

GAGAH Christmas Newsletter



“IT’S SO COOL IT’S HOT”



“Face the camera it’s Christmas”

**Give A Greyhound A Home – Rescuing Greyhounds & Lurchers
For Aberdeenshire & The Rest Of Scotland – Contact Pat 01224 782489
For Glasgow Strathclyde & Lanarkshire – Contact Elaine 01236 727653**

***If you would like to make a donation to GAGAH
contact us on the website at www.gagah.co.uk***



Introduction by Diane

Hello Everyone,

Firstly I would like to wish all Humans and Hounds a very Merry Xmas.

It has just been one amazing years for rehoming, raising awareness and fundraising, and I would like to thank you all for all the hard work.

As a result of the hard work and from many other large donations, including PAH, I am delighted to let you know that we have purchased 4 amazing kennels for the GAGAH lodgers who stay at Karen's in Huntly. The new kennels are very large, fully insulated and really cosy and protected from the weather. There is an article in the Newsletter, and you can read all about them.

Normally, as we get closer to Xmas, the rehoming goes very quiet, but this year so far has been the best in a good long time. Rascal went to his forever home in November, to a lovely couple whose last GAGAH Lurcher Skip, sadly passed in February. Rascal instantly made himself at home and is enjoying being so loved and spoiled and enjoying his longs walks on the beach down in Edinburgh.

Over past years we have always struggled coping with vet bills over the winter time as, understandably the fundraising gets a bit quieter. Delighted to say, that for the first time in years we have enough funds to cope with bills which come our way, thanks to all your hard work.



More successes which have helped big time is the new Happy Hound Store, kindly run by Helen. The GAGAH Calendar which has proved yet another huge success, The Xmas Fayre at Ellon, Pets at Home donations throughout the year and all the years events which have taken place and been a great help both in raising awareness and finding homes.

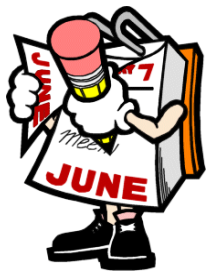
Because we can now keep more dogs in our care with 6 kennels here at Methlick, 3 at The Hope kennels in Memsie, 4 kennels at Karen's in Huntly, and our amazing foster homes, our vet bills grow each year. Without the hard work done by you to raise funds it just would not be possible.

How do the dogs, who mostly come from nearer Glasgow, get here??? Well, once again that is down to all you guys who help with transport all year round, and it is very much appreciated and invaluable. THANK YOU.

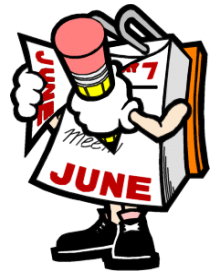
We also have an extremely good success rate when matching suitable dogs to new homes, this is mainly achieved by how the dogs are assessed in their foster homes, on doggy sleepovers and especially on their doggy day out assessments. All done by their special Auntie Theresa all year round, despite the weather. Our initial assessment is based on the feedback from so many of you who kindly do the home visits. This is the first step in the rehoming process so thanks to all you Homecheckers.

Welcome to all you new GAGAH owners and remember, we are always here to help and support you. Hope you all enjoy what is another amazing newsletter. MERRY XMAS from all the lodgers.

Cheers, Di



Diary of Events 2014



2013 was a great year, and 2014 looks to be just as busy. We have loads of events already confirmed for 2014. Just keep checking the GAGAH Forum for updates.

- January** **Sunday 5th Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am**
- February** **Sunday 2nd Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- March** **Sunday 2nd Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- April** **Sunday 6th Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Saturday 19th GAGAH Coffee Day Kirk Centre Ellon**
 Featuring lots of Cakes Tombola and the Happy Hound Store
- Sun 20th April to Sun 11th of May at Pets At Home in Aberdeen and Inverurie**
 Adoption For Pets April Fundraising Drive (helping sell their raffle tickets)
 Doing GAGAH awareness with the dogs and a bit of our own fundraising
- May** **Sunday 4th Monthly GAGAH walk 11am (no location yet)**
- BA Stores Vintage Working Weekend**
 Lynne of Skene near Dunecht Date to be confirmed
- Sun 18th Baker Hughes Aberdeen 10k – Annie & Alfie running, please come and join us.**
- Sunday ? DAWGS Day At Haddo – Date to be confirmed**
- June** **Sunday 1st Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Sunday 22nd GREAT BRITISH GREYHOUND WALK (location to be decided)**
- Saturday 28th GAGAH FUN DAY at GAGAH HQ 12 noon to 4pm NOT TO BE MISSED**
- July** **Sunday 6th Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Sat 19th Sun 20th New Deer Show – GAGAH has a “special invite” this year.**
 We will be the “guests” of Longley’s Country Store. Details to follow
- August** **Sunday 3rd Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Sunday ? DAWGS DAY Hazelhead Park – GAGAH will have a table at this event**
- September** **Sunday 7th “The Sue Rae Memorial Walk” Haddo House 11am**
 Our special September Monthly Walk, held in memory of our dear friend Sue Rae,
 and if anyone would like to make a donation to GAGAH in Sue’s name that would
 be very kind. Also if the weather holds out there will be a picnic too.
- October** **Sunday 5th Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Sat 4th October to Sun 26th of October at Pets At Home in Aberdeen and Inverurie**
 Adoption For Pets April Fundraising Drive (helping sell their raffle tickets)
 Doing GAGAH awareness with the dogs and a bit of our own fundraising
- November** **Sunday 2nd Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**
- Saturday 29th Christmas Fayre Kirk Centre Ellon 10am to 4pm**
- December** **Sunday 7th Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am (no location yet)**

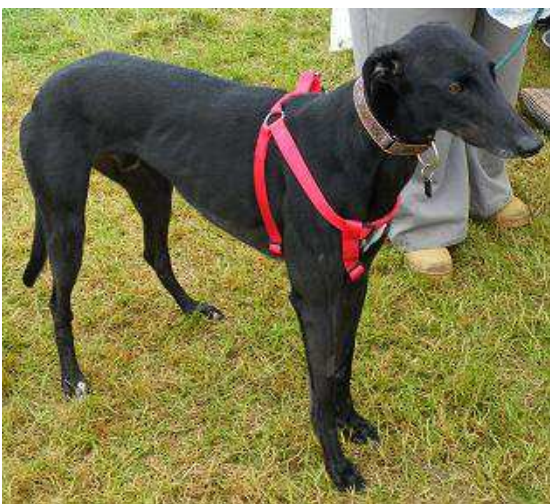
- There's Only One Rascal -



Some of you will know Rascal and many of his past escapades. He's got a new home in Edinburgh now, but he was keen to let all his old friends know how he's doing.

