

Erin News

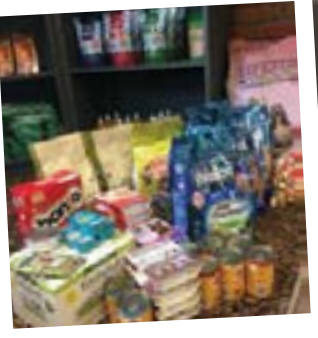
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Welcome to the 15th edition of Erin News- find out what has been going on behind the scenes as we head towards homing our 750th hound.

Grurdling, Derp and Zoomie

Thank you to Rich Skipworth for donating his book "Greyhound Glossary" which was raffled to raise money for Erin Hounds at the 10th annual Great Global Greyhound Walk event at the wonderful Tittesworth reservoir. It was won by Blyss' adoptive family. Here are the children learning greyt terms for Blyss' typical greyhound habits such as those listed above!



Very Humbling

With the English weather often against us at events, we are kept afloat by you; our adopters and supporters. The following non- exhaustive list of thanks is both humbling and heart-warming as together, we are able to help reach more suffering sighthounds than we could ever do alone:

Thank you to Paul, Jason, Margaret, Jeanette, Lily, Pamela, Ragnar, Briony, Steve, Kayla, Nicola, John, Lia, Val, Maureen, Hazel, Ron, Brad and Shirley for their generosity. Thank you to Jonathan, Vanessa, Gemma, Lisa, Corrina and Naomi for setting up Facebook birthday fundraisers in lieu of gifts. Thank you to Jenny in Spain, for being an avid knitter for Erin Hounds, a generous donor and mother to galgo, Dilly. Thank you to Mallie for donations in memory of his mother and for organising a psychic evening with another amazingly generous supporter, Judith. Thank you to Donna and her group for the food and goodies for the dogs. Thank you to Early Paws and Rosey and Rick for organising amazing events. Thank you to Clare and her family from Creature Comforts pet shop in Macclesfield who have shown Erin

Hounds, loyal support during their years of trading. Thank you to

Creature Comforts in Sandbach and Cheadle Hulme Ladybridge cricket club. Massive thank you to Karen, assisted by Heikki the greyhound, for making eye- catching bag charms and earrings which have raised hundreds of pounds.

Thank you to Helen and Simon for their donations in lieu of wedding favours. We were very saddened to hear that Nacho died unexpectedly in his sleep as we were going to press and send all the love in the world to his devastated family. Ed



Thank you to Burgess Greyhound and Lurcher support and Nellie Doodles for their donation of food and wall planners respectively.

Thank you to Orrets Meadow school for donating the proceeds from their non- uniform day. Thank you to Rachael for selling her lovely calendars and her amazing customer who very kindly matched her donation.

Thank you to Rachel Jackson, a Tellington touch practitioner and veterinary physiotherapist for judging our Treacle Market Dog show.

Turning statistics into pets

Erin Hounds were thrilled to play a small part in the international effort to find good homes for the hundreds of greyhounds rescued from the notorious Canidrome in Macau, following its closure. Four greyhounds found loving homes via Erin Hounds and we are sure you would like to hear from a couple of their adopters:

Hilary who adopted Cinderella says: I have been privileged to rehome a beautiful 7 year old greyhound from the living hell of the now closed Canidrome in Macau. She is a lovely red fawn colour (albeit nearly toothless after her essential dental work) and a wonderful foil to my all-black rehomed Irish greyhound and my black Cockerpoo.

I called her Cinders, as she came with the given name of Cinderella, and I thought that this would be an apt acknowledgement of her ragged life in China to the riches of her life in the UK.

Within 24 hours she was lying upside down on her chosen sofa, all legs in the air. A day on and she had found the dishwasher and helped the Cockerpoo's pre-wash by removing a couple of plates from interior. This was closely followed by her head and entire upper body in the fridge (resistant to backwards pulling) and a further in depth investigation of the washing machine.

A couple of things perplexed her; the deep morning frost had her on tiptoes, as did the snow, and she did seem uncertain of the dark. However, the wild rabbits had her entranced and pursuit of the hens along the perimeter of their fenced area led her into nascent stinging nettles and brambles. It took her a few forays to work out why this necessitated assiduous and urgent licking of her paws....

