

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.



THERE was good news and bad news from RGT head office this month.

On a hugely encouraging note, homing was up one per cent for the first six months of 2011.

1931 dogs were homed compared to 1916 the previous year.

Amanda said: "I really can't believe it. I had such low expectations because of the economic gloom, but thankfully the branches have once again made a fantastic effort."

On the flip side, the influx of over 70 'unexpected' new mouths to feed has put RGT budgets into tailspin.

In total, there will be, when they have all been accepted, more than 90 ex-racers thrust on head office following mass clear-outs of the Barlow, Lucas, Wills and Wade kennels. All in the space of just over a month.

Amanda says: "At a time when costs are having to be cut, there simply isn't the budget for another £2,000 per week in kennel fees."

"It is absolutely crippling us. For many years I have had to juggle dogs around, put people off for a week to buy a bit more time, but we have always got away with it."

"For the first time ever, we may struggle to find space for emergency cases."

"Following last month's article, we did have a number of trainers saying that they had spare spaces. The problem is, we don't have the money to pay for them."

"The frustrating thing is, we had already told the branches that we would have to reduce the number of kennelled dogs from 900 to 600 and we were on schedule to get there. But not any more."

The other concern is the number of ageing dogs that are coming in.

Amanda said: "As the trainers have felt the squeeze, so many have had to give up dogs that they had originally looking after themselves."

"I spoke to one of the smaller branches last week and every dog in the kennel was eight or nine years old."

"For understandable reasons, they are much more difficult to home."

Charles Mather splashes trailer cash

"So tell me what you want, want you really really want"

When Kenyan businessman Charles Mather asked Cheryl Miller what item would be the most use to her Croftview rehoming scheme, Cheryl thought big. Why not? "A new trailer"

Is that all?

"No, a big trailer, specially equipped to be able to take to shows."

Cost? About £20K. Cheryl takes up the story.

"Much to my absolute amazement, Charles asked me to get some quotes. I went along to the factory to see that they had and the basic models were all very similar to the existing RGT trailers."

"Then I saw another one, that just looked ideal. I asked the salesman how much it would cost to adapt it to my ultimate design."

"He worked it out to £30,000."

When I saw Charles he asked me how it had gone I was a bit embarrassed to tell him. When he asked the price, I took a deep breath and told him.

"He then said: 'can I see the drawings?' He went through them and said, 'I think you should order it.'"

"I was absolutely stunned than anyone could be so generous. He had already given us a new computer for the kennel."

"Charles really is an amazing man. It isn't just the money, he has taken on two retired dogs, Cohone Tom who was with Roy Towner and Lynsted Sally who raced just once for Mal Cumner."

"He has also become involved in some of the promotional things that we've been involved in."

"As we got to know more about him, it turned out that his sister was one of the founders of the huge charity Animals Asia."

"Yet he wanted no acknowledgement for what he had done. We finally managed to persuade him to let us acknowledge what he had contributed with a few small words on the side of the trailer"

So how special is the new trailer?

Cheryl said: "It is amazing! There are two pods that pull out."



Croftview's new trailer

One has three kennels for the dogs, the other is for seating to allow us to chat to prospective new owners.

"There is also a monitor that allows us to show footage of some of the dogs who are available, and a small kitchen."

"We are out just about every weekend from the spring to the autumn and you can't afford to keep buying food."

"The trailer gives us a proper presence alongside some of the bigger charities. It isn't just for us either. Last week we attended one of the biggest game fairs in the calendar."

"It was held near Oxford but we will always put people in touch with their local branch. This isn't

about boosting Croftview numbers, we don't care which branch homes them."

GIVEN the years Cheryl spent as kennelhand and trainer, she has little sympathy for the kennels that send dogs into RGT care in poor condition.

She said: "It is quite obvious that some trainers have never learned the basics of their job."

"Some of them have never been taught to clean teeth, and keep the dogs in good condition. Years ago, it was the first thing that new kennel staff were taught."

"In my opinion, nobody should be given a trainer's licence until

they have worked a year in kennels and been properly taught.

"When I was at Hackney, the vet would withdraw dogs from a race if they came in with fleas. I would like to see that rule as widespread."

"I would also like to see teeth checked on every runner and the trainers face consequences if they aren't up to standard."

"I would say that 10-15 per cent of the dogs that come into us have fleas, and around 90 per cent have dirty teeth."

"When you think of the welfare of the dogs and the cost to the RGT of treating them (estimated at £150,000 per year), it simply isn't good enough."



Retirement Plans



Only Pat Philpott at Greyhoundhome could come up with a pic like this!

