

September 2026



Home Run Hounds Newsletter

Edition No. 3



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Summer success at HRH!

As summer begins to make way for autumn, we hope you enjoy our latest newsletter.

In this edition you'll find a round-up of the many events we have attended throughout the summer as well as some amazing fundraising achievements by our supporters for HRH and our hounds.

There's lots of news from our HRH branches, upcoming events and, of course, some lovely stories from our dogs and their humans. We'll be taking a closer look at "spook" dogs and sharing some advice to help prepare your hound for the fireworks season.

So for those of you who attended, donated, walked or jumped out of aeroplanes, you have our heartfelt thanks and to our volunteers who attended, helped, lifted and carried, we couldn't do it without you.

So, put the kettle on, find a comfy spot – preferably snuggled up with your hound(s) – and enjoy the September edition!

One Year of Home Run Hounds North West!

We'd like to start with a huge **thank you**. On 1 August, we celebrated our first anniversary – and what a year it has been! In just 12 months, we've helped 123 greyhounds find loving homes, something we simply couldn't have achieved without our wonderful volunteers and supporters.

Our volunteers give their time freely, often alongside busy day jobs, to make sure our kennel kids are cared for and loved while they wait for their forever families. Whether caring for our hounds, helping at events, supporting potential adopters or working behind the scenes, every contribution makes a difference.



We'd also like to thank everyone who has adopted from us. It's a privilege to help you find your perfect companion and welcome you into the HRH community. We love seeing our former kennel hounds enjoying their new lives – and their well-earned forever sofas!

100 FOSTER HOUNDS

Congratulations to our foster carers, Steph and Ade Boswell, who have just reached an impressive milestone: fostering their 100th greyhound for Home Run Hounds from February 2024 – July 2026 and the total continues to rise as they welcome more dogs into their home.



Steph and Ade are such a vital part of the HRH family. They open their home to our hounds every single weekend—and often for much longer—helping these dogs transition from kennel life to a home environment. Their work is invaluable; by assessing temperaments and personalities in a home setting, they ensure we can make the perfect match for every dog.

They are also great ambassadors for the breed and our charity! Simply by being out and about, they help our hounds find their forever homes. A great recent example is Kestrel, who met his wonderful new family while out on a walk with Steph and Ade. That's the power of fostering!

We cannot thank Steph and Ade enough for their dedication, love, and support. We feel so lucky to have you as part of HRH.

Thank you for everything you do—not just for the 100th, but for every single hound you've helped along the way!

Introducing our HRH Events Trailer

Many of our volunteers who attend our events will know how time-consuming and physically difficult it is to put up and dismantle our gazebos and paraphernalia before and after events.

Step forward our wonderful friend and supporter **David Lankshear** who in **memory of his beloved wife Kath and Greyhound Zita** has funded our new Events Trailer.

David now has Buddy, one of our shy hounds, and has supported us in so many ways over the years.



It is a great asset to us, looking fabulous with all the signwriting (thank you volunteer **Simon Yeates** who helped to organise and sort) providing a cool area with electric fans for both the hounds and volunteers, as well as seating for visitors, storage and the all-important tea and coffee making facilities. A year-round shelter from the British weather guaranteed!

We are delighted with this new asset. It will be available to all our Branches, so look out for it at an event near you.....we think it will be difficult to miss!

David, thank you so much for your generosity....on behalf of Claire, Tracey and all at Home Run Hounds.



Flying High



Another thank you - this time from our Romford branch. On 8 August, our fearless volunteer Georgia completed her skydive raising more than £1,700. Thank you to all who donated and of course to Georgia herself, without whom none of this would have happened.



Summer Events Round Up

Aero Golf Day

Our thanks go to the organisers and participants of the **Aero Golf Day**, which raised an impressive **£4,000!**

Special thanks to all the sponsors, whose generosity supports our work finding loving homes for retired racing greyhounds.

