

Greyhound Retirement Scheme Newsletter

Pictured: Retired greyhound, Watson (full story below)

HELPING GREYHOUNDS ENJOY LONG, HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIVES IN RETIREMENT

OVER 2,000 GREYHOUNDS BENEFIT FROM GRS MATCH FUNDING

Welcome to the third issue of our GRS newsletter.

I wanted to begin with some fantastic news which I'm sure you will all join me in celebrating. Thanks to your ongoing support and collective efforts, **over 2,000** retired greyhounds have now accessed their full GRS bond and have been welcomed into approved homing centres.

With the scheme having launched less than a year ago, this truly is a remarkable achievement. As always, I want to thank you all for your hard work and the inspiring dedication you continue to show to the retired greyhounds in your care.

In total, almost **7,000 racing greyhounds** have been signed up to the GRS which means that, in the months and years to come, thousands more are set to benefit from the scheme's match funding and get one step closer to finding their forever home.

Our community of approved homing centres also continues to grow each week, with **over 125 homing centres** across the country now part of the GRS.



It is excellent to see so many centres proudly promoting their involvement in the GRS, as **Alfie's Dream for Greyhounds** are doing with their brilliant new signage.

As always, I am continually impressed by the conversations I have each week with volunteers across our homing community and the inspiring stories they share with me - a standout example being a story from **BADAW** which you can read about in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest issue. I look forward to providing you with updates on what I'm sure are going to be a successful few months ahead in our autumn edition.

Paula Beniston
GRS Co-ordinator
GBGB



TOP OF THE CLASS: SPRING BROOK ACADEMY WELCOMES RETIRED RACING GREYHOUND

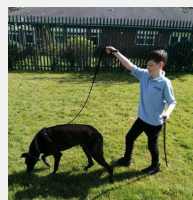
Pupils at Spring Brook Academy in Oldham are getting to know the newest member of their class - a retired racing greyhound called Watson. The black greyhound joined the school for children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Special Educational Needs at the beginning of the term and has quickly established himself as a popular and valued member of the school community.

Watson, whose racing name was Ballymac Bangon, raced at Doncaster Stadium. He retired from racing in 2020 and was rehomed by **Barnsley and District Animal Welfare (BADAW)** which homes over 125 retired racing greyhounds a year. Watson spent just over four weeks at BADAW before being taken home by James Hopkins - Teacher and Outdoor Education Co-ordinator at Spring Brook Academy.

Part-time pupil Watson spends three days a week at school where he is visited by pupils and is taken on short walks by them. He spends the rest of the week lazing on the sofa at home.

Steve Simpson from BADAW said:

"Greyhounds make fantastic pets. As the pupils and teachers at Spring Brook Academy have found, greyhounds are gentle, extremely affectionate and very calm pets. I am so pleased that Watson has settled so well into school life and is bringing so much joy to the children. Contrary to what many people think, greyhounds do not need much exercise; they are happy to laze around on the sofa for most of the day and go on a couple of short walks. I am sure that Watson will enjoy a very happy and satisfying retirement as part of the Spring Brook family."



Read the story covered in The Oldham Times [here](#).

SHARE YOUR STORIES

We love hearing your standout and heart-warming GRS homing stories so please feel free to share them with us via grs@gbgb.org.uk.

Likewise do continue to promote your involvement in the scheme on your social media channels and website.

#GREYHOUNDDENTALCARE

In May, we ran a #GreyhoundDentalCare campaign to raise awareness of the importance of dental hygiene, for both racing and retired greyhounds.

As part of this, Our GBGB Greyhound Ambassadors conducted a special 'Best Smile' competition on social media, which received photo entries from owners, trainers and homing centres across the country.



Congratulations to our winners in the retired greyhound category - Pesky Penguin (L) and Cals Wonder (R) (Penguin and Cal).

Also making fantastic contributions to the dental campaign were Michelle Owens from **Bark Inn Rehoming Kennels** - one of our approved homing centres - and Simon Gower, GBGB Veterinary Director, who each wrote a blog about maintaining greyhounds' oral health. Click on the headlines below to read some of their top tips.

Homing Blog: The Importance of Dental Care

Keeping on Top of Dental Hygiene: A Blog by Simon Gower, GBGB Veterinary Director

IN OTHER NEWS...

GRS Co-ordinator, Paula Beniston, was interviewed on 'Greyhound Nation', a global podcast for greyhound enthusiasts hosted by John Parker, as well as on GBGB's new podcast 'Out of the Traps'. Click on the icons below to learn more.

