

Erin News

www.erinhounds.co.uk



Welcome to the 11th edition of Erin News- find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 425th hound.

1,2,3-Who's afraid of the Big Black Dog?

Lee has won the race to be this month's cover hound, closely followed by Suzi, with Tom bringing up the rear (though Tom's goal is simply adoption).

BBD1-The front page is dedicated to Lee who spent months awaiting his forever home. His new mum and dad sincerely hope his story will prevent other big black beauties being overlooked:

"Having met the challenges of surviving retirement from racing, travelling across the Irish Sea and learning about living in a house, Lee's biggest challenge still lay ahead... catching the eye of potential adopters, above smaller, different coloured, kennelmates. He, like many other greyhounds in rescue, was suffering from a severe case of BBD (Big Black Dog)

Syndrome ie being perceived as too big and not as interesting looking as dogs of another colour. When Lee was suggested as a potential match for us, we had nothing to lose by meeting him.....

As I type, Lee is curled up on the sofa next to me at approximately half his normal size-greyhounds could teach Ikea a thing or two about flat packing! After being introduced to Lee on a wet Saturday morning in February, we soon learned that this BBD was in actual fact a BBB (Big Black Beauty). He is an absolute charmer and stunning looking so we were delighted to give him his forever home and Lee came home

on Valentine's weekend 2016, exactly 1 year after running his last race in Ireland. He adapted really well and showed no anxiety when we left him, slept very well at night time and ate well. It took him 2 days to discover the wonder that is the settee

and he now loves it. His favourite toy is a sheep which he carries around with him quite a bit. He's been a little angel at his Granny's house and had his first trip



Lee



Lee

to the local cafe where he settled very well. We've done recall work with him in his Granny's garden and it's going very well. He actually responds to a whistle! He is so Greyhoundy in many ways but also quite Saluki/Whippet in many others - maybe it's his energy and youth. He is very loving, very funny, a quick learner and a super dog. He's a good boy at having his teeth cleaned and makes us laugh so much. His resplendent, shiny coat and size, draw admiring second looks and compliments from passing humans when he's out and about. His love of life is an absolute joy to be a part of and we think he is amazing. If you're looking to give a dog a home, why not get to know one with a black coat? They keep a big warm heart in their top pocket and it might just have your name on it."

BBD2: Suzi bagged her forever family in August 2015. Let's hear what they have to say about their big black beauty: "We had a visit to check out our house and to see what sort of dog would be suitable for us. We had an email to say Suzi would be



Suzi

suitable for us as her foster carers had found her to be quite lively and very keen on chasing balls. At first she was very nervous and would get scared by various things especially men, loud noises and crowds of people. If we left her on her own downstairs she would take our shoes off the shoe rack and put them in her bed. She was also very good at stealing soft toys. She became more confident as she settled in, learning to get up and down the stairs and discovering how comfy the beds are. She likes to relax on the sofa if she gets a chance, stretched out on her back if possible. She now has a growing wardrobe including 3 coats, a homemade onesie and lots of collars. She loves chasing a ball but isn't very good at bringing it back. She can also sit and hold her paw out for a treat. She loves a good run and chasing other dogs in the park but isn't always popular as she is rather bossy and very

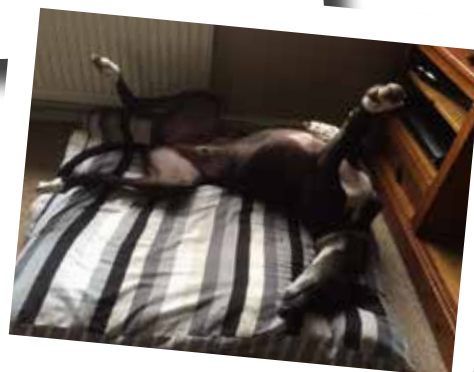
fast compared to the other dogs. She has a very cheeky attitude and loves to dig holes under the trampoline and if you don't let her in she'll start barking at the door and wagging her tail. She has huge black ears and when she sees a rabbit they stick up in the air like satellite dishes.

