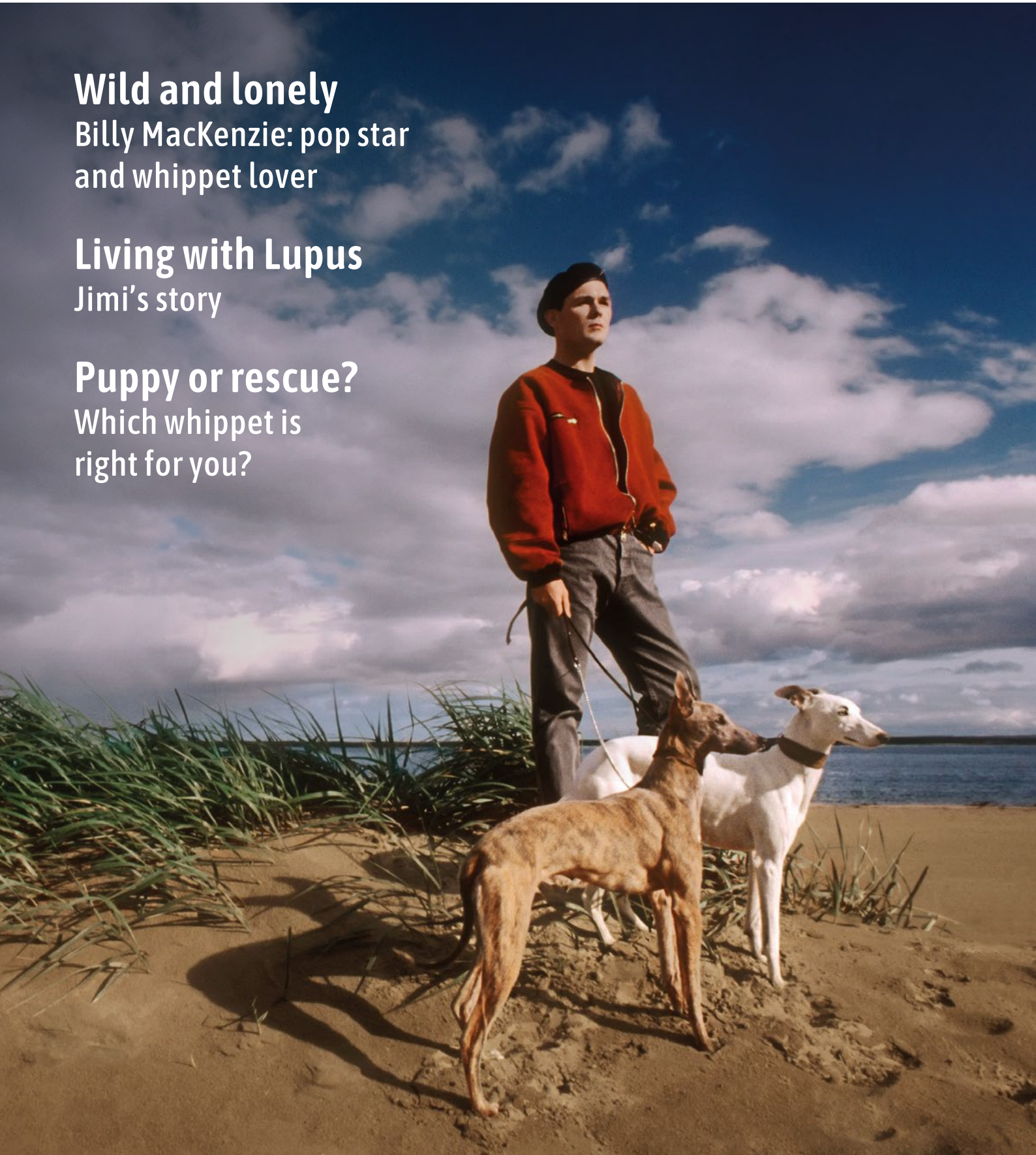
Friends of JR Whippet Rescue

NEWSLETTER

No. 105

Autumn / Winter 2026



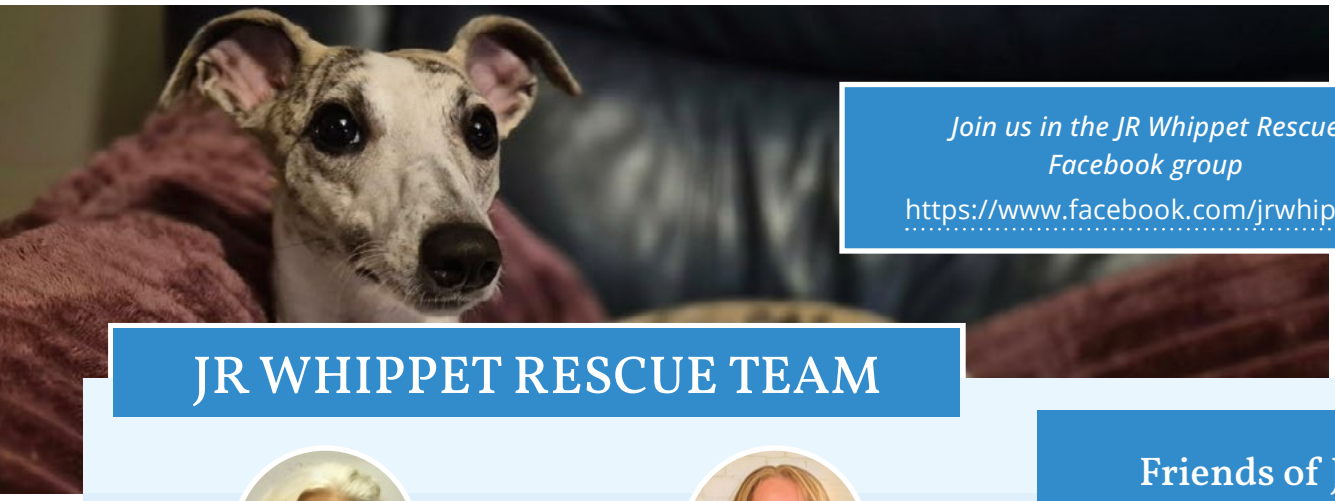
Wild and lonely
Billy MacKenzie: pop star and whippet lover

Living with Lupus
Jimi's story

Puppy or rescue?
Which whippet is right for you?

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Join us in the JR Whippet Rescue Facebook group

https://www.facebook.com/jrwhippetrescue

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Friends of JR Whippet Rescue Suggested Annual Donation

Seniors (over 60-covers two)	£5.00
Individual	£10.00
Family/Joint	£15.00
Overseas (Sterling Cheque from UK bank only)	£15.00
10 Years (individual)	£80.00
10 Years (joint/family)	£100.00
10 Years (overseas- single)	£100.00

Cover photo of Billy MacKenzie by Richard Haughton

Chair of Trustees' Report


Pop and her winner's rosette

J R Whippet Rescue CIO continues to take in more and more whippets and the team are incredibly busy but, as always, remain focused, calm and totally professional and I am so proud of what they achieve every day, writes Kate Bent.

The time has come for me to finally acquiesce to quite substantial pressure to write a piece for the newsletter about me so am now letting you know a little more about me, whippets and how I became Chair of Trustees.

I hail from the North Cotswolds and grew up on the family farm not far from Chipping Campden, surrounded by other farms which were farmed by other families. Dogs and ponies were always my first loves - working collies who let me dress them up and who I spent hours with in their kennels, and naughty Welsh mountain ponies that were bought straight off the hills and then, with the help of a felt saddle and a rope halter, I would ride them. I spent far more time on the ground than on top of the ponies I seem to remember. Horses continued to be my 'thing' with lots of Pony Club and team chasing until I left education and landed my first full-time job, and realised I just didn't have time to do them justice.