The weather was fantastic and a great day of golf was enjoyed by many. This is the **second year** that Aero have hosted this fundraiser for us, this time increasing last year's total of £3,000 by a further £1,000.

We cannot thank you all enough for your support and your kindness.



Freddy's 100km Challenge



At just seven years old, Freddy has taken on an incredible challenge for Home Run Hounds – walking 100km during August to raise money for our hounds.

Freddy first started volunteering at the kennels after struggling with his confidence. According to his mum, Jen, helping the greyhounds quickly became his favourite thing to do. He now visits in all weathers, gets thoroughly stuck into kennel life and even runs a fundraising stall at our monthly walks.

Wanting to do a “big one to raise big money”, Freddy decided to walk 100km during August. He originally set himself a fundraising target of £2,000 – but has absolutely smashed it, raising more than £5,000!

His final walk takes place at Himley Hall on 31 August, when plenty of two- and four-legged supporters will be there to cheer him over the finish line.

For one of HRH's youngest volunteers, this has been a remarkable achievement – and we couldn't be prouder of him.

We'll bring you Freddy's full story, and that all-important final fundraising total, in our next newsletter.

Freddy, from everyone at HRH – you are a superstar!

Summer Events Round Up

West End Woofs

On Saturday 15 August, a team of volunteers from three of our branches had an early start to their day, as they headed to London with nine of our greyhounds.

The event was hosted by Dame Elaine Paige and Bernadette Peters at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden. It was the fourth annual live event in London to help provide homes to dogs and cats. West End Woofs first started during the pandemic in 2020, and Home Run Hounds have attended every single one!

All of the hounds got to make their very own West End debuts as they appeared on stage with the cast of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Whilst on stage, their individual profiles were read out, and they all behaved impeccably, showing everyone just how utterly perfect they are.



Throughout the day, the hounds and volunteers enjoyed the cool shade of the gazebo, where people stopped by to say hello, give the hounds some much-deserved fuss and attention, and to generally chat about what fantastic pets greyhounds really are.

During the afternoon, our hounds and volunteers walked through Covent Garden, where again they were stopped by people in their droves who wanted to meet the dogs. They all took a well-deserved rest to enjoy a Costa break, where our greyhounds had time to lie down and relish some tasty doggy treats.

Our homeless hounds clearly were the stars of the day, and we thank our volunteers, without whom this sort of event would not be possible.



Celebrating in Style

Home Run Hounds North West marked their first anniversary with a special show at Winnick Leisure Centre on Sunday 16 August, raising **£2,680**.

Even better, four greyhounds went to their forever homes, and by the following Monday we had received five more enquiries from prospective families interested in meeting our hounds.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, adopted, donated, attended an event or supported HRH over the past year.

Here's to another year of finding forever sofas!



Remember, Remember...

Preparing for Bonfire Night & beyond

Bonfire Night, Diwali celebrations and New Year's Eve may feel a way off as yet, but careful preparation can help your hound cope better with the autumn and winter firework season.

Plan Ahead: Know when local displays take place, talk to neighbours if they are letting off fireworks in their gardens, walk earlier in the day with dogs on-lead to prevent bolting. Ensure microchip details are up to date. Firework noise apps may help desensitise your dog to the bangs if started early. Remember fireworks have a smell as well as a sound.

Create a Safe Environment: When frightened your dog may try to flee. Make sure doors, windows and garden gates are firmly closed. Draw curtains to muffle sounds and block flashes. Keep lights on. Let your dog choose a safe hiding spot, which may be odd places like in the shower tray, under the stairs, or pressed into an alcove. Crates covered in a dark blanket or sheet can create a safe den.

Mask the Noise: Turn up the volume on the TV to mask the fireworks. Some radio stations play soothing music but others find reggae with its strong beat helps. Thankfully you can find Bob Marley's greatest hits compilations on YouTube for free.

Provide Comfort Aids: Use anxiety wraps (like Thundershirts) for gentle pressure. Dogs lick and chew to self-soothe so lickymats smeared with xylitol-free peanut butter or pâté may help or long-lasting chews. There are several thick "snoods" online which can help muffle the noise if your dog will wear them.

