



TAILENDS.

WEST CROYDE CROYDE DEVON EX33 1QA

Phone: - 01271 890689

Fax: - 01271 890130

Email: - tailends@atlanticbreeze.co.uk Website: - www.tailends.co.uk

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2007

Dear Friend,

Spring is here and it is time for me to bring you up to date with life at Tailends. We have welcomed several new dogs since our Autumn Newsletter and sadly had to say goodbye to some very dear friends. Things are constantly changing, yet the routines stay basically the same each day. I believe these old dogs need to have continuity and know that they will have their meals and walks at roughly the same time each day. This helps them to feel secure and quickly settle in when they first arrive. We have given up on grass for the two outside areas and, after much research decided on bark chippings. This is working very well and prevents the areas becoming waterlogged and muddy in bad weather. It is easy to pick up doggy poo and is much more hygienic without the bald patches which are inevitable with grass. (I also do not have to waste precious time cutting it every week in summer.) The dogs seem to find it very acceptable and even those with mobility problems find it easy to negotiate as it is quite soft. We have made more space indoors by rearranging and getting rid of anything which does not serve a useful purpose for the dogs. One bedroom is now a spacious area which contains eight dog beds. It is a quiet place where a dog can go and stretch out in peace away from any activity. Bluebell, Alison, Daisy May and Cleggie sleep in there at night. We use nightlights everywhere so that dogs who need to get up in the night can see and be seen.

RAFFLE TICKETS.

Our great friend, Chris Mason, of Canine Friends has again invited us to take part in the raffle which they run each year to help small animal charities. Each participating rescue has tickets allocated to them and the money raised from the sale of these tickets goes directly to help that particular rescue. I have taken the liberty of enclosing two books of Raffle Tickets with this newsletter. I appreciate it is a bit of a chore asking friends to purchase a ticket but it is one of our biggest fund raisers and makes such a difference to the care which we can provide for our oldies. I would be very grateful if you can sell a few tickets for us. (I do apologise if you prefer not to be bothered with raffle tickets or have ethical views against their sale.) **Please remember to return your counterfoils and cheques by Saturday 2nd June.** Please contact Tailends if you could sell a few more tickets for us. We are hoping to sell all of our 200 books as that would make a massive difference to our funds. Could you help us achieve this?

ALISON came to Tailends on 24th August 2006. She was in a very poor condition. She is a frail 14 year old white and blue girl, who has spent her entire life in a bleak kennel. Blood tests revealed that she probably had inflammatory bowel disease and she was put on a course of steroids, antibiotics and Tramadol. A urine test indicated the presence of blood and protein, so after a long course of antibiotics she was taken to the vet for a scan. Sadly this revealed that the lining of her bladder was markedly thickened in an irregular way, indicating the possible presence of cancerous cells. My vet suggested that we try Piroxicam which is a human drug that has had some success in reducing thickening of the bladder lining. We also give her Cystaid capsules as well as fish oil and vitamin supplements. Alison



initially made a brilliant recovery and a scan in February revealed amazing improvement in the condition of her bladder. She is such a sweet old lady and I was so pleased that we had been able to give her some special comforts and care after a sad life in kennels. She loved her walks to the beach and really appreciates her cosy doughnut bed. Alison had another scan yesterday which sadly revealed that the bladder lining was starting to thicken again. A blood test also gave depressing results indicating quite severe kidney failure. This means we cannot give any drugs which might help her bladder as they would progress her kidney disease. Now we can only monitor her closely and be prepared to act quickly if she stops eating or becomes ill or unable to sleep. She is an old lady who has suffered terribly in her past. Thankfully she is now safe and receiving our love and care as her life draws to its close.

Alison died peacefully at home in her bed on 23rd March 2007 after becoming ill during the night. We called the vet to come and help our dear girl fall asleep forever. She is now reunited with Hazel. I miss them both very much.