My first job was designing kitchens – not anything I had aspired to but I was paid and it was close to home. I actually thoroughly enjoyed the role but realised that it didn't have much longevity so applied for a trainee manager with Sainsburys Supermarkets. I worked hard, played hard, moved around the UK when requested and was promoted into new challenges, including finance and HR. Whilst working for Sainsburys I married Nick, a farmer's son who worked for the National Farmers Union, and our sons George and Jack came along. I then spent 10 years as HR director at a digital media company which was close to home allowing me to spend more time with my boys.

At that point my youngest son Jack was ten years old. He had developed a love for horses too and was begging me to buy a pony. I brokered a deal with him that if he spent a year riding at a local livery yard and proved to me that he could work hard and put the horses first, I would think about buying one. Jack was good to his word and a tricky pony called Bruce, who had not only stolen his heart but taught him a lot, became ours. Jack was obsessed and over the next four years enjoyed competing at British Eventing. He made so many friends, including some of the professional riders who were all so supportive of him. I meanwhile coaxed him through every dressage test, which neither Bruce or Jack thought was much fun, nervously watched the show jumping rounds as Bruce was always very fizzy and knew cross country was next. Once the boys had left the start box on the cross country track I knew they were both happy but also knew a steward would find me with the regular question of 'is your son in control of that horse?'. My answer was always 'yes, they just love to gallop'. What I actually knew was that one of the pros would have suggested a bet to see who could get the most time faults for going too fast.

I was back in the saddle at that time, after a hiatus of 20 years and thought it might be a good idea if I bought myself a horse too. I was imagining lovely long hacks around our wonderful countryside with my son and our whippet (I will come back to whippets later) but that wasn't what happened in reality. I had become quite nervous as once onboard Nala, my lovely sports horse, the ground seemed to be a long way down. So the professional rider who coached Jack, took on the ride. Instead of standing nervously in a field watching a horse and rider, I was now watching two!

