



The Greys Matter



This issue of The Greys Matter is dedicated to the memory of Amy



Greyhound Listening



Kids and Dogs Manage it Right



Children Focus

Your Letters

Greyhound Listening

Kids and Dogs - Manage it Right

Well, what a wonderful year 2012 has turned out to be for Greyhound Rescue. Just 3 years into our existence and it seems that the public are getting to know just what great pets the greyhounds make, as we have already found homes for more than 70 greyhounds so far this year, a figure unthinkable a year ago.

2012 has seen the production of our second calendar, another magnificent effort and also the publication of our first newsletter, The Greys Matter, and here we are at Issue 3 already. Many thanks to all those involved with these publications, whether it be those of you who contribute articles or those behind the scenes. Please keep the articles coming in, we do love to hear how you and your greyhounds are getting on.

At the moment Greyhound Rescue is like a train that cannot be stopped, more and more people are applying to adopt greyhounds and more and more people are jumping on board to help. Recently there have been a number of articles in the media on the Racing Industry, highlighting the appalling wastage of greyhounds lives, and we think that the awareness of this is encouraging people to adopt a greyhound, having found out that they are very gentle and affectionate creatures who don't deserve to die just because they are too slow or too old.

We are deeply indebted to all those people that have jumped on board, those that help out at the kennels, do stalls for us, transport, come to our fundraising, produce our publications, run facebook and all of you who have donated to keep Greyhound Rescue alive.

We have witnessed many emotions throughout the year joy, sadness, frustration but perhaps above all the thrill when a greyhound goes to a new loving home and the satisfaction of working with people with a common cause.

We hope that you will all have a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year.

Best wishes, Peter and Janet.



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In this issue of 'The Greys Matter' we focus on children and greyhounds. We have articles from Alexis on greyhounds listening to children read and Sue provides an insight and advice on achieving harmony with your kids and dogs. There are also lots of your stories.

Please keep your contributions coming in. We love to read and share your stories and photos. You can tell us what would you like to see in the next issue, write to us at. (joeturton@outlook.com)

We hope you enjoy it, Joe.

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Recent Adoptions

- Beau and Bella, both 7, have been in the adoption waiting room for a while and have now found their forever home together at Storm's place. Thank you Storm for giving these two older black beauties a new life, we know you will all be very happy together.
- Jazzy, now known as Greyam, has found his home at last with Nicole, Alison, dog Ruby, cat Molly and Lenny the bird!
- Beautiful young Vanessa (now known as Nessy) has found her forever home in South Australia with Vivienne and family.
- Sugar was rescued from the Cessnock Pound a few months ago and went straight into foster care with Sue. From day one it looked as though Sue may become one of our foster failures. Sugar, now Chloe, is now a permanent resident at Sue's place, no doubt a very comfy and happy place to be.
- Little Betty who has found her forever home in Canberra with Kerrie and Russell.
- Young Harry had a hideous start to life, having been kept locked in a tiny cage and was very underweight and traumatized when he arrived almost 2 years ago. After being looked after by some wonderful foster carers he has now been adopted by Bella and will grow old with her. He will have the company of 3 other dogs and 6 horses.
- Tilly had only been with us a few weeks when she went on trial with Jan and family. And this is what Jan says about her: "Tilly is settling in well. She is so well behaved, affectionate and gentle and we all love her dearly. We hope she approves of us at her adopted family!" Of course Tilly does- so it's official Tilly has found her perfect humans.
- Oscar has been with us for 3 years and FINALLY he has found someone who wants to love him for the big, affectionate, boisterous galumph that he is. Rachel, has taken Oscar, and little Jenny to be her forever hounds.
- Shazana (formerly Sox) has been adopted by Jennifer and has a new cavoodle buddy Azili
- Rupert, formerly Red, is enjoying the good life with Kane and his new feline brother William.
- Ashy has been adopted by Adam and Yanna
- Foster carer Danielle fell for her foster hound affectionately known as McDog,
- Wally is one of our luckier BIG BLACK BOYS, he'd only been with us a few months when Aaron and Alfie met him and decided to adopt him.
- Anna and family met Barney, now Bond, fell in

love and brought him home. He now has a human family, two canine and two feline friends.

- Dodge, now called Jerry, has been such a patient gentleman, doing great work at the Frenchs Forest Dogs Day out, watching hounds come and go from the kennels while he stayed. Thanks to Michael and Amanda for taking the boy into your home and loving him forever.
- Stephen and Linda from Mt Colah have adopted super gorgeous Matty.
- Timmy has found his forever home with his foster carer Karen.

Recent Events and Fundraising

There have been some fantastic efforts in raising awareness and funds for Greyhound Rescue. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed.

'Dogs Big Day Out' @ French Forest

This was the first dogs day out of the season and it was a busy one at the Greyhound Rescue stall. We had so many adoptees visit with their hounds



it was a wonderful to see so many hounds. At one point the greyhounds out numbered any other breed.

Oscar's Law Puppy Farm Awareness Rally

Greyhounds Rescue attended the rally against Puppy Farms at Belmont Park, Sydney. We Want Oscar's Law!

'Dogs Day by the Bay' @ Bayview

This was a very quiet event compared to previous years. Nora did a sterling job manning the stall.