CLEGG is a 13yr old large white and tan lad who arrived at Tailends on 10th February 2007. We have been told that he was used for racing in his younger days and then for rabbiting. Thankfully he will no longer be used by humans for their dubious pleasures, and his welfare will be the only consideration. He was painfully thin (weighing just 29 kilos when he should be nearer to 38kilos at his size) and very weak especially in his hind legs. His general condition was quite poor. He is now enjoying his walks and meals and in his first month has put on nearly 3 kilogrammes. He is very sweet and loves the company of the other dogs at Tailends. He has had a dental and a lump removed from his back. I also had X-rays done to investigate why he keeps collapsing when out for a short walk. We knew that he had quite severe muscle wastage but I thought there might be something else going on. The X-ray revealed



arthritis in his hips and spine and also narrowing of disc space in the lumbar-sacral region of the vertebral column. We cannot cure his spinal problems but we can ensure he enjoys a happy pain-free retirement.

LUCAS (TAILENDS 03.12.06 – 10.03.07)



This dear old chap arrived at Tailends on Sunday 3rd December 2006. He was a large 13 yr old white and black greyhound with various health problems. He had no teeth, limited eyesight and poor hearing but he was a dear old boy who loved his walks and was very happy to be in a loving home after all he had been through in recent weeks. Our dear friend Mark, who helps Northants Greyhound Rescue, kindly drove to Worcester to collect him from the kennels where he was being kept. Lucas lived with his elderly owner until he became unable to cope and things went badly wrong. Eventually the council became

involved and Lucas was put into kennels while his owner was temporarily rehoused. We were worried as we had been informed that Lucas had slipped on his own urine on the concrete floor of the kennel and sprained his hock just a week previously. He was then put into a crate for his own safety, though it was only big enough for him to stand up and not ideal for him to be contained in for long periods. He had to come to Tailends as he had nowhere else to go. Lucas enjoyed his food though he could only eat small amounts at a time. His urine contained blood and glucose so it was decided to take some blood for further tests. Sadly these showed that Lucas has very advanced kidney failure. Thankfully there was no sign of a tumour so we continued with the renal support diet in the hope that he would be at Tailends for many months to come.

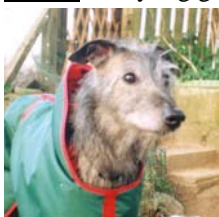
Lucas was fine on the morning of March 8th, eating his breakfast as usual and then going off to lie in a sunny spot in the hall. During the afternoon I became aware that all was not well. He was reluctant to go for his walk and was not interested in eating. A blood test was inconclusive. In fact the readings showed that his kidney failure was slightly improved. During the night he became very ill and I gave him a sedative which enabled him to sleep peacefully. I rang the vet and arranged to take him to the hospital for X-rays to find out what was going on in his chest. There were two possibilities - either he had a chest infection which could be dealt with by putting him on a drip and giving him treatment or something nastier was going on. Alison rang me later to advise that his chest was full of fluid and the heart could not even be seen on the X-ray. She had extracted a sample of the fluid and it was full of Leucocytes which indicated that he had a malignant tumour. There was nothing I could do but let her help our dear old chap leave his diseased body. Lucas was only here for three short months but he was the kindest, most gentle greyhound who was very much loved. Farewell my dear old boy - until we meet again. We are so grateful and privileged that we shared some time together when you needed us.

HOLLY arrived here on Saturday March 10th and came for a nice walk on the dunes after her long journey. She really enjoys her walks and eats everything put in front of her. She loves the beach and does a little hop and skip when she feels the sand beneath her feet. Holly is a small brindle lurcher bitch who came from a dog pound in Staffordshire. Her exact age is unknown but we would guess at around 13yrs. She has probably been kept outside as her coat is much thickened. She is totally deaf and has an eye condition which our vet discovered when we took her to be examined. This disease of the eye is known as Pannus. This is when the immune system treats the eye as alien tissue and attacks it. The disease is incurable but with treatment we hope to save some of her sight and prevent any pain.



Holly has had a major dental with over twenty extractions, but her mouth will need continual monitoring and daily application of paste to prevent further disease, as tartar is already building up again. Holly is so happy to be here. It is unlikely that this little girl has had much comfort in her life and now she is so appreciative of everything we do for her.