Lots of great times, but after Jack moved onto a much larger horse and discovered girls, his commitment dwindled so he stopped riding. I meanwhile, have continued to own horses but stopped riding them more than 10 years ago. I bought into a syndicate in 2021, for a very green Irish Sports Horse called Lucky Jo Jo, or Joey to us. He is ridden under the New Zealand flag as his professional rider is from New Zealand. Joey was purchased with a plan in mind to reach Novice level and then be sold on, but that plan failed miserably for all the right reasons. Nick, his rider, believed in him and has worked very hard, with help from fantastic people including Sir Mark Todd and Dickie Waygood. Joey is off to Pau in France at the end of October, to compete in his first 5* event.

While sitting down for Sunday lunch in late March 2014 my eldest son George started talking about us getting a dog. An hour later it seemed that everyone thought it would be a good idea. I was given the task of deciding which breed would be best considering where we lived, how we lived and, of course, the horses. I did my research, looked at the litters available on the KC website and wanting to strike while the iron was hot, rang a whippet breeder with a litter on the ground not far away, near Malvern. The very next day I went to meet the breeders and more importantly to meet the whippet puppy. I was given a thorough interrogation by the humans and rather a lot of kisses from the whippet. Lynn and Dave Hunter of Ryemeadows Whippets are now very dear friends, and a year later I bought another whippet puppy from them.

Bluebell and Tansy, or Blue and Tan as they are known, were the beginning of my whippet life and the huge amount of joy they continue to bring to all of us.



Lucky Jo Jo

One Saturday afternoon in 2016 Dave rang me to ask if I was doing anything the next day. I said no, I was free, he then gave me a postcode and some sketchy directions and said to meet him and Lynn in a field at 08.30 and to bring Tan. I duly arrived, lots of cars, lots of people and lots and lots of whippets. Dave took charge of Tan, he put a knitted collar around her neck and then took her onto the field where there was some chopped up plastic bags attached to a cord, a quad bike doing something or other, a man standing on a platform and another man hiding in a sort of a start box. Tan was taken into the start box and was put in a weird leather contraption, coupled with another whippet and when I heard an engine start up the plastic bags moved, and the whippets burst out of the start box



Blue (in red) and Tan

and chased the bags around a course. Tan was then brought back to me and Dave said to walk her off.

Thankfully I could translate that from horsey language. Tan repeated the bursting out of the start box thing two more times and then the whatever it was seemed to have finished. People gathered together and someone started to speak and then call out placings, then Tan's proper name was called out - Rymeadows Zara - and announced as the Puppy Stake winner. This was the start of something that has become a huge part of my life. Dave then explained everything to me, who was doing what, what things meant and how I had better join Sporting Whippet Club as Tan was obviously quite good.

That Sunday was the beginning of a fabulous career in lure coursing for Tan. Blue however was a different story, she loved to run but not to follow a course as she much preferred freestyle. The first time I ran the girls at British Sighthound Field Association was also the first time I met Lilah Wainman. She explained that Blue was from her Laguna line and she was just too clever and too beautiful to follow plastic. Blue was obviously reading the field and anticipating every move of the lure, she continued to free-style for as long as she wanted.

Tan's career was somewhat different. She won consistently at SWC, BSFA and UK Sighthound Sport and was the Top Standard Bitch at the SWC 10-year anniversary awards, and in the midst of achieving all of this she also whelped a beautiful litter of pups.

Tan's litter arrived on 09.03.19, well six pups did but one was born early on 10.03.19. That gorgeous little boy was nicknamed Sunday, and Sunday remains

as his call name to this day. I am still in touch with all the litter and see five of them regularly and adore that they all seem to still love me very much and cover me with slobbery kisses. Our keeper was Snap, she is a delight - calm, gentle, patient (nothing like her mother) and has also been very successful on the lure coursing field along with her siblings Waves, Stan and Fleet. The litter's sire was Benuga Sunnyhillboy, aka Wally, who is owned by George Sell, the editor of the newsletter and a great supporter of JRWR.



Tan (in red jacket)

Snap and her sister Waves, along with Stan and Fleet all enjoyed fantastic results at SWC and UKSS to the point that my friend Sarah who co-owned Waves with me decided that we should have another litter! Another seven gorgeous pups were born in late February 2025 - three of those in their first year of competition have been fantastic. I brought home our latest addition to the family, a little girl called Pop, who is definitely the wildest thing I have bred, including my two boys. She settled right in and I am very proud and grateful for my three generations of whippet – granny, daughter and granddaughter who are a very tight pack. Sadly, we lost Blue a couple of months ago, the girls were very upset initially but have now settled into their new normal.