Jenny Short

A really big thank you for helping at various events and the jewellery which sells well and raises lots.

Iconic

We received a donation of \$594 from Iconic, an online fashion group who had raised some money and donated half to us and half to the Brick Bears.

Anton Ashley age 9

Anton raised a huge \$365 by asking for donations instead of birthday presents. He wanted to help dogs in need. Thank you so much Anton, what a star you are. And big thanks to mum Regina.

Markets in Sydney and Melbourne

Sue, Kylie and super grey ambassador Marcus were smooching in Melbourne. Meanwhile in Sydney, Fiona and her hounds Luisa and Lazlo were pulling in the crowds. There were also guest ap-



pearances from Basil, Sandy and Bear.

'Paws in the Park' @ Camden

A huge thank you to helpers Rachel, Verity and Aaron who raised a sensational \$460 at their stall at Camden. Chocco, Oscar and Gem were greyt



greyhound ambassadors. Verity and Aaron also help at the kennels- walking and cleaning out the dog stalls and transporting the dogs to and from kennels and vets. We would be lost without them. Rachel as you know adopted Oscar and Gem recently and is another enthusiastic helper.

Figtree Vet Open Day

Thank you to Nat and Michael for volunteering to

represent Greyhound Rescue and bringing Zac and Rocket to meet people at the open day.

'Pet's Day Out' @ Mosman

The Mosman event was on the same days as Camden. The stall at Mosman was a little quieter but lucky Barney boy went off on trial with Anna and family so that was a very good result.



Trivia Night

Well, we had to compete with Halloween Parties and so numbers were down a bit but the faithful few dug deep to raise \$2750 last Saturday night, and had a very enjoyable evening in the process, with the winning table taking home a case of good quality wines.

The inimitable Portia Turbo was in great form as hostess with the mostess, looking gorgeous in her outfit for the evening. Greyhound Rescue would particularly like to thank Portia for her continuing support for the greyhounds, for helping us to raise approx \$9000 throughout 2012 as well as fostering one of our greyhounds, Snowy, the best trained greyhound in Sydney!

Prizes were donated by Virgin wines, Cumulus wines, Blue Tongue Brewery, Jenny Winsor, Helene Ruma, Les and Janine, Jenny Nappa, Sheridan, Bella Mowbray and Portia. Thank you all.

Pure Platinum

Pure Platinum hosted their annual fund raiser for Greyhound Rescue and the RSPCA and once again it was a greyt success. This year the event raised an amazing \$2500 for Greyhound Rescue, which will go a long way towards a much needed new vehicle.

This was the fourth year PP have organised this event for us and we thank Rob and his colleagues who assist most sincerely for their time and effort to help us. It is always an enjoyable and fun evening



Greyhound Rescue is a non-profit making charitable organisation. Asking for help and financial assistance is always difficult.

However, we have vet bills, food bills, kennel bills, etc and we receive no official financial funding, so we are very grateful for any help and donations that will ensure that we can keep going on to save these beautiful greyhounds.

Wish List

We are often asked what items we are most in need of; well here is our wish list:

- Transport Vehicle
- Flea and worm treatments
- Hydrobath to wash and groom
- Help with Insurance payments
- Winter coats for the dogs in kennels
- Merchandise to sell on stalls and advertise
 - T-shirts
 - Caps
 - Car stickers
 - Banners

Foster Carers Required

We are always in need of foster carers so we can move existing dogs out of the kennels to make room for more saves. We cannot save dogs we have no kennel or foster for- it's as simple as that.

We are so appreciative of our existing foster carers, some of whom have more than one foster. To foster a grey all you need is a love of dogs, some experience with dogs, maybe you already have

dogs, this is good for the greys. Greys just need a comfy inside bed, lots of patience and love, food and a nice walk each day.

Please consider fostering, it is a great feeling to know you have saved a life.

Donations

If you would like to donate to our cause you can through either PayPal, Direct Bank Transfer or cheque.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

PayPal

Greyhound Rescue's PayPal account is:
Greyhound Rescue (DABS)
peter@greyhoundrescue.com.au

This can also be performed directly from the Greyhound Rescue website:

www.greyhoundrescue.com.au/how-you-can-help/

Direct Bank Transfer

AccountName: Greyhound Rescue Inc
BSB: 012289
Account No: 524792379

Cheque

Please send cheques in favour of:
Greyhound Rescue Inc

And mail to:
Greyhound Rescue Inc
PO Box 477
Forestville, NSW 2087

Sponsor a Hound

By Sue Tofful

This initiative has really taken off, with more and more people are arranging regular direct deposits to help pay for some of the hounds' kennelling. It is making a huge difference to the hounds and the charity. A couple of months ago Ross from Melbourne emailed that he had deposited a massive \$500 to sponsor two greys that were at Hawkesbury (Madonna and Bobby) and he continues to sponsor them.

We are now seeing a few of the sponsored hounds out in homes which has meant people need to change their sponsor hound- which is always a bit of fun. Oscar was sponsored by Karen and was adopted by Rachel, so Karen decided to sponsor Rocket another long timer and he is now out on trial. Carol sponsored Red (she collected him from Newcastle) and he was adopted and is now Rupert, so then Carol sponsored Dodge who was also adopted (now Jerry).

