

# Erin News

[www.erinhounds.co.uk](http://www.erinhounds.co.uk)



Welcome to the 4th edition of Erin News - find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 200th hound.



## A win - win situation News from Bella's (Galra Autumn) new mum:

Bella has been my life saver and acts as my therapist. She is a treasure in so many ways as I have become a full-time carer for my elderly mum since December 2011 so my social life becomes very restricted at times. I am able to unwind on our walks and her unconditional love is like gold. She has improved dramatically over the months. Her fear of almost everything is gradually diminishing. Her "bouncy" behaviour in new, noisy, crowded situations has reduced. Her recall is still unreliable as she is easily distracted (the latest is bumble bees!) She is allowed to run free in two secure areas. She

loves all people and most dogs, but is still frightened of some local dogs for no apparent reason. She has walked past a neighbour's cat a few times without a second look. Her curiosity whilst out walking often gets us tangled up under hedges, around trees and through gaps in fences - she's so nose! We love her to bits and she acts as an ambassador for Erin Hounds whilst we are out walking.

My husband collapsed in May this year due to heart problems and soon after suffered a stroke. Fortunately he appears to be making a full recovery. Bella was there every day with a wagging tail to greet me



in the mornings and on my return from the hospital visits. I never felt alone. She coped well with the disruption and appeared to understand that my husband wasn't to be fussed when he came home. I can only thank you all again for giving Bella a second chance and allowing her into our family.

## Sighthound welfare trust

Erin Hounds would like to send very appreciative thanks for support recently and in the past from the Sighthound Welfare Trust (SWT). The work done by the team at SWT over the past number of years has been very significant to so many and their contribution on all levels will be sadly missed.

# All's well that ends well?

After the Welfare of Greyhounds Act became law in November 2011, yet another case of greyhound neglect came to our attention. Let's have a look who helped the dogs and the impact of the new legislation on future prevention, shall we?

In February 2012, an Irish dog warden received a phone call from a concerned neighbour about 4 greyhounds who had been neglected then abandoned by their alcoholic owner who subsequently was hospitalised.

This neighbour had been watching the situation and knowing the man (Mr X) was in hospital and certain the dogs had been left without any care, made the call that saved the life of at least two of the dogs who would have otherwise died. The dog warden called the North West Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Ireland (NWSPCA) the same day to ask them to assess the situation with the intention of feeding the dogs and making provision for them over the coming days. Nothing could have prepared them for what they came across.



Two of the dogs were in an outside run with no access to shelter at all. The other 2 were in a separate pen with access to shelter but were emaciated, filthy and crawling with fleas and ticks. There were faeces everywhere that had obviously not been removed for some time and the stench was overpowering. The faeces were full of worms, and there were worms on the yard. There was no food or water available.

The two in the worst condition were little more than skeletons with complete muscle wastage and were so hungry they had attempted to eat their leather collars and were anaemic since each carried at least 20 ticks, sucking their blood. At this point, the Gardai (police) were called and being utterly horrified, agreed it was imperative to remove the dogs to safety.

## The Victims:

Ardnari, a brindle and white dog, born May 2010 weighed only 49lb (his recorded racing weight was 78lb and his weight now, as a healthy pet, is 84lbs). He was the thinnest dog the rescue kennels had ever seen and about 10 days after the rescue passed a plastic bag.

Next worst was a brindle bitch (Kranky Mary) weighing 47.5lb (recorded racing weight of 73lb) born January 2009 (KRANKY MARY). On rescue, she was so depressed she wouldn't even leave her bed to eat, she just lay curled up with Ardnari and shut down completely.

Next worst was a black bitch born April 2008 (Do Me Proud) who was tatty, balding and under weight at 59lb. The healthiest was a white and brindle bitch (Ardnari May) born April 2010 with a weight of 60lb when she should have been 68lb.

## The Perpetrator:

This was the SECOND time that the NW SPCA had been in the position of having to remove dogs from Mr X due to dereliction of care as some years earlier, they were faced with 6 abandoned greyhounds and a lurcher with extensive and untreated cancer.

## One good turn deserves another:

You may remember the story of Clara in the last issue. Having been adopted, she was out walking, when her good looks attracted the attention of Gavin, who was thinking of getting a friend for his existing greyhound, Murphy. He contacted Erin Hounds and now Maggie, an affectionate black greyhound ensures Murphy is no longer short of canine company.