He's asked me to tell you that Alister and Lesley, his new folks, seem nice. He's got a choice of couches, one that's best for daytime lounging and one that's good for stretching out on at night. There's a lovely comfy duvet with cushions and a fleecy blanket to sleep on and lots of new walks to get to know.

But what he likes most about his new home is the kitchen. The kitchen has been designed to be greyhound-friendly and is where all the tasty things are. There's a great larder cupboard with shelves just at the right height to help yourself, the kitchen worktop always has something tasty to try and sometimes there are rustling shopping bags to explore and help Lesley empty.



He does think though that Lesley and Alistair have some strange ideas. For instance, they don't seem to like him sharing their bed when they're in it and it seems to be a real no-no to lick their plates when they're eating.



He's been trying so hard to do his first Mum proud, and also to remember everything his lovely foster family, Dawn, Graham and Chloe told him. But there are so many temptations in the big city!

Rascal reckons his new home in Edinburgh 'will do'. All he needs now, he says, is a friend to share it with

As for us, well I guess the clue was in the name Rascal. Don't know why we didn't spot it! Any food that can be stolen usually is! Butter, bread, scones, gingerbread, raw potato, bacon, dried egg noodles, lentil soup, left-over pizza, red pepper, yogurt cartons and a cheese grater (yes, that was the grater, not the cheese) all have disappeared in the blink of an eye. You could say he likes his food.

We're getting used to him squeezing us off the couch so he's enough room to lie upside down, and to him singing to us when he thinks it's time to be fed.

We've lost his collar, rescued cushions from his jaws, and had to give him lots of love and attention when he cut his paw. But then, he's teaching us to be much tidier round the house and how to have greyhound fun.



We've loved seeing the sheer joy he gets when running at full speed and have been amazed at the affection he's shown us in such a short time. I'm glad Rascal thinks his new home 'will do'



(some negotiations still to be done on the friend)
Don't tell him, but we think he might just do too. We feel incredibly lucky to have him.

Lesley (with help from Rascal)

What A Year 2013 Has Been

It all started just before Christmas we were told by Pets At Home in Aberdeen that we had been adopted as one of their local charities, and GAGAH would be receiving food and toys from their Santa Paws appeal. What they didn't tell us was that they would also be giving GAGAH £309.

As our way of saying Thank You we then helped out with the Adoption For Pets April Fundraising Drive held at the Aberdeen store. That month we raised a lot of awareness and spoke to lots of people. Fantastic we thought, but were contacted again to say we were to receive another £390 as our share of the April Fundraising Drive.

We were then asked to contact Justine Quirk at Adoption For Pets. Thinking it was just to confirm that GAGAH had received both amounts of money, the answer was No, because they wanted to give us even more money. This time it was like being told GAGAH had won the Lottery, as they wanted to, and did in fact give us £7,000 for Vet bills. We were "over the moon"

We visited Pets At Home in Aberdeen in July and August to do awareness and sell tickets for our Big Summer Raffle. Then we had another call to ask if GAGAH would like some bags of dog food. Little did we know that "some" meant 40 big bags, and it was enough to completely fill the back of Bill's Freeland. This meant that GAGAH did not have to find £800 for dog food.

Later there was the Adoption For Pets October Fundraising Drive at both Inverurie and Aberdeen stores. GAGAH were happy to come along and do lots of awareness. We also sold lots of the October Fundraising Drive Raffle Tickets. I'm happy to say we also rehomed two GAGAH dogs.

Now if what we had been given by Pets At Home and Adoption For Pets this year wasn't enough, we were then given two shares from the total of the October Fundraising Drive money raised. Not just from the Aberdeen store, but from the Inverurie store too. We received one cheque from the Inverurie store for £1,074 and one cheque from the Aberdeen store for £1,342

Was that the end of things, No, because over the four weeks we were helping out at the Aberdeen store, lots of very kind people put money in the GAGAH collecting tins to give us another £600. Going back slightly to September, Pets At Home in Inverurie organised a Race Night at the golf club in Kemnay, from which both Cats Protection and GAGAH each benefited by £400

What all this means is that GAGAH have been given donations and funding from Adoption For Pets and Pets At Home for a total of more than £11,900 this year. I honestly believe we could not have better supporters than Adoption For Pets and Pets At Home, and we will again be happy to help out with any of their campaigns and initiatives in 2014. It will be fun, and that's guaranteed.

Now everything has come Full Circle, as we have now been told by Pets At Home in Aberdeen that we have again been nominated as one of the recipients in this year's Santa Paws appeal. Amazing!!!

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year indeed !!!

COP versus LAWYER

A very posh London lawyer runs a stop sign, and gets pulled over by a Glasgow copper.

He thinks that he is smarter than the cop because he is a lawyer and is certain that he has a better education than any Jock cop.

He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the Glasgow cops expense!!

COP "Licence and registration, please."

LAWYER "What for?"

COP "You didn't come to a complete stop at the stop sign."

LAWYER "I slowed down, and no one was coming."

