

Erin News

www.erinhounds.co.uk



Welcome to the 9th edition of Erin News- find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 350th hound.

Jude the not so Obscure

One may assume that celebrated top racing greyhounds would have some protection in retirement, as a result of their success, so it was a shock when we were asked to take on Judicial Academy (now Jude), a very successful racing dog (fastest Irish St Leger semi-final winner), who had won many thousands of pounds and much prestige in both Ireland and the UK. Jude even beat another top racer called Thurlsbeg Joker (TJ), in a race in Limerick, who was also subsequently rehomed by Erin Hounds. However,

when the good times were over, Jude was picked up wandering the streets in Northern Ireland, by a member of the public who took him to a vet who informed the dog warden. Jude's last known 'user' was given the opportunity to collect him from the pound which he said he would but then didn't turn up. The last registered owner of Jude on Greyhound Data is a Mrs Hardy in the North East of England. There was a transfer of ownership done from Hardy to someone else in that region about 12 -18 months ago but the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) wouldn't tell us who the new owner was though we gather there was an intention



to register him as a stud dog. In addition, the Irish Coursing Club told us that they had a request from someone to send out a stud dog registration form to an address in Northern Ireland but the form was never returned. As the pound was a Northern Irish pound, we asked the dog warden to contact the GBGB and register Jude as being picked up as a stray because if the GBGB hear of a greyhound reported in that way, they are then obliged to start an investigation.

When we contacted the GBGB, they said they had not received any such report so possibly the dog warden did not report Jude to them.

Jude was put up on the Northern Irish pound's Facebook page for rehoming and came into Halfway There Hounds.

He was so alive with fleas that he was dripping with blood from their bites and was anaemic. He was severely underweight and starving hungry but a nicer boy you couldn't wish to meet. Jude is genuine, kind and gentle unlike his human (!?) owners and trainers who are such a sad reflection on the industry and the human race, that we feel for their other dogs. Another all too familiar case of a greyhound let down by failure to enforce existing

hard- won greyhound welfare legislation. Imagine the uproar if Red Rum or Desert Orchid were found loose and starving?!

We, at Erin Hounds, didn't let him down. After rehabilitation and neutering, he has now been adopted by a fantastic couple in the UK who rightly feel that Jude's suffering should not be in vain and vow to make sure people hear the tale that lies behind his now wagging tail.



Christmas Crackers

Thank you very much to everyone who thought of Erin Hounds at Christmas and helped us save dogs from being put to sleep in the pre- Christmas pound clear outs including Paul who raised £250 by daily advent calendar – like appeals on his Facebook page, Grey2K USA who gave us £150 and our loyal supporters, Greenfields running club who donated £600.

One step forward in the UK...

Thanks to pressure from The League against Cruel Sports, Erin Hounds are glad to see that DEFRA has pledged to review 3 of the self – regulated elements in its Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010, in its 5 year review. The Government's admission that there is a need to look at the regulation of the industry came in its official response to the League's e-petition authored by the charity's Vice President, Annette Crosbie OBE, calling for legal protection for racing greyhounds to be strengthened after it had received more than the qualifying 10,000 signatures.

...Two steps back in Ireland

2014 saw the Irish Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan provide an additional €6 million a year for 3 years to the fund for horse and greyhound racing in his Agri-taxation review in recognition of the importance of the Irish bloodstock industry to the rural economy and the anticipated yield of €25 million per annum from betting duty.

Raising the Bar

Lurcher Paddy, has become the first Erin hound to earn his Platinum Kennel Club Good Citizen Award. His house



mate, Tara (was Neva), another Erin lurcher is now taking her Bronze award and learning recall. Newly adopted Rory, a shy boy, has done fantastically well to bag his Bronze Award as well as becoming the apple of his proud family's eye.

Can you see through the transparency?

In a recent Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) press release on doping, the IGB state that they wish to show a 'move towards greater transparency'...