I have always loved a committee it seems! I started off back in the last century being an avid young farmer in the Moreton in Marsh Club and was secretary, and a few years later was county chairman of Gloucestershire Young Farmers. After thinking long and hard I have realised that I was also on parent/teacher committees in three of the boys' schools and always the treasurer. Lilah approached me at a BSFA meet back in 2021 and asked if I would like to be a Trustee for JRWR. I was a little taken aback and asked why me. Her response was that JR needed young blood (I liked the young part very much) and business knowledge.

I Attended my first AGM in August 2021 and simply listened, continued to learn how things were done and who by, along with studying the The Roles of a Charity Trustee which is published by the Charity Commission. 2022's AGM came around and Lilah announced that she felt it was time for her to retire, the Trustees accepted her decision and also asked if she would accept the role of Patron, and we were very happy that she did. I stepped in as temporary Chair as no other Trustee wanted to take it on, but at 2023's AGM it was obvious that I would actually be taking on the role. The rest, as they say, is history.



Snap (in red jacket)

We have fully modernised to ensure we are legally compliant, and are now entirely able to use technology wherever possible. Support is coming from every facet of the whippet world - showing, lure coursing, racing, agility, flyball and of course those who have a whippet simply as they are the best pets in the world! Our next big challenge is fund raising, as it is for every charity, and we are in the process of deciding what we need to do, and how we do it.

Kate Bent, Chair of Trustees
chairoftrustees@whippetrescue.org.uk



Pop

The very first JR Whippet Rescue Newsletter

Here is a blast from the past which some readers may remember - the first JR newsletter from 30 years ago.

JR WHIPPET RESCUE

NEWSLETTER

No. 1 January 1986

EDITORIAL

The response to our invitation for people to join the Friends of the JR Whippet Rescue has been amazing, and membership now stands at 250. I am sure that this figure will be a lot higher after Crufts. I hope that by now everyone has received their badge and membership card if not please contact me as we have already had reports of the post causing problems.

We have formed the Friends for two main reasons. Firstly to give us a fairly steady, guaranteed income, to help meet continuous expenses which must be met if we are to operate successfully. Secondly to reflect the views and interests of people who are not just whippet owners, but who care for the breed as a whole from the finest show champion to the scruffiest refugee from Battersea Dogs Home. This we hope to do by providing regular news of our activities and an opportunity for people to ask questions and for us to answer criticisms. Letters from those amongst you who have rescued whippets are very welcome, plus ideas for fund raising, suggestions for items you would like to see sold on the stalls or anything which might be of general interest.

This very modest newsletter will be the first of many. At present we are still gauging postage and printing costs, as well as general response but hopefully it will eventually expand to the size of a small magazine. But for the time being it is limited here to this introductory editorial, a history of the Rescue, and the story of Samantha, a little whippet who we found a home for after she had been dumped at Battersea.

Judith Farrington

A HISTORY OF THE JR WHIPPET RESCUE

The Rescue was founded in 1971 by Mrs Joanna Russell. Realising that there were many whippets who were abandoned or homeless for various reasons, she mentioned the need for re-homing in her Dog World breed notes, donations came in to help her with this work, and the JR Whippet Rescue became a reality.

In 1976, Joanna handed over responsibility to Mrs Elizabeth Adams. She devoted the rest of her life to the cause, expanding contacts and creating a network of helpers in various parts of the country. She also campaigned for Charitable status for the Rescue, and this was eventually granted in December 1983.

When Elizabeth died in the Spring of 1983, Mrs Llyn Chapman became Honorary Organiser and Miss Joy Fisher Honorary Treasurer. Under their direction the organisation has gone from strength to strength. Llyn's show world contacts, and Joy's racing ones have meant an increased awareness of the need for help for needy whippets, and Elizabeth's words 'Not every whippet is as lucky as your own' have impressed themselves on more and more people. The number of helpers throughout the country has increased, numerous fund raising events are held each year, and the Rescue's stall is represented at most breed shows. In 1984 We had our first stall at Crufts under the kind auspices of The Whippet Club.

Due to its charitable status, the Rescue now has a Patron, Mrs Dorrit McKay, and a Chairman, Mrs Joanna Russell, who has continued to take an active interest in the work since 1976. There are eight trustees: Mrs Margaret Baker, Mr Brian Hunt, Mr Edward Jones, Mrs Linda Jones, Mrs Joan Palewska, Mrs Joanna Russell,Miss Joy Fisher, Mrs Llyn Chapman

Our objectives are the provision of assistance to Whippets in these categories:

i. Abandoned, lost and unclaimed by owners

ii. Unwanted by owner and threatened with destruction, sale to a dealer or sale/gift to an undesirable home

iii. Ill-treated or neglected, suffering from mental or physical distress and reported as such by an observer (confirmed by a Breed Club Member or other Whippet owner).

iv. Owner has died with no instructions for his/her dogs, or owner is no longer capable of care due to illness, age, matrimonial breakdown &c

Potential homes are approved in one of three ways:

i. Vetted by a Rescue representative

ii. Recommended by a Whippet owner known to the Rescue

iii. Recommended by a Veterinary Surgeon

In spite of its hard working and efficient organisers, the Rescue can only thrive with the help of people willing to give their time voluntarily to help with transporting, fostering, fundraising please let us know if you can help.

