

SPRING 2012

Erin News

www.erinhounds.co.uk



Welcome to our latest edition of Erin News - find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 150th hound!



Logan

His rescuer's

story: I was walking through my local park with Gerry, my dog, when I came across two ladies who said that they'd seen a stray black and white lurcher in the park a few times the week before, but nobody had managed to catch it. Shortly afterwards, my boyfriend went to the shops and texted me and said the lurcher was on our road, so I grabbed Gerry and a spare lead hoping he'd attract it over. However it was so nervous it ran off immediately and wouldn't come over for food. Then one evening, I was out with Gerry again and I came across the lurcher on the green. A young man walking a boxer stopped to talk to me and said the lurcher had been there for days and apparently slept in the trees on the edge of the green every night. I stayed put while the man went home to fetch a tin of dog food. We spent about half an hour trying to catch him.

He ate some food and I managed to touch his nose but he just ran off

Logan's run from Ireland through Erin Hounds' chain of caring hands to his forever sofa.

any time we got near. At one point he stood in the middle of the road and refused to move, blocking the traffic. The police arrived and asked us what we were doing! We gave up and the man said he'd come out the next night at 7pm and try again. I had been having trouble sleeping so at 5am I went to the trees on the green to see if the lurcher was asleep there... and he was! I took some food which he ate, but he kept walking off and sitting or lying down further away from me. It took a great deal of patience, but eventually I sat next to him and petted his paw. He immediately got up and walked off. Eventually I got to stroke and scratch his neck, head and shoulders properly... but he ran off before I got to slip the lead around his neck. So I had to start all over again, following him, sitting next to him, regaining his trust.... Then BINGO! I got the lead around his neck and he gingerly followed me home. I called him Stretch, because that's all he'd do - get up, stretch, walk off, sit down, stand back up, stretch and run off again!

I then sat in the garden, making friends with him, feeding him and ringing Sighthound Welfare groups to find him a place in a rescue home. A friend managed to find one but it was 2 hours drive away

and so I had to ring a lot of people to eventually get a lift organised. He was amazing in the car on the way down, very quiet and not at all vocal or fidgety. He was sick twice and he did a wee too, poor little frightened thing. I think the sickness was probably due to the amounts of treats we gave him to try and coax him into the car, so it was our fault really. In the end we just lifted him in, so they were totally unnecessary! I am so looking forward to watching his progress! I was so sad to leave him there, he looked so forlorn, but I told him it was for the best so I know he will forgive me.

His Fosterer's story:

Logan came to me, having spent some time in kennels and was very subdued and shy when he first arrived. He showed all the signs of being a cat-tolerant hound. He was the perfect house guest and I really started to fall in love with this fun, happy little chap who just wanted to please but as he settled, he started to show an interest in my cats which unfortunately meant he couldn't stay.

I was gutted and felt I had failed as a fosterer, but thanks to a pep talk from Sue and Tor it became clear that my fostering had conversely been of great value since it formed part of Erin's assessment so that an appropriate forever home could be

chosen. Logan went back to kennels where he quickly settled back in and we moved on to our next foster, Belle.

A couple of weeks later, I was walking Belle who was wearing her "I need a home" jacket, which always attracts attention. I was chatting with a group of dog walkers I'd never met before when another couple joined in the conversation and made a real fuss of Belle. When the group moved on, the lady of the couple asked for a telephone number for Belle's rescue. I gave her an Erin business card (I never go anywhere without them!) and went home and thought little of it.

A few days later I had a call from Sue asking me to do a home check for a chap called Ray, whose

daughter had phoned after getting a card from me - the lady I'd met out on my walk! I went to Ray's for a home visit and to be honest Logan wasn't my first thought for Ray but after chatting to Sue, it was thought that they would actually be a good match - I was delighted! So Logan came back to Sheffield via a couple of nights in another Erin foster home (thank you to Helen and Andy) as he couldn't stay here with the cats. Ray was instantly taken with Logan and the feeling looked mutual so the paperwork was completed and I left Logan fast asleep on a large plump dog bed. He met Ray's daughter's two feisty terriers and was a gent, deferring to them instantly and Ray happily walked him for nearly an hour without any problems, even when Logan decided to get giddy and play with the terriers. I've stayed

in contact and the partnership between Ray and Logan is going from strength to strength, Ray is delighted with his new companion and both are benefiting immensely from this new found friendship, and I couldn't be happier - although all adoptions are special, this was certainly one of the more memorable and satisfying for me.



