

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 number of dogs homed by the Retired Greyhound Trust fell by 11% in 2010. A total of 4,247 dogs were re-homed, down 483 from the record breaking year.

While the figure is disappointing, Amanda believes the figure must be taken in context of other figures.

She said: "I have heard from a number of other charities who all homed less animals last year, including Dogs Trust. Nobody knows for sure, but the national economic difficulties seems to be having a significant effect."

"Also, the year got off to a horrendous start. The weather was awful, and we never recovered. By the end of May, we were actually 23% down so comparatively held our own in the second half of the year."

"Beyond that, there don't appear to be any real trends, either geographically, or by the size of the kennel."

The number of branches expanded marginally to 72, with a handful of new or split additions off-set by a couple of branches who apparently remain open but are no longer affiliated.

Four branches homed in excess of 200 greyhounds each: Greyhoundhomer, Malden & Tiptree, Monmore and Perry Barr.

Amanda said: "It was a remarkable effort by all of them, though we never publish numbers, because it isn't a points scoring league."

"Some of our most effective



Alan Rountree, Chairman of the British Field Trial Committee, and his wife, also a senior judge at Crufts, present the Discover Dogs award to Alison Bandurak (centre)

branches have very limited resources and their achievements are equally impressive. To give just one example, the Bridlington branch homed 32 dogs last year, twice as many as in 2009."

So are there any areas desperately crying out for a home finding branch?

Amanda said: "If I had a hit list of three, they would probably be Herefordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire."

PLANS are already at an advanced stage for the RGT to make their annual appearance at Crufts.

The RGT stand will be staffed by a variety of volunteers (plus the omnipresent Ivor Stocker) for the four days March 10-13.

Amanda said: "It is the best possible opportunity to raise the awareness of greyhounds as pets."

"We all tend to take it for granted, but there is still a significant percentage of the population who only view greyhounds as racing dogs."

"So when you see three or four of them sprawled out on the stand, ignoring all the scatty dogs around the place, it really shows them up in a good light."

"We do take collection buckets though the amount raised is very little, it is more of a promotional opportunity."

In recent years, Crufts have put one hall aside and invited every breed to showcase itself as part of its 'Discover Dogs' initiative.

Amanda said: "Discover Dogs is designed to help people decide which breed is the best for them"

"It started out with typed sheets of paper pinned to the back of each of the stands describing the

merits, and often the shortcomings of every breed.

"So for example, there might be one for huskies saying 'If you let me off a lead will I run away? The answer's yes!'"

"The quality and production of the stands has improved year on year to include photographs or films and details of the histories of the breeds including the presentation of the volunteers and their knowledge of their particular breed."

"212 different pedigrees were showcased in the hall last year and the Retired Greyhound Trust stand was judged the best of the lot being awarded the 'DFS Crufts Discover Dogs Best Booth Winner 2010'"

"It was amazing achievement and that might be 'our turn' out of the way, but it remains hugely popular, and like Crufts itself, a great opportunity."

MORE dates for your diaries: First up, the Midland Greyhound Ball on Sunday March 27th at the St John's Hotel in Solihull.

Amanda said: "Although the traditional awards night had been cancelled by the GRA, volunteers from the Monmore, Perry Barr and Hall Green RGT branches were keen to meet for their annual get-together."

"The awards will still take place though the meeting isn't in any way restricted and we would be pleased to see as many greyhound people as possible on the night."

The news isn't so good for the second RGT Conference which Amanda had hoped to hold in Birmingham in April.

She said: "Unfortunately, it has become a victim of the cut-backs which is absolutely gutting. The first one went so well, and I know this year's event could have been even better."



Retirement Plans

"Short of coming up with a sponsor with around £5,000 to spare I'm afraid we will have to forget it. Is there anybody out there able to help, please get in touch."

Finally, dates have been finalized for the second Newmarket Extravaganza, to be held at the Animal Health Trust on June 5.

Amanda says: "The first one went so well that we had to do it again. It is similar to the Great Greyhound Gathering but different in two ways."

"Firstly, obviously, it is smaller. Secondly, the standard of judging isn't so high. While, the condition of the dogs is just as important, they are not being judged to Kennel Club

standards, so something like a missing toe would not be marked down. "The atmosphere was brilliant last year and I will be surprised if this year isn't even better."