Consult Your Vet: Talk to your vet about supplements like Calmex or Zylkene, or use of pheromone diffusers, herbal aids like Valerian or Bach's rescue remedy. In extreme cases, prescription medications may be needed. Start well before firework night to see what works best for your dog.

Stay Present: It may mean missing the festivities if you are a firework fan but having a trusted person will help them relax. They can panic if left alone. Or take turns with family members. Stay calm and allow your hound to seek reassurance from you if they want it.

Manage Accidents: Stress can cause indoor "accidents." It's not their fault so be patient, and use puppy pads or doggy nappies if necessary.

Ever Wonder About...?

Spooks: Why Are Some Greyhounds So Fearful?

Most greyhounds are wonderfully laid-back, low-maintenance dogs. But occasionally, we meet a greyhound who is much more fearful than simply being nervous or shy.

These dogs are sometimes known as "spooks", a term used to describe greyhounds with an extreme fear response to unfamiliar people, places and experiences.

No-one really knows the reason why they are so fearful - their fear is way beyond just being nervous, shy or simply wary of all that is unfamiliar in their new life after racing.

It can be wrongly assumed that they have been mistreated somehow but in reality it's likely to be a genetic predisposition, as often whole litters can be spooks.



From Fear To Trust

Home Run Hounds never gives up on a dog. We believe that there is a home out there for every dog, and it's our job to not only find it, but to work with foster carers/adopters over the lifetime of that dog to overcome any issues that arise.

There is nothing more rewarding than winning over the trust of a spook dog. Once they form a deep bond with their trusted human, they can blossom into a fiercely loyal and affectionate companion.

Helping a spook dog can be a long road, and, depending on the level of fear, can be challenging. They may not ever be like other dogs but can still lead happy lives.

Finding The Right Home

Spooks find everyone they don't know intimately, and everything new they experience, incredibly scary. It's heartbreaking to see and it poses real challenges in trying to find homes for them.



They can behave totally normally with those they know at kennels and can even be successful racers as they understand the routine and feel safe, but they are terrified when potential adopters come to meet them.

We have two spook dogs in our care right now! Elvis and Tilly who need special adopters. Please get in touch if you can help. Our third spook dog, Bella has now been adopted by her foster carer.

Max's Story

The Right Home and Learning To Trust - a happy ending

When Max arrived with his foster mum, Heather, he had spent around four years in kennels and was completely shut down. He seemed unsure of even the simplest things. He didn't know his name, respond to everyday requests or understand what was expected of him. Heather knew that Max would need time, patience and plenty of reassurance.

Slowly, Max began to come out of his shell.

Heather took him on trips to help him experience the world beyond the kennel environment. He encountered cyclists, tractors, trains, other dogs and plenty of new sights and sounds.



One of his greatest discoveries was the sea. Initially wary, with encouragement from Heather's greyhound Ada, he soon gained the confidence to follow her along the water's edge.

Ada also helped Max discover the joy of playing with toys and simply being a dog. Gradually, Max's personality began to emerge.

After six weeks of patience, love and gentle encouragement, Max was ready for his forever home. Ruth saw his story and came to meet him. She immediately understood his needs and fell in love with him.

Today, Max is a completely different greyhound – happy, confident and full of life. Heather still receives updates from Ruth and recently visited Max in his new home.

Max's transformation shows just how much patience, love and the right foster home can achieve.

New in the Home Run Hounds Shop!

As always, there is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes at Home Run Hounds. Over the last few months, we have been developing a new range of merchandise for hounds and humans alike.

Firstly, we'd like to welcome "Hammy" to the HRH family. Hammy is our brand new snuggle toy for greyhounds, human folk, and all other lovable dog breeds... in fact, for anyone who loves some soft plushie comfort.