It was taken at a recent henfest in Chelmsford which was raising money for retired greyhounds and battery hens.

The final figure of £2,500 was split between the pair. Thankyuvrymuch

LOUIE (Lemon Blue Boy) March 1999 - May 2011

In tears I saw you sinking,
And watched you pass away,
My heart was almost broken,
I wanted you to stay,
But when I saw you sleeping,
So peaceful, free from pain,
How could I wish you back with me,
To suffer that again,
It broke my heart to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For a part of me went with you,
The day God took you home.

If doggie choc is found in Heaven,
Lord please save a bit for Louie,
Give it to my dearest friend
And tell him it's from me,
Please tell him that I love him,
And miss him terribly
Place a kiss upon his head
And cuddle him just for me,
Because remembering him is easy,
I do it every day,
But there's an ache within my heart
that will never go away
Rest In Peace Louie, my big chocolate drop, until we meet again.
Very many thanks,
Irene Durant
Littlehampton



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

| Event | Date | Branch |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Wem Carnival | Saturday 3 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Pets at Home Walsall | Saturday 3 | Wolverhampton - Monmore |
| Thaxters Garden Centre | Saturday 3 | Coastal |
| Kidderminster Town Centre | Saturday 3 | Birmingham - Perry Barr |
| Dorset County Show | 3rd & 4th | Devon (East) - Honiton |
| The Skylark Country Show | Saturday 3 | Wisbech |
| Doggie BBQ | Saturday 3 | Hull |
| Orsett Show | Saturday 3 | Essex - Ockendon |
| Fun Dog Show & Kennel Open Day | Saturday 3 | Kings Lynn |
| Llanarmon show | Saturday 3 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Pets at Home - Truro | 3rd & 4th | Cornwall |
| Gala Day - Royal Norfolk Showground | Sunday 4 | East. Counties (Nor/N Suff) |
| Eccleshall show | Sunday 4 | Wolverhampton - Monmore |
| Pets at Home Walsall | Sunday 4 | Wolverhampton - Monmore |
| West Yorkshire RGT Show | Sunday 4 | West Yorks - Hudd/Wake. |
| Greyhound Walk - Rippon | Sunday 4 | North Yorkshire |
| RSPCA Funday, Dorrington | Sunday 4 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Gainsborough Meet and Greet | Saturday 10 | Lincolnshire |
| Droitwich Salt Day | Saturday 10 | Birmingham - Hall Green |
| Scarecrow Comp: Elloungton cum Brough | Saturday 10 | Hull |
| Black Country Boating Festival | 10th & 11th | Wolverhampton - Monmore |
| Morrisons Supermarket - Kings Lynn | Saturday 10 | Coastal |
| Richmond village fair | Saturday 10 | Cheshire |
| Essex Country Show | Saturday 10 | Essex - Ockendon |
| Summer Open/Fun Dog Show - Truro | Saturday 10 | Cornwall |
| Hunton Steam Gathering | Saturday 10 | North Yorkshire |
| Picnic in the Field - Sherburn | Sunday 11 | Hull |
| Hunton Steam Gathering | Sunday 11 | North Yorkshire |
| Morrisons, Wellington | Friday 16 | Shropshire and Borders |
| GREAT GREYHOUND GATHERING Notting. | Saturday 17 | |
| East Ayton Vintage Fayre | Sunday 18 | Hull |
| Chancewater - Meet Greet & Walk | Sunday 18 | Cornwall |
| GRSB meeting | Tuesday 20 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Dobbies, Shrewsbury | Saturday 20 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Belbroughton Scarecrow Weekend | Saturday 24 | Birmingham - Hall Green |
| Countryside Day - Swanlands | Saturday 24 | Hull |
| Malvern Autumn Show | Saturday 24 | Birmingham - Hall Green |
| Copthorne Veterinary Clinic Dog Show | Sunday 25 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Play Day - Oswestry | Sunday 25 | Shropshire and Borders |
| Open Day - Waltham Abbey | Sunday 25 | Essex - Waltham Abbey |
| Store Collection - Tesco Crediton | 28th & 29th | Cornwall |
| Morrisons Supermarket Willenhall | Friday 30 | Wolverhampton - Monmore |



Nottingham Racecourse
Greyhound and Companion Dog Show Family Fun Day

Saturday
17th September 2011

Colwick Park, Nottingham NG2 4BE

Raising funds for and awareness of the Retired Greyhound Trust

Registration from 9.00 am
Judging in three rings from 10.30 am

2012 Calendar



NOW ON SALE
Exquisite pictures of retired greyhounds taken by their loving owners
£7.50 inc p&p