COP "You still didn't come to a complete stop. Licence and registration, please"

LAWYER, "What's the difference?"

COP "The difference is, you have to come to complete stop, it's the law, licence and registration, please!"

LAWYER "If you can show me the difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my licence and registration and you give me the ticket. If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket."

COP "Sounds fair. Exit your vehicle sir."

The Lawyer exits the vehicle

The cop takes out his baton and starts beating the living daylight out of the lawyer, then says,

"Do you want me to stop, or just slow down?"



Greyhound Articles Online by Vi



I want to tell you all about the most amazing Greyhound website called Greyhound Articles Online, this is the address

<http://greytarticles.wordpress.com/>

If you're experienced, or a first timer there is something in this website for you, it tells you everything about Greyhounds



- Here's an example of some of the sections -
(each section has loads of sub sections)

Behaviour & Training - Feeding Nutrition & Weight

Care & Comfort - Safety - First Aid/Injuries

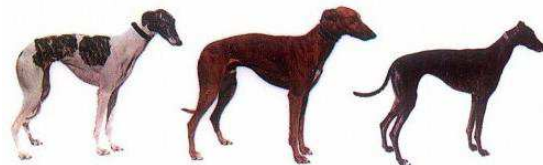
Medical & Physiology - Grooming - Crafts

In the Adopters Basic Info section there is a sub section

What is my Greyhound trying to tell me.

It explains what Volacization is, also Growling, Whining, Singing, Moans, Grunts, Body Language, Tail, Posture.

It is a mine of information, and is a big help in letting us understand what our beloved hounds are trying to tell us.



One word of caution, please make sure you have plenty of spare time before you go to this website, you will be there for ages.

So when you need a break from all the mince pies and TV watching, this Christmas, pull up a chair and have a good look round the website.

You will find something of interest in there.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to everybody. Vi

Pets At Home Race Night At Inverurie

The logo for 'pets at home' features the words 'pets at home' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The text is set against a solid green rectangular background.

Pets At Home Inverurie held a fun Race Night at The Golf Club Kemnay on September 28th 2013. All proceeds were to be shared between GAGAH and Cats Protection, Inverurie & Alford Branches.

The place was packed and groups were allocated a table each, Gagah had seven team members, Diane, Mary, Theresa, Richard, Phil, Liz and Robbie.



While none of us made a fortune betting on the horses I think we all came away having had a really good evening out and breaking even in the money. There were some wonderful prizes in the raffle, I think all the Gagah team went home with at least one prize.

Supper was also included in our entry money. The caterers weren't able to be there and the Golf Club Chef stepped in at the last minute and made a fabulous meal for us all.



We all enjoyed ourselves and the company was great. It was a late night for everyone in the Gagah team but well worth it. The Race Night raised over £1000. After costs were taken out Gagah and Cats Protection were lucky enough received over £400 each. It was a great evening, and a huge Thank You must go to everyone at Pets At Home for organising the event

Fun Films For Christmas

Suitable for children of all ages



The Three Stooges

The idea of a remake made me think that it would not be anywhere near as good as the original films. I'm pleased to say that it was every bit as funny. Hilarious fun filled slapstick from start to finish.

Despicable me 2

Bad guy now good guy, Gru is asked by the Anti Villain League to catch an arch villain. Enter the Minions, who steal the show with their silly antics. Loads of fun from start to finish, this is even better than the first one.



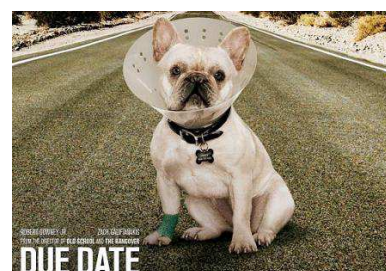
Zookeeper



All the animals love Griffin the Zookeeper, and when he decides to leave in pursuit of love, they break their code of silence to try to persuade him to stay at the Zoo. Good family film with a happy ending

Due Date

Just another "Road Movie" was my first thought, except this was very funny. The main character is driven mad by his new found "buddy" when they are forced to share a car on a cross country trip. Of course there are some things that go wrong.



Almost A Year With Bennie

by Anne & Elli

It's unbelievable to think of life without our big Benny. It's almost about a year since we were introduced to a leggy, black and white, almost dazed beast who had not long finished racing (I believe).



He got in the back of the car, rested his graceful neck on the back seat and if he could have spoken, I'm certain he would have said, "Home James (Anne) and don't spare the horses."



Since then, this loveable peaceful dog has taken over our lives and our hearts. He has gone from an indifferent lad to the most affectionate beastie. He's such a cool dude too.

We have dog walkers, 2 school kids who just love the kudos of being out with Benny. People never fail to notice him and are totally amazed by his gentleness. He's truly the loveliest dog.

We will always be grateful to everyone in GAGAH but most especially Jane and Morag. Not to mention everyone else involved with this charity who have offered nothing but friendship and support since we got Ben.

We have thoroughly enjoyed the Monthly Walks and the friendly faces we are greeted with each time. Benny, of course, continues to thrive and now walks off the lead in the doggy field in Westhill.



He frequently startles and amazes other dog walkers with his race track speed. He can be trusted in a few other familiar places but the doggy field is now where he races.

Elli and I are looking forward to many more years with our big dude. We take him wherever we go, even to some very nice hotels.



One of our favourite places is Millport on the west coast. There are lovely sandy beaches and it's very safe for Benny. He loves his quiet strolls along the beach of a morning and enjoys a good sniff amongst the seaweed. Roll on Boxing Day that's where we'll be just chilling with our dude.

Merry Christmas humans and hounds and best wishes from us for a prosperous New Year.