Keeping with the brindle theme Carol is now sponsoring Meg. Liz is sponsoring Boots (as she collected him from Taree) and he is now at Laura's with fellow hound Dude. Toni is sponsoring Nelson, Georgina is sponsoring Sweetpea, Tarita is a sponsor, Helen is sponsoring Choco and he is on trial. Catherine is sponsoring Timmy and he has now been adopted by his foster carer Karen. It seems being sponsored might just be the lucky charm a kennel hound needs!

There are lots of new hounds in the kennels needing a sponsor: as we go to print they include Ringo, Geordie, Felix, Ruby, Jackie, Megsie, Lee, Jack, Lucky and Kernaghan, with still more on the way. Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors who are loving making a difference to these hounds' lives. If you'd like to make a difference and sponsor a hound please email stofful@live.com.

for both boys and girls and we look forward to the next year.

Run for the Greys!

Our wonderful volunteer Sue Bradshaw ran for the greys in the 'Balmain Fun Run'. Sue raised a huge \$1500. Well done Sue.

North Sydney Market

Nora and Ed are a regular at the North Sydney Market and raise around \$400 each month. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. If you have donations contact nora@dieppedesign.com.

Forthcoming Fundraising

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Belrose

There is a sausage sizzle scheduled:

- Sunday 30th December, 9am to 4pm

We need your help! If you can spare a couple of hours on these dates to assist and raise some money then please contact Peter.

Meet the Greys

This is an opportunity to meet fostered greyhounds and show your support for Greyhound Rescue. Volunteers and guest appearances for these events are encouraged.

North Sydney Market

The second Saturday of every month Nora, Ed and Greyhound Rescue will be at North Sydney markets. Come down and show your support and don't forget to bring a greyhound or two.

- Miller Street, North Sydney from 9am to 3pm.
- Next 8th Dec, 9th Feb, 9th Mar, etc.
- Information - [North Sydney Centre website](#)

Happy Birthday Possum

Possum has turned 10. If you need any inspiration to become a foster parent to one of our hounds this lady is it. Rescued by Janet in the nick of time, Possum was then saved, time and again, by her foster (now adoptive) parents Donna and Deb



who cared for her through one too many near death illnesses. She has a true fighting spirit but without Donna and Deb Possum would not be the happy, healthy and loved big sister boss lady she is today. Fostering is sometimes not easy, but it is always rewarding.

Your Letters

Bronwyn Kershler

I wanted to buy some milk from the local bakery (had Zoomie with me) and waited on the footpath for the shop to clear. There is quite a queue. I can reach the counter and still have Zoomie on the footpath at this shop. Anyway I notice a young boy in the shop cringing at the sight of Zoomie. It's ok I said, Zoomie is nice. The boy was obviously rather frightened. Still waiting I noticed the boy had moved a bit closer. Doesn't he bark or jump up? The boy asked. No, he does hardly anything these days but he was a good runner when he was young. Why does he have a sad face, asked the boy. Because it gets him pats! Boy has moved a bit closer. Sensing his confidence I said "you want to see something cool? Look, he has green numbers in his ears!

Wow said the boy. Zoomie still hasn't moved a muscle except look "sad" for his pat. If I touched him would he bite me asked the boy. No, this dog is special he loves everyone. Boy reaches out slowly, Zoomie stands like a rock. Zoomie gets his pat. The mum is watching all this. She then whispers "he was attacked by a dog as a small child and to this day has never patted a dog". Then



suddenly this boy gets Zoomie in a headlock for a hug. Zoomie still doesn't move. The mum starts to cry, I never thought I'd see this day, he (her boy) has learning disabilities and can't express affection very well but he has just hugged a dog! That's my Zoomie I said, he brings out the best in everyone. We often see this boy around and he always comes running over to pat and hug Zoomie. His mum tells me that since meeting Zoomie, Andrew (the boy) has grown in confidence and no longer cowers when he sees a dog like he used to.

Vivienne Clayton from Adelaide

We adopted Nussy (formerly Vanessa) August 2012 to keep our rescue whippet Bobby company.

Nussy made her transfer to Adelaide a very smooth one and she is well established in our family of 3 children. From the start she calmly and fairly confidently settled herself in pinching my recently rescued whippet's toys and bed (Nussy of course had her own new things but she wanted his). His wonderful nature meant that he didn't challenge her for doing so and in turn they quickly became great friends and shared the best sleeping spots. They both cheekily get onto couches and beds and hog all the best spots taking up as much space as possible.

In the past I had owned two whippets and they were the only animals my daughter Monique was remotely calm with. Since their passing over a year ago she had become very scared of dogs and most other animals too. It is/was something purely in her and not stemming from learnt attitudes or lack of opportunity to be around animals completely. However, very quickly she responded to Nussy and Bobby positively. Their generally quiet and calm manner helped her realise that they weren't doing anything to fear. Mostly Nussy would just stand there for pats like a little horse. Monique started hanging on her neck and giving her hugs and holding her hand out for Nussy to lick.



