



Chairman's Report 2008

1. Greyhound Rescue Shropshire & Borders

- This is the second formal Annual General Meeting of GRSB. We remain 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!
- Warm thanks are due to all of our supporters and activists; since we began in 2006 we have homed over 200 dogs and this would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of our band of volunteers.

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 a year. In the period 2007/2008, we have homed 131, comprising half greyhounds and half lurchers. We are currently holding 13 greyhounds and 13 lurchers in the kennels at Condover with 3 out to foster. 2 greyhounds and 2 lurchers are 'reserved'.
 - This year supporters have undertaken a range of successful special events including the Santa Run, Denzil's Appeal, Home a Dog Day and Malcolm's Book Sales.
 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 continue our work without the active support of Sue & Malcolm Tipton and their 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 continue to work hard to alert people to the plight of many greyhounds and to promote the joy of homing one (or more) as a pet. Publicity, education and promotion during our seasonal events are as important as fund raising and we are always ready with our pop-up banners, leaflets and persuasive conversation. We have maintained good relationships with local newspapers and featured in a large number of articles. We publish regular newsletters and maintain a regularly updated website with news of the dogs and events.

3. Finance

- When we set out as an independent group under the umbrella of the RGT there were many who were understandably concerned at our capacity to generate sufficient income to sustain our work. The bills for the greyhounds would be picked up by the RGT but we needed to fund the lurchers ourselves. We received an exceptional donation at the outset which gave us a comforting financial cushion. We survived 2006/2007 without drawing upon our reserves even though we had initial set-up expenditure such as the investment in merchandise and show equipment.
- Our current account 2007/2008 remains healthy without being excessive and we have a larger reserve in an interest-bearing account. Having demonstrated to ourselves over two years that we are able to sustain financial viability the time is probably right for us to consider ways in which we may use some of our reserve capital for the purpose for which it was donated – the benefit of the dogs in our care.

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 2008/2009 we shall strive to:
 - maintain our financial stability and consider ways in which we may use some of our reserves
 - review our fund raising activities on a cost/benefit analysis basis
 - promote a fostering programme to prepare dogs for a domestic life
 - continue to attract more volunteers to the group in order to widen our skills base, enable greater activity and spread the workload
 - remain informed and react appropriately to ongoing national developments in the realm of greyhound welfare

Keith Benning
Chairman

14 October 2008