THE RGT are continuing to plug away with their 'Legacy' drive (see advert below)

Amanda said: "We are remembered in many wills, but mainly from people who have owned an ex-racer, rather than from people connected with the greyhound industry."

"If we could persuade greyhound people to put something aside for the RGT it could make a substantial difference to what we are able to achieve."

MARCH EVENTS

Greyhound Walk Hampden Park, Nr Eastbourne	Brighton & Hove	5th March
Greyhound Walk - Ripley	North Yorkshire	6th March
Fundraising & Awareness Day - Southport	Lancashire	6th March
Crufts 2011 - NEC Birmingham	Local & National	10th-13th March
Greyhound Stall, The square - Shrewsbury	Shropshire & Borders	10th March
Webbs Garden Centre - Droitwich	Hall Green	12th March
Greyhound Walk - Waseley Hills Country Park	Hall Green	13th March
General Meeting - Whittington, Nr Oswestry	Shropshire & Borders	15th March
Greyhound Stall - The square, Shrewsbury	Shropshire & Borders	18th March
Barnett Hill Garden Centre - Clent	Hall Green	19th March
Greyhound Play Day - Carreg Y Big, Oswestry	Shropshire & Borders	20th March
Greyhound Walk - Sutton Park	Perry Barr	20th March
Sponsored Race Weekend - Hall Green Stadium	Hall Green	25th & 26th March
Awareness Day - Kidderminster Town Centre	Perry Barr	26th March
Greyhound Walk Worcester Country Park	Hall Green	27th March

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: _____



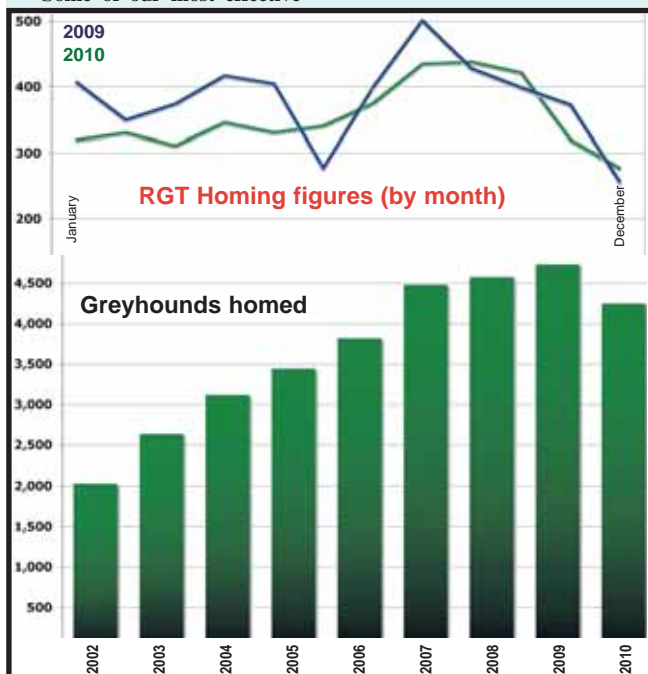
retired greyhound trust



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

Charity no. 302688



Midland Greyhound Ball

Sunday 27 March 2011

MIDLAND AWARDS PRESENTATION
For Hall Green, Monmore and Perry Barr

TOMBOLA
AUCTION OF GIFTS
RAFFLE
4-COURSE DINNER
AWARDS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & TICKETS, CONTACT:
Alison Bandurak (Monmore) 01922 412 212
Simon Gray (Hall Green) 07974 707 217
Ruth Boswell (Perry Barr) 0121 782 7702
Ivor Stocker (RGT) 0844 826 8424

ST. JOHN'S HOTEL
Accommodation Reservations 0121 711 3000
Quote: 'Greyhound Ball'

St John's Hotel
651 Warwick Road
Solihull

Reception in the Park Suite 6.30pm
Dinner 7.00pm
Carriages 12.30pm
Black Tie or Lounge Suit
Ticket price: £35.00

ALL PROCEEDS TO HALL GREEN, MONMORE, PERRY BARR, RETIRED GREYHOUND TRUST