

Erin News

www.erinhounds.co.uk



Welcome to the 10th edition of Erin News- find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 400th hound.

Greyhound Guardians- The Next Generation:

How often people cite childhood experience as the prelude to their passion or success. It would be nice to think that one day there will be no requirement for volunteers to pick up the pieces after animal neglect but sadly that may not be. Here is what sisters Chelsea (age 12) and Abbie (age 8) who recently adopted Alfie, the greyhound have to say:

Chelsea: Getting a greyhound really changed last year for me. I was the one who really wanted a dog and I am really pleased with what Erin Hounds have done as Alfie has brought a missing piece to our family and my life - I love him so much. When we first got Alfie, I really wanted to cuddle him but for the first few hours it was all new to him so my sister, my brother and I just reassured him for a while and then he came to us for a stroke and a cuddle. As the days have gone by, he has really come out of himself and is always coming to one of us for a cuddle. We know that you should always give a dog their own space. We never go near him when he is

eating or sleeping as we don't want him to think we are taking his food off him or upset him. When I grow up I would love to be a part of a greyhound rescue like Erin Hounds. I would love for my children and everyone I know to love greyhounds because they are the kindest, loving, gentlest dog there is.

Abbie: Before we got Alfie, I was scared of dogs but we saw greyhounds at Marple Carnival and I liked the dogs' personalities. After that we looked into getting a greyhound and went

to see one but I was quite scared by how big he was so a lady who lives near us, let me visit her greyhounds a couple of times until I was used to them. When we adopted Alfie, at first I was very scared and stayed upstairs most of the time but after a few days, I began to realise that he was

the gentlest dog ever and I knew that he wouldn't hurt me. Since then, Alfie and I have been the best of friends.



Chelsea and Alfie



Marple Carnival

Abbie and Chelsea returned to Marple Carnival the following year, with Alfie dressed as Captain America and took part in the 2015 Super Heroes- themed parade where they had fun introducing people to greyhounds and helping raise money for charities including Erin Hounds.



Marple Carnival

Continued...



Several of our other adopted hounds, having assumed the persona of fictional superheroes joined Alfie to collect donations, from generous on –lookers, for the charities supported by Marple carnival. These hounds are true heroes for surviving the racing industry against all odds and then

giving up one of their 7 duvet days to help others but can you recognise our masked marvels?



Marple Carnival



Marple Carnival

Super supporters:

Once again we are truly humbled by the support of Levhoss UK who donated a cheque large enough to save many more hounds' lives at this year's Meet and Greet in April at Trentham Gardens.



We received generous donations from Audrey Gilligan, from Elisabeth Jackson who walks dogs for friends and neighbours in aid of Erin Hounds and from Yusen Logistics UK Ltd who held a Dress down day which raised £55.



We were also the lucky recipients of £1500 from I Heart Whippets' Spring auction – thank you so much to them for understanding that all sighthounds need to look out for each other!

Holiday Hounds

If you are unable to take your Erin hound on holiday with you, then why not find a sighthound- savvy minder? Erin hounds have set up a private Facebook group open only to Erin Hounds' adopters where you can request and offer free holiday care. A donation to Erin hounds in recognition of the introduction would be greatly appreciated though Erin Hounds are not responsible for any arrangements made between participating adopters.



Homes and Gardens

Sue Makin opens her beautiful garden near Tarporley for charity and Erin hounds were one of the lucky recipients. Sue gardens with wildlife at the forefront of her mind using Strulch™, a wonderful mulch of mineralised straw that enriches the garden, conserves water and safely deters slugs. Our homeless hounds will enjoy hunting for homes from this grey garden next year so why not come and meet them there on July 2nd 2016 ? (for full details see below)

Paws for thought: If all our Facebook supporters found just 10p down the back of their sofa and donated it to Erin Hounds, we would have enough to save another hound. (Ed)



Key Work

Dedicated foster carers lie at the heart of Erin Hounds' success at matching hounds to home so we asked one of our most experienced fosterers, Sue, to tell us about her experience:

Back in 2007, I adopted my first greyhound, a 7 year old called Fern who gave me my love of hounds and my desire to foster. People said how difficult fostering can be and as someone with little hound experience, I carefully considered the commitment and responsibility but knew my strong desire to help these poor hounds would carry me through the difficult times. My supportive husband, Keith was a wonderful sounding board for ideas as we tried to work out what was best for a particular dog. A fosterer's role is varied but rehabilitation and assessment is the main aim with patience, consistency and love being the main tools of the fosterer's trade. Living with a hound is very different to visiting a hound in kennels and we learned a lot from each and every one. We have never counted how many dogs (and puppies!) have passed through our care as the actual number does not seem important. Each hound carried their own personality differently; some hid it, some displayed it like a badge but most had sadness and tiredness in their eyes showing us that they had lost their faith in people who had let them down, hurt them or crushed their spirit. Our job was to restore their faith and



build them up to see that trust was once more possible. With every case, trust had to be earned but we had laughter and joy along the way which made fostering so special. When the dog became ready for adoption, we were able to give the adopter insight into their new arrival and guide them through any hiccups during the settling-in process. The sadness turned to happiness as dogs like Ardal, Bailey and Amber (see photographs) left for pastures new and we opened our door to the next needy hound. Dogs live in the moment and when we saw our ex-foster dogs again, there was sometimes recognition on their part but for us it was always a great feeling to know that we had played a part in the process that resulted in the happy, healthy hound before us.

After so many successes, we joined the "failed fosterers club" by adopting Jamie who came into our care as a young saluki, reactive to other dogs. The consistency, patience and love we learned during years of fostering helped us guide Jamie forward. Having earned his trust, the love we gave him is nothing compared to the unconditional love he now gives us as the happy, loyal and content hound he now is and whom we could not bear to move on as he has become a much loved part of us.

If you are prepared to give the total commitment as a fosterer that Sue describes, please contact us to find out more about helping hounds in this way, on their journey into a home.

A massive thank you to Fur Care Canine Groomers of Runcorn who did us proud by grooming Kodak (now Kobi) free of charge, ready for his homing.



Forthcoming events

ERIN HOUNDS MEET AND GREET 2015
Saturday November 28th 11am -3pm.

Come along with your hound to meet other lucky owners and dogs looking for homes. Refreshments, tombola, hound merchandise and gifts etc. Macclesfield community garden centre, West Park, Macclesfield SK10 3BJ
www.maccgardencentre.co.uk

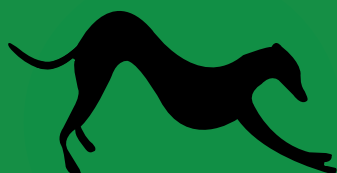
GREYT GARDENS

Saturday 2nd July 2016 1pm - 5pm

Come and enjoy a stroll around a beautiful wildlife friendly garden, complete with pond, herbaceous borders and kitchen garden. It is open under the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) and there will be delicious cakes and drinks available. Meet some Erin hounds looking for homes and find out more about sighthounds as pets. Dogs welcome -please keep them on lead and clear up after them.

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

Why do people now call mongrels "designer dogs" and buy them while pedigrees, like us greyhounds, are labelled "rescues" and die in pounds?"



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