Ardal, the lurcher featured in our second newsletter, is not only thriving in his new home but has taken on a school teacher role, helping Will, a young blue greyhound, adopted at the same time, to settle into home life. Ardal has even managed to board in kennels without panicking- he is a real success story with his future assured thanks to Erin Hounds' home matching abilities.





The penalty and impact of the Welfare of Greyhounds Act: On 27th February, the rehoming coordinator of NW SPCA, Ballina, Co Mayo asked the Irish Greyhound Racing Board (IGB) who are responsible for the welfare of Irish racing greyhounds, to step up to their responsibilities and ensure that Mr X would not be allowed to keep greyhounds again.

Barry Coleman, IGB's Welfare & Racing Operations Support Manager, replied on 28th February stating that he had received the email and sent it on to both the Secretary of the Irish Coursing Club, Mr. DJ Histon, responsible for greyhound registrations and to the Head of Regulations at the IGB, Mr. Pat Herbert, stating that the matter would also be discussed at the next meeting of the IGB's Welfare Committee.

The NW SPCA replied immediately requesting that they be advised of the outcome of these discussions and they were assured that Barry Coleman would revert back to them when the case reached a conclusion.

On 15th April, the NW SPCA requested an update, having heard nothing, to be informed by Barry Coleman on 16th April that the case would be discussed at that very morning's welfare committee meeting.

On 27th April, having again heard nothing, the NW SPCA requested a copy of the report and received this reply

"The Welfare Committee have requested that the area Stipendiary

Steward make contact with "Mr X" again and furnish him with a summary of the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011. This will outline his responsibilities and obligations surrounding the care of greyhounds and he will be made aware that breaches of this Act carry serious penalties such as Class A fines and/or up to six months in prison. The Area Stewards, who are all Welfare Officers, will carry out continuous unannounced welfare inspections at these premises and will issue Welfare Notices to "Mr. X" if required."

## June 2012 Mr X has Greyhounds in his "care" again

### The fate of the dogs:

Ardnari : After months of TLC at the expense of charities including NWSPCA and Erin Hounds, he has been transported to England and rehomed and is now loving life as Lofty ( see below). If and when he can build up his confidence sufficiently, he will attend Erin Hounds' fundraising events where the public can hear the facts about his life in Ireland so they understand that "A night at the dogs" is far from a bit of harmless fun and greyhounds are repeatedly let down by a failure to enforce animal protection legislation in Ireland.

Kranky Mary: She is still taking up the resources of animal rescue charities because she is so psychologically traumatised as to be unhomeable without intensive rehabilitation by a fosterer.

Do Me Proud – Renamed Prue, she received TLC, was transported to England and fostered in Erin Hounds foster homes for months. Just as the newsletter went to press, Prue not only won second prize in "best rescue" in a fun dog show but the same week found the loving home she deserved, a few miles down the road from Lofty.

Ardnari May- transported to England and successfully rehomed with cats.

Contribution to the costs of their rescue and rehoming by the perpetrator or the racing industry?:  
... ZERO.

Thoughts from Lofty's new family: "Since losing our darling greyhound boy DJ last year there had been a large, greyhound-shaped hole in our lives. On meeting the big bundle of love that is Lofty, with his melting eyes and ever-wagging tail, we knew we had found a new family member.

Lofty is gradually finding his feet and every day with him brings laughter and joy... losing a beloved dog is hard to bear but the best tribute we could pay to DJ was to provide a loving home to another needy greyhound, knowing that we will never forget DJ and that there are so many wonderful greyhounds out there, desperately waiting for a loving home to show them that life can be fun."

I am disgusted at the lack of action by the IGB and the fact that this man is free to continue abusing greyhounds and will be writing to the authorities to ask why.

# Help us to help them

Sadly emergency situations arise year round and those who give regularly to Erin Hounds, such as June Parr who adopted Jay from Erin Hounds, are invaluable since they help us keep going when the main fundraising season is over (or compromised by unfavourable weather!). If you would like to donate on a regular basis, please drop us a line [email@erinhounds.co.uk](mailto:email@erinhounds.co.uk) for further information or phone 01928 714 558. "True happiness is not attained through self gratification but dedication to a worthy purpose." Helen Keller.



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AUTUMN/WINTER 2012

# Protect your greyhound in the heat:

If greyhounds are allowed to overexert themselves, especially on warm days, they can suffer from muscle breakdown ( exertional rhabdomyolysis) and heat stroke which can kill them.

