

Amanda's Diary

We continue our monthly update with RGT co-ordinator Amanda Ainsworth on some of the issues that she and the headquarters staff have been tackling in recent weeks.



The RGT head office will reduce their number of paid spaces from around 800 to 600 following the recent BGRF budget cuts.

These are the kennel spaces paid for by the charity for dogs who are waiting for new homes but have left their racing kennels.

In 2011 the Trust are due to receive £1.195m from the BGRF, a fall of almost a quarter of a million pounds and are now forced to cut their cloth accordingly.

Amanda says: "It won't be easy but we will have to reduce the number of greyhounds we can care for."

"It is by far our biggest expense but hopefully homing will pick up and we will be able to take as many dogs in, and we will want to continue to support the kennels with a good homing record."

"Overall, we are looking at everything, from income to expenditure to make sure we are making the most of every resource."

In years to come, the burden may ease on the Trust with the declining number of dogs being registered though that was not the case last year.

Amanda says: "I was told that registrations were up in 2010 though it is an anomaly. I understand that it is to do with dogs now having to be registered before they can trial, so it should be a 'one off' blip."

For owners desperate to pass their dogs to the Trust for re-homing, it could pay dividends to get them 'home ready' before

they leave the racing kennels.

This would mean an owner paying for neutering and any other necessary treatment including inoculations and dentistry.

Amanda says: "I would like to make it clear that we will not turn away a dog who hasn't been prepared in that way. They will still go on the waiting list as they have always done."

"But it makes good financial sense to prioritise those dogs who will need a shorter stay in kennels and we won't have veterinary costs."

"We would urge all owners and trainers to do whatever they can to reduce our veterinary costs once the dogs join us."

THE RGT have a very good relationship with the majority of trainers that they deal with - though there is a small but significant minority who treat the charity like a personal disposal unit.

Amanda says: "Some are just plain rude. They phone up and demand that we take their dogs - or else!"

"We are here as the final resort and just because their track home finding scheme has a waiting list, doesn't mean that head office should be seen as a short cut."

"We always try to be there for emergencies and I can think of cases where a trainer has been dumped with a pile of dogs by an owner and we have done our best to take them straight away."

"Unfortunately, the next time the same trainer has a couple of dogs that need re-homing, he is on the phone and demanding that we take them immediately."

"When all is said and done, those trainers were happy to have those dogs in their kennel when the bills were being paid. The owners, likewise, took on the responsibility of those dogs."

"They can't simply abdicate responsibility because the dog has grown too old or gone lame. We have had trainers ask us to take low grade bitches because they have come in season and aren't worth persevering with!"

"Personally, I am pleased to see that breeding numbers are well down in Britain and Ireland. In the longer term, it will see less greyhounds around and give them more 'worth'."

"If they have more value, it will stop some trainers looking to re-home dogs with medium term



Retirement Plans

injuries and simply replacing them with a cheap substitute."

Amanda is keen to emphasise though that the majority of trainers go way beyond any moral duty for their dogs.

She said: "The ones I feel sorry for are those that are left with abandoned dogs and unpaid bills by former owners and I would love to see them given some help."

"For example, could there be a system be set up to assist trainers pursue bad owners through the small claims court?"

"I know, personally, that the forms are enough to put off most people. But if you had someone who the trainers could contact who could either talk them through the forms, or even fill them in on their behalf, they would be much more likely to pursue the claim."

IN last month's Star Amanda was brave enough to discuss the thorny prospect of the euthanasia of the

very tiny minority of greyhound who should not be homed due to severe temperament issues.

While some people refuse to accept that any dog is 'unhomed' there was an unwelcome example in early 2011 of why Amanda feels the need to make those tough decisions.

In Kent, a Yorkshire Terrier was attacked and killed by a retired greyhound who also bit the pet's handler as she tried to save her dog.

Amanda says: "This is the nightmare scenario that you always fear. The story made all the local press and has cost us goodness knows how many homing opportunities."

"But more important, this was somebody's pet who was loved just as much as any greyhound. I had to speak to the poor lady who had seen her little dog literally ripped apart by this greyhound."

