

Greyhound Retirement Scheme Newsletter

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A PHOTO OF BLAKE, OWNED BY GRS CO-ORDINATOR PAULA BENISTON

HELPING GREYHOUNDS ENJOY LONG, HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIVES IN RETIREMENT

A YEAR IN REFLECTION

Welcome to the fifth issue of our GRS newsletter.

As we approach the new year it is the perfect opportunity to reflect on everything that we have collectively achieved this year and how, with your support, the GRS has continued to grow and expand.

In the September issue of this newsletter I announced that GBGB had contributed over £1million in GRS payments. Thanks to the exceptional number of greyhounds that have been enrolled since, this figure has now surpassed £1.6million - a remarkable sum that is testament to the importance all of us place on ensuring our retired racers can find loving homes.

Almost 12,500 greyhounds have now been signed up to the GRS - over 3,300 of which have been voluntary - and over 4,000 retired greyhounds have found their forever homes with help from the scheme.

One outstanding individual who deserves a special mention is Julie Terry who runs **Greyhound Trust Wickford**. It doesn't matter which homing centre in the country I visit, Julie's name is always brought up. For over 25 years, she has been helping owners and trainers across the country find homes for their retired racers, visiting each homing centre herself to check they meet her welfare standards before working with them. Thank you Julie for your incredible work and the countless greyhounds that have benefited from your dedication.

I also wanted to thank all stadia for the support they have shown to the GRS over the past twelve months. As an example of this, **Crayford Greyhound Stadium** are assisting their owners by paying each greyhound's GRS bond registered between 20th September and 31st December 2021.

I am incredibly proud to be part of such a dedicated community of owners, trainers, stadia and homing centres who go above and beyond for the retired greyhounds in their care. 2021 has by no means been easy for anyone but the commitment, respect and love you all show to your greyhounds has never faltered.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paula Beniston
GRS Co-ordinator
GBGB



RETIRED GREYHOUNDS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

Last month, GBGB Greyhound Ambassadors Gail May, Lorraine Sams and Carly Philpott paid a visit to Cheltenham Racecourse, accompanied by their retired racers Eric (Spiridon Caerus), Toby (Warning Over), Florence (Go with Flo) and Swifty (Union Secret).

They spent the day speaking with the public about the care their greyhounds have received throughout their careers. They were also joined by several special guests including horseracing trainer and fellow greyhound enthusiast Fergal O'Brien, champion jockey Tony McCoy and ITV presenter Luke Harvey.



Speaking after the event, Gail May, said:

"We had a fantastic day chatting with the spectators at Cheltenham and we are extremely thankful to the track for hosting us and for letting us have a special stall in the Village which was brilliantly located.

"From the minute we got there we had a steady stream of people coming over to speak to us and to meet our retirees. It was a real mix of individuals, from current greyhound racing fans to those who had never met a greyhound before. Everyone we spoke to was interested to hear about the care the dogs receive both at and away from the track. It was lovely too that so many children got to meet the hounds and give them a stroke. The dogs all behaved impeccably and really showcased what is so special about this breed.

"Lots of people we spoke to said they were considering homing a greyhound in the future and it showed just how much support there is for greyhounds within the horseracing community. We hope, in the future, that we can attend more race meetings and develop a greater partnership between our sports."

SHARE YOUR STORIES

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

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



'NEW BOND HELPS WHEN RACERS PUT THEIR PAWS UP'

One of our GRS homing partners, **Yarmouth Greyhound Homefinders** based in Norfolk, are the focus of a full-page feature in this year's Just Christmas - the festive edition of Just Regional magazine.

Click the cutting on the right to read the piece in full.



STATE-OF-THE-ART HYDROTHERAPY SPA AT CLARKS FARM REHOMING KENNELS

Racing and retired greyhounds from **Crayford Greyhound Stadium** are now able to benefit from a brand-new hydrotherapy spa which has been installed at **Clarks Farm Rehoming Kennels** in Maldon, Essex.

The new spa room includes a state-of-the-art hydrotherapy bath which massages the dogs with targeted jets of warm water. This supports greyhounds who are recovering from aches and sprains, surgery, or that have conditions such as arthritis. The relaxing bath can be used in conjunction with physiotherapy and helps increase blood flow to any affected areas, helping to improve mobility.

Crayford Greyhound Stadium has donated over £6,500 to pay for the specialist equipment. The stadium has also paid for three of the charity's team members to complete a course at **Writtle University College** so that they are able to get the best out of the new facility.