They may show heavy panting with frothing, tender trembling muscles, an abnormal heart beat and drag their legs or collapse.

Treatment has to be IMMEDIATE. Cool them down gradually by gentle dowsing with water, draping cool wet towels over them and use a fan or a car's air conditioning. Avoid making them shiver as this makes things worse.

Get them to a vet ASAP, informing them you are on the way with a dog collapsed from heatstroke as they will need to be put on a drip immediately to flush out the kidneys to avoid damage and may need plasma and antibiotics . Several weeks of rest at home may be required for convalescence due to the muscle damage and shock.

Prevention is better than cure- gentle exercise in the cooler parts of the day only!

## Where there's muck, there's class!

Davie was rescued from a terrible situation where he was neglected and kept in filth resulting in his owner being banned from keeping animals. He was rehabilitated by Erin Hounds and made us proud by coming first in the Best Rescue Dog class at the Saluki Welfare Trust Day in Earby. He had some fierce competition from some glamorous salukis and whippets, but the judge said she had not seen such a fine dog.



## Words are not enough

In the last edition, we thanked volunteers, Rosey and Rick Green for their tireless work for Erin Hounds and hinted that more good news was to come. The Cheshire based subsidiary of the German mineral and chemical firm, LEHVOSS UK, made a very generous four figure donation to Erin Hounds, as part of their practice of donating to charities nominated and contributed to, by employees. This was due to a pitch by Rick who adopted the lovely black Erin greyhound, Jack and who has since become an Erin supporter and fundraiser extraordinaire. The money was directed straight to the front line so more dogs could be saved from miserable situations. We cannot express how morale boosting it was for those who have to decide, on a daily basis, which dogs they can save and which they cannot.

We have been overwhelmed by people's generosity, given the recession (a time when animal neglect and exploitation always increase). Many thanks go to:

**Silver Peacock** collar for so successfully auctioning their beautiful Svarga martingale collar and their continuing support with collars for the dogs in Ireland.

**Lynn's Bespoke Coats** for donating knitted dog coats in Erin's colours and donating cash from coat sales.

**Vet Malcolm Welshman** for his donated book "Pets on Parade".

**Carol Brace** for her ceramic greyhound sculpture.

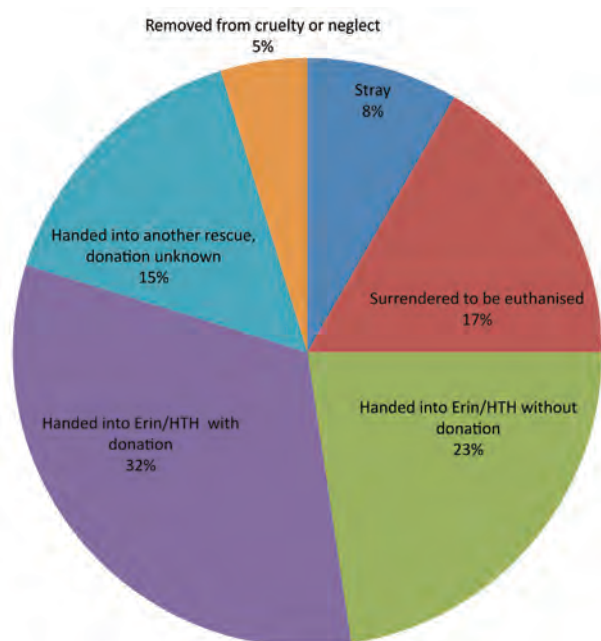
**'Top Nosh'** in Congleton for kindly donating dozens of union jack sweetie bags, sweets and delicious cookies which sold so well at events recently in Macclesfield, helping us to raise £50.



# Where do our hounds come from?

Looking back at the greyhounds (84) and lurchers (80) we have rehomed since our inception in May 2009 until early June 2012 (number=164), you can see for yourselves.

## Source of Greyhounds Rehomed by Erin Hounds (May 2009 to June 2012)



## Greyhounds

In order to fully understand the piechart and the outlook for a greyhound bred in Ireland, a little more explanation is required:

1. Charts like the one above can only ever deal with the fates of those that are ALIVE but.....3271 greyhound litters were registered in 2011 and with a conservative estimate of six puppies per litter, this means about 19,600 greyhound puppies were born. However only 15,908 greyhounds were named and obtained identity cards at 12 months old so about 3700 young greyhounds “disappeared”. This happens annually.
2. Greyhounds are rarely picked up STRAY but can be escapees or turned out after perceived failings.
3. When a greyhound is surrendered by its owner or trainer TO BE EUTHANIZED, it can legally be put down immediately by a vet or pound. The dogs in this category were only saved due to a sympathetic dog warden/ pound keeper/ vet calling us and many had untreated racing injuries. Accurate statistics on those

put down by vets or in pounds are impossible to come by.