We also have our new mini hound soft toys. Introducing Hamilton, Happy, Finn and Dora. These adorable hounds are a lovely addition to any household. Each purchase at £5 ensures a homeless kennel hound enjoys a nutritious meal... Do you have space for one of these "homeless" hounds in your life? All are available from our shop: [Home Run Hounds Shop](#)

Thank You Nature's Menu!

From Home Run Hounds Eastern Counties:

We're incredibly grateful to Nature's Menu for their continued and generous support of our charity.

Our volunteer Frances worked with Nature's Menu, alongside local cat and wildlife charities, to coordinate the collection of seven pallets of dog food and treats and ten pallets of cat food. Frances was joined by a team of fellow HRH volunteers, who helped with the collection, transport and all-important job of getting everything safely unloaded and stored.

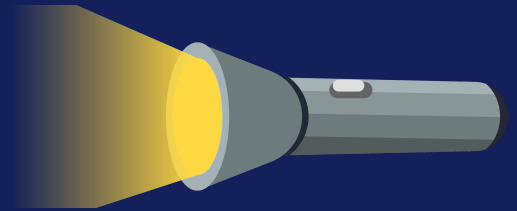
Nature's Menu's donation will help keep our Eastern Counties hounds well fed throughout the autumn and winter months. We're also delighted to be able to share some of this generosity with our friends at HRH Romford, as well as other small, independent rehoming centres in our local area.

As a volunteer-run charity, we know just how much donations like this can mean.

Thank you to Nature's Menu for helping us to help not only our own hounds, but others in need across our rescue community.



Sponsor Spotlight - ADA



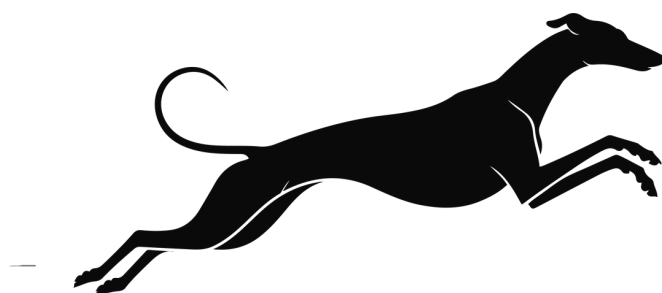
Say hello to Ada, one of our new sponsor dogs.

You may know that HRH has a sponsorship scheme for dogs who are a little harder to home - they may be older or need an extra bit of care. They are looked after by our volunteer foster parents who give them the extra support they need, or until a forever home is found. Sadly, we recently said goodbye to two of our sponsor hounds, Toby and Ruby.



Ada has joined our sponsor hounds following a medical episode where she collapsed and lost all feeling in her paws and legs. After a stay in a veterinary hospital, we are pleased to say that Ada is now able to walk again, although she still needs regular vet checks and extra special care from her foster parents Claire and Gavin.

Would you like to sponsor one of our hounds (or kennels)...sponsorship starts from as little as £5 per month (more if you wish). More details can be found on our website [Sponsor a Greyhound | Home Run Hounds](#)



Hound In Focus: Genie



Name: GENIE (STOPHERS GENIE)

Age: DOB March 2020

Sex: Female

Colour: Black and white

HRH Branch: Eastern Counties (Lakenheath)

Children: Adult-only home

Vaccinated: Yes

Gets on with other dogs: Yes

Pet friendly: Unknown



Personality: Sweet natured, gentle and calm

Ideal home: A quiet, rural home where she can have fuss and cuddles but also have her own space



Could you be the happy ending she's been waiting for?

Gentle Soul Seeking a Peaceful Home

Genie is a beautiful 6-year-old girl with so much love to give. She is happy, friendly and full of fun. Genie enjoys an active life but is looking for a home where she can truly relax and flourish.

Genie is looking for patient owners who can give her the time and space she needs to settle in. With patience and understanding, she'll grow into a loyal and loving companion.



Great Global Greyhound Walk 2026





Walk Date: Sunday 27th September 2026

**In 2025,
16,562 sighthounds,
walked 'together'
in 659 walks.
across 47 countries!**

Theme: Mythical Mutts

**You must register, to
be counted on the day**

All sighthounds welcome!