Like most independent-spirited greyhounds, she has no recall but she has a skill I've not met before with greys – she loves to play with and retrieve a squeaky ball. This has caused a few incidents of consternation both for me and the Cockerpoo as both dogs are chasing the same coloured balls (and they can detect colours).

She loves people, is very affectionate and inquisitive and has an endearing habit of leaning against one when out on the lead, meaning progress is often on a diagonal.

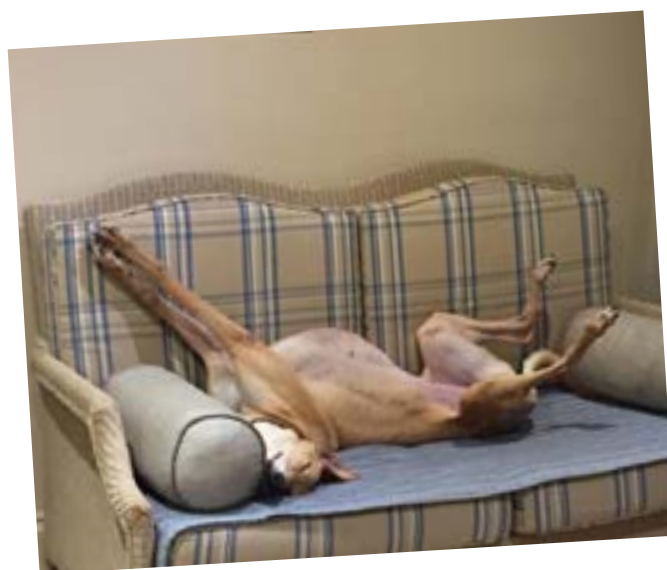
Over the three decades that I've lived in my Derbyshire house, every generation of dogs that have lived here

have participated in what I call a 'corporate howl'. It doesn't seem to fit the normal concept of dogs howling (attention seeking, announcing their presence, high-pitched sounds etc.) but is some internalised communication between them. I love it – even in the middle of the night, which to be fair, could be instigated by owls – as it is a reminder that we share our miraculous planet with all beings.

The joy of Cinders joining our family would not have happened without the amazing and dedicated work of so many charities and caring people. From Albano Martins of Anima Macau being there on the ground, to Pet Levrieri, Grey2KUSA and to the many charities in the UK, the greyhounds have made their long journeys to be happy at last.

My particular thanks are to Erin Hounds, and especially to Cathy who liaised with me and kept me informed over the many months with patience, good humour and with typical Erin Hounds' compassion, practicality and understanding.

(Cinders was very lucky to find such a lovely home. We are very grateful for Hilary's very generous gift and also to Grey 2K USA Worldwide who donated \$1000 to help us help these Macau hounds. Ed)



Julie and John who adopted Seak Po General now Monty, report:

It's hard to believe that just a few short months ago Monty was in a concrete prison cell with a wood pallet for a bed.

We adopted Monty (formally Seak Po General/ Bruce) from Erin Hounds in March 2019, after his liberation from the hell which was the Macau Canidrome in February.

The adoption process was really easy, Jo came by to meet us and a couple of days later we met Monty and we decided we would like to adopt him into our family. A few days later he was home with us.

We thought having a dog that had never lived in a home before was going to be a challenge but he had been fostered and we were pleasantly surprised how readily he settled in- it was like he had always lived here. The stairs were a slight issue at first because he had never been up a set before, but after a day or so he was bounding up and down them with no issues and now likes to creep up them as quietly as he can to sneak into our bed!

Monty loves cuddles and likes his ears and neck scratched. He likes other dogs and loves his stuffed toys which he likes to sleep with. He is such an easy going dog and he gives us tons of love and snuzzles. We are so happy that he is now part of our family.



It's a fine line

The Welfare of Greyhounds Act, 2011, is supposed to provide for the welfare of Greyhounds, regulate the operation of Greyhound Breeding establishments and establish a register of Greyhound Breeding establishments. The specific welfare standards are: A person who keeps, trades in, transports, breeds, rears, trains, races or courses a greyhound shall ensure that— (a) the greyhound is kept at all times in accommodation that is suitable as respects construction, size of quarters, number of occupants, exercise facilities, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, (b) the greyhound is adequately supplied with suitable food, drink, and bedding material, (c) the greyhound is adequately exercised, (d) the greyhound is inspected at suitable intervals regarding its welfare, (e) all reasonable measures are taken to prevent and control the spread among greyhounds of infections and contagious diseases, and (f) appropriate measures are taken for the protection of the greyhound in case of fire or other emergency.