' S A M '

Nearly two years ago the Rescue took an aggressive, pathetic little scrap out of Battersea Dogs Home. She now lives near Bicester with her proud owner, Andrew, and his mother, who has kindly written this for us.

'Well, it all started when A.J.wanted a dog. Not that we are short of dogs - I have young 'toys' and toy 'pensioners'. What A.J.wanted was a dog to hurtle around at his pace, which is normally 30mph, and 40mph coming downstairs! A dog who would enjoy the country, walks, must be good natured, like boys, bikes, guns, easy to keep clean, not be too enormous, so I racked my brain and thumbed through my dog book until I hit upon it - a whippet! Just the job, at least it would be able to keep up with him.

I enquired about a young bitch pup; we both decided upon a tiger stripe brindle, I had had two bull terriers years ago and they were tiger brindles. However after a few days, we heard about 'Sam' who was white, with black speckled ears. A.J. decided he would like to meet her, so that was it. We learned that she had been in Battersea, she was all bones, just seemed to be head and legs, her neck was so thin a collar from my Yorkie fitted her. She had a scar all down her off side shoulder, teeth marks in one ear, and she was WILD!

After the lady who brought her had gone, I let her loose in the house and she started to run; she ran up and down stairs, in and out of all the rooms, it seemed to be panic - if the door was shut she made for the windows or tried to jump at the walls. She was so scared and tired, but would not stop the running, so in the end I tied her to one foot of the settee, made her a bed, and fed her. She lay still and slept.

The first three weeks were awful, she leapt at me whenever I was dishing out dog food, she bit all the other dogs - who all ganged up on her and bit her back. If you tried to correct her she would answer back with a growel and a lifted lip, she would threaten by showing her teeth. We kept her on a lead in the garden; one good point was that she was very clean always asking to go out. I tried kindness but in the end I had to get tough. I made a big newspaper roll and kept it handy. Every snap and snarl she got bopped. If she answered back she was bopped again. I always made sure that I had the last word, not her. When she found out we didn't really mean her harm she began to settle down and from the first night she slept on A.J's bed.We had had her about two months when she had her first setback - a bout of gastro-enteritis, but soon recovered. She had her innoculations, and then was taken around the local fields and lanes, she was introduced to sheep, cows, pigs, chickens, geese and is now very used to livestock. The sheep were a worry but luckily near here is a farmer who does not use sheepdogs, so his sheep are very 'bolshie' and actually charge at dogs and butt them. Sam took one look and asked to go home.

She decided to make friends with the other dogs; she was at the bottom of the pecking order, all the little ones putting her firmly in her place. She did not want to listen so I played on her big weakness - she would do anything for food, so I made everything a game. If Sam came when called first time she got a snack, if she did not then the first dog to come to me got it. She soon learned to come running. She tried playing games she ran out of the door into the garden and defied me to catch her so I shut the door and ignored her, within minutes she was back at the door whining as she heard the biscuit box being opened for everyone but her. She was so cunning and slippery I had to literally take her everywhere with me for the first 4-5 months kitchen, toilet, Bedroom, bathroom and just got her used to listening as I talked all the time to her and A.J. took her exercising in the fields - she knows all the countryside around here. Only once did she run off from him and eventually arrived home plastered with mud very frightened - she had panicked at something and now will not let us out of her sight.

She has grown so fast, become so elegant and the wild look has gone from her face. She has running muscles, a lovely curved neck and the scar has disappeared from her shoulder; her bones are hidden under a satiny coat. We have had many battles as it was two weeks before she would let you touch her with a towel and we had arguments about the dog brush - now she comes running to be towelled when wet. But she is full of fun, very loving, welcomes everyone to the house and of course worships A.J.,never letting him out of her sight when he is home, sits and listens for him coming in from work. She has been on a seaside holiday, goes shopping on the bus. We have made 1st December her birthday as she was roughly 4 months old when she came to us. She is now supposed to be an adult but has some very clownish ways. She is a dedicated thief, putting one eye to the door before tiptoeing off to snaffle anything edible. We have to prevent her from joining in with the local fox hounds and she even wanted to join in with some beagling people. I saw her heading at full speed at the open front door carrying a hoe in the middle. She crashed into the two door posts, snapping the hoe in half and landing in a kicking heap on the hall rug - quite shaken up but unharmed.

Well, I christened her The Hooligan when she came here; no one knows where she came from, no one owned her and she was unwanted. We have watched her bloom from an angry frightened bag of bones into a lovely dog, A.J.'s pride and joy. She is very happy here with the toy dogs, budgies, finches, canary and gerbil. Just one of our family - long life and love to you Sam.