4. Some hounds are HANDED IN to Erin Hounds/ Halfway there Hounds (HTH)\* WITH A DONATION and which is always far less than the outlay to buy that hound, the size of its winnings or its stud fees. It can be cash (usually no more than 20 Euros (~£16) to 50 Euros (~£40) or can be in kind (eg neutering). The relatively high proportion in this chart who come with a donation is a reflection of a good relationship we have with a local breeder who can, although feeling tied into the industry as she knows nothing else, see that her dogs deserve and get good homes. Conversely another local breeder will not countenance that a greyhound can ever be a pet and refuses to allow any of his to be rehomed - ALL are put down when of no further use to him.

5. HANDED IN to Erin Hounds/ Halfway there Hounds WITHOUT A DONATION but often with failed promises, weak excuses and false apologies.

6. HANDED IN TO ANOTHER RESCUE (DONATION AND ORIGIN UNKNOWN): Since sighthounds are not commonly seen as pets in Ireland they are rarely rehomed by general animal rescues and require input from dedicated sighthound rescues who usually home outside of Ireland.

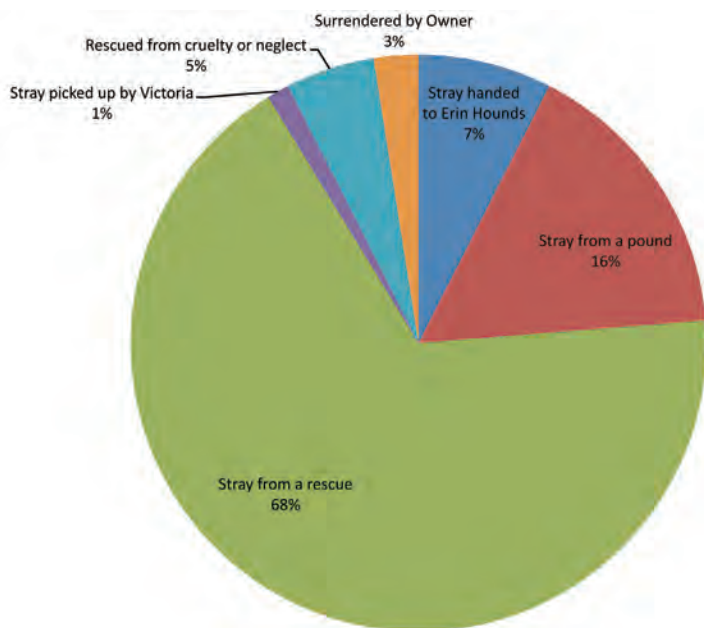
7. REMOVED FROM NEGLECT/ CRUELTY: Although there is very often neglect or cruelty leading to a hound entering a rescue or pound (especially starvation as evidenced by the weight recorded at the last race and the weight on admission), these dogs came to us when the authorities were forced to intervene first hand. Sadly compared to number of occasions when intervention should be made, interventions are actually very few due to a universal lack of enforcement of animal welfare legislation especially by the Irish Greyhound Board.

## Food for thought

Given that approximately 19600 Irish greyhounds have been bred each year since Erin Hounds was formed in 2009, we will have homed approximately 0.001% of these by working flat out 7 days a week, fundraising, transporting, homechecking, neutering etc (84 out of 58,800 greyhounds). To those who support this ‘industry’ please DON’T tell us that a night at the dogs is a bit of harmless fun, that encouraging greyhound racing in China is an acceptable way for Ireland to be investing EU money or that the Irish Greyhound Board’s “welfare expertise” will ensure any greyhound’s safety there or anywhere else for that matter. **See [www.igb.ie](http://www.igb.ie).**



## Source of Lurchers Rehomed by Erin Hounds (May 2009 to June 2012)



## Lurchers

These dogs are often used and abused by travellers and most are picked up as strays. A member of the public may take the stray in, hand it to Erin Hounds, Half Way There Hounds or another rescue or phone a dog warden.