BBD3: Will Tom make it into a forever home in time for the next edition of Erin News?? Let's hear what his foster mum has to say about him, then it's all down to you:

"I think part of the lack of interest could be that Tom is just another big black greyhound. He may not be a pretty colour but he is a very elegant hound who walks very proudly, he attracts attention and has a lovely personality. Tom has settled in to home life well. He has always been quiet at night, is clean in the house and in other people's houses. He answers to his name and has good recall in the garden. He is now quite happy to go to the loo while out on his walks but will still go in the garden if necessary. He is a little wary on first meetings but once he knows you he spins in delight. He is a little cautious in new places but after a few minutes sniffing about he is fine. Tom is full of energy and can get a bit giddy, he loves to play and

he can be really funny. He is not keen on having his photo taken. He really doesn't like rain and will go out, look at the ground, look at the sky and then disappear back inside! He loves neck rubs, belly rubs and hugs. He likes pottering round the garden if we're out there and loves being in the kitchen if cooking is going on. He is not possessive over food and while he is interested in human food he knows what 'NO' means, so he doesn't pester. He can climb stairs but doesn't go on furniture or beds. He is lovely to walk and fine on busy roads. He lives with my greyhound but is fine all night downstairs on his own or if I'm upstairs cleaning. He used to panic when he met unfamiliar breeds of dog- but this is improving all the time in that he doesn't try to get away now. If they rush towards him or bark at him, he will bark and isn't too happy but he doesn't lunge and it's not something that affects our

walks. Tom is a lovely sweet dog" (What are you all waiting for? Ed)



Tom



Doping-don't seek and you won't find

Greyhound Rescue Association of Ireland (GRAI), of which Erin Hounds is one of fifteen member organisations, continues to highlight the welfare concerns for greyhounds who have been, and continue to be, doped. Let's see if there has been any change since the 2006 doping scandal involving the then chairman of the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB).

June 2006: Tim Dalton's damning independent report on the Irish Greyhound Board following controversy about the doping of greyhounds and the then, IGB Chairman – Paschal Taggart, was published and raised concern that steroids were prohibited in the UK but not in Ireland.

2007: following recommendations in the Dalton Report, regulations were made to dissolve the existing Control Committee (the body which oversees doping cases) - of which Paschal Taggart was also Chairman – and a new Control Committee was to be established. IGB Members would no longer be permitted to sit as a Member of the Control Committee, but IGB Members would appoint Control Committee Members.

2007- 2014: many high-profile doping cases continued, including a greyhound owned/trained by the wife of an ex IGB CEO – where a positive sample was given at a high-profile National Coursing Event. Another high-profile Irish trainer was fined and

severely reprimanded twice by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain - for the use of stanozolol in Irish greyhounds that he had trained for the UK Derby in 2009 and 2014. (Stanozolol, commonly sold under the name Winstrol (oral) and Winstrol Depot (intramuscular), is a synthetic anabolic steroid derived from dihydrotestosterone.)

2014: The Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) had told the Irish Sunday Times in 2014, in reference to Irish greyhounds imported to the UK for racing, that their sampling 'didn't suggest a widespread abuse of stanozolol in Ireland' - however, later in 2014 in a GBGB Disciplinary Hearing for the use of stanozolol, the GBGB issued a warning to all trainers 'to exercise due diligence in assessing the drug status of greyhounds they purchase from Ireland'. The prohibited anabolic steroid, Stanozolol, had proved difficult in its oil-based form for the IGB to detect in their laboratories, according to a meeting in 2013 with the Dept. Agriculture, Food and the Marine (AFM).

2014 saw another damning report on the IGB, where the concerns of doping continued to be raised. The Indecon report recommended that the Control Committee Members should be appointed by the Minister responsible for Greyhounds, Dept. AFM. The report gave further recommendations on transparency following issues about the dismissal of positive tests and delays in the

publications of results. Late 2014 the Minister for Greyhounds, Tom Hayes, was questioned by TD Mark Wallace over both the lack of, and slowness of, the publication of doping results/ details. Wallace further raised concerns of a 'serious conflict of interest' in reference to the Chairman of the Control Committee having a greyhound trained by a trainer who was found guilty of doping greyhounds.

Since December 2014 the IGB now publish details and fines of doping offences but concerns have been raised over how low the fines are compared to other countries' disciplinary actions for the same doping offences.