TARN My big gentle lurcher boy has left us, and everyone at Tailends is grieving for this affectionate, friendly dog.



He loved everyone - both humans and other dogs. The highlight of his walks would be a meeting with anyone who would say hello to him. His cheerful nature had so much to teach us about overcoming adversity and making the most of life - enjoying every minute and not ever feeling sorry for himself. He had a poor deal in his past, having suffered considerable spinal damage leaving him unable to enjoy runs and games in the fields which I am sure he would have loved. However he was always cheerful and came in the car whenever anyone was going to the vet and always greeted everyone who visited with an endlessly waggy tail and cuddles and kisses. He even got on with our poor disturbed Poppy dog. He loved the sofa and spent all his spare time lying upside down with his head on a cushion and his four legs sticking up into the air. He would gaze in astonishment at the rabbits which played on the path in front of him or even came into his garden right before his eyes. On 22nd November I took Tarn to the vet as he was wheezy and seemed to be breathless, particularly during the evening. He was given antibiotics and the vet said that his heart was very enlarged. He was already on vetmedin so if he did not improve we planned to take him back for x-rays. He did not get better but lost his appetite despite me trying to tempt him with everything I could think of. He had blood tests which showed early kidney failure but still did not account for the changes which I was observing in his condition. I took him to the veterinary hospital on Friday December 1st for x-rays and more thorough examinations. At about 2pm I had the call that I dreaded but had not really expected. Tarn's x-ray had revealed that there was blood in the pericardium surrounding the heart and the heart itself contained a malignant tumour. One of the lungs also had secondary masses present. The vet said that Tarn's condition was like a time bomb. He could, at any time, suffer great pain when the whole pericardium filled with blood. I could not let this happen and for the first time ever I had to let one of my dear children die in my absence. It would not have been right to revive him from the anaesthetic just so that I could say goodbye. I had to do what was right for him even though it has broken my heart. He had turned to look at me as I left him with the vet. If only I had returned to give him one last kiss and reassuring cuddle. My dear Tarn, I hope you understand that I could not be with you at the end. You will never be forgotten by anyone who ever met you and particularly by your mum here at Tailends. Maybe you will be there each morning running beside us on the beach with your back now straight and your legs free of the arthritis and nerve damage which you had in life.

HAZEL arrived at Tailends on 24th August 2006. She was very ill and had to be rushed to the vet for treatment. I could tell immediately that she was in pain - which was confirmed when she was examined by my vet. Her mouth was also very infected and she looked so pathetic it moved me to tears. She had a number of red bald areas on her body and was very thin. My veterinary surgeon examined her and did some blood tests which showed that she had acute Pancreatitis. The test results were so high that they were off the scale and they had to be repeated with diluted samples, which again were at the highest level of the equipment. The symptoms of this disease are inability to eat and acute pain.



Hazel was treated at the veterinary hospital and immediately put on a drip as she was too ill to have the anaesthetic necessary to deal with her mouth. My vet said she had the worst mouth she has ever seen - and would probably need to have all her teeth removed! The stench from her mouth was indescribable. We did not know if Hazel would survive - we could only pray that she would have enough strength to fight and win her battle against this disease. I could not wait to have her home and give her all the loving care which she so deserved. I had to face the fact that she might never come home and it was breaking my heart. All I could do was to wait and trust the veterinary hospital to give her the treatment she needed.

It is tragic that these dogs have to pay such a high price so that humans can indulge their desire to watch them race and gamble on the outcome. Surely people could enjoy their leisure time without involving defenceless creatures like Hazel and the thousands like her whose suffering is never heard about. Hazel came home after five more days having had 26 teeth removed when she was well enough to cope with the anaesthetic. She managed a little walk once a day, just along the footpath to see the rabbits. She tired very quickly and slept most of the time. She was spotlessly clean and always went out into the garden when the need arose. This shows that lying in urine -which has apparently resulted in her stained coat and head - is not something she would have chosen, had she been given the choice. Hazel had an enlarged heart and possible kidney malfunction. However she was gradually losing that look of despair and was learning that life can be a good experience and not something to be endured until death came as a release from the pain and misery.

