

just before Easter. He was not very well at first and needed to be hospitalised for a few days but is now fine and fit as a fiddle. OK he does have an enlarged heart and wobbly back legs and the weirdest front foot you have ever seen. It sticks out at right angles like a flipper. Apparently he lost a toe and was raced before the foot had

healed properly so the tendons were permanently damaged. However he is such a character!

Barnie Rubble is so desperate to do the right thing and is such a good boy. He is 14 years old but tries to act like a three year old. This is not unusual, as so many of these dogs have had no joy in their younger days.

Britain has a serious problem of dog overpopulation. Every day in this land of so called 'animal lovers' approximately 1,000 healthy, good-natured dogs are put to sleep – simply because there are not enough homes for them!

Why Greyhounds?

Throughout the British Isles there are Rescues trying to address this problem by rescuing and rehoming unwanted dogs. Nearly every Rescue Centre has greyhounds looking for homes, in addition to the usual assortment of German Shepherds, terriers, collies, cross-breeds etc. It is often the case that the greyhounds remain in the kennels for longer than many of the other dogs. The public perception of this breed is usually the reason they are not chosen.

Many people have totally erroneous ideas about the greyhound as a companion animal. Greyhounds do not need the hours of strenuous exercise that so many people think they require. In fact they are the couch potatoes of the dog world and most

greyhounds are perfectly happy with a couple of 20-minute walks daily. Greyhounds can normally be left for reasonable periods of time to indulge in their favourite pastime of sofa snoozing. They are also very adaptable, gentle and sedate creatures and love home comforts. They are ideal companions for young families or elderly people.

Greyhounds can sometimes learn to live perfectly happily with other animals including cats and even rabbits. People are usually astonished at how easy greyhounds are to have in the home and many of those who adopt a greyhound return to take another and then become totally addicted to this wonderful breed.

Greyhounds are bred in large numbers (both in Ireland and in this country) for the racing industry. It has been estimated that each year around 10,000 greyhounds retire from the