*Feliz Navidad y Próspero año Nuevo, Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année
and בוט הנשו חמש דלומ גח.*

Anne & Elli & Benny



The 2013 Fraserburgh Cats Protection Show



Diane presenting GAGAH trophy for Best Rescue

GAGAH Was again invited to have a stall selling various items, a tombola and to have people on hand promoting the awareness of the plight of greyhounds and lurchers.

The Show was very well attended and raised a great amount of money for both The Fraserburgh Cats Protection Branch and also for GAGAH. This show gives GAGAH an opportunity to show the people of Fraserburgh and surrounding area the work they do with the hounds, and lets the general public see how well the majority of them behave in and around other animals. there were cats, gerbils, snakes, tortoise and many other types of animals plus a large number of children, I'm glad to say all of the hounds behaved really well and no one went home minus their beloved pet.



1st in Veteran Class



2nd in Veteran Class



Winner Junior Handler

Show secretary Mrs Margaret Strachan was very happy that a number of the GAGAH volunteers pitched in and helped with the setting up of the hall and then with the collection of entry fees on the door, ring stewarding and judging. This year for the first time GAGAH presented a trophy for Best Rescued Dog and Diane Henderson-Stubbs, GAGAH'S founder and co-ordinator, presented the trophy to the winner of that class. Generally the GAGAH dogs did well in the showing and many got firsts, seconds and thirds, A good time was had by all and GAGAH have been invited back again in 2014.

Fraserburgh C P have just learnt this week that they will also benefit from the kindness of Mr Douglas Andrew of Ballater, who passed away earlier this year and left £5,000 to GAGAH, Fraserburgh C.P have been left £4.600 by this most generous man.



Winner Best Rescue Cat

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from the

Happy Hound Store



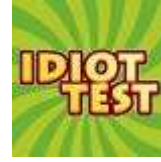
Many thanks to all who have
purchased from the store this year

Please keep buying.

Remember, every penny of profit
goes straight to the hounds.

Follow the link to the shop
on the GAGAH website





Hello Folks, Welcome to the *Professor Plum's* Idiot Test
What do you mean you're not an idiot ?
With Only Four Questions He'll Prove It

1 What do you put in a Toaster ?

Answer on next page

2 Say 'silk' five times. Now spell 'silk.'

What do cows drink?

Answer on next page

3 If a red house is made from red bricks,
and a blue house is made from blue bricks
what is a green house made from?

Answer on next page

4 You are driving a bus from New York City to Philadelphia.

In Staten Island, 17 people got on the bus.

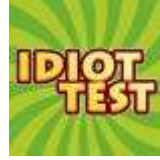
then 6 people get off the bus, and 9 people get on.

In Windsor, 2 people get off, and 4 get on.

In Trenton, 11 people get off and 16 people get on.

Without going back to count how old is the driver ?

Answer on next page



Answer to question 1 - Bread

If you said 'toast,' just give up now, and go do something else.

Try not to hurt yourself!

Answer to question 2 - Cows drink water.

If you said 'milk,' don't attempt the next question.

Your brain is already over-stressed and might explode!

Answer to question 3 - Greenhouses are made from glass.

If you said 'green bricks,' why are you still reading this???

PLEASE, go and lie down!

Answer to question 4 - Don't you remember your own age?!?

It was YOU, driving the bus!

Jumped right into the Idiot Pool didn't you

Well who care just how silly you are

because you don't need brains to love Greyhounds

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year, Professor Plum

From Tears To Wagging Tails! By Ruth

In 2006 I had the pleasure of re-homing my second greyhound, my first GAGAH girl, to keep my whippet-cross boy company. We got a truly beautiful Irish red-head called Nush. They were a wonderful pair of dogs who stole not only my heart but that of my then boyfriend, now husband, too.



She guarded our children's cots

Sun worshipper!



Walks in the forest were fun with rabbit smells all around!



A comfy old lady warm and cosy in her chair.

A confirmed cat person, he fell in-love with the dogs and we went through a marriage and the birth of two children with our girl Nush. Unfortunately in July 2013, two months shy of her 13th birthday she passed on, which left our family devastated and the children especially missed her.

In October, after a conversation with Pat on the telephone we decided to go and see two girls living with Karen at Huntly who we had seen on the website and looked perfect for us. It seemed to be fate.

My first reaction on seeing Karen's croft was "This is heaven!" Everywhere I looked there were horses, dogs and pigs, and there was Karen out doing her twice daily poop scooping. Having worked with horses and pigs before I understand how important this job is and instantly knew that the dogs were being cared for by people who knew what they were doing.

Once we were in we were introduced to two absolutely gorgeous ladies, Mandy and Minnie, both really gentle sweet girls who the children took to instantly. It was love at first sight.

I have to admit complacency though, I was so used to my old lady being really good about food being left out that I forgot that these two girls might not have the same manners. I had baked a cake and left it to cool on the side, needless to say it was not there ten minutes later, and two very happy girls were not hungry either! One nil to the girls!

Cuddling one of the kids toys



Rawhide chews!

Our new garden!



Our very own couch!

Mandy and Minnie are now settled in and enjoying their own couch and multiple beds around the house too. I'm very glad we decided to take these two girls home. They're already part of our family, and so we have come from tears in Summer to wagging tails before Christmas!

- GAGAH HOMELESS HOUNDS -

Could You Give A Home To Missy or Breeze or Deacon



M I S S Y

Missy is a 4 year old girl. Shares a home with two male hounds and is just a sweetie. Loves food, bed, cuddles Missy would make a fabulous family dog as she loves human contact. She loves walks but needs a harness. She is a strong girl, and care is needed around small dogs as she does show an interest. Missy would be great with children over 10yrs as when she plays she can be quite boisterous. Not cat safe. She is adorable, would enhance any home.



B R E E Z E

Breeze is a handsome 4/5 year boy. A sweet, gentle soul. He walks well on a lead, has been spotless in his foster kennel and is a happy chappy. He is initially curious about non-greyhound shaped dogs so caution would be needed, but through meeting other dogs, will get to know dogs come in smaller sizes too.