Pat Curtin was the Irish trainer of a greyhound called Shelbourne Aston who gave a positive test for a steroidal substance at the 2009 English Derby (Wimbledon, UK). Pat Curtin was 'severely reprimanded' and fined £850 in a disciplinary hearing held by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB).

In 2014, a greyhound called Kereight King (in the care of Curtin) gave a positive sample for the steroid Stanozolol, after a trial at Wimbledon, UK, for the 2014 English Derby. In a disciplinary hearing in October 2014, Pat Curtin was again 'severely reprimanded' by the GBGB and fined £3000.

In March 2014 and January 2015 the Irish Independent heralds the news that Pat Curtin, owner of Dublin's Dandelion Bar and Night Club will sponsor Ireland's Easter Cup, a 550-yard event for 36 dogs which will be known for the next three years as the Dandelion Bar & Night Club Easter Cup and will have a winner's prize of €25,000.

PS Shelbourne Aston continued to be raced in Ireland after the GBGB hearing, Kereight King is now being used as a stud dog after sustaining an injury in the 2014 English Derby and another poor Irish greyhound named Nandrolone (the name of an anabolic steroid) was put down, aged 5, apparently due to cancer.



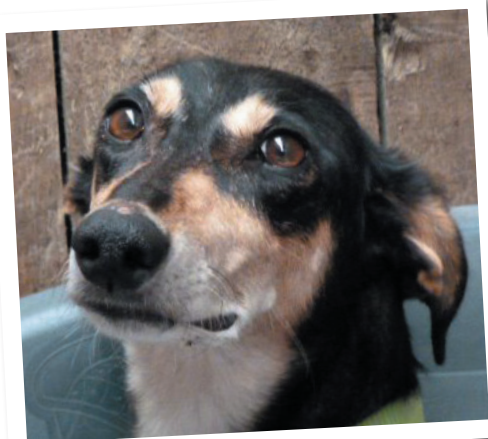
Update on Koo

We thought you would like this update from the lady who adopted Koo (a saluki cross handed in with an untreatable neglected front leg injury along with her two puppies):

"Today is the second anniversary of Koo coming to live with us: one of the best day's work we ever did. She is lying on the floor beside me, across 2 fleeces, enjoying a patch of sunlight. There are a few more white hairs on her back but she is fit and happy. In the warmer days, we often potter in the park for 45-50 minutes in the morning and she still wants any other walks that might be going. My son only has to go near his coat to have her jump to her feet all ready to go. She seemed to relax another notch a month or so ago. It was like flicking a switch. Since then she is noticeably more bouncy, confident, - and at times, even stubborn.

I haven't been able to take her out myself recently because I hurt my back, but that hasn't been a problem thanks to neighbours and volunteers from the Cinnamon Trust and a local Care Scheme. Also I have at last found a dog -walking company who will do 1-to-1 walks for half an hour round the houses, as well as the group 1 hour walks which everyone else around here does but which would not suit Koo.

She has only once needed the vet for her gammy leg, and that I realised afterwards, was because I wasn't quick enough to intervene with the anti- inflammatory medicine. When she next had trouble I gave it to her straight away and there was no further problem, and no more since then, thank goodness. I continue with her physiotherapy sessions, but we only see the therapist every 2 or 3 months now, partly to keep me on the straight and narrow. Koo hasn't shown any interest in water, but we plan to try hydrotherapy".



Giving them strength

Somebody else who may have benefited from physiotherapy (!) is our super-fit supporter, Gemma, who employed blood, sweat and tears to complete the Shropshire Long Mynd

Challenge which involved cycling 101 miles to a height of 8900ft in September 2014. She made £338.35 in sponsor money for Erin Hounds which will help us give dogs in a terrible state, the strength to pull through, just like poor Hopkins, now adopted and called Hopi.



Thank You

We were very touched to receive donations in memory of both Mark Casewell and Mr Goddard plus the proceeds of an Ice Bucket Challenge in August 2014 from Anne Whike.



