











# Welcome to Erin News!

The Newsletter that keeps you up to *speed* with the latest fundraising, fostering and re-homing news.

Spring 2011

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-  Fletcher and the Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog awards.
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-  *And much more.....*



Could you be my ideal home?  
Read all about Dee inside

## Note from the Editor.....

I hope you find this newsletter an enjoyable read. We’ve done our best to provide you with our latest news and information. If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter, please send your articles by email to [lpfriend@hotmail.com](mailto:lpfriend@hotmail.com)

Thank you

*The Ed.*

**Eric says** “When you’ve finished reading this magazine, why not leave it in the waiting room at your vets, your doctors, in your staff room or work cafe? Spread the word!

## **A Quote to remember.....**

**All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.**  
(Edmund Burke - Irish orator, philosopher, & politician)



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Find us on Facebook

## **Content Disclaimer**

The opinions expressed in Erin News do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, publishers or their agents.

# Neutering—You'd be nuts not to!

**Those** who adopt dogs from Erin Hounds, know that we believe that neutering is a fundamental principle in dog rescue and rehoming. Erin faces the daily heartbreak of having to turn away needy dogs due to their sheer number (sometimes learning later of their gruesome fates) so please spread the facts about neutering and be part of the solution by busting some common myths.

## What are health benefits of canine sterilization?

**For dogs-** Neutering shrinks the prostate gland preventing inflammation and the uncomfortable growth that occurs with age. The urge to escape when a local bitch is “on heat” is reduced by 90% making road accidents or disputes with neighbours less likely. Aggressive behaviour to other male dogs is eliminated in 60%, urine marking is eliminated in 50% and inappropriate mounting is reduced in 70%. Excessive penile discharge is reduced and testicular tumours prevented.

**For bitches-** Spaying decreases the risk of breast cancer (to almost zero if it is done before the first season) and stops fatal infection of the uterus (pyometra). The discomfort and cost of pregnancy and care of the puppies is removed. Spaying stops the bitch coming into season for three weeks, twice a year, an event associated with unpleasant mood swings, attracting male dogs and an urge to roam.

## At what age should a dog be neutered?

Most vets neuter dogs of either sex from 4-6 months of age onwards. The dog will take ten days or less to fully recover.

**Myth:** My dog is never out of my sight so it doesn't need neutering.

**Fact:** Never?! !! It only takes a minute and other dogs can find their way onto your property.

**Myth:** I want my dog to be protective and not get fat.

**Fact:** A dog's natural instinct to protect home and family is due to its personality which is formed more by genetics and the environment than sex hormones. Activity levels and appetite are not changed by neutering. If your dog puts on weight look at its diet and exercise.

**Myth:** I will find a good home for all the puppies that my dog has.

**Fact:** Each puppy you home means another dog killed in a pound. The problem of unwanted and stray dogs is perpetuated one litter at a time. You will not be able to find a home for all the puppies if your dog impregnates a female without your knowledge.

**Myth:** My dog is a pedigree and so special that I want a puppy just like it.

**Fact:** Fashions come and go, led by the media and films, often aimed at children. One in three dogs in pounds are pedigrees. A dog's offspring will not be a carbon copy of it. Professional animal breeders who follow generations of bloodlines cannot guarantee they will get what they want. This fact is tragically illustrated by 10,000 young greyhounds bred annually from known blood lines, who are killed or discarded because they are not what the breeder expected.

**Myth:** I love dogs and am a responsible breeder.

**Fact:** Do the following three things, then see if you can honestly say the words “responsible” and “breeder” in the same breath.

- Ask yourself whether you know the whereabouts and well being of every puppy you have made money from and have personally ensured all are neutered, microchipped and vaccinated for life.
- Ask yourself if you have taken back and cared for every dog you have bred when the purchasers decide they have tired of it, can't afford it, divorce, emigrate or have caused it to have unmanageable behavioural problems / ill-health by neglect or ignorance.
- Visit a city pound full of fearful dogs on death row, look at the piles of euthanased dogs and talk to the exhausted people who voluntarily spend their free time fundraising, re-habilitating and caring for abandoned and neglected dogs because they really love dogs.

**Did you know?.....** Dogs neutered before puberty (usually occurs around 6 months) tend to grow slightly bigger than dogs neutered after puberty. Testosterone is involved in causing the bones to stop growing so without testosterone the bones grow for longer.

**“ERINmentary my dear Watson!”**

Victoria in Ireland received a call from a local Rescue, MADRA, about a greyhound ‘sapling’ (untried young greyhound) who “had some problems” and was terrified in mixed breed kennels . Some advice was given to help him cope with the kennel environment and he was added to Victoria’s waiting list. The story given to the rescue at the time of his surrender was that his own mother had attacked him .....