Wendy Williams

Registered Charity 326479

THE J.R. WHIPPET RESCUE

Hon Organiser/Joint Hon Sec
Mrs Llyn Chapman

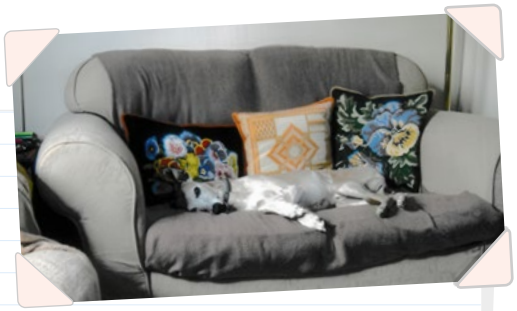
Patron
Mrs DU McKay

Consultants
Mrs D U McKay Mrs J Russell

Hon Treasurer/ Joint Hon Sec
Miss Joy Fisher

Diary of a rehomed whippet Part 3

Frankie is back with another instalment of his adventures



25th August 2025

Had a lovely day today. On a walk near Burford I met three whippets, two blues and a parti. We were so pleased to see each other! They are called Charlie, Norman and Jim, and I hope I meet them again. Also saw several other breeds and I just ignored them. As a very good friend of Mum's once said, 'There are whippets and there are others.'

2nd September 2025

A new walk today. A footpath between two villages which goes across a golf course whatever that is. I was busy having a good sniff when a little white ball came rolling down between my legs. I was just about to pounce on it when Mum pulled me away. I did see a lot of people and I think they were hitting the little white balls with sticks. Seems a very strange game to me.

6th September 2025

On my way home from a walk, we met a lot of people who had been to a party. There were five small humans (children) and they all petted me. I was a bit overwhelmed but was very patient with them, and one of the boys was called Frankie like me.

7th September 2025

Had a bit of a relapse today and lunged and barked at the three other dogs I met, a spaniel and two labradors, and they just ignored me. Perhaps I'm not really that scary!

9th September 2025

At work I now have some good runs off lead on one of the big lawns. I would like to explore more of the grounds off lead and I have very good recall now, but Mum keeps muttering about hares and muntjac. Just let me get at them!

14th September 2025

I was not very pleased today because Mum went to London with Auntie Jane. Shirley from across the road came and let me out into the garden and gave me my tea, then later my pills. I was a little cool at bedtime and decided to sleep in my own bed, but after she put the light out, I waited a while and then crept on her bed. I have forgiven her but I hope she doesn't do it too often!

23rd September 2025

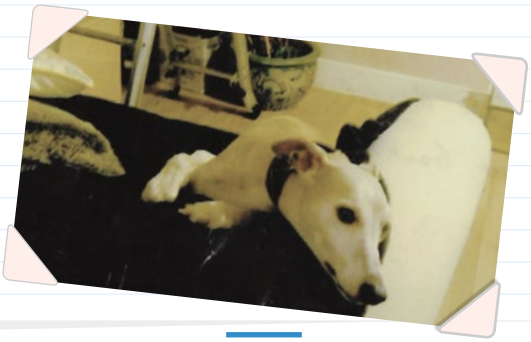
Met two whippets who live in the village – a blue parti boy and a little fawn girl. We formed a mutual admiration society, and it made my day. I have already met another little whippet in the village who is 16 years old. Her owner said 'that I had put a spring in an old lady's step'.

27th September 2025

Had a lovely time at the Whippet Club Open Show where I met lots of my own kind and spent time on the rescue stall with Mum, Rose and Adam. I have to say I was a very good boy. I slept most of the time.

28th September 2025

She's done it again! Off for the day with Auntie Jane to Malvern Autumn Show – it's all about gardening I believe. Another lady called Christine looked after me and took me for two walks and told Mum I had been a very good boy.



5th October 2025

Silly Mum – when we went for a walk I would not get out of the car and she could not understand why. So, I was lifted out and when she came to put on my lead, she discovered no collar. She had put my coat on first and it has a nice roll neck so covers up a collar. Never mind, we did a quick trip home and fetched it and off we went for the walk. You can see just how clever I am, can't you?

11th October 2025

Had a wonderful time chasing squirrels in the grounds at work. I spent ages watching one in a huge tree and Mum walked on. When I ran to catch her up, I fell into the lily pond. It was rather cold and not easy to get out of so Mum had to rescue me. But I had had a really good time!

18th October 2025

On our walk in the grounds at work, I met the resident dogs, a whippet and a lurcher, and had a chase with them so it made my day. I'm now having a lovely snooze on Mum's lap. She has her nose in a book.

19th October 2025

A real whippet day today at the Midland Whippet Club Championship Show. Mum was helping on the rescue stall and I was just pleased to see lots of friends – human and whippet.

25th October 2025

On our walk in the grounds at Mum's work, I met my lurcher friend and we had a tremendous chase. I have to say she is very fast – but, of course, much younger than me.

