

Rugby and Coventry RGT – An Appeal

The Branch is very successful and has a great reputation, homing around 50 greyhounds per year with very few 'returnees'. For over thirteen years it has been run almost single handed by Sari Pearce, based at Watch Kennels and sharing facilities with racing training kennels and boarding kennels.

The racing training kennels have now closed and Sari is taking a step back from Branch activity: to concentrate on building up the Boarding Kennel business with a view to its sale at some stage, to spend more time with her family, and to prepare for retirement.

The Branch therefore has to change in order to operate with far less reliance on Sari's time, and to become self-sufficient with enough volunteers to ensure the goodwill of future owners of Watch Kennels.

To achieve this, the Branch is appealing for more helpers in three areas:

1) Kennels and Adoption: taking 'hands on' roles in different tasks involved in successful greyhound adoption - home visits, helping out at the kennels when potential adopters are introduced to greyhounds, keeping the greyhounds in good trim with exercise and grooming. Too often these roles have relied on just one person, but need to be shared between many.

2) Fund raising: Thinking up, organising and running publicity and fund-raising events - greyhound walks, 'meet and greets', stalls at Shows. Fund-raising is a vital Branch activity, but again too often is left to just one person, resulting in cancellations, a thin calendar and a shortage of cash.

3) Back Office : A small team is needed to keep admin and office systems up to date – at the moment this relies on kennel staff staying back at night doing paperwork and catching up on phone enquiries. More creative and IT skills are also needed to ensure our excellent website is kept up to date and memorable. The Internet is now first port of call for most of our adopters and customers - finding out about us, checking out dogs currently available, seeking advice or looking for something to buy.

Sari has asked me (as a recently retired human) to manage the above changes and I have made a start on the 'back office' tasks above. However, the Branch urgently needs a list of volunteers to call on to help with the adoption and kennels side of the business, and with fund-raising. These areas would involve contact with our greyhounds and I am sure would be of interest to any greyhound lover or owner who can spare some time now and then.

If you think you could help with any of the above, please get in touch with me direct - I can expand on what is required, discuss suggestions or meet up with those willing and able to help at this time of particular Branch need. As an adopter for eight years myself I know how fantastically rewarding it is to see retired greyhounds slowly blossom into 'proper dogs' and become fabulous pets, given love, gentle care and the right home environment. I also know that there is always a ready supply of greyhounds retiring and needing adoption.

The Branch really needs your help if it is to continue in existence and carry on its excellent work - please get in touch!

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