Logan at home



Darling DJ

In Loving Memory

Thank you for all the kind words and donations in memory of DJ, a darling greyhound boy who after a high speed collision with a tree in pursuit of a squirrel, lost his leg then sadly his life. He is very much missed both as a pet and a fabulous ambassador for Erin Hounds at the many fundraising events he attended.

Clara

Clara was found on the streets and was picked up by the County Galway dog warden covered in sarcoptic mange and very lame. X-rays showed multiple shards of plastic, slate and grit deeply embedded in her feet. These were removed under anaesthetic by our vet and he cleared up her mange.

She also had mutilated ears probably to hide the tattoos which would reveal the identity of her owner. Her ears were infected and appeared to have been glued together in places too!

Here are a few words from her new mum, showing how much her life has changed - "she went on a 2 hour walk on Burbage edge in the wind & rain which she seemed to love and curled up on the sofa when we got home. Gracie (one of the cats) jumped up on the sofa at the same time and curled up next to Clara and we all fell asleep for an hour. She's been brilliant in the car. She was showered with toys over Christmas by everyone we visited. Most of them didn't last for more than a minute, but a few have survived. She is getting more and more playful, wagging her tail and chasing one of the surviving kongs around the house like a mad thing. She's incredibly friendly with people and does the funniest smile, baring ALL her teeth to anyone who comes to visit (I think some are scared by it!). She's also calmer around other dogs, in fact while we were in Swansea we did a cliff top walk and ended up doing part of the walk with a lady and her 9 month saluki cross, which was lovely as she just trotted on alongside her ... then we met another rescue brindle greyhound on the beach (Swansea has a track) so that was lovely. All in all, we couldn't be happier. We're off to Suffolk for a few days now and are taking Clara with us."



Sweet girl Clara



Welfare News

On 17th November 2011, the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 became law in the Republic of Ireland. The Minister of State, Shane McEntee TD, marked its passage into law by visiting the premises of one of Ireland's leading greyhound breeders and trainers, Mr Pat Savage, near Slane, County Meath. (I wonder why the Minister didn't mark it by visiting the destruction areas in Irish pounds, tracks and vets, the auctions selling greyhounds to the highest bidder, the Irish greyhounds being crated up for dispatch to Pakistan and those who slog their guts out picking up the pieces of the industry's production of more greyhounds than can ever be homed plus their untreated racing injuries? Ed)

According to Mr McEntee...preparation of the Welfare of Greyhounds Bill has involved wide-ranging consultation with a variety of interested parties, including Departments, Bord na gCon (Irish greyhound board, Ed), the Irish Coursing Club, voluntary bodies and animal welfare groups, especially those concerned with dogs (Hopefully some of these welfare groups had first hand experience of rescuing and rehoming greyhounds?!Ed)

Here is the act in full:

www.irishstatutebook.ie/2011/en/act/pub/0029/print.html

We have read it-spotting the paradoxes in the bill discussions and the Act would be quite amusing if the real life scenarios they represent to us at the sharp end, weren't so vivid.

Here is a starter for 10:

In the second stage of the debate about the bill in October 2011, Ronan Mullen (Independent TD) states: I have always been of the opinion that animal welfare should never take second place. I grew up on a farm and we always tried to operate to the highest standards. I am glad Ireland has changed so much over the years. In the past it was a place where animals were often not respected and were cruelly treated by people who were otherwise very compassionate and decent. For many years there was an ignorance with regard to the dignity of all of creation and the proper respect that is due in the context of the welfare of animals. I am satisfied that this Bill will fit well into the body of legislation relating to this area that is already in existence. There is no question but that further legislation will be required in respect of the protection of general animal welfare. I look forward to such legislation coming before the House in the near future.

You what?!