5th November 2025

My life has settled into a nice routine now and although I have not had quite so many adventures, I am especially enjoying all the cuddles I get.

19th November 2025

The ladies came here for Knit and Natter and went straight into the sitting room and started nattering. After a while I had to leave my snuggle bed by the Rayburn to remind Mum to make the tea. How they laughed! I just sat down in front of her and stared. She got the message and they got their tea and cake! I really don't know what she would do without me.

21st November 2025

Squirrel chasing in the Water Garden. But this time I jumped over the narrowest part of the canal so did not get wet. I heard Mum call out 'not in the water Frankie' so when she appeared round the hedge, she was pleased to see me on the other side – bone dry.

8th December 2025

Mum found out today just how very fast I can run. On our walk I heard and then saw two cock pheasants fighting. Just had to go and sort them out, so took off like lightning. Almost managed to get one but he took off before I caught his tail feathers. I did enjoy myself – it's the fastest I've run in ages

13th December 2025

Had a lovely time tonight at a party at Mum's friend David's, he is the owner of Treacle the little Jack Russell I've met before. She was pleased to see me until I got too near to her Dad and then she barked and growled at me again. Mum and Auntie Jane were helping with the nibbles and Mum took my bed and put it by the Aga. There were so many tempting things but all I got was some cucumber. I would have loved the smoked salmon sausages and mince pies but my diet would not allow it. There were about 60 people there and a photographer who took lots of pictures of me.

25th December 2025

A very different day for me with a small tree indoors surrounded by lots of things wrapped in coloured paper. Auntie Jane was staying with us and then we went to her son and his partner for the day. They have two nice Labrador girls and a huge garden, so I had lots of exploring to do. The turkey smelt good! My present from Auntie Jane was my favourite melon, which I might share with Mum if she's lucky.

26th December 2025

Today we went to Auntie Hazel and Uncle Andrew's house for more lovely food. Their dog Bence went over the Rainbow Bridge several months ago, but they still had his bed and toys so I took it over for the day. There was a very nice girl there, a German Shepherd called Luna, but she was very timid and would not have anything to do with me.

24th January 2026

Whippet Club Limit Show at Benson. Once again, I was pleased to see lots of my own kind and Rose and Adam on the rescue stall. Mum was helping them and bought me a new coat. It is a lovely blue colour which really suits me – so I now have five coats! How lucky is that?

16th February 2026

Took off after a pheasant today in the Water Garden. Mum thought I had disappeared into the field next door and called and whistled. I heard her mutter something about 'a naughty boy' but I was standing right behind her. I can creep up on her very quietly.

23rd February 2026

Blood test today at my original vets. A nice man – he was pleased to see me and remembered my other Mum taking me there. After he stuck in the needle in me the nice nurse gave me some treats.

24th February 2026

We went for a walk with Christine. She is helping Auntie Jane look after me while Mum is at Crufts on 6th March. I know all about Crufts because I was there in my younger days.

25th February 2026

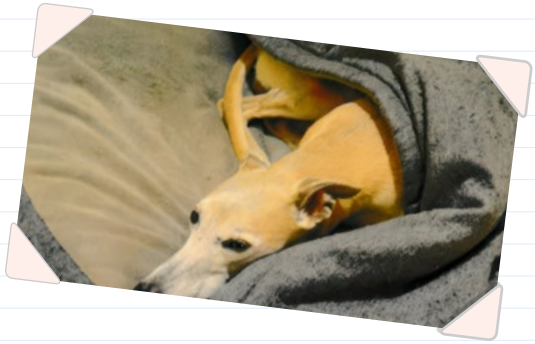
On our walk around the lake I chased some of the geese and contemplated following them into the water, but thought better of it as it looked a bit murky after all the rain we have had.

28th February 2026

I am very poorly today and am having to stay in hospital.

They have made me feel a little better and my very high temperature has gone down.
Am missing Mum and hope I can go home tomorrow.

Love from Frankie.



My darling Frankie never came home and after three days in the hospital where I visited him every day, I had to say goodbye to him just two weeks short of his 11th birthday. He was so very special, I adored him, it was a privilege to have him live with me. He lived life to the full and was very aptly named Moonlake My Way.

Love you always Frankie!



Wild and lonely



The vocal pyrotechnics, flamboyant persona and untimely demise of pop star Billy MacKenzie have overshadowed his legacy as a prolific and progressive breeder of top quality whippets. But his achievements in the breed deserve to be acknowledged, says George Sell.

If you are of a similar vintage to me, you may well remember watching *Top of The Pops* one evening in 1982 and witnessing a unique and spectacular performance.

A singer wearing what would go on to be a trademark beret and raincoat performed astonishing vocal gymnastics, his face breaking in to an impish grin which suggests he wasn't taking things entirely seriously, while the rest of the band tried to look cool and serious amid copious amounts of dry ice.