D E A C O N

Small dog and cat safe. Deacon is a 17 month old puppy neutered lad. Has settled really well in the Methlick kennels, never stops wagging his tail. Was extremely terrified, traumatized in his last kennels but loves it here. Will be a clingy dog as he is still very unsure of himself and new encounters. Deacon would suit being in a quieter house that`s semi-rural or rural and with a more confident hound. What a brilliant edition he will make to any family.

- RACE NIGHT AT THORNTON -



The race night held at Thornton in Fife in November once again proved to be a great success for GAGAH. Ten people from GAGAH made the long journey down from Aberdeenshire and another Gagah supporter went along from Dundee.

The weather was rainy as the evening started but then cleared to give a dry reasonably warm night for the time of year, unlike last year which was very cold. The Tombola stall was kept busy the whole night with two people selling tickets and another two taking the tins round for folks to pick their tickets from, and also sorting out the prizes for the ones that had won.

Some customers were buying £20.00 worth of tickets at a time, so everyone manning the stall was kept busy. There was hardly time for the GAGAh volunteers to get a look at the racing. The proprietors of the race track, Pat and Sandy were extremely hospitable and went out of their way to see that GAGAH had everything they needed and that things ran smoothly.



There were about ten to twelve races that night which included for the first time the race for the GAGAH Cup.

The winner of this was presented with the cup and winners rosette by Pat.

A total of over £1300 was raised from the night for GAGAH, and this included a donation of £450 from a kind lady named Diane Sommerville in memory of her husband who was the bookmaker Slim Sommerville.

The night ended with the GAGAH volunteers tired but happy, and looking forward to next years race night.



Taz who belongs to Shona watching the racers
(Those Whippets get everywhere)

Karen`s Kennels



A few months ago Diane called to say GAGAH had been left some money. With so many greyhounds on the waiting list to come in she decided new kennels would be a great idea. Diane contacted a few companies and found the perfect one. After contacting the company she said they were going to give her a discount as they were for GAGAH. They are lovely big insulated kennels,

A few weeks ago we got a call to say the kennels would be getting fitted, then two lovely men arrived. It was pouring with rain and blowing a hooly but they buckled down and got them done. They've made such a difference to the hounds. They have a lovely warm bed and big run where thy can see everyone and everything which helps a lot with there training. Also having 4 new kennels instead of two means we can help a lot more greyhounds than we could before.



The new boys are Dennis, small black Greyhound, great on the lead, loves to play. Not so good with small dogs etc but is still in training, he's about 5.

Chreif, big black handsome boy! Great on lead, loves people and kids, good with other dogs. Still training around small white fluffy things, he`s six.

Tigger, a beautiful bridle 5year old greyhound. He`s a pleasure, walks great on the lead, loves cuddles and kids. Get on we'll with other dogs.

Then there`s Breeze who came to us, a very excitable greyhound. After 7 months he is just a dream, follows you everywhere. Gets on well with other dogs, lovely on the lead. Loves cuddles on the sofa and walking. He was in a foster home with a family who owned a cat, all was fine for a few days then the cat turned on him. He is a fantastic dog and will make someone a very happy owner.



- Looking forward to my first Christmas by Bingo -



Hi everyone, yes I know you haven't heard from me for a while. I found this real cosy spot on Mum's bed and haven't moved for ages. The other day I was literally dragged from my comfy spot by Flatout, I had moved just a wee bit too close to the edge of the bed and he seized the opportunity to oust me from my spot.

Having been dragged to the living room I was suddenly aware there was something strange going on, there was a tree in the house!! Lots of small men in red suits, snowmen, stockings, I was totally bewildered. I thought I would have to come out of hibernation and see for myself what all this was about.

If you want to know anything don't ask a Hound, Flatout Frankie has been no help at all as soon as he took me through to the living room he lay down and went to sleep. Jealous Jess tells you nothing!! She is frightened you know more than her. Whizzy Izzy can't stay still long enough to know what is going on.

I decided to stay in the living room but seem to have become a part of all this weirdness. I have heard a rumour that a large gentleman in a red suite will come down the chimney with presents next week, is this true? I am quickly writing him a letter before it is too late, let me see what shall I ask for???

Dog treats, dog treats, dog treats, dog treats, dog treats & dog treats!! I hope you get all you wish for, especially if you are waiting for your forever sofa.

Merry Christmas and also a Happy New Year, to all my Houndie pals, see everyone next year.



Love BINGO xxxxxx



Horses by Sara



What is it about horses that so many people love? What crossed through the mind of the first ever person to say "We should tame and ride that animal"? Tell me how many people have said the same about any other animal? Lots of houndie people like horses! I speak from experience :) is it the resemblance? The speed and the long strong legs? Who knows.



Horses are amazing creatures, beautiful, elegant, trusting, courageous, the list could go on and on, but why? Why do these animals trust us? Let us sit on their backs and ride them? Let two become one? I don't think anyone knows but I will tell you something whether you like horses or not the bond between horse and rider is one of the most amazing feelings you could ever have.

I myself have ridden since I was seven years old, there was a point when I fell off and lost my confidence I didn't ride again for nearly a year but I still loved horses, I always remember myself saying "can't I just love horses and not ride them?" Now I can't imagine not riding, I love it! It is the thing I look forward to at the end of the week, and that is all thanks to amazing ponies and horses none more so than Bamber and Wesley, my amazing instructor Nikki who has helped me to where I am today in my riding and Hayfield riding centre! Big Thanks to everyone.



Horses are a big part in lots of people's lives. For some it is a little girls dream to have a pony, and they might grow out of it. But for some like myself you just never grow out of it and they stay a part of your life forever. From the first time you sit on a horse, then to having lessons, followed by entering competitions, and to maybe one day owning a horse of your own, they are a very special thing in many people's lives.