Close knitting community

Several lovely ladies have found the ideal way to combine their passion for knitting with their passion for animals, such as Gill, our super knitter from Preston who makes many of the soft toys which we sell, despite caring for both her seriously ill partner, looking after her rescue Staffie and minding her granddaughter.

We were also thrilled to hear from Liz from Surrey who puts a lot of thought into her wonderful woolly greyhound coats and tells us "I have just turned 65

sales and charity shops tirelessly and will be 90 next month! I love looking at all the colours and deciding which



charity but ended up with a ball of hair instead! The search engine led her to Erin Hounds and to cut a long story short, Ann is now the proud owner of her first ever dog, lurcher Ashley (now Lupo). He is seen here posing on his very own.... woolsack!



combinations to use like my special green and red Christmas coats and will make coats in unusual sizes or requested colours like this green and black one for Henry, a size 33" (!) greyhound living in Dublin

and have been knitting on and off for 60 years. I've been knitting for Erin Hounds for 2 years. I did see opportunities to knit squares for dog blankets for another charity but wanted a bigger project. I looked on the internet one day and Erin Hounds popped up! My mother taught me to knit and she is the one who provides me with all the wool. She goes to car boot

Talk about "coat miles"... Jenny, an English lady living in Spain who, unable to source suitable wool in Spain, knits coats for Erin Hounds with wool bought from...The Wool Shop in County Waterford, Ireland whom she has now told about Erin Hounds!

Ann, another lady, searched the internet, having decided to give away some balls of wool to



Events

Macclesfield Treacle Market – Sunday 29th March 2015, 11am – 3pm

Tin shake (possible stall, weather dependent!) **Market Place SK11 6BA**

Spring Meet and Greet – Saturday 25th April 2015, 11am- 3.30pm

The team love seeing adopted dogs so bring them along to say hello and enjoy a grand day out with walks, shopping and restaurants www.trentham.co.uk. If you have a friend who has not yet met a sighthound, why not introduce them to this wonderful world by meeting happy owners and dogs looking for homes. **Shopping Village, North Entrance Trentham Gardens, Stoke ST4 8JG (signposted off junction 15 M6)**

Alderley Edge May Fair - Saturday 16th May 2015 ,11am – 5pm

Come and meet rescued greyhounds and lurchers looking for homes. If you are already a lucky sighthound owner, why not enter your dog in the Fun Dog Show (registration from 2pm)

For more information see www.alderleyedgefair.com

Alderley Edge May Fair, The Park, Ryleys Lane, Alderley Edge SK9 7UY

Bakewell Farmers' Market – Saturday 30th May 2015, 9am – 2pm

We will be attending the popular Farmers' Market in Bakewell again this year, come and meet some greyhounds and lurchers and sample some of the wonderful produce on sale at this fantastic market!

Bakewell Farmers' Market, Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, DE45 1AH

Marple Carnival - Saturday 20th June 2015

Watch our dogs taking part in the parade dressed as Superheroes (which of course they are). Parade starts at 1pm. We also have stand in the park so come and say hello.

Marple Memorial Park SK6 6BB www.marplecarnival.org.uk

GBGW - Sunday 21st June 2015, 11am registration, 11.30am start

Once again we are taking part in the Great British Greyhound Walk at Tittesworth Water
Tittesworth Water, Meerbrook, Nr Leek, Staffordshire ST13 8SW

Higher Poynton Summerfest - Sunday 12th July 2015, 11.30am - 4.30pm

Erin has been invited to have a stall and to raise awareness of greyhound/lurcher issues.

Higher Poynton Station, Middlewood Way (opposite the Boar's Head) We will be on Mount Vernon field next door.

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

The thousands of greyhounds killed annually are no different to your Max, Bob, Paddy, Jess, Brodie, Oscar, Pip, Sam, Susie, Flynn, Bill, Molly and Shadow but will never have a name or be mourned.



www.erinhounds.co.uk

Tel: 07903 549306

Email: email@erinhounds.co.uk

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