**The Look of Love**

A space with Erin Hounds eventually came up and he made the long journey over to England by ferry in a van with other rescued Irish dogs and cats. He was met at 2am at a motorway services on the M6 by an Erin Hounds volunteer. Another Erin Hounds volunteer then started fostering him in Cheshire. A vet found he was completely blind in his right eye and had an unusual gait affecting his front right leg. Initially it looked like he could have been in a road traffic accident but Xrays showed the injuries were consistent with being kicked, possibly by a horse or cow. His poor mother had been falsely accused. He did not need treatment, just an understanding of his disabilities which made for an interesting first walk because he had never seen traffic before. A calm greyhound walked alongside on his “seeing” side to boost his confidence. Not long afterwards, the Alcock family came across Sherlock’s story. They live in Leamington Spa but with help from Erin’s network of greyhound lovers, a homecheck was carried out and he made the journey down and is now exceling in his true role as Sherlock *Homed*.



Only 3 months after being adopted, Opal was already doing her bit to help her doggie friends. She joined 6000 walkers and 900 runners to walk 6 miles along Alderley Edge's new bypass before it opened to traffic on October 24th 2010, raising over £100 for Erin Hounds. She enjoyed a good nap afterwards.



**Rest for the Righteous**

*We are sorry to hear that "Jilly" the lovely greyhound girl owned by a loyal supporter of Erin Hounds - Mrs Norma Duncan - has sadly passed away.*

If you have a *greyt* photo you'd like to see in our Newsletter, please email it to [lpfriend@hotmail.com](mailto:lpfriend@hotmail.com)



**Call that fast Clarkson?  
I'll show you what fast is!**

**Did you know** that the group of dogs known as sighthounds includes greyhounds, Irish wolfhounds, deerhounds, Afghan hounds, salukis, borzoi and whippets? A cross between two different sighthound breeds is known as a Long Dog. A cross between a sighthound and another working dog breed such as a collie or a terrier is called a lurcher which explains why lurchers can be all shapes and sizes and can be smooth or rough coated.



### My ideal home.....

Thanks to my fosterer, who has shown me how to behave in a house, the time has come for me to up sticks to a home of my own and make way for other pupils. My dream home would have a biggish garden with no cats or young children to distract me from my games. Having studied hard at racing school, I am keen to chase small furry things but now enjoy using my athleticism to chase balls or run laps. I am confident and polite to other dogs when out walking and don't pull (unless a squirrel waves to me!). I like encouraging other dogs to join in games in the garden but some are a bit less interested than I am. If I was to share, it would be with a dog who would put up with me, although I don't take offence if told to simmer

down! I would be happy to share my life with just a human, as long as they had a sense of humour (and could throw or kick a ball!). Having realised how precious the gift of life is to a greyhound, I

believe in joyfully making the most of what life has to offer. I enjoy wombling on my walks and so far have brought home a discarded hat, a pair of socks, 2 potatoes and a banana skin. This is only the beginning and I hope to find some booty with a reward attached for my lucky new owner. I am left for up to 5 hours at a time so I can enjoy peace (and more room on the sofa) which suits me just fine and I love a good night's sleep. My fosterer has learnt how I communicate when I want to play, toilet, be left to sleep or chew a bone and can tell you how to read me so that you don't have to learn this from scratch when I move in. Saving the best 'til last..... there are no estate agents involved!

Ring Sue on 01928 714558 to arrange a mutual viewing.



Our **Dee** knows how it feels to be an unwanted dog so in October 2010 she used her pocket money to make a donation to Rudozem Street Dog Rescue run by a Stockport couple in Bulgaria where the situation for dogs is horrendous. She named two starving, stray dogs Dee and Erin and was delighted to learn that in February 2011, Dee (see left photo) went to her forever home in the Netherlands along with 21 other rescued dogs. Please visit [www.streetdogrescue.com](http://www.streetdogrescue.com) to read about the rescue and help them.

**To see our dogs needing homes, please visit [www.erinhounds.co.uk](http://www.erinhounds.co.uk)**

The delightful Dee, enjoying some well deserved TLC.

### [Paws for thought and sniff out these sites.....](#)

**Did you know?.....** JK Rowling and Jilly Cooper have rescued greyhounds. Maybe they help cure writer's block?!

[www.takeyourdogtoworkday.co.uk](http://www.takeyourdogtoworkday.co.uk)

[www.greyhoundrescuefife.com](http://www.greyhoundrescuefife.com) Look at Harry Potter page to see JK Rowling with her hound.

[www.oldies.org.uk](http://www.oldies.org.uk) If you are looking for a rescue dog age 7 or older, there are greyhounds and lurchers there too.