I'm always at the Monthly Walks, and if anyone would like to talk about horses you can catch me there. But please don't interrupt me if I'm in the middle of kidnapping Flatout Frankie.

Merry Christmas everyone, Love Sara XXX



This Is a **GAGAH** Quiz For Anyone 18 Or Younger

Would You Like To Win A **GAGAH** Hoodie ?

If so, how much do you know about Greyhounds ?



Question One In what year did **GAGAH** start ?

Question Two A typical Greyhound collar is known as a
M_____ Collar ?

Question Three How many teeth does a Greyhound have ?
A 28 B 42 C 48

Question Four True or False - The Greyhound is the only
breed of dog mentioned in the Bible ?

Question Five When a Greyhound is running flat out at top speed
how many times does it's heart beat per minute?
A 200 beats per minute B 300 beats per minute C 400 beats per minute



Send your answers by e mail to alfiedolphins@aol.com

Also what Size and Colour of **GAGAH** Hoodie would you like if you win

The winner will be drawn from all correct entries one week from Newsletter issue.

Don't forget this very important saying about Greyhounds

"If you can see the floor there's room for one more"

GAGAH Give A Greyhound A Home – 2013 A Busy Year



Our title speaks for itself, as our aim is to rehome as many of these wonderful dogs as we can. This has been an exceptional year on the rehoming front with lots of hounds finding their forever homes. This would not be possible without everyone`s combined efforts and their help throughout the year.

GAGAH have been very busy going to lots of events, all have been a huge success. DAWGS Day at Haddo, DAWGS Day in Hazelhead Park, BA Stores Vintage Weekend, The Great British Greyhound Walk, The Adoption For Pets Spring Fundraising drive, Christmas Fayre Ellon, GAGAH Coffee Day, Race night at Thornton Racetrack in Fife Adoption For Pets October Fundraising Drive at Pets At Home Aberdeen & Inverurie Fraserburgh Cats Protection Show, Race Night organised by Pets at Home Inverurie

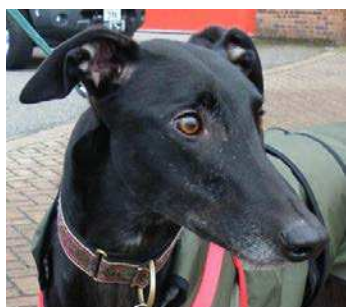
The biggest day on the GAGAH calendar by far is The GAGAH Fun Day, a must not miss event, and I will apologise now if there are any events that I haven`t mentioned.

The GAGAH Calendar has again been a great success, as we all love to see our hounds in it. It`s a never ending circle, because the more awareness we do the more hounds we rehome, and the more funds we always need.



We have also had some very generous bequests, which has enabled GAGAH to upgrade the outdoor kennels at Methlick. Also a few weeks ago four new insulated kennels with runs were delivered to Karen`s in Huntly, providing excellent and very comfortable accommodation for her lodgers, before they find their forever homes.

GAGAH is indeed a great “family” where we all work together with one simple aim. To provide a forever sofa, and a loving home for unwanted and unloved hounds. Here`s to 2014 and yet another great GAGAH year.



The Big Summer Raffle has again been very successful in raising lots of funds, and after 5 years organising the Big Summer Raffle we have realised that we can no longer devote the necessary amount of time needed to do this. We now have a lot more GAGAH commitments and there are not enough hours in the day .

Thank You to everyone that has been kind enough to donate prizes, and everyone that has bought and sold tickets over the years. If anyone would like to take over organising and running the raffle, can you please get I touch with Diane.

Annie & Alfie

The "F" Word

There are times when the **F** word is the only one that's the right one

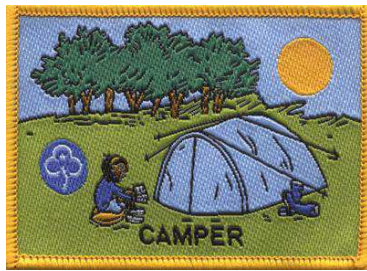


The word of course is **Fright**

1st Maud Guides Love Greyhounds!



On the 3rd and 4th August, 1st Maud Guides made the long (4.9 mile) journey from Maud to GAGAH HQ to set up camp for the weekend. Diane had kindly agreed that the girls could set up their tents in the top field and dig a hole to have a real proper campfire in the evening.



The exposed location and howling wind proved to be quite a trial whilst tent pitching was going on – not helped by the fact that only the 2 brave guiders and 1 young leader had ever put the tent up before!

Tea was a traditional camp supper supplied by The Tasty Fryer in New Deer, the chip wrappers provided an excellent fuel for the fire later on!



Toasted marshmallows more and a quick sing song rounded off our evening. Everyone headed to bed, after the horror of having to use a plastic bucket (chemical toilet) to toilet in.

Unfortunately for us poor leaders, the girls decided that the sing song and sweeties weren't over when they went to bed and 'entertained' us until 2am with their renditions of Lady Gaga, One Direction and other groups we've probably never heard of...

The following day was lovely and sunny and the girls were keen to find out more about the greyhounds and why there was the need to rescue them. Julie kindly gave up her time and showed us all round the kennels and let us meet the hounds that were looking for a home at the time. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their talk and all said that they hadn't realised that dog racing could be such a savage 'sport'.

When we returned to guides after the summer break we had to decide what we would do as our Community Action project for the year. We were keen to say 'thank you' to GAGAH and Diane for allowing us to use the land for free (which then allowed us to give the girls a free camping experience) and giving up their time to show us round.

So for the past 10 weeks or so the girls and their families have been clacking their knitting needles and crochet hooks together in order to supply a gift in time for Christmas to the hounds. We have managed to craft enough squares for 5 blankets for the hounds and there have been some donations of doggy goodies from those who have no talent with wool!