Billy with one of his beloved whippets

The band was The Associates, the song was *Party Fears Two* - its piano riff intro is among the most potent earworms ever written, and just thinking about it as I write this has started me off humming the melody, which will probably be with me all day.

And the singer was Billy MacKenzie, a complex character, a singer of audacious talent, and a man described by Siouxsie Sioux as having "an extraordinary voice that was completely otherworldly, bridging the gap between avant-garde artiness and pure pop." Paul Haig of Josef K, a close friend and Scottish post-punk peer, said: "Billy didn't sing like anyone else because he didn't think like anyone else."

> *"When The Associates were recording and ensconced in a Holiday Inn, while band members were sharing bunk beds, Billy's whippets had their own room next door, and were fed by room service."*

Born William MacArthur MacKenzie on 27 March 1957 in Dundee, into a large wheeler-dealer family from travelling stock, Billy's singing talents were apparent at a young age. After a series of false starts and time spent in New Zealand and the US (where he married aged just 19), his musical career began its curious and mercurial trajectory.

But this is not another rehashing of why such a massive talent didn't go on to become a household name. That is a sad story but it has been told many times, perhaps best by Tom Doyle in his book *The Glamour Chase*. This is the parallel story of Billy's life as a lifelong whippet lover, and a successful racer and breeder of whippets who can still be seen in numerous pedigrees today, including my own dogs.

Doyle's book says: "As a tearaway five-year-old, he first encountered what would become his spirit animal, after falling into the local Stobswell ponds and resurfacing to find an inquisitive whippet staring at him. He was instantly attracted to this smaller, sleeker breed of greyhound, and convinced the dog's elderly owner to let him take it for walks after school. After she had agreed, Billy would devotedly trudge up to her small newsagents no matter how harsh the weather."

Doyle went on to draw parallels with Billy's character and that of his breed of choice: "Billy's subsequent lifelong obsession with whippets may often have appeared bizarre to outsiders, but in many ways he shared key characteristics with his chosen breed: let loose in the outside world, whippets often mindlessly tear around in every direction; indoors, they are incredibly docile, contentedly lazing away the hours."

In unpublished diaries covering his history of owning whippets, Billy wrote of these first experiences with the borrowed dog back in the early 1960s: "Armed with a Vimto and Bluebird toffee, we would head to the ponds, then over the playing fields where he would dive-bomb crows...it was the closest I'd get to watching a 200 metre final at the Olympics." In an interview with Jim Shelley for *Blitz* magazine in May 1985, Billy said: "Music is the love of my life, and of course my whippets. If I'm away from my animals I don't feel like a complete person."

As The Associates took off and spent increasing amounts of time in London and on tour, the whippets were never far away. When they were recording and ensconced in a Holiday Inn, while band members were sharing bunk beds, the whippets had their own room next door, and were fed by room service. Bandmate Alan Rankin recalls being presented with the bill. "There'd be 16 pages of printout of cocoas and brandies for us and smoked salmon and hard-boiled eggs for the whippets. Bill used to phone up and get six helpings at a time and say, 'But give me the shells too', because the albumen is apparently good for their bones."

While the musical career lurched between highs and lows, Billy's dedication to whippets was unwavering. From 1983 to 1994 he bred a litter every year. His MacArthur prefix became synonymous with fast and successful racing whippets, but he was a breeder who put a lot of thought in to his matings. The pedigrees of these dogs are fascinating, a judicious mixture of show and coursing lines, outcrossed to outstanding racing sires.

"Billy was a lovely, gentle person, very funny and very charismatic. He wanted to breed a dog that would win in the show ring, and win on the race track at the highest level. That was his greatest wish.."



Billy was never happier than when spending time with his dogs

In 1988 Billy bred MacArthur Cover Girl Of Kerrec (Laguna Larita x MacArthur Spectre), the first show-bred racing champion (racing name W.C.R.C. Magic Trick), while great dogs such as MacArthur Blue For You (Salvo the Strange Quixote x MacArthur Courtier) and MacArthur Promise (Tell Um Straight x MacArthur Spectre, a half-sister to Cover Girl) feature in numerous pedigrees today.

Julia Cloke first met Billy through whippet racing acquaintance June Macdonald. "He was a lovely, gentle person, very funny and very charismatic. He wanted to breed a dog that would win in the show ring, and win on the race track at the highest level. That was his greatest wish," she says.



No well-dressed pop star should be without a whippet

"I ended up looking after a litter for him when he was away in America, and he gave me a pup from the litter as a thank you. She ended up being the foundation bitch for my line. He absolutely loved his dogs. He took them everywhere. When he he used to go to Claridges and The Ritz, his dogs always went with him. He was once in New York at a party, and got a call to say one of his bitches had started to whelp, so he just walked out of the party and caught the first plane back to the UK to be with his dogs. He always felt more relaxed when he was with whippