



The Finishing Post

December 2011

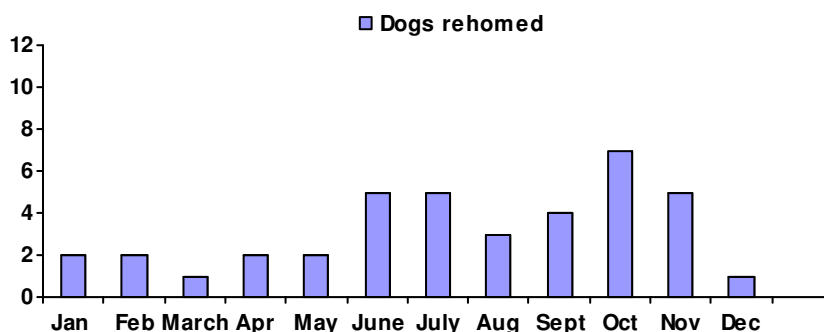
Welcome

...to you all as we prepare to say goodbye to 2011. This issue brings you the rehoming numbers for the year as well as some changes that are in the pipeline. We also have an interesting write-up about Pets As Therapy Dogs, which has been sent in from Jess Bramley.



So, we hope you enjoy this winter edition of the newsletter. And don't forget to forward any ideas or articles you would like to see in the next newsletter.

Stats



The good news is that we have managed to rehome 39 dogs this year. Although it's an average year for rehoming we are very pleased with the results in view of the current financial difficulties people are currently facing.

Events

- Regular beach gang walks at Blyth on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- The next AGM will be held early in the New Year when a final date is arranged.
- Meet and Greets for 2012 will be posted on the website once a schedule has been agreed.





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Kennel update

The kennel block is coming along well. The concrete base and drains are complete and the blockwork is almost finished. The next job is the roof and although the roof timbers are on site, work has stopped due to bad weather. And yes that is snow in the picture.



After the roof is done the windows, doors and kennel fronts will be fitted.

And Lizzie makes three

Lizzie, an old black Greyhound, returned to the charity in the Autumn through no fault of her own. Because of her age and already coming from a home it is always better to find such dogs a foster home while they wait to be readopted. Luckily for Lizzie a lovely couple in Nethererton, who already have two black Greyhounds, agreed to give her that foster home. It wasn't long before Lizzie won over their hearts and they have now officially adopted her. So we wish Lizzie all the best as she enjoys her first Christmas in a new home.

Our logo

...is undergoing a revamp. Although there are some final tweaks needed, we thought you would like to have a sneaky preview.



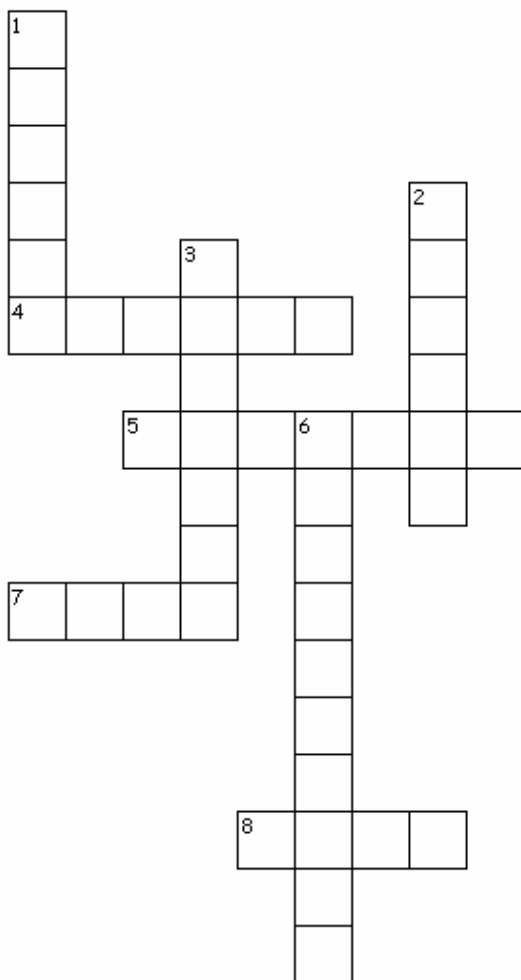
It brings together the colours of the Northumberland flag as seen in the coat, with the unmistakable silhouette of a Greyhound. By keeping the logo simple with just a few colours it should transfer well on to merchandise if we decide to go down that route.





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Crossword



Answers

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| 1. Breath | 5. Brindle |
| 2. Muzzle | 6. Headlenoze |
| 3. Charity | 7. Lazy |
| 4. Hingham | 8. Sofa |

Across

4. The market town closest to the kennels.
5. A Greyhound colour.
7. This describes the typical activity of a Greyhound.
8. A favourite place for a Greyhound

Down

1. Something that is often not sweet.
2. Something Greyhounds wear when racing.
3. How the Northumberland Greyhound Rescue is run.
6. The nickname used for Greyhounds in the USA.





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Pets As Therapy dogs

As promised in our last newsletter, here is an update from Jess the proud owner of Bella and Millie who are now fully fledged Pets As Therapy dogs.

It all started with Jess having seen at first hand how much her mother enjoyed visits from Pets As Therapy dogs during the time she spent in a care home. And due to the quiet nature of Greyhounds, Jess knew this would give Bella and Millie an advantage over more active dogs when visiting elderly people. So she felt it was time to put them through their paces.

To be registered dogs, there are a number of regular assessments all designed to check the dogs suitability in a variety of situations. These covered such things as walking nicely on a lead; any reaction to a sudden noise from behind, allowing a stranger to stroke or groom a dog as well as accepting a treat gently.

As they now take up their new voluntary role, Jess with one of her dogs makes a weekly visit to a residential care home for the elderly. They start by going around the lounge so that individual residents can stroke or pat the dog, then on to an individual room or rooms to have a chat with the occupant and maybe allow them to give the dog a biscuit or chew, which Jess supplies.



Bella visiting Ena

Many of the residents enjoy the hands on approach with a dog during the visit where they can pat, stroke or cuddle the dog. Not a bad life for a Greyhound! During a recent visit one of the residents who seems to have fallen in love with Bella and her blue eyes offered her a lollipop stick. Looking like a chew Bella was ready to oblige but Jess was there to gently decline the offer on Bella's behalf.



Millie dressed and ready to go.





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Jess says Bella is the more confident dog and has become more enthusiastic over time; whereas Millie has only visited a couple of times while Bella nursed a foot injury. Jess is now investigating the possibility of visiting a local hospital and a local school with Bella or Millie.

Pets As Therapy is a charitable organisation, for more details take a look at their website at www.petsastherapy.org.

And finally

I'm sure it hasn't passed you by that it's getting cold out there so your Greyhound will appreciate a good coat from Santa if they haven't already got one. There is lots of choice out there from waxed jackets to fleece jackets if you want to treat your four legged friend.

We want to thank all those who have supported the charity throughout the year, from those who give up their time to walk our kennel dogs to those who have raised much needed funds to help the many retired Greyhounds that pass through our doors every year. This year's efforts which have boasted funds have included our Meet and Greet, charity runs, coffee mornings and one off donations. Diane and Geordie would also like to thank all those who have sent in Christmas cards and kind wishes during the festive season.

So that just leaves us to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