Thank you and Merry Christmas to GAGAH from all at 1st Maud Guides xx

Christmas Fayre & Coffee Day, Kirk Centre, Ellon by Annie



After the success of the Spring Coffee Day I thought we would try our first Christmas Fayre & Coffee Day at the Kirk Centre in Ellon. Helen and I had to endure endless days out at craft fairs, seeking out crafters. It was hard but someone had to do it!! Sadly a few that promised to come right up to the week before let us down.

It's amazing walking in to an empty hall, then a few hours later it's transformed and bustling with people. I want to thank everyone for all the hard work they put in before and on the day, can't mention any individually in case I forget someone.

All the home bakers, stall holders, helpers, customers and of course the Hounds who again did us proud. The weather was unseasonably pleasant for all the humans and hounds that stood outside all day.

£657 was raised from tea/coffee/home bakes, tombola, raffle etc The Happy Hound Store brought in £314 I must thank all the staff at Auchtercrag where I work as they bought the surplus home bakes and sweets raising £136 a grand total of over £1,000

I've booked the Kirk Centre for next year's Spring and Christmas Fayre, the dates are in the Diary Of Events, pop them on your GAGAH calendar to make sure you don't forget. Thanks again Annie xxx



A YEAR OF FOSTERING by Jane

We have been fostering for almost a year, what a joy it has been WOW.



We started off with the lovely Velvet (now Elvie) she went to her first home, which didn't work out, but now loves her new life in Glasgow, and living it to the full. We met up with her when we went to Glasgow to visit one of our other fosters (more about that later) Elvie was looking so content and happy.

Next came along Foxy (so named as she smelt like a fox after rolling in you know what) Foxy was with us for 5 days before she went to her forever home, wow that was quick. She was a mini Alfie and had been found in the same area so possibly related but we will never know. She is now Maybea and living a wonderful life with her new parents in Aberdeen.



Next came Larry, a lovely boy who settled well for the first five days, but sadly three boys in the house didn't work out that well. Larry went back to the lovely Karen in Huntley and found his forever home. Go Larry!

Next came along the gorgeous Jo Jo (Now Lou Lou Belle Belle Belle)

I went to pick up Jo Jo from Lex (missy in the paddock!!!!!!) and got her home to Aberdeen, what a little darling she was. Got on so well with my two boys. Miss Jo Jo stayed with us for a short 3 months but OMG we just fell in love with her, such a sweet calm girl. When we dropped her off at McDonalds car park in Forfar and met her new Mom Carol, little was I to know that I would make a friend for life. Carol and I have become the best of friends and this is all through the gorgeous GAGAH dogs. Carol has been to visit me in Aberdeen, and Sara and I spent a fabulous five hound filled, four days with her



in Glasgow in October. Thank you GAGAH I wouldn't have met such a great friend without you.

After dropping Jo Jo (Now Lou Lou) off on Saturday with Carol, went to the monthly walk on the Sunday and came home with the fabulous Missy Moo Moo. I saw her at Lex's when I picked up Jo Jo. Missy stayed with me for two weeks and was re-homed, unfortunately this did not work out and the lovely SUE RAE took her on as a foster as I was not in a position to have her back straight away (GOD bless you Sue) .



I took Missy back a week after the Sue Rae walk in September and yes she is still with me just now, she is the most adorable girl you will ever meet. She has had her issues, but I think we have overcome them, poor wee girl freaked out after being with me for three weeks, discovered she had a urine infection and was put on Calmax for her anxiety. So pleased to report that she is now off all medication and is a very chilled out girl with the biggest heart. Also off the harness now, walks are so much more pleasant. This wee girl deserves her forever home I SERIOUSLY would keep her in a heart beat but cannot afford the vet bills for three, and don't want to be in the position to have to put cost over care ☹

LOOKING FOR HER FOREVER SOFA !!!!

MISSY OUR MISSY MOO MOO ☺

Missy Moo Moo as she is now fondly known in our home would make a fabulous addition to any home but she needs someone with hound experienced to take her as she has had her issues. It's nothing bad, she just needs an understanding hound home to cope with her traits. She has calmed down a lot but still plays like a puppy bless her cotton socks.

If you think you could offer one of these gorgeous dogs a home or a foster home please contact us ASAP xxxxx (YOU WON'T REGRET IT)

HAPPY & HEALTHY 2014 TO YOU ALL, Jane and Sara XXX

Christmas Comedy Club



Scottish footie fan met a fairy, who grants him one wish.

“I want to live forever” he said

“Sorry I’m not allowed to give you that type of wish” said the Fairy

“OK then let me live till Scotland win the World Cup” he said

“Now that’s very very crafty” said the Fairy



Two friends had a Girls night out. Both were faithful and loving wives,
however they had a few too many Bacardi Breezers.

Being drunk and walking home they needed to Pee, so stopped at the cemetery.

One of them had nothing to wipe with, so used her panties.

Her friend was wearing expensive ones, and didn’t want to ruin them.

Luckily she saw a wreath with a ribbon on it and decided to use that.

Then after that the girls went home.

The next day the husband of one of the women was concerned that his Wife
was still in bed hung over, so he phoned the other husband, and said

“These Girls nights out have to stop, because I’m getting worried about them.

My Wife came home with no panties on” “That’s nothing” said the other husband

“My Wife is sleeping and has a card stuck to her backside that says,

“FROM ALL THE GUYS AT THE FIRE STATION, WE`LL NEVER FORGET YOU”



Woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband with a fly swatter.

Woman-What are you doing ? Man-Hunting Flies

Woman-Did you get any ? Man-Yep 3 males, 2 females

Woman-How can you tell ? Man-There’s 3 on a beer can and 2 on the phone



THE GOOD "OLD" USA

In the Dunkin Donuts in Miami, the oldies were comparing aches and pains.