The temperament of greyhounds is ideally suited to children in my opinion. I have seen the same positive response from friend's children and other children we meet at the park. One friend has two children with autism who are very scared of dogs normally apart from their therapy dog. Their therapy dog is often shy of other dogs but took to being friends with Nussy and Bobby instantly. In

turn the children also happily patted and wanted to be around my dogs. Another friend has a 2 ½ year old who is usually a bit scared of bigger dogs and wants to be picked up. At my house Nussy was leaping around excitedly but quietly, as greyhounds do, and was straight away eye to eye with her and giving her some friendly licks much to the surprising delight of this little girl without her even wanting to be rescued from this large friendly dog (but we did save her from some the licks). Children in the park often want to pat her and she just stands there kindly obliging.

Nussy and Bobby are happy to run around with kids and are just as happy to pinch one of their toys or shoes and hop up onto the furniture for a sneaky snooze!

Heather Robertson

I have had sight hounds for many years. I hadn't had much to do with Greyhounds though until I started working for an Animal Welfare Agency and found out what nice dogs they are. I decided this time around to adopt two Greyhounds. I like to



have two dogs for company for one another while I am at work. So it was that Bluey and Shandy came to live with us. They had never met before but were a good match and liked each other. They settled in very well. They are very adaptable and eager to please. Shandy is a bit of a character. Very inquisitive and likes to know what you are doing and follow you around. I leave things around the yard for her to find while I am at work. Bluey is very laid back and goes with the flow. He loves his pats and attention. Both love their walks and relaxing on their couches. They are beautiful dogs and it pains me to see so many ending up in pounds at the end of their racing life. So if you have ever thought about a Greyhound I highly recommend adopting. There is bound to be one to fit into your situation. I couldn't imagine being without them.

HOMED

Curriculum Vitae

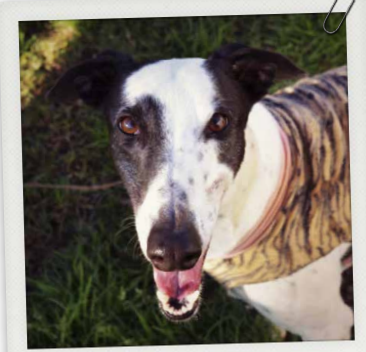
Name: Ringo

Age: 5 years old (April 2007)

About: "Ringo is very tall, handsome and charming. He has the softest coat I've felt and such a playful, cheeky and loving nature. He tended to jump up for treats so he needs a little bit of training to teach him not to be too bouncy, but with smart dogs like this it isn't hard to correct. He is a delightful dog."

Cat Friendly: No

Location: Kennels in Sydney, NSW.



Ringo

ON TRIAL



Mary

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Mary

Age: 8 years old (August 2004)

About: Mary is a mature lady who has served her time with the racing Industry and now deserves to be spoilt and loved and allowed to laze on her bed in peace. She has lived with little dogs without problems but is not cat friendly.

Cat Friendly: No

Location: Inner suburbs of Sydney, NSW

AVAILABLE



Geordie

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Geordie

Age: 3 years old (August 2009)

About: Geordie is a quiet, reserved 3 year old boy with a gentle and calm nature. He is so easy going and placid we believe he would probably be great with kids. He's keen to please and happy doing anything as long as he's loved. Geordie has a very relaxed, cruisey personality and will easily make himself at home wherever he goes.

Cat Friendly: No

Location: Kennels in Sydney, NSW.

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Jake

Age: 5 years old (January 2007)

About: Jake is a strikingly handsome greyhound who gets on well with everyone and everything that he meets. Jake's foster carer writes: "Jake is very sweet natured, a total softy. He's great with small kids, and everyone generally. He loves cuddles and being where ever all the people are in the house. He loves his walks and going to the park so he'd need an owner who's willing to walk him regularly."

Cat Friendly: Yes

Location: North Shore in Sydney, NSW.



Jake

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Sweet Pea

Age: 4 years old (October 2007)

About: Sweet Pea is a medium sized red brindle girl with an infectious smile. Her nature matches her name. She is calm and lovely to walk with. She is a little shy, and nervous of new things and will need a quiet home preferably without children for now. Sweet Pea has the sweetest face and will respond well to gentle, kind love.

Cat Friendly: No

Location: Kennels in Sydney, NSW.



Sweet Pea



Meg

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Meg

Age: 3 years old (March 2009)

About: Meg is a smaller than average brindle girl who is a typical gentle and affectionate greyhound.

Cat Friendly: No

Location: Kennels in Sydney, NSW.

FOSTER REQUIRED

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Sarah

Age: 5 years old (July 2007)

About: Sarah would be happy in a household with a comfy bed and lots of company either from people and/or other dogs. She is quite playful and excitable, even though she is 5. She would suit a home with older (over 12) children and an owner willing to reinforce her manners.

Cat Friendly: Yes

Location: Foster care in Sydney, NSW.



Sarah



Bobby

Curriculum Vitae

Name: New Bobby

Age: 3 years old (August 2009)

About: A delightful boy who is so pleased when anyone shows him some attention. He waits patiently, looking with those soulful eyes, and is ever so grateful when it's his turn for some affection. It appears this boy did not have the brightest past life. A fun loving boy, gentle and placid, yet a little cheeky and ever so loving, Bobby is so deserving of a kind home.