2016: The first results published in 2016 showed a positive step forward where the licence of a trainer was revoked – for the use of stanozolol. This positive step forward was however overshadowed by publication that only 5,331 samples were taken from greyhounds at tracks in Ireland in 2014. This is a massive drop of 1,976 from the 7,307 samples taken in 2013. The samples taken are just a small percentage given that tens-of-thousands of races are held throughout Ireland each year. (Richard King – GRAI Press Officer). For more information see www.grai.ie

That's the way to do it

We were delighted to receive £600 from our two- legged friends from Greenfield Greyhounds running club's 2015 Dovestone Diamond race in aid of their four- legged friends (the latter taking to the sofa to give the former a chance-led by Billy and Lily, the rescued Erin Hounds, who inspired their sporty owner to support us). Come and cheer them on as they do it all again in May 2016.

Using their voices for those who don't have one

Erin Hounds is only as strong as its volunteers so we asked some stalwarts why they enjoy helping Erin.

Maria: What motivates me is the fact I know how many dogs desperately need rescuing and although I cannot contribute a great deal, people seem to like my cakes and the jewellery I make for events. (Maria is the proud adopter of Berksha, the 400th hound to be adopted from Erin Hounds since it started. Berksha has fitted in very well with two existing Erin Hounds, Dee and Suki- Ed).

Rosey and Rick: We were so proud when we adopted 'Gentleman Jack' (the best on-a-hunch phone call ever!!!) and wanted to attend events to celebrate our good fortune (and show him off!). Once we saw how hard the volunteers worked and found out more about the shocking extent of the situation, we decided we wanted to give something back, so we started helping out on the stall, attending tin shakes and trying to find new opportunities for fundraising. Since Jack has been joined by our funny Erin girl, Georgie, we have double what was already a greyt love and now we just want other people to feel what we feel. Volunteering with Erin has been probably the

single most rewarding thing we've done as a couple and has brought us a whole new family of hound and human friends. It's also given Rick an opportunity to wear fancy dress but that's another story!! (Rosey and Rick are totally reliable and show tireless commitment and enthusiasm -their efforts have helped save hounds we would not have been able to help otherwise- Ed)

Marcia: We have only known about Erin for just over 12 months. We fostered Flynn and adopted Jude. In March, we came to a fundraiser outside a pet shop near Sale and met the regular fundraisers and their hounds. Everyone is kind and helpful and completely devoted to altering

the destiny of the many threatened Irish hounds. There is no pressure to stay all day, you can come and go as you please and contribute as much or as little time as you can. In a short time, the people you have just met become friends, a non- intrusive but very welcome part of your life. They just want the very best for these beautiful and majestic

creatures. In April, we lost dad and a couple of weeks later, mum decided she needed to get out of the house and came to Trentham gardens where Erin had a stall. She was going to sit in the car and wait for a few hours but ventured out and came over to the stand. She was instantly welcomed,

chatted to passers- by about greyhounds, got on like a house on fire with the volunteers and didn't return to the car till it was time to go home. Since then every event we are able to attend, mum comes too and helps out, buys tombola tickets, brings in gifts to put on the stall, fusses the dogs and chats to passers- by about what wonderful pets they make. Erin Hounds has helped my mum through the most challenging time of her life and means so very much to us. We have our dogs as daily reminders of how great the charity is and the dogs enjoy themselves too when out for the day, with lots of fuss and treats. You should come and try it. (Marcia adopted Jude and then fostered and adopted Flynn so turned their lives around too- Ed)

Kayla: Despite my alarm going off earlier of a weekend than it does for work on a week day, I jump out of bed with more enthusiasm, in order to meet the newly arriving dogs. Although I'm only a small link in the chain, it's rewarding being part of a team working towards the same goal, and together we're achieving big things. It's satisfying being in the company of like-minded people. The dogs are so forgiving despite what they've been through and for even the most special hounds like Phillo and Monkey, there are perfect homes out there, it just takes a bit longer to find them. I just want to help the dogs, and make a contribution, but reading back, I think it's the dogs that help me! (Kayla and her partner, John are a lot more than a small link- they are the keystone for which are most grateful. Ed!)