She was a sweet loving girl who appreciated all I did for her, though in the end I could not give her what she really needed - the health to enjoy what time she had left. Dear Hazel - I will never forget your quiet courage and gentle nature. You were much loved by everyone at Tailends and are especially missed by Bluebell and Daisy May who slept together in your room with you at night.

Tragically Hazel lost her fight for life on 12th October 2006. I will never forget the courage of this sweet girl.

GREYHOUND RACING.

I am sure everyone knows about the recent media exposure regarding the killing of thousands of racing greyhounds in Durham. I am sure that this is not an isolated incident and that dogs are being killed and disposed of by many other people in various parts of the country. We are shocked at the pathetically low fine given to David Smith in Durham on Friday 16th March. It is appalling that it is not an offence in this country to kill a dog with a captive bolt pistol. There is no guarantee that death is instant. Smith could only be charged under the environmental health laws as he had no licence to bury dogs on his land. The £2,000 fine is pathetic considering this man's activities over the last fifteen years. However, what is more shocking is that the racing industry produces so many dogs which are surplus to requirements and then are disposed of legally or illegally, when they are still young and healthy. Others are left to rot in very sub-standard kennels until they die, often without proper veterinary care or pain relief. Thousands of dogs are bred each year and many do not make the grade for racing, while those who have raced successfully are still often discarded, usually at about five years of age. There is no way that there could ever be enough suitable homes for all these dogs, especially in a country where there is already a serious dog overpopulation problem due to irresponsible breeding. I have personally seen many cases of neglect and cruelty to ex racing greyhounds and I implore you not to support Greyhound Racing. The industry's own rehoming operation is under-funded and ineffective and is more of a public relations exercise than a real attempt to resolve the problem. It can only help a small proportion of the thousands of greyhounds rejected by the industry each year. Please make your voice heard on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves. I would like to pay tribute to all those rescues throughout the country which are independent of the racing industry and are working so hard to help these dogs.

FOURTEEN GREYHOUNDS.

We were asked to find places for fourteen greyhounds in late November. Happily, and with the help of some fantastic people, all the dogs were moved to their new homes before the weekend when they faced possible euthanasia. I would like to thank Greenfields in Staffs., GRWE, The Retreat Animal Sanctuary, Northants Greyhound Rescue and Fenbank Greyhound Sanctuary for helping these dogs at very short notice. I would also like to thank the kind folk who gave up their time (at a very busy time of the year) to transport these dogs to all parts of the country: Frank Brown, Jim Colla and Lorna Reid.

Thank you on behalf of Thomas, Joseph, Bill, George, Harry, Frankie, Spats, Zena, Liz, Fly, Daisy, Poppy, Ginny and Molly. Zena has special health problems and is being cared for by Mandy at NGR until a special home is found for her. Liz and Fly are in the care of two lovely ladies who are looking after them until a permanent forever home is found for them both, as they are totally devoted to each other. Thomas has had a leg removed in order to save his life. He is making excellent progress, is very much loved, and is jumping around as if he still had four legs. The other dogs are also now enjoying some home comforts for the first time in their lives.

ARFA (AKA “Little Boy”) – Tailends 17.12.05 – 08.11.06

Arfa arrived at Tailends on December 17th 2005. He had been rescued from death row at Huddersfield dog pound. Arfa was a small blue lurcher boy and had a number of health issues when he arrived. However, when Arfa had received the best of veterinary care, he was very much improved and soon weighed over 20 kilogrammes. Arfa was



slightly senile and probably had little hearing. However he did enjoy his life here and was always keen to go off on his walks. Arfa also loved to be wrapped up at night even if it was not particularly cold. It probably makes him feel more secure. Arfa was frightened of the dark, so we used a nightlight to give him more confidence when he woke and became worried as all his former nightmares returned to haunt him. Thank you to Judy for sending us the nightlights for Arfa. He slept securely and easily with the reassuring light from them.

