



Chairman's Report 2007

1. Greyhound Rescue Shropshire & Borders – Starting Out

- This is the first formal Annual General Meeting of GRSB. A number of volunteers had been working with Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) for some years but by March 2006 a number of differences had arisen, which, despite correspondence and meetings, proved to be irreconcilable.
- The Group considered forming a separate charity, but following a visit by Ivor Stocker of the Retired Greyhound Trust (RGT) in June 2006, a majority voted to form a subgroup of the RGT, to be known as GRSB.
- It then took two to three months to honour our remaining commitments to GRWE and to tie up loose ends.
- In July a Constitution was devised and agreed, officers elected and bank accounts established. We invested in the necessary tools of our fund raising trade such as a marquee, trailer, banners and a share in a transporter van.
- Our "Grand Launch" was held on Saturday 21st October at the West Midlands Showground with actress Jaye Griffiths opening this highly successful event.
- We are a new organisation and a dynamic, evolving one. We have attracted new members and adapted our administration to be as inclusive as possible, to tap into people's skills and to encourage them to acquire new ones in the interests of the dogs!

2. Meeting Our Objectives

- In our Constitution we set out:
 1. *To alleviate the distress of ex-racing greyhounds and lurchers in need of care, protection, treatment and rehoming in Shropshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Wrexham and Montgomeryshire*
 - We did not set out to be an exclusively greyhound rescue organisation as lurchers were already dear to the hearts of many volunteers. We did, though, set out with what we considered to be a highly ambitious target – to home 100 dogs in our first year. In the end, we have homed 119, comprising 57 greyhounds and 62 lurchers. We are currently holding 18 greyhounds and 14 lurchers in the kennels at Condover with 2 out to foster.
 2. *To provide facilities for their reception and veterinary care and to place them in kennels or foster homes until such time as appropriate permanent homes are found*
 - We could not hope even to begin our work without the active support of the kennels at Condover. They not only provide accommodation for the dogs but ensure that each one receives appropriate veterinary treatment, that homing offers are properly assessed and that rehoming are followed up.

3. *To promote public understanding of the plight of abused and abandoned greyhounds and lurchers and their value as pets*

- We have worked hard to alert people to the plight of many greyhounds and to promote the joy of homing one (or more) as a pet. It has been a difficult year for shows with a number cancelled owing to a combination of the weather and foot and mouth disease. Publicity, education and promotion during these events are as important as fund raising and we are always ready with our pop-up banners, leaflets and persuasive conversation. We have created good relationships with local newspapers and featured in a large number of articles. We have published three newsletters and maintained an up to date website with news of the dogs and events.

3. Finance

- Mr Micawber would be glad to see that our finances have been soundly managed during our first year, i.e. our income exceeded our expenditure. We have received some exceptional donations in our first year but we have also had initial set-up expenditure such as the investment in merchandise and show equipment. Our current account is healthy without being excessive and we have a reserve in an interest-bearing account which will enable us to enter our second year of operation with confidence.

4. The Future

- We shall continue to strive to fulfil our objectives to alleviate greyhound and lurcher distress, house and treat them, find them appropriate homes and raise public awareness of their situation.
- In particular for 2007/2008 we shall strive to:
 - ✓ maintain our financial stability
 - ✓ remain informed and react appropriately to ongoing national developments in the realm of greyhound welfare
 - ✓ attract more volunteers to the group in order to widen our skills base and enable greater activity
 - ✓ develop relationships with other greyhound rescue organisations at home and abroad

Keith Benning
Chairman

23 October 2007