Cat Friendly: Unknown

Location: Kennels in Sydney, NSW.

FOSTER REQUIRED

Our Hounds & Their Courageous Lives 10

By Hannah (age 9)

Sandy the big boss

When Bear first came to our family he wouldn't eat his food we thought it was only because Bear was new but because Sandy nips Bear on the ear. Sandy is basically boss over him this makes me outraged.

Sandy and the coffee thing

Sandy has a secret love put aside nipping Bear on the ear, her secret love is coffee! Early in the morning Sandy steals coffee warm from the cup sometimes getting it as a tip.

Sandy's cleverness

Sandy is way cleverer than Bear, Sandy can open doors by scratching at the door. When Sandy goes out she goes out and times it so that the door slams in Bear's face.

Sandy's hallway run

Sandy is known for many things but this one is just for sport. It is where Sandy chases my brother Sam down the hallway and what happens is quite funny when Sandy catches Sam she gives him a nip on the bottom!

Little robber

Since Sandy can open not properly closed doors she can go into any room to steal stuff like shoes, meat wrappers and toys. So technically this makes her a criminal.

Just irritating

Sandy is very feisty! She barks at anybody for anything she barks at not having food when she wants it, people to close and not being let in from the garden. However if you put aside all that Sandy might roll over and show you her belly!

Poor Sandy

Like a few other greyhounds Sandy was raced against her own will. Poor Sandy was dumped off to die at the pound. When we adopted Sandy we do not see why someone would drop a completely



good dog because it lost a race, we are also grateful to Greyhound rescue for saving a good Sandy's life.

Bear in all his glory

Bear is quite the opposite of Sandy he is loving and won't snap like Sandy would, though his love of being itched is to overpowering if you give him a itch you'll be his lifelong friend.

Lucky Bear

Unlike the people who raced Sandy, Bear's owner (before us) they asked how Bear was and if he was adopted. And he did, he found our home.

Aeroplane

Bear when itched in just the right place moves his head from one side to the other like a plane. It enables people to travel on Bear's carpet (his tongue) and look through the 2 windows (Bear's eyes) next to the carpet and there is a air conditioner (Bear's nose).

Greyhounds make really good pets they are cute, only need 15 minutes running time unlike working dogs who need more than 2 hours a day. Greyhounds (couch potatoes) are really loving and sweet.

The Perfect Addition

By Jennifer Marten-Smith

I was viewing sites for rescue dogs when I came upon the heading 'Greyhound – cat friendly' from then I was hooked. I met with Peter, from Greyhound Rescue, and the wonderful foster carer Rhianna, and a beautiful black hound girl entered my life.

My new house in Tasmania still had to be approved by Greyhound Rescue, but a few hours after Shazana started her trial with me I thought "I'll change



The Perfect Addition (continued)

11

By Jennifer Marten-Smith

my home; you're not getting the dog back"

I encountered only one issue when Shazana first came to stay. Stairs. Up was easy; down was no, NO, NO, definitely NO! But she is a super intelligent and trusting dog and after several weeks of practice she had stairs under control as well. We did the touristy thing and ran up and down the steps at the Sydney Opera House, just to prove a point.

At the start of November I flew to Hobart with Shazana, Azili the Cavoodle and Kimpa the Ragdoll cat - travelling with pets, what an emotional journey - but we all arrived safely and now the animals, at least, can retire.

Shazana has mapped out her own stress-free race track in the back yard; her favourite thing is to harass Azili to the point that he chases her. She flies around at speeds I have never seen, but he cheats and cuts corners so is never far behind.

Adopting Shazana has been a life changing and life enhancing event. What a warm and generous soul. May more people have the fortune of sharing their lives with a greyhound, such forgiving and gentle creatures.

With thanks to Peter and Janet and all the volunteers for their amazing dedication.

They Chose Me

By Rachel Ware

I was never a 'dog person', but on a horse riding holiday in Spain in 2006 I met a bunch of greyhounds as our hosts ran a rescue program. I remember thinking they were lovely creatures! Funnily enough, I next met greyhounds at another horse event - Equitana a few years later and thought to myself 'one day I'll get a dog and it'll be a greyhound'. That day came along a few months ago and I started researching. I quickly came across the Greyhound Rescue website and it wasn't long before I went to meet the greys at Riverstone

kennels with Peter and one of the volunteers and fellow horse lover Verity. I had had a few phone discussions with Janet, who I found out shared my passion for social justice and animals rights issues! Janet had mentioned Oscar and Jenny but of course I was encouraged to meet all the greys and decide for myself. It turned out Oscar and Jenny chose me and they came home with me the next weekend!

I know a lot of people would have read Oscar's story on Facebook when GR announced I'd adopted him. Like everyone else, I couldn't believe he'd waited so many years for someone to adopt him, and still get upset thinking about it. He has been an absolute gentleman since I bought him home. Although as time goes on, his cheeky personality comes out little by little! He is such a character, and inspires lots of laughs.



Jenny (I call her Jem), was described on the GR website as "our little live wire", and that she is!! She has lots of energy for a greyhound and loves to play catch and chase Oscar around the yard. Some of this is nervous energy - she can get quite anxious and worry a bit. She loves to be by your side getting cuddles. I always try and keep in mind what an adjustment it must be for both of them coming from the kennels into a house, and having to share with another grey. I'm lucky enough to have done a bit of training in 'Tellington TTouch' and would encourage others to look

it up - the gentle bodywork has really helped Jem.

So, now I am a 'dog person', and loving sharing my life with my two greys and two horses! There are plenty of animals around the property and the greys have coped well meeting them. All of my friends and family who have met the greys loves them. Like all the information says - they are kind and gentle. And although they are absolutely besides themselves as soon as I get my sneakers out for a walk, they're well behaved once we're out of the gate.

One of the best things about adopting is becoming part of the Greyhound Rescue community! I have made contact with some beautiful people who share the same views as me and everyone is so helpful with advice and support. So of course I would (and constantly do) encourage anyone to consider adopting a greyhound! They are a wonderful companion animal and friend.

By Alexis Mulhearn†

Miss Seven looked up and sighed loudly, “She’s NOT a reading dog. She’s not the one reading. She’s a LISTENING dog.” Nothing beats a young child’s logic, and indeed Miss Seven was correct – Angel was listening intently to a story about a fly and a boy who shrank down to “fly” size to have an adventure. She wasn’t the one reading. The reader, Miss Seven, was one of four grade-two students who read to one of my Greyhounds each week as part of a local primary school’s literacy program.



Heli (RIP) dressed up for our final reading session last year

The program is designed to improve reading and comprehension for children in grades one to four. This is the second year my Greyhounds and I have been part of the program, and it is lots of fun for the hounds, for me, and for the children too.

Reading programs that include a canine component are becoming increasingly common in Australia and overseas. There is increasing amounts of research that suggest the presence of a non-judgmental audience (a friendly dog) improves a child’s concentration, comprehension, reduces anxiety, and can reduce the stigma attached with being part of a “special” reading program.

Mary Renck Jalongo, Ph.D., education professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and author of *The World of Children and Their Companion Animals*, has long known that bringing therapy animals (mostly dogs) into schools helps developmentally challenged kids learn. Now they are finding that all children can benefit from the presence of a non judgmental pal with paws. In one of Jalongo’s studies, children were asked to read in front of a peer, an adult and a dog. Researchers monitored their stress levels and found that kids were most relaxed around the animal, not the humans. “If you’re struggling to read and someone says,

‘Time to pick up your book and work,’ that’s not a very attractive offer,” Jalongo says. “Curling up with a dog or cat, on the other hand, is a lot more appealing.”¹

Based on the two years the hounds have been “listening” with the children, following are my observations of the benefits of the hounds’ involvement in the program:

1. One child who was very rude and uncooperative with other tutors (without dogs) was attentive and polite when he read with the hounds, and he presented as being keen to attend the reading program
2. The children present as keen to participate in the program and “show off” to their classmates that they “get to play with the dog”
3. Sometimes if a child in the group we read with is away from school that day, children in other groups ask if they can read with the hound.
4. When a child is struggling with a passage, the hound immediately moves to their side and looks at the page and/or snuggles into the child. The child pats the hound, which reduces stress, which in turn means they read more easily – a win all round
5. Having the hound walk through a class room to get to the reading room is good for any children who have fears or concerns about big dogs. They get to see a large, well behaved dog walk past them each week, and start to lose their fear. In one classroom we walk through, there is a boy (around seven years old) who used to scream and hide in the far corner of the classroom when he saw the hound. Now he watches



Angel practicing her listening skills at home on the bed

1 This information was sourced from: <http://www.naturalawakeningsmag.com/core/pagetools.php?pageid=12380&url=%2FNatural-Awakenings%2FMarch-2009%2FWhy-Pets-Help-Kids%2F&mode=print>

the hound and won't approach, but does not scream or hide.

6. Regular interaction with a friendly dog can teach a child who doesn't have a pet of their own, about the responsibilities of owning a pet. The children often ask what the hound has been doing, what she eats, how much exercise she needs etc. Two of my "listening" hounds also passed away this year, which was another lesson the children learned through the program. In one class, each student made me a condolence card on the passing of the hound who visited them a week before he died – a definite box of tissues moment for me, but showed the impact the hounds' visits have on the children.



Kane (RIP) wondering when he can go into class

7. The children enjoy the literacy program, which assists with their progress.
8. The hounds enjoy the attention, and really en-



Tiger, resting after reading with the children. It's hard work!

joy an activity which allows them to lie down for an hour and get patted! Hound heaven!!

9. It's fun for me too, and gives me an opportunity to help young children improve their literacy skills. Literacy is an area which I feel strongly about, in part because I love reading and learning, and also because I work with people who often can't read and/or write and see the adverse impact this has on their lives.

If you are interested in joining a reading/listening program, there are plenty around Australia. The easiest way to find your nearest one is to google "reading with dogs", contact AWL or the Delta Society. If there isn't a group in your area, consider starting one!

† Each situation is unique. Please take this into consideration when deciding whether to use the information in this article, and consult a professional dog expert. The author disclaims responsibility for any adverse effects that may result from the use of this information.