Mr Mullen then goes on: I will discuss some of the real economic and employment benefits from the industry. In 2009, Bord na gCon - a semi-State body responsible for the control and development of the industry in Ireland - received €13.6 million in Government subsidies and in 2010 it received €11 million. I believe it is now seeking €15 million to develop a business venture in China, where it intends to build racing stadia and infrastructure, which could be a very valuable new opportunity to expand the employment provided by the industry. There are exciting possibilities for the greyhound industry, and I have mentioned the possibility of exporting animals to China and elsewhere. We should research this fully and support such initiatives. (Ho hum Ed!)

Read the small print

Shane McEntee states: For the purposes of the Bill, greyhounds are defined as all greyhounds entered in the Irish greyhound stud book

Keeping it covered

Rain during events is bad enough but when combined with the wind, our gazebos cannot withstand the stress. Erin Hounds are therefore very grateful to Hal of 'ELEMENTS4HOME' www.elements4home.co.uk 08703 870880 who came to our rescue and donated one of his quality gazebos which he sells at a great price on Ebay,

Much appreciated

Thank you to Helen, Sarah and everyone at the Long Dog Lovers Fundraising team for donating £200 to Erin Hounds (PS A long dog is a sighthound crossed with another sighthound. Ed).

Well done Paddy!

Remember Paddy, the lurcher who got his Silver Kennel Club Good Citizen Award? He has just been awarded his Gold Kennel Club Good Citizen Award, thus throwing down the gauntlet to Fletcher, who was also mentioned in our Spring 2011 newsletter as having achieved his Silver award!

Find yourself window shopping on our website for dogs needing homes?

Even if you can't adopt a hound, you can help them safely into a home by checking out the ever increasing range of goods in our online shop. In both Sheffield and Crewe, our fantastic volunteers are beavering away behind the scenes and lovely notelets will be on sale later this year. (Why not use them to write to your MEP to protest at poor greyhound welfare?)

and they will be covered by the welfare provisions included in the Bill. Welfare requirements specified in the Bill require animal keepers to safeguard animals in their care. These are in addition to the general provisions relating to cruelty included in the Protection of Animals Act 1911 and the amending legislation of 1965. Greyhounds not registered in the stud book cannot be covered by the scope of the Bill but will continue to be covered by general animal welfare legislation, as well as the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010, where relevant. (These non- registered greyhounds are the “lost tribe” who currently suffer most despite the existing legislation, being deemed worthless and meeting cruelty and death under the radar - no change there then! Ed)

Shane McEntee (Oct 2011): The bill relates to “greyhound breeding establishments” and these are defined as a premises used, in whole or in part, for breeding greyhounds at which not less than 4 greyhound bitches are kept, each of which—

(a) is more than 15 months old, and
(b) has been or is being used for breeding purposes,
but does not include a premises at which not less than 6 bitches (other than greyhound bitches), each of which is more than 6 months old and is capable of being used for breeding purposes, are also kept.

See what we are up against!

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 defined “a registered breeding establishment” as a premises with not fewer than six breeding females. A lower number - four - is used in this bill. As greyhounds are more specialist animals than dogs (Enough said!!!!), it was felt that a lower number of bitches was appropriate to require registration as a breeding establishment under this Bill. (Sounds promising so far, if too specific to ensure all greyhound bitches will benefit, but hang on, what’s this? Ed)

11(3) A person may permit a greyhound bitch to give birth to no more than two additional litters to the 6 litters referred to in subsection (1) if, prior to a mating or insemination leading to such birth—

(a) a veterinary practitioner certifies that the pregnancy and birth do not present a risk to the health or welfare of the bitch, and
(b) the certificate is lodged with the Club.

Any Act regarding animal welfare is only as good as its enforcement, let us have a look who will be responsible for enforcing the act, shall we?

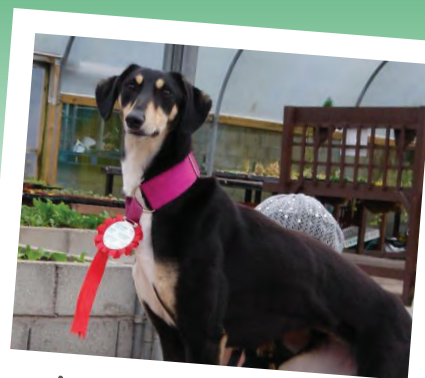
Appointment of welfare officer.

