! He can "high five" and sleeps with his tongue hanging out so it often gets stuck to the floor.*



Gunner McCormack

## Keeping it in the family

Erin Hounds are proud to have helped a mother and her two sons all into loving homes this year. The gentle trio are Benny who is best friends with cats, Billy who now acts as a fosterer's assistant helping new rescues learn the ropes and Westmead Meg, their mother, who after having 3 litters of pups, finally got the peace and comfort she desires with lovely walks on the beach.



Left to right:  
Benny, Billy and Meg

## Yorkshire Greyhounds

(no, we don't mean terriers - Ed!)

This year we have been very fortunate in gaining an enthusiastic fostering and fundraising group of volunteers near Sheffield. Foster homes are invaluable because they help us get to know the dogs very well, ensuring the right dog goes to the right home, a growing reputation for which Erin Hounds is justly proud. Attitudes in Yorkshire are variable to greyhounds as pets and the Erin team there are doing a fantastic PR job for this misunderstood and much abused breed. Thank you from all of us and keep up the good work.

## Role Reversal

This summer, it seemed some of our Erin hounds, fed up with us home hunting on their behalf, went straight to the professionals. Both Bramble (now Kenya) and Rosie (a black greyhound found stray in the West of Ireland) were separately adopted by estate agents in England. Now these two lucky dogs enjoy going to work with their owners and helping find homes for humans!



# Making us proud

Earlier this year we reported on the Kennel club good citizen awards achieved by Erin alumni. Not to be outdone, more of our "slumdog millionaires" have excelled themselves:



Jack  
"Dog in best condition"

Jack won "Dog in best condition" in Toft village fun dog show – Jack was surrendered into a rescue in Ireland with a nasty hock injury which had curtailed his racing career and rendered him of 'no value or use'. Having been nursed back to health and vitality by his adoring owners, Jack is now a great ambassador and a very keen (no pun intended!) fundraiser for Erin Hounds to whom he owes his life.



Marley  
"Most handsome dog"

Marley won "Most Handsome dog" in Morley Green fun dog show but is not just a handsome face and also earned a certificate for obedience too - not bad for a stray lurcher from Ballina, County Mayo helped from death row by Erin Hounds.



Bella  
"Most appealing eyes"

(see above) was found dumped in a ditch outside Dublin, having recently given birth with no sign of the pups. Fortunately a passer-by took her to a sympathetic vet and she found her way into Erin Hounds' care.

Dee came second in "Best rescue" in Didsbury fun dog show (she is getting used to being overlooked) – please help her find a first class home before the year is out.



Dee  
"Best Rescue"

If you would like to share with other readers, tales of your adopted hound's achievements or occasions on which they have been ambassadors for their kind, please email us at [email@erinhounds.co.uk](mailto:email@erinhounds.co.uk)



## The X factor

As Joey (a greyhound originally surrendered to a rescue in County Clare) watched TV's "X factor" in his Erin Hounds' foster home, he pondered the implications for an Irish greyhound of either having or lacking "the X factor" demanded in the greyhound racing industry.

As well as being shipped overseas, those who "have it" are often bred from incessantly, raced beyond their capacity resulting in injury (usually untreated) and "put down" at the end of their career.

Those who don't "have it" are routinely destroyed because their breeders/owners refuse to believe that greyhounds are suitable as pets, dumped or surrendered to a pound for immediate destruction, sold to gypsies for lurcher breeding or auctioned off in a stressful market to end up in situations and countries where they meet a fate much worse than death. The simple fact is that far too many are bred to ever find homes and this truth faces those picking up the fallout from this 'industry' on a daily basis. It is all about breeding 'the one' and thousands of these lovely gentle animals are discarded without a second thought every year. *PS Joey was lucky and found a loving home.*



# News from the frontline:

Earlier in the year we asked you to help dissuade the Irish Greyhound Racing board (IGB) from sending Irish dogs to race in China. Thank you to all those who emailed, wrote and protested. The IGB said they will not send Irish dogs to China BUT are still very actively planning to set up tracks in China on which greyhounds imported from Australia, will face the same horrific fates.

There is nothing to stop individual owners selling dogs anywhere and we know for a fact that Irish greyhounds are being despatched to Pakistan and India, many originating from UK racing tracks. Our founder had the gut wrenching sadness, when loading rescued Erin Hounds on to the van leaving Ireland, to catch the eye of a beautiful black and white waggy male greyhound already on board. On asking his destination, she was told his next stop was Pakistan- there was nothing she or anyone else could do for that dog- his fate was sealed.

Greyhounds can cost but also make hundreds of pounds yet most owners in Ireland will not make even the smallest donation on handing in a dog to a rescue charity- not even the amount they would have paid to have the dog destroyed. Many Erin Hounds' greyhounds are 'surrendered' directly to us in Ireland with minimal or no donation – what alternative does Erin Hounds have? Turn the dog away and leave it to an uncertain future?