## LOOKING FOR ERIC?

Eric is a news sighthound, a breed which has an eye for a good story and can run with it. Eric put the *fleet* into Fleet Street and was head hunted by The Racing Post and The Field. Luckily he knew that a newshound is for life not just for sport so he chose Erin News ( plus the job came with a comfy bed in the office and cuddles from the editor who can speed type). Eric escaped from abuse in Ireland and having been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped he is finally able to relax as the editor's foster dog. Eric knows that, for a sighthound, it is not survival of the "fittest" but survival of the "luckiest" and without Erin Hounds, this page would be blank!



### Thank you so much to.....

.....The members of The Hound Lounge for raising funds to print a lovely 2011 calendar to be sold in aid of Erin Hounds.

Please visit their friendly and informative website: [www.thehoundlounge.proboards.com](http://www.thehoundlounge.proboards.com)

.....The Sighthound Welfare Trust for selecting Erin Hounds to be the recipient of £1683 (the proceeds from its February online auction.)

Learn about their tireless work at [www.sighthoundwelfaretrust.org.uk](http://www.sighthoundwelfaretrust.org.uk)

.....Carol Lear-Schofield for all her hard work, battling against technical hitches and deep snow to successfully run an online auction for Erin Hounds and Greenfields Greyhound Rescue.

.....Jill Stanley for her beautiful, multi-coloured snoods that keep skinny necks warm in winter and help raise lots of money.

.....Sighthounds on Line for their generosity in nominating Erin Hounds to receive the proceeds from one of their on line auctions. Read about their work to help abused sighthounds and how you can get involved at [www.sighthoundsonline.co.uk](http://www.sighthoundsonline.co.uk)

**If you would like a portrait of your dog painting from a photograph, check out [www.briersart.com](http://www.briersart.com)**

The artist, Jean, is a member of the Canine Art Guild and has showcased her work at the Royal Birmingham Society of Arts and the Three Counties Exhibition at Keele, amongst others.

Jean has a soft spot for greyhounds and in the past has donated a print of rescued greyhounds which was auctioned for Greyhounds in Need. She will happily discuss your requirements. Her work is competitively priced with 10% of the proceeds from Erin supporters' commissions being donated to Erin Hounds.

**For further information, please call: 01606 738290**

Is this my  
good side?



## **STOP PRESS:**

### **The Chinese are investigating buying Irish greyhounds to export to China to establish greyhound racing there.**

**Bord na gCon**, the Irish Greyhound Board, wants to export dogs to China as part of an international expansion that could result in it operating racing stadiums there. The move is opposed by Irish animal welfare groups, which say other countries refuse to sell greyhounds to China. Dogs too slow to win races are routinely slaughtered and even eaten, they claim. Bord na gCon says Chinese officials visited Dublin this month to see how the Irish greyhound-racing industry is run and regulated. A spokesman said the board informed the Department of Agriculture, which regulates the transport of greyhounds, about its expansion plans. "As with any country we do not have any influence on the welfare standards adopted in other countries, and these matters are more appropriately dealt with by the country's own legislative system," the spokesman said. "The export of greyhounds was a matter for individuals and Bord na gCon" said the department. "The board has informed us that they are exploring the possibility of assisting with the establishment of greyhound racing in China," it said. Mr Adrian Neilan, CEO of the Irish Greyhound Board has confirmed that such meetings have indeed taken place.

### **Please sign the petition on Erin Hounds' facebook page or Write/email polite letters of protest to:**

Barry Coleman (Head of Greyhound Welfare at the Irish Greyhound Board)  
Limerick HQ of Bord na gCon / Irish Greyhound Board Green Park  
Dock Road

Limerick

Republic of Ireland

Email: [barry.coleman@igb.ie](mailto:barry.coleman@igb.ie) and Public Relations Department (same address) email: [pr@igb.ie](mailto:pr@igb.ie)

Mr Simon Coveney

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Agriculture House

Kildare St

Dublin 2

Republic of Ireland

Email- [info@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:info@agriculture.gov.ie)

Mr Shaun Quinn

CEO of Failte Ireland

Amiens Street

Dublin 1

Email: [shaun.quinn@failteireland.ie](mailto:shaun.quinn@failteireland.ie)

### Embarrassing nicknames we all call our dogs (yes, you are not alone!)

Dee (the foster dog featured in "My Ideal Home" article) is known by the following affectionate nicknames in her current foster family:

Mrs Moo Moo

Dee Diddler

Minnie the Minx

Hilda Ogden

Tweedledee



Tell us about your doggie nick names on the Erin Hounds facebook page  
and give us all a chuckle!

**Fletcher** and **Grace** (his sister) were surrendered into Dundalk Dog Pound. All surrenders can be legally put to sleep as they arrive. No official Irish pound is obligated to try and place the dog into a rescue. This pound however operates a policy of asking all surrenderers if they are happy for the dog to be offered for rehoming; if the surrenderer says no, that is the end of dog. If the surrenderer agrees, as in Fletcher and Grace's case, the dog is offered to a rescue society. Dundalk Dog Pound asked if Erin Hounds could take them as they were snowed under. Grace was adopted by an Erin Hounds' volunteer and after fostering, Fletcher was adopted by a loving family dedicated to his education. He now lives with three other rescued greyhounds. His achievements are amazing! His mum takes up the story.....