"My arms are so weak I can hardly lift this cup of coffee" said one.

"Yes I know, my cataracts are so bad I can just about see my coffee" said another.

"I couldn't even mark an X on my ballot paper last time, my hands ache"

"You'll have to say that again I can hardly hear you"

"I can't turn my head because of the arthritis in my neck"

"Sometimes my blood pressure pills make me so dizzy I have to sit down"

"I guess that's the price we pay for getting on in years"

"Well we can all count our blessings, we can at least still drive"



Perry Mason Please Come Back

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy? WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor? WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law.

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated? WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated? WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual? WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female? WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth? WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year? WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Margaret!

“BIG CHEQUE” October Fundraising Drive



The GAGAH cheque being presented by Inverurie Pets At Home manager Katherine

Adoption For Pets help over 600 rehoming organisation, including GAGAH, and every October they have a Fundraising Drive, held at every Pets At Home branch. GAGAH headed along to Pets At Home in Inverurie and Aberdeen to help out.



It's a great opportunity to do awareness as both stores are always very busy. The response from the public is amazing. We have rehomed two GAGAH dogs with families that went to meet us there, making it all worthwhile.

We had previously helped out with the April Fundraising Drive, and doing the awareness would have been enough reward for us all. But the “icing on the cake” was the surprise after the event. We didn't know we would be given a share of the funds raised and GAGAH was presented with a cheque for £390.

Now the October Fundraising Drive put GAGAH on to another level when it came to being given another donation by Adoption For Pets. On Sunday we were invited to go along to the Inverurie and Aberdeen stores to be presented with cheques for £1,074.20 and £1,342.37 making a total of £2,416.57 We will continue to support Adoption For Pets and Pets At Home, looking forward to helping in 2014.



The GAGAH cheque being presented by Aberdeen Pets At Home manager Grant

"GAGAH Winter Wear"



"Fruit of the Loom" HOODIES with GAGAH Logo

PLAIN HOODIE - £16

FULL ZIP HOODIE - £18

Sizes from Small to 5XL

In Many Colours (for example) Dark Grey Light Grey Navy Red



"Regatta" FLEECES with GAGAH Logo

LIGHT FLEECE Full Zip - £20

LIGHT FLEECE Half Zip - £16

HEAVY FLEECE Full Zip - £22

WINTER FLEECE Full Zip - £24 (Fully Lined)

Sizes from Small to 5XL

In Many Colours (for example) Navy Royal Red



"Beechfield" FLEECE BEANIE HAT

with GAGAH LOGO - £8

In Three Colours Navy Black Red

Heavyweight "RESULT" BODYWARMER

With GAGAH logo for only £27

Navy



ACTIVE FLEECE LINING
WILL KEEP THE WINTER
BLUES AWAY

SMALL	36" or 94 cm
MED	40" or 102 cm
LARGE	43" or 109 cm
XL	47" or 119 cm
XXL	51" or 130 cm
XXXL	55" or 140 cm

Red



Black



To order just e mail
alfiedolphins@aol.com

*Champion "Glen" Winter Fleece
with "Ultrawarm" Quilted Lining
With GAGAH logo for only £25*



*Adjustable drawcord at the hem
Elasticated cuffs to keep the weather out.
Zip fastening front pockets*

*It's easy to order anything you like
Just e mail alfiedolphins@aol.com*

Where possible I will hand deliver to save postage

GAGAH- MAIN EVENTS IN 2014



GAGAH not only rescue dogs, we attend lots of events too. These events are to raise awareness and funds for GAGAH. This is a list of the 10 main events in 2014 that anyone can come along to and be involved in, a good time guaranteed !!!

*Coffee Day Kirk Centre Ellon Saturday the 19th of April
Always busy, featuring Tombola, Craft Stalls, Tea & Cakes
We need at least eight volunteers to help make this a success.*

*Pets At Home Spring Fundraising Drive Sun 20th April to Sun 11th May
GAGAH gets a chance to give back to Pets At Home and Adoption For Pets
We help sell their raffle tickets, do awareness with the dogs and raise funds*

*BA Stores Vintage Working Weekend Lynne of Skene (sometime in May)
This is our busiest and best weekend after the GAGAH Fun Day
Lots of families and lots of interest in the GAGAH dogs*

*DAWGS Day at Haddo – The date in May to be confirmed
A friendly family show run by our friends at DAWGS in one of our favourite locations. We will be in attendance with the Happy Hound Store & Tombola.*

*Great British Greyhound Walk Sun 22nd of June (location to be confirmed)
Our yearly “Nationwide Outing” involving walks in every part of Britain
with as many Greyhounds as possible all walking at the same time*

*New Deer Show Sat 19th & Sun 20th of July
This is a very popular agricultural show that we have attended for many years. Now we have been invited to attend by Mr Arthur Brown the owner of Longley’s*

*DAWGS Day in Hazelhead Park Aberdeen – Date in August to be confirmed
This is the biggest, busiest and best run “Dog Show” we attend every year.
Organised by our friends at DAWGS. Lots of stall and dogs show classes.*

*The Sue Rae Memorial Walk – Haddo House Sunday 11th September 11am
Our biggest Monthly Walk of the year, held in memory of our dear friend Sue Rae.
You can make a donation to GAGAH in Sue’s name on the day*

*Pets At Home October Fundraising Drive Sat 4th to Sun 26th of October
GAGAH gets a chance to give back to Pets At Home and Adoption For Pets
We help sell their raffle tickets, do awareness with the dogs and raise funds*

*Christmas Fayre Kirk Centre Ellon Sat 29th November 10am to 4pm
Always busy, featuring Christmas Gifts, Craft Stalls, Tombola, Tea & Cakes
We need at least eight volunteers to help make this a success.*



A Very Merry Christmas

&

A "Houndie" New Year

with love from

Annie Alfie



Frankie Jess & Izzy