"Nobody should have to go through that."

Greyhounds being supported by RGT Head Office

Average in 2010

Scotland	40	
North East	110	Plus approximately
North West	90	200 more greyhounds
West Midlands	90	across the country
East Midlands	60	being supported by
East of England	120	the local branch
South West & Wales	80	
London & South East	310	



International athlete and supermum in retirement

SHE was still a puppy when she ran in the 2000 Irish Derby and Oaks finals.

Sold for a huge undisclosed sum, she came to England for a successful career with victories including the 2002 Northern Oak.

Retired to breeding, her most successful son, Cobra Striking, won an incredible 52 open races including the Videx Puppy Derby.

Her pet name is 'Teabag'. She is of course... Miss Tetley.

Now 12 years old, the October '98 whelp lives in happy retirement with Anne Gransby who sent us the photo.

Anne writes: "We have 2 other greyhounds (Ra Ra Littlelegs and

Ballindean Blue, both complete wastes of space racing wise) and a cat."

"We are volunteers at Barley Kennels in Waltham Abbey and enjoy walking the dogs and helping with fund raising."

"Teabag loves her walks but has to stay on lead as she is nervous of people she doesn't know and unexpected noises. She barks continuously while waiting to go out as it takes a while to get them all sorted."

"She actually won her class at the breeders festival the year before last but found the experience far too scary so we don't enter her in any more shows."



Matt Smith, owner of ex-Hall Green racer Ritzi raised over £1,050 (plus gift aid) for his local RGT and all he had to do was run five marathons! Local homer Christina Fowler writes: "All the volunteers at Hall Green RGT are very appreciative of Matt's efforts for our greyhounds, and filled with admiration."

hounds - I was so angry I waited two days before I dared reply.

"On the opposite side, we had one donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, who sent us a cheque for £1,000."

"I never expected us to attract the interest of TV and the major newspapers, but we had great coverage."

"At this stage I don't know what the final sale will be because although I contacted all the sellers, so far only two have bothered to respond."

"I will probably spend an afternoon next week phoning around and trying to get the money in."

"Unfortunately, there has been a lot more apathy from the tracks than I expected."

Give an old athlete the will to live.



There's a hopeful, trusting look in the eyes of most retired greyhounds. They're hoping for a comfortable retirement home, and they trust us to provide it for them!

How can you help? With the best will in the world, you may not be able to either adopt or sponsor a greyhound right now.

But a legacy could be the answer; for example,

a tax effective way of donating is to remember us in your will.

For more information on how to leave a legacy to The Retired Greyhound Trust, simply fill in the coupon or phone us on:

0844 826 8424

You'll be doing us all a big favour.

I'd like more information on leaving a legacy to RGT

I enclose a donation £ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____



retired greyhound trust



Retired Greyhound Trust

2nd Floor, Park House,
1-4 Park Terrace, Worcester Park
Surrey KT4 7JZ

www.retiredgreyhounds.co.uk
email: greyhounds@retiredgreyhounds.co.uk

QC/Jan2011

Mixed emotions from the Calendar Girl

JULIE COLLIER, the organiser of the Greyhound Girl Calendar is hoping that the project will raise a minimum of £5,000 towards retired greyhounds.

However the SKY presenter admits to mixed feelings over the project in which she also starred.

She said: "There was so much more work involved than I ever imagined, from setting up the shoot to distributing the calendars."

"The total cost of the project has been around £19,000 of which around £11,000 was just for distribution; those involved in the shoot, including the photographer, gave their time for free."

"We have already shown a profit of £3,000 but I'd be quite

hopeful that it could reach £5-£6,000 by the time the money is in."

"Part of the project have been wonderful, other parts have been very disappointing."

"For example, while some tracks have supported us heavily, Henlow's Bob Morton sent us a cheque for the whole amount straight away with a lovely message of support."

"At other tracks, the general managers couldn't even be bothered to let the public know that the calendars were available."

"At one level we had someone on one of the forums who said what we had done was degrading and that we would only make a token payment to retired grey-