We will never know exactly what Arfa's life was like before he was taken to the dog pound but I am sure he was sadly neglected and never knew much comfort. Here he was safe, and received all the care he needed for the rest of his life. His dementia was progressing but he was a happy little chap and we did everything to make sure that he continued to enjoy his life here for as long as possible.

My Little Boy fell asleep forever on Wednesday 8th November at around noon. He had recently become more disturbed and I realised that his mental condition had deteriorated and that he no longer recognised those around him. He started to become very frightened especially during the night and cried out as he did not understand where he was and a reassuring cuddle no longer gave him comfort. Reluctantly I rang my vet and she came out to see Arfa. She examined him and it was decided that it would be the kindest thing to let dear Arfa fall asleep quietly at home on his bed. He knew nothing as the needle helped to give him peace from his confusion. He died in my arms surrounded by other dogs who had been his companions here. Life will never be the same again without my little boy. Dear Arfa, I know the angels are looking after you now that you have had to leave our care. I miss you so very much.

UPDATES ON SOME OTHER TAILENDERS.



DUDLEY has been having aquatherapy treatment for his CDRM condition which is sadly becoming worse. However we are endeavouring to ensure that he has as much quality of life as possible despite his limited mobility. He is such a great chap and life without him is unthinkable though we must of course put his welfare first. He likes his trips out in the car whenever anyone goes to the vet and goes out in his cart for a daily short walk along the footpath.

BLUEBELL was very poorly in mid December and had to stay at the vet hospital on a drip. I feared the worst as she is such an old girl. However she made an excellent recovery and recently went for a scale and polish without any problems. She is eating well and sleeps like a log. She still goes out for two walks each day which she really enjoys.

CHARLIE has had all sorts of problems recently. He had a swollen toe which needed the application of a poultice. He then had Uveitis in his eye which fortunately responded well to treatment. He then had a bout of tummy upset which was affecting a number of dogs throughout this area. However he is now fit and well and full of life. He bounces around first thing in the morning in anticipation of his walk on the beach with Gloria, Poppy and Daisy May.

TWEENIE is so much better since having her anal glands removed. She is eating well and is as feisty as ever despite the fact that she is in her sixteenth year. She still shouts loudly if she does not know where I am and sticks her legs into my back during the night much to my discomfort!

BEN is now a happy little chap – totally different from the sad thin disturbed lad who arrived here last September. He is totally devoted to me and sleeps next to me whenever I am working on the computer. He found it very difficult to settle at first – probably due to his many health problems. Now they are all sorted (apart from the kidney failure), he is quite content and fits in well with the other dogs.

BARNIE RUBBLE is amazing! He has such a bad heart, digestive problems, laryngeal paralysis etc but in spite of all this he is such a happy, bouncy lad and enjoys his life to the full. His legs are now very wobbly (well he is nearly sixteen) but he does not let a little thing like that prevent him from romping off down the footpath on his walk. He does not go very far but it is enough for him to enjoy himself and then back he comes for a nice bowl full of his favourite food (with his tablets and herbal powders carefully hidden inside).



GLORIA is doing well after several health scares. She is quite an old girl but loves to race around the beach each morning before the others are up. She has taken to sleeping on the sofa at night now – with her head on a pillow and her nice warm Everton blanket (kindly donated by the TRPD project) wrapped around her. She is a very aristocratic girl now that she has forgotten her sad galgo past. She feels that she is rather superior to the other Tailenders but is also very compassionate when someone is not feeling very well.

POPPY continues to be as mad as a hatter and finds it impossible to trust many people. However she gets so much pleasure from her walks along the beach and dunes. She takes a daily bath in the Crydda – a stream which flows across the beach and is quite deep enough for her to submerge herself and cool off, after chasing the rabbits back to their burrows. She is obsessed with tennis balls and will dig for ages in the sand if she thinks one is buried somewhere.

DAISY MAY is slowly improving and will actually allow people to get quite close to her now. She still uses the Magnatherapy crate as a safe bolthole if something frightens her, but she is getting a lot braver than she was last year.