## Fletcher

**W**e've always taken our new dogs along to a dog training class to socialize them, learn a few basic skills and enhance the bonding process. Over the last 10 years, most dog training classes have changed their focus from the traditional Crufts *border collie type* obedience to working towards The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme. Its aim is to promote responsible dog ownership, enhance owners' relationship with their pets and make the community aware of the benefits associated with dog ownership. There are 3 grades: Bronze, Silver and Gold, which require increasing levels of obedience from the dog and increasing levels of knowledge regarding dog behaviour, health and dog-related law from the owners (they are tested too!). The good news is that dogs are not expected to be able to sit for any test, but the 2 minute down-stay in the lying position is a gift to any greyhound! Our first four greyhounds all got the Bronze award, and three got the Silver. Our first greyhound, Gladys, also got the Gold award - which is quite an achievement for a greyhound, given that one of the Gold test exercises is to recall your dog back from a distance of over 10 yards, making them stop part way back with one command. All our greyhounds found this challenging because once they start running back to their owner, there isn't much time to stop the sprint! As Fletcher was our youngest greyhound ever, at 22 months, we thought he'd respond well to training and this proved to be the case. When he passed his Bronze test without fault, the instructor suggested that he stay on and do the Silver test without any preparation - and he passed that too! Our latest greyhound Nemo is about to start training now he's settled into our domestic routine, but we're not going to expect too much from him as he's a typical greyhound 'leaner'. If he's asked to do a recall, we anticipate he'll head for the nearest leg for a lean rather than his actual owner's leg!

*Mireille*

**Further information about the Good Citizen Dog Scheme can be found on the website:  
[www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogtraining](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/dogtraining)**

*Erin Hounds is proud to announce that Paddy - a lovely lurcher boy owned by Audrey Gilligan has also got his Bronze and Silver Good Citizen Dog Scheme Award!*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 16th April - 11.00 am -3.30pm** To mark National Pet Month [www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk](http://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk)  
Erin Hounds are holding a Greyhound Awareness Day at Macclesfield ( Fairways) Garden Centre, Bullocks Lane, Sutton, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 OHE.
- Saturday 14th May - 2.30-4.30pm** Greyhound Playgroup at Dig it Dogs, Dubthorn Lane, Betchton, Sandbach. CW11 4TA. Let your sighthound run safely in a 33mx15m sand floored indoor arena with other dogs in small groups. Dogs must be muzzled for safety. £2 per dog or £5 per family group of three dogs. Free parking. ([www.digitdogs.co.uk](http://www.digitdogs.co.uk))
- Saturday 21st May - 11am-5pm** Alderley Edge May Fair, The Park , London Road, Alderley Edge. Procession departs from Festival hall at 1pm. Tug of war, wine tents, miniature Shetland ponies, bowling competition, “It’s a Knockout”. ([www.alderleyedge.com](http://www.alderleyedge.com))
- Saturday 11th June - 12am-4pm** Toft Summer Fete, Toft Church near Knutsford. Fun Dog Show starts at 1pm
- Saturday 11th June - 12am-4pm** Didsbury Festival, Didsbury Park, off Wilmslow Road, Didsbury. Stalls, small funfair and Fun Dog Show (registration closes 12.45, £1 per entry). ([www.didsburyfestival.webs.com](http://www.didsburyfestival.webs.com))
- Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June** Kelsall Vintage Steam Rally at Churches View Farm, Kelsall Road, Ashton CH3 8BH ([www.kelsall.org.uk](http://www.kelsall.org.uk))
- Sunday 26th June** Great British Greyhound Walk. Walks - 44 different locations organised the length and breadth of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. ([www.greatbritishgreyhoundwalk.org.uk](http://www.greatbritishgreyhoundwalk.org.uk))
- Saturday 9th July - 11.30am onwards** Hazel Grove Carnival Torkington Park, Torkington Park Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 6AA. ([www.hazelgrovecarnival.co.uk](http://www.hazelgrovecarnival.co.uk)) Erin greyhounds in the parade at 1pm.
- Sunday July 10th - 10.30-3.00 pm** Fiddlers Ferry Classic Car Show, Fiddlers Ferry Yachting Marina WA52UJ. ([www.northwestcasualclassics.com](http://www.northwestcasualclassics.com))

*I say, don't I look splendid in my knitted neck warmer?!*

*If any of our readers have any spare wool, tombola items or would like to make a donation, please give Sue a tinkle on 01928 714558. We would be grateful to get our paws on them.*