Sponsors



Pet Paraphernalia have been a great supporter of Greyhound rescue. For the past 10 months, Leanne from Pet Paraphernalia has been donating a polar fleece muscle top for every greyhound that is adopted. Thank you Pet Paraphernalia!



Kaye Groves, has send two more bags full of winter coats for our greyhounds in the kennels. Thank you Kaye!



Annie has been a great support of Greyhound Rescue. Over the past six months she has supplied 30 coats for our greyhounds. Thank you!



Petbiz have been consistently supplying food and selling chocolates at various stores to fundraise. Petbiz Belrose in particular have been very supportive. Thank you Petbiz!

By Sue Tofful

It makes all at Greyhound Rescue very sad to see another poor hound, straight from a racing kennel, who has probably had very little if no exposure to home life, returned to us from a trial home within 3 days because he growled at the child and would not get off the couch without a fight. It is sad because of the missed opportunity for both the dog and the family to become lifelong friends.

But these issues are the number one reason hounds (in fact all dogs) are returned. So how do we prevent this? If your child (whatever age) does something wrong what do you do- send him/her back? Of course not, you teach them the acceptable behaviour. So, why don't we apply this to the hound as well? As the adoptive mum of two hounds, Marcus (5) and Lucy (4), mum of Lauren (4), and step mum of Alex (almost 13) and Nic (20) it has been suggested I might have some helpful hints for those with human children who are thinking of adopting or have adopted a greyhound. I hope so. I am not a dog behaviourist or trainer- I am a mum and have just used some common sense advice I have been told or have read, advice that works for our situation. It amounts to three things: VIGILANCE, CONSISTENCY and COMMITMENT.

As I work on the Greyhound Rescue Facebook page I am constantly asked "is he/she kid friendly?" I said it when I wrote Marcus' success story 20 months ago and I'll say it again: instead ask yourself "are my children dog friendly?" The reason I say this is that more often than not dogs are blamed for incidents with children that have been caused by the child- inadvertently or advertently. The rest occur because the dog has not been corrected for unacceptable behaviour such as resource guarding.

When I called Greyhound Rescue to enquire about Marcus in March 2011, I was advised he had been sent back from a trial home because he "barked at their child". My first question then was "what was the child doing?" The volunteer was unsure but it wasn't enough to put me off and she also felt it was totally out of character. Now I know Marcus, it is true. He has barked ONCE in the 20 months we have had him and that is when Lucy our second hound came along and took his toy!

Marcus was immediately wonderful around Lauren who was 2 ½ when he came to live with us. He stepped over or around her so elegantly and gently and never jumped at her noise- family and friends were amazed. He was a natural. In fact he ignored

her completely, which I think in most cases is the best way for a dog to be around young children. Having been around my elderly retriever since birth Lauren wasn't in awe of large dogs and this does help. The less fascination the better! Marcus really has become the bomb proof dog and we trust him implicitly in any situation around children of any age, even if the child is doing the wrong thing.

But it wasn't always smooth sailing. A few months after we adopted Marcus, he was happy and had settled in and I started letting him on the couch at night when we watched TV. One night Alex went to sit down next to him and he growled. Then one night, when he still slept in our room, he wandered downstairs and jumped on Alex's bed in the middle of the night- and refused to get off. The last straw

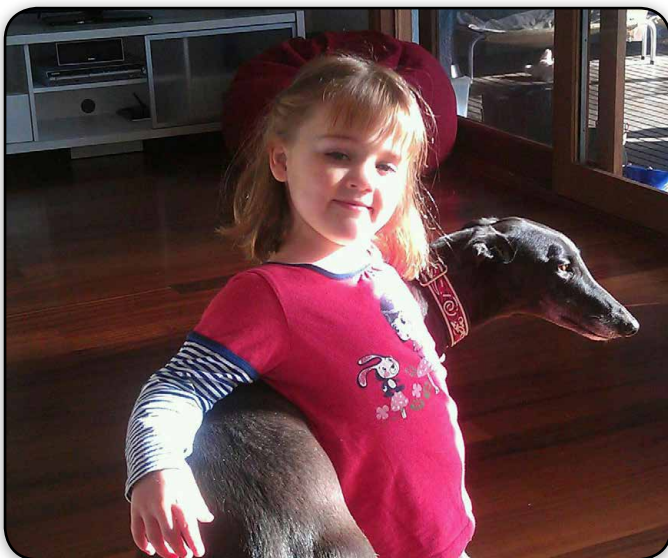


was when he growled at Lauren, when she came to sit next to myself and Marcus on the couch. That day, we banned him from the couch and he has not been back on. I was completely unaware that by allowing him up there I had placed him above the kids. So we began a gentle process of reminding him his place in the pack. This is when I started getting Lauren to carry his food bowl to him, to ensure we walked through doors first and so on. We have had no problems since. Lessons: kids and dogs sharing couches and beds is not advised; teach your child to feed your dog and be their "boss."