Let's show the world that sighthounds make great pets!

Great Global Greyhound Walk

The Great Global Greyhound Walk is an annual worldwide dog-walking event that brings together sighthounds and their owners to raise awareness of the breed and show the public just what wonderful pets they make. This year's theme is "Mystical Mutts" - meet at 10:30 for an 11am start. There's no need to pre-register - simply turn up and register on the day so that you can be counted - this really is a case of the "more the merrier".

Home Run Hounds will be at the following walks:

- Beacon Park Lichfield - WS13 6QZ - meet outside the Lakeside Bistro
- Worcester Woods Country Park - WR5 2LG - meet outside the Orchard Cafe
- Himley Hall - DY3 4DF - meet outside the cafe/Ward House
- Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AP - meet at the Park entrance opposite Lark Lane
- Langdon Nature Reserve, Lower Dunton Road Basildon SS16 6EJ (**this walk starts at 10am**)

Our other events are listed on Page 14!

Tail Endings...



Margaret and John sadly lost their sponsor hound, Ballymac Rainbow (Ruby), in May. Ruby had been struggling with pancreatitis and other health problems, and died unexpectedly while being prepared for an ultrasound scan. They had intended to take on another sponsor hound, but following Margaret's own health issues, they weren't sure this would be possible.

Then came Mary.

John had already become fond of Mary during his visits to the kennels, but while the couple were away on holiday, she went on foster-to-adopt. On 31 July, Margaret and John arrived at the kennels intending to foster Flo, only to discover that Mary was being returned because the resident dog had struggled to accept her. Given the choice between Flo and Mary, they chose Mary.



Initially frightened and unsure, Mary spent her first couple of hours leaning against Margaret for reassurance. Once home, however, she explored the garden, emptied the toy box and gradually began to relax.



Within days, Mary was accompanying Margaret and John on outings. During a visit to a café near Buxton, her calm behaviour attracted the attention of other customers, giving John the opportunity to explain how HRH volunteers help prepare greyhounds for life after racing through walks, outings, events and weekend fostering.

Just a week after arriving, the decision was made. Mary was officially adopted on 7 August. Margaret and John describe her as lively, mischievous and already very much part of the family.

Their thanks go to everyone at HRH who helped Mary during her time in kennels.



How You Can Help



Join the team! Become a volunteer

There are many ways in which you can help us by volunteering for as little or as much time as you are able, at one or more of our six branches in Wombourne, Hagley and Lichfield in the West Midlands, Lakenheath in Suffolk, Romford in Essex and Rixton near Warrington.

If you can help us, please get in touch by scanning the QR code or following [this link](#) to send us a message.



Become a foster carer

Most of the greyhounds in our care have never been in a house before. There's so much to learn about being a pet rather than a supreme athlete! There may be some who are struggling in kennels especially if they had been adopted and returned, or they may have a medical need that is better dealt with in a home environment.

If you are interested in becoming a fosterer, read through our FAQs [here](#) or by scanning the QR code and then get in touch using [this link](#).



Make a donation

Home Run Hounds is run solely by volunteers and fundraising, so we always appreciate any donation - monetary or otherwise. If you are interested in making a donation, please click [this link](#) or scan the QR code to find out how you can help.



Important Upcoming Dates or Events

- Himley Hall Dog Show - Sunday 20 September, 11am - 3pm
- Watford Gap Kennels Open Day & Dog Show - Saturday 26 September, 11am - 2pm
- Southwell Ploughing Match and Show: Saturday 26 September 2026, 8am - 5pm, Farnsfield, NG22 8HW
- Navigation Trust Bonded Warehouse Open Weekend, Saturday 17 October 2026, 10am - 5pm, Canal Street Stourbridge DY8 4LU



About Us

We professionally home ex-racing greyhounds across the UK and abroad
Registered Charity No. 1209071

Contact Us

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