Greyhounds come into our care from pounds having been surrendered for euthanasia or occasionally found stray but others come direct to us from owners and trainers. If we find that the dogs coming direct to us are in a bad state, we have to tread a very careful line to ensure that we can access greyhounds that may still be in need of help. One example is an owner from whom we had greyhounds for rehoming a few years ago (always in a rough condition and always being handed over, well away from the kennels) but whom we knew had other greyhounds who may need rehoming subsequently.

Recently, finding that one of his female greyhounds had obviously

been badly failed by lack of enforcement of the Welfare of Greyhounds Act, we contacted the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) who are responsible for its enforcement as we were very concerned about the other dogs in his care. We also enquired how she had been passed as fit to race and no concerns raised about the kennels, by racing managers at two different tracks when she was covered in pressure sores, scars and urine stains and worse.... with a front foot at a 45 degree angle with a damaged pad, due to previous injury. WE had to request IGB to arrange for a stipendary steward to visit the kennels, sincerely hoping not to jeopardise his other greyhounds being offered to us for rehoming, despite the fact that the IGB should have been on the case anyway, having had their representatives see his greyhounds' poor state at race tracks. The stipendary steward did visit the kennels and the now rescued female greyhound but without a vet. The racing operations manager wrote "I will revert to you following the inspection".....we are still waiting!



Davis' progress

Like humans, not all dogs find it easy to move on from a poor start in life and need extra time, support and understanding to overcome learned fear responses and realise that other dogs or people aren't a threat or after their space or food. We have to find homes that are able to work with these dogs to help them be the best and happiest they can be. We are very honest about what the dog needs and when a patient and committed home is willing to listen, follows advice to keep all safe and perseveres, we are delighted. Enjoy these extracts from updates sent to us by the new owner of one such lurcher, Davis, which illustrate that it is not easy or quick but is certainly rewarding.

-Poor lad hurled his breakfast up in the car. Not a problem we haven't had before.

-You could tell he was a bit confused about what was going on.

-No interest in toys. Just wanted to be near me.

-He was very restless for the first few hours. Has met my son, daughter and granddaughter and took it all in his stride. He is very keen to stay near me... insecure I suppose.

-He walked with me to my mother's and hit it off with her. The walk has burned the stress hormones and he's really starting to relax. No issues passing 3 dogs on walk.

-Just snaffled a chicken foot so must be feeling better.

-Davis has settled in very well. Had three big walks including time running, muzzled, with other hounds. He is very fast. Had a great time with a female Afghan hound. His recall is excellent when I whistle, unless there's a really muddy spot in which to cool off!

-We've been to vets today and he was very friendly with the vet. Muzzled in case of dogs in waiting room- no events.

-Recent learning... Davis is quite happy to have my daughter's dog, Marley to stay and they played together beautifully. Later, Marley surprised Davis whilst he was sleeping next to me. It sounded like World War 3. However the barks were loud but there was no biting. Davis retreated to his bed in the kitchen. Later Marley came through to see him and Davis gave him a warning to stay away. Marley just turned away and left. We decided to keep them in separate rooms just in case. The next day they were both happy to play together. We have learned that Davis needs his own space around his den.

-Today he's had an amazing day. Early this morning we met a recently rescued deerhound. I suggested I put Davis in his muzzle and we let them both off lead to run in an enclosed field. What an amazing experience to see them bond. Davis is amazingly quick and has good stamina. They had a fantastic time chasing each other and Davis kept taking him to a big puddle to cool down.

In the next field we met a 6 year old boxer. Same process. Amazing how he plays down to the ability and fitness of the other dog. Next field as my confidence grows 2 small schnauzer type dogs. Same process, same result but very much gentler. I am a very proud owner and delighted to see Davis enjoying the freedom with other dogs. Excellent recall too.

-He's been so tired today. I had to laugh as he wants to be near me. I've just finished cutting the grass and he kept falling asleep on the lawn. He's fallen asleep again as I drink my beer and write this note.



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

"Be proud of what you have done in giving us a chance through adoption and tell everyone how wonderful we are as pets so others have the same chance of happiness.."



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