Because one is never enough, we adopted Lucy (formerly Princess) 7 months ago. She too had been sent back from a home due to an issue with a child. I thought "well Marcus was Ok we'll be fine, Lauren is dog savvy and so are we". However her issues were a little different to Marcus' and she was and is a stronger character (female you see...). It soon became obvious she had sleep startle and a bit of resource guarding, so that a couple of times when Lauren went to pat her when she was asleep on her bed she snapped at Lauren. This only happened if I was not close by. At this point most dogs

would be sent back but having seen so many returned for this I committed to work through it. My husband was overseas so it was only me at home with Lauren. So after the last incident I very sternly reprimanded Lucy verbally- really growled at her. I also put her outside and left her there for 2 hours. When I let her in I ignored her completely, and instructed Lauren to do the same. She wanted pats, but we did not give them. The pats would now be on our terms. We had to be her pack leaders. Lessons: do not reward bad behaviour in your dog, always correct it; always supervise your child around dogs.

I have read that in a pack the alpha dog is usually female and I agree with this theory. Female dogs are more likely to be bossy and motherly, and to "tell the child off" so to speak. Lucy loves a cuddle and a pat more than anything, and often approaches Lauren for these (whereas Marcus almost never does this). However, as Lucy is more interactive with Lauren I have found this can lead to more excitement from Lauren, which in turn can create behaviours that may cause issues. I have instilled in Lauren that she must never approach Lucy if she is asleep on her bed or anywhere else. And Lauren knows that is not negotiable, she asks me some-



times if she is not sure. It's been 6 months now and no further problems and Lucy has become a wonderful addition to our family. When other children visit we ensure they know the right behaviour.

In no particular order here are some pointers and rules I have followed to ensure "dog friendly" kids and "kid friendly" dogs:

- Don't allow kids to lie on the floor at the hound's level, or lie on their bed
- Don't allow kids to walk around the house holding food



- Don't allow kids to scream and run away from a dog or encourage the dog to chase them
- Avoid if possible playing rough and/or loud games in proximity to the hound
- Never take food a hound is eating away from him/her
- Play tug/toy games with caution and under supervision
- Never poke or pull a hound's eyes, ears, tail, mouth or private parts
- Never tease a hound in any way
- Only pat a dog that is awake and only if the owner says you can. The best place to stroke any dog is around the ears, not on top of the head
- Allow your 3 plus age children to feed the dog- carrying their bowl, making them wait and/or sit before placing the bowl down
- Avoid allowing the dog on beds and couches that your children use (this is up for debate but I would stick by this rule). If you do, wait at least 6 months and only allow it if the child is on the couch first and invites the dog up. But I would not do it!
- Always supervise children when they are around the hound
- Reward good behaviour from your child around the hound
- Do not allow the hound to push ahead of you or kids through doors
- When walking the hound on lead, keep him at your side, correct pulling and reward good walking. Encourage your children to walk the dog the same way, supervised of course
- Ensure your dog waits before they are allowed to eat their food, and teach them stay, come and sit (if you can!). Attending formal training sessions can be great fun and very rewarding
- Feed dogs after kids (where practical).
- Be consistent- don't accept the wrong behaviour in dog or child and if you do, don't then be annoyed when it is repeated!

- Use verbal tone (your growl) to reprimand the dog, NEVER hit or kick your dog
- Reward all hound's good behaviour with treats, time and again.

When considering a child/hound match I recommend that a dog that doesn't find noise and constant activity near him/her upsetting is the best choice. Having had two male and two female dogs now, I believe male dogs are more tolerant and laid-back, in general, with children, but this is not always the case. Ensure you trial a hound that has been in a foster home rather than straight from kennels as he/she will have more experience with household noise and have some basic training. Do not expect the dog to be perfect straight away; they need a period of adjustment. The dog will need guidance from you as to what is expected of him/her, as does your child. You should be consistent with rules from day one. It really is your responsibility to ensure they get it right. Yours- not the dog's and not the child's.

The rewards from a happy pairing of child and dog are endless. It is well known that owning a pet teaches children responsibility and compassion. It also gets them outside and keeps them fit! Alex always walks both the dogs on a splitter after school, and very proudly takes a friend if he has one over. Marcus almost falls over himself with excitement as Alex gets his shoes on! The dogs both come



into Lauren's cubby and she makes them tea (Lucy actually drinks hers!). Marcus always comes into Lauren's room and lies on the floor for story time. They both poke their heads into the bathroom at bath time. Lucy gives Lauren her "bum hugs" as we call them. If Lauren is crying, both dogs unconsciously come over to her and stand near, as if to say "can we help?"

As I write this Lauren is tidying up the dogs' outside beds as we are about to go to kinder. She is chatting away to them as she does this and they are both spellbound, standing quietly next to her. Gold.

News (continued)

We are pleased to announce our new patron, Dr. Robert Zammit. Rob has dedicated his life to not only caring for animals but also teaching others to enjoy that similar passion. Known for his media work in such programs as A Country Practice, Burkes Backyard and 2GB, Dr Zammit's first love is veterinary science.



This issue of The Greys Matter is dedicated to the memory of Amy. Amy died tragically when she escaped from her new foster home. Amy was a very special girl - outgoing, super intelligent with a sense of humour! Our deepest sympathies remain with Joan, Sophie and Irene whose lives she touched the most. Run free lovely lady.



RIP beautiful Amy (05/10/12)