Please don't just say "Isn't it awful?" and turn away-we can achieve so much more with your help. Spread the facts to those who regard a "night at the dogs" as a good laugh and lobby European and Irish politicians to enforce existing welfare legislation. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as well as those of Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland ([www.grai.ie](http://www.grai.ie)). We suspect developments soon to which we will need to respond if these animals are not to be catapulted from the frying pan into the fire.

## Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

One of our volunteers lent a friend called Jean some photographs of beauty spots to paint, amongst which was a photograph of her greyhounds paddling in a rock pool. Jean found that she enjoyed painting these graceful dogs very much. Recently she was at an art exhibition and a couple looking at her most recent painting said that they were thinking of adopting a greyhound. Erin Hounds was mentioned and soon the lucky family found themselves with the perfect artist's muse in the form of their new beautiful brindle girl Rosie. The very same painting was later bought at an event by a sighthound lover and Jean kindly made a substantial donation to Erin Hounds which she will do for any paintings commissioned as a result of Erin Hounds activities. See [www.briersart.com](http://www.briersart.com)



Derrane Rose

## Rescue dogs rock!

Happy new owner Carol tells us about adopting a hairy lurcher Jill (now Rosalea) from Erin Hounds:



Rosalea and Saffie

*"We have had pedigree dogs for many years but I felt that I wanted to give a home to a rescue dog since ours had such privileged lives with no worries, a comfy bed, two good meals a day and lots of freedom to play and run about. I began to read about the plight of greyhounds and when my husband asked what I wanted for my birthday, I told him a day out at a greyhound fundraising event. We took our dogs and had a long chat with Sue and Tor about Erin Hounds' work re-homing hounds and were impressed with their attitude and efforts. We attended a few more events but now I wanted to home one. James thought we had enough on with 10 Leonbergers and an assortment of other animals including horses and sheep. Eventually when some of our dear dogs had sadly departed, we felt the time was right to offer a home to a hound. Sue came and gave us a home check and soon Jill, the most perfect, friendly and well behaved lurcher rescued from Galway, settled into our home. All the other dogs get on with her, she loves to travel and has been no problem at all which considering I had fallen off a horse that week and had a broken collar bone & ribs - was just as well!"*





# Is Ardal the one for you?

You may have seen Ardal on our website looking for a home- here he tells his story which illustrates the value of fostering, a practice central to Erin Hounds' ethos.

"I am a black and white lurcher and came over to the UK in April 2010, having been rescued from a place where the people were not kind at all. I had a huge chip on my shoulder and thought everyone was out to get me. I was quite naughty, barking at other dogs and suffering separation anxiety. In the months to come, I learnt that my foster mum and dad weren't so bad and only wanted to help me so I gradually started being good when I was out and at home.

Now I love to go up to my foster mum and put my paws on her for a cuddle- she always stops what she is doing and laughs. My foster dad takes me and the other dogs out for long walks and sometimes, when I am really good, he puts my muzzle on and I know then I am in for a nice run which I love. Because of my bad start in life I have a bit of wear and tear in my spine. It is not too bad so my foster mum gives me anti- inflammatories a few times a month and it doesn't stop me doing the things I enjoy. I must be special because Erin Hounds have made me a sponsor dog and are funding my condition.

I have grown up being in foster and people love to stroke me on walks and at events. I show the new foster dogs how to behave in the house and sometimes they listen! Although I will be sad to leave my foster parents, I must make room for another hound who may be just like I was. I would love a home with another dog as I like company and play. Most of all I would like my new family to love me because now knowing what it means to accept love, I understand it is even nicer to give it back."



## Forthcoming Events:

### Saturday 12th November

Meet and Greet 12 noon - 4pm  
Lush, Fargate, Sheffield

### Sunday 27th November 11.30am - 4pm

Fairways Garden Centre, Macclesfield  
Come and meet us for a Christmas themed fundraiser.

### Sunday 4th December

Woodford Farmer's market,  
Woodford Community Centre SK71PR

### Wednesday 7th December 11.30am

Greyhound Awareness Day  
Sainsbury's Supermarket, Macclesfield

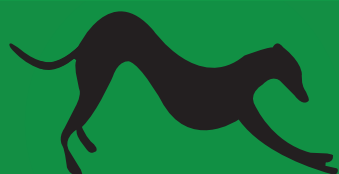
### Sunday 18th December

Stockport Christmas Farmer's Market

## The last word (or bark) is from the hounds themselves:

We would like to thank those kind people who (whilst earning a living, coping with illness and looking after human and animal family members of their own) volunteer to wait for us at motorway services in the wee small hours, use their homes for storage, give up their weekends and evenings to fundraise, answer phone calls and emails from the public, donate money and tombola prizes, hold coffee mornings and dog shows, run half marathons, take photographs and update social media, organise events, share their homes with and support those with fosterlings, write and run websites, walk us, design and produce literature, ensure the veterinary and kennel care we receive is second to none, put up posters and distribute business cards, make saleable items and find suitable loving homes. Everything you do helps make a difference to us and please remember these wise words:

***"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito"*** Dalai Lama XIV



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