17.—(1) A local authority may, by instrument in writing, appoint such and so many officers of the authority as it thinks fit to be welfare officers for the purposes of this Act.

(2) The chief officer of the Board (Irish Greyhound Board) or secretary of the Club (Irish Coursing Club) may, by instrument in writing, appoint such and so many persons, as he or she thinks fit to be welfare officers for the purposes of some or all of the functions conferred on a welfare officer by this Act as may be specified in the instrument.

Double Whammy

Two big thank yous go to Jo Matthews firstly for adopting the lively saluki cross Willow (was Orchid) and giving her loving guidance on how to behave, ably assisted by Honey, her existing rescued saluki. Willow is a real favourite with the clients and customers of Macclesfield community garden centre where she selectively helps with the digging! Within a few weeks of adopting Willow, Jo not only hosted an Erin Hounds fun dog show on her premises but donated all the proceeds from the refreshments, raffle and tombola from her concurrent Christmas Fayre to Erin Hounds, raising well over £500.



Winner Willow

Fastest Milkman in The West

As well as promptly delivering milk, come rain or shine, the Sheldons of Whitehouse Dairy, Knutsford, ensured that our speedy dogs are now lapping it up, by awarding Erin Hounds a generous share of the proceeds from their milk round lottery, which supports local charities.

Running for their lives.

Colin Green and Lily his greyhound adopted from Erin Hounds, have one thing in common – they both love running. Colin started a running group of 50 beginners who picked the name ‘Greenfield Greyhounds’. They chose Erin Hounds as their charity of choice and have already raised £70. Well done and thank you. Let us know when you reach 40mph!



Home For Christmas

Thank you to Donna Allen who towards the end of 2011, kindly donated Huggy Hounds to raise money for Erin Hounds. One was won by a delighted stalwart Erin Hounds volunteer, one was thoughtfully re-donated by the member of the public who correctly guessed his name as Mungo and the other helped Erin Hounds to find the ideal hound for Mr and Mrs Foy of Sale who wanted to adopt a dog to be left for very long hours and then aptly won the online raffle for a Huggy Hound! If you would like your own hound to hug, see www.huggyhoundz.co.uk and feel free to mention Erin Hounds when you make an order.



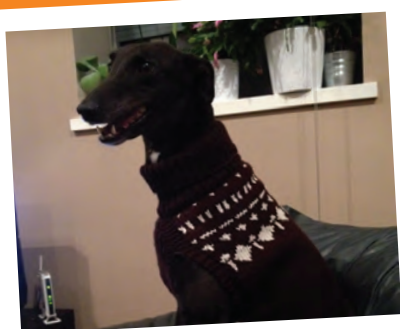
Huggy Hound

Afore We Go

A massive thank you to **Rosey and Rick** whose energy and commitment to Erin Hounds has resulted in some phenomenally successful new events, overwhelming support from local and internet businesses and several new homes for hounds due to their extolling the virtues of their beautiful greyhound Jack. (A little bird tells me that by the next issue, we will have some even more exciting news for Erin supporters as a result of their efforts- watch this space!)



Rick



Bowie



Gunner

All Dressed Up And No Where To Go

Winter 2011 could not get cold enough for some of our hounds whose loving new owners had bought Christmas woollies from

www.greytswearers.co.uk and www.lynnspoketdogcoats.co.uk

Lynn uses recycled materials so that more money goes to the dogs. If you have any yarn, buttons (1.5-2cm) or reusable jiffy bags/ plastic posting bags (A4 or larger), please post them to her direct, mentioning Erin Hounds:

Lynn's Bespoke Dog Coats,
21 Fellowes Way, Hildenborough,
Kent TN119DG

Both knitters support dog rescue so please mention Erin Hounds when you make an order.

Your chance to be a Record Breaker!

On Sept 9th 2012 in Escot, Devon, there is an attempt enter the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest single breed dog walk and raise money for greyhound rescue, while highlighting the plight of thousands of greyhounds. For more information on how to take part ring **07528 537 943** or see www.greyhoundworldrecord.com

Forthcoming Events

19th May Alderley Edge Show

16th June Didsbury show and Marple Carnival

14th July Hazel Grove Carnival

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

"Know your beliefs by your actions!"



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