Keeping us going for greys

Thank you to all those who have set up a monthly standing order which helps us through the quieter months when dogs are still coming in but fewer going out. If everyone who likes our Facebook page, donated just £1 a month we would be able to help more hounds and Facebook would feature more happy homings and gorgeous hounds. Please consider this or at least sign up to Easy fundraising when you shop on line (full details under "How to Help" on our website) as Erin then receive money at no cost to yourself.

Dogs Trust Events that may be of interest

Dog School- open to all owners, regardless of where your dog came from. Five week long fun dog training classes in Manchester and Merseyside email DogsTrustTrainingNorthWest@dogstrust.org.uk
Be Dog Smart- Dogs Trust have a youth education officer who will visit schools and youth groups to run fun workshops for younger dog lovers about staying safe around dogs.
Email angela.madigan@dogstrust.org.uk

Your rescued hound has a lot to smile about so let him do so, with confidence!

Prevention is better than cure...if you have neglected your dog's dental care (be honest!) and his teeth are discoloured or his breath is less than fresh, it is not too late to turn over a new leaf before you end up with the risk and expense of a dental under anaesthetic where his teeth may be pulled out (dogs don't often have fillings or crowns, do they?!). You wouldn't allow your child's teeth to rot so why allow your dog's teeth to? Prevent decay by feeding dry complete food which acts as an abrasive, tooth brushing, giving dental chew bars, having dental check ups by a vet and using drinking water additives that inhibit plaque build up. Plaque is a mixture of bacteria, saliva and food which hardens to form tartar which encourages further plaque to build up and this irritates the gums which then become inflamed. This inflammation causes bad breath and will spread to the tooth socket leading to pain and ultimately loosening and loss of the tooth. What are you waiting for? Buy a dog-specific toothpaste (never use human toothpaste) and follow these five easy steps:

1. Put some canine toothpaste on your finger and let your dog lick it off, repeat this for 3-5 days with lots of praise.
2. Place your finger covered with toothpaste (or use a soft thimble- like finger cover if you prefer) in your dog's mouth and gently massage the teeth and gums
3. When your dog is happy with the above, wet a round- bristled toothbrush with water and push the toothpaste into the bristles of the brush so it stays on. Lift the side of your dog's lip (with the mouth still closed) and use a circular motion to brush the back teeth (molars and pre-molars), concentrating on the gum line
4. Use an up and down motion to clean all 4 canines (fangs) and finish off by gently brushing the small front incisors
5. Brush your dog's teeth daily and join the smug brigade, safe in the knowledge you are doing your best for your Erin hound.

Never let a child put their fingers in a dog's mouth and stop immediately if the dog seems uncomfortable or distressed.



Greyt work:

Creative ways of raising money abounded this year. Thank you to Yvonne who sold wonderful home made plaques. Thank you to Creature Comforts Pet Shop in Sandbach who sold carrier bags for a month and donated £55.00 to Erin Hounds. Thank you to Mr Sprigg who donated £38.50 via the Give a Car scheme (details on our website). Thank you to Mrs McKay who donated £100. Thank you to Mrs Elisabeth Jackson who walks neighbours' dogs when they are at work in aid of Erin Hounds and regularly donates in excess of £100. We were very touched to receive donations in memory of a lovely gentleman and adopter, Paul Taylor.

Forthcoming Events

Please see website for full details

Alderley Edge May Fair

Saturday May 21th 2016. The Park, Ryleys Lane, Alderley Edge SK9 7UY 12-5pm

What a Greyt Day!

Saturday May 28th 10am – 5pm. Spring Extravaganza at Buxton Pavilion Gardens , St John's Road, Buxton SK17 6BE.

Marple Carnival

Saturday 18th June 11-3pm. Marple Memorial Park, Stockport Road, Marple, Stockport SK6 6AX.

Great Global Greyhound Walk

Sunday 19th June 2016. Tittesworth Water, Meerbrook, Nr Leek, Staffordshire, ST13 8SW

Greyt Gardens

Saturday 2nd July 2016 1pm. Clemley House, Duddon Common, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0HG

Higher Poynton Summerfest

Sunday 10th July, 11.30 – 4.30. Old Poynton North Railway Station and football/playing field Opposite the Boar's Head SK12 1TE

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

***Please encourage a friend to meet a
sighthound as it may save one of our lives
and never go greyhound racing as it may take
one of our lives.***



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