If a lurcher is picked up by a dog warden, the stray will find itself on death row in a pound with only 5 days in which an animal rescue might hear of it and save it, otherwise..... it will be put down.

“Animal rescues” are of variable quality with some being amateur animal accumulators and others understanding how to home Irish sighthounds responsibly and safely.

Some lurchers picked up by the public can subsequently require rescue from cruelty and neglect since the “rescuer” may be a known animal hoarder who does not care for their animals appropriately.

Only a very small number of lurchers are surrendered to a reputable rescue by their owners. Erin Hounds took in one due to change of the owner’s circumstances and received a small donation towards transport and vaccination and one other where the owner had died and the executor surrendered the dog without a donation.

\* Halfway There Hounds also founded by Victoria Lyon, enables us to keep dogs safe until Erin Hounds can take them on and get them on the road to a loving home.

## Long to rain over us



Thank you to Donna of Spivey’s Web fancy dress shop in Macclesfield for the loan of two splendid union jack outfits for use in Marple Carnival’s Great Britain themed parade. Despite the rain necessitating the last minute donning of transparent ponchos- we won 3rd prize. The dogs did us proud too

as they characteristically were not impressed with the weather but soldiered on in their “Greyt Britain” Jubilee outfits.

## Never say never

Willow, the beautiful saluki cross lurcher has exceeded every expectation and proved a real

credit to her new mum Jo by winning the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog bronze, silver and gold awards in 6 months. The Gold Award is the highest level of achievement within the scheme and involves sending a dog to bed, relaxed isolation, an emergency stop and heelwork off the lead. Anyone who knows the saluki temperament will realise what a massive achievement this is.

She has thrown down the gauntlet to Fletcher and Paddy, our other Erin hounds who have worked their way up to the silver award. Why not have a go with your Erin hound too?

Thank you also to Jo for holding a book sale at Macclesfield Community Garden Centre with Erin Hounds as one of the beneficiaries and helping out at our events



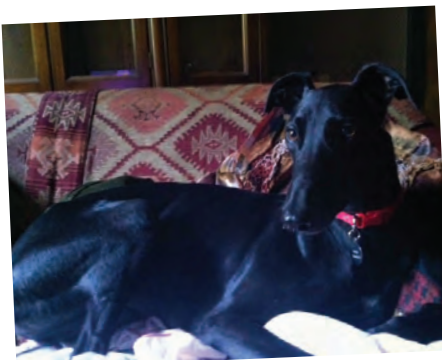
# Good publicity

This year Erin Hounds featured in a diverse range of publications including Geraldine Cove Print's article in Dog World in April 2012 and July's Dogs Today. During the winter months we placed an advert on the pages of the 'UK Hand Knitting Association' website's charity pages and had a great result with several coats and lots of snoods being knitted for us. The editor of 'Knit Today' and 'Craftseller' spotted this and put a piece in her magazines, which resulted in a great response from kind knitters from all over the UK and even in the US and Canada! Some of the knitters have rescued hounds themselves and all are keen supporters of dog rescue. The knitting continues and we've had enough goods to divert some blankets and coats to other Irish rescues and Greyhounds in Need for the Spanish galgos. Some of our knitters have also donated cute soft toys and novelty items.

One of the dogs who benefited from our volunteer knitters' coats was Polo (now adopted and adored as Ernie) in need of a knitted coat as he was underweight with pressure sores and baldness.



A stitch in time certainly saved nine when you see the change in him now.



# Hair and Hounds

Watch this space... One of our great supporters is a hairdresser to the stars and has donated several unique and fabulous prizes which we will be auctioning soon.

## Events

Help us mark  
**World Animal Day**  
**Saturday 6th October**  
**10am - 4pm at Lush,**  
10 Market Street,  
Royal Exchange,  
Manchester M11PT.

**Sunday 28th October**  
**11am - 3.30pm**  
**Fun Dog Show**  
**Macclesfield Treacle Market**  
Marketplace, Macclesfield,  
SK10 1HW  
[www.treaclemacclesfield.co.uk](http://www.treaclemacclesfield.co.uk)

**Saturday 1st December**  
**10am - 3.30pm**  
**Greyhound Awareness Day**  
Macclesfield Marketplace,  
Macclesfield, SK10 1HW

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

***"Prevention is better than cure. Those who REALLY love dogs and understand animal welfare, do not breed or buy."***



**[www.erinhounds.co.uk](http://www.erinhounds.co.uk)**

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