THANK YOU

Tailends would like to thank everyone who has helped us by supporting our work with these elderly dogs. We would particularly like to thank:-

Judy Zatonski without whose tremendous efforts we would be struggling to give our dogs the care they need; Mandy from Northants Greyhound Rescue who is a constant friend to us; Denise from Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare who has helped us with massive support throughout the years; Viv Aylward who has worked so hard to raise much-needed funds for us, Alison Hume, our vet and staff at Mullacott Veterinary Hospital, AM/PM stationers, Sylvia from TLC, Top & Tails in Braunton, Chris Mason and Canine Friends, Ruth Jones, Jan McAllan, Dolly Frankland, Freda Neal, Pat Powell, Lesley Phillips, Jenny Stew, Suzie Scott, Catherine Kirkby, Joy Adams-Voigt, David & Jean Barnett, Sally Slater and mum Jo Gray, Maria Pether, Anne Mears and Sighthounds-on-Line and the TRPD project, Animals' Voice, Tricia Bristow, Ann Abrams, Elaine Jarvis, Delia Goldie, Lorraine and Chere, Avril & Jim Roberts, Yvonne Autie, Angela Brien, Lorna Winter, Heidi & Carly Soder, Frank Brown, Ondre Buxton, Gloria Szilagyi and everyone else who has helped or donated in any way by sponsoring a dog, sending food, treats or duvet covers, coats for the dogs, unwanted medicines or first aid items, purchasing something from our merchandise list, taking a collecting box or making a donation. I am very grateful to you all and please forgive me if I have failed to mention anyone.

One very big thank you must go to Dave Lee who has set up and run the Tailends Website for us this year. It is a very popular site and helps us to spread the word about the plight of greyhounds and bring in much needed support for our oldies. We are also able to put out appeals for urgent items or help needed.

HOW YOU CAN HELP TAILENDS.

- Donations – however small – are always very much appreciated.
- Unwanted First Aid & Veterinary Supplies. (To be administered under supervision of our vet.)
- Could you hold a coffee morning or small event to raise funds?
- Sponsorship of one of our Dogs – only £15 per year. (Ring, email (tailends@atlanticbreeze.co.uk) or see the website www.tailends.co.uk for latest details of the dogs who are hoping to be chosen as your sponsor dog.)
- Purchase some of our beautiful Greeting Cards, T shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweat Shirts, Greyhound books, Car Stickers etc.) Email or ring for details.
- Toweling coats which can be soaked in cold water for use in warm weather. (Suitable for greyhounds).
- Could you take one of our collecting boxes for a local shop or office or hold a fund raising event for Tailends?
- Unused second class postage stamps, DL self-seal envelopes, pens, copier paper, note pads etc.
- Dog sitting, dog walking, grooming, massaging etc – if you live near enough.
- Chip Bark always needed for the two exercise areas.

I cannot tell you how appreciative we are for the wonderful support which we have received from some very kind people. It is a constant struggle to meet our ever increasing costs for veterinary treatment, food and medications. Money donated to Tailends does not sit in a bank account but is put into use immediately. Sometimes I think Tailends has a guardian angel, as just when things look serious and the account is very low, some kind soul (often dear Viv) holds a coffee morning or arranges a fund raising event, and our vet bill gets paid. Ruth Jones also gives us such wonderful support and we are extremely grateful to her. Caring for elderly dogs is expensive but I firmly believe that these dogs should have whatever treatment they require to give them some quality retirement after years of neglect. Thankfully there are some compassionate people who believe in what we are trying to do. This is also such a morale booster when I have to face the inevitable farewells or confront the horrors which humans inflict on these creatures.

I produce annual accounts (at the end of March) and I am happy to send a copy to anyone who is interested.

We send our love and good wishes for happy summer days to you and your companion animals. Please support the raffle if you can and don't forget to return the Stubbs before 2nd June. Without your help I could not continue to help so many sad old hounds to find some joy in their final months.

The dogs will all be busy soon writing their summer cards to each of their sponsor friends to let them know what they have been up to during the last few months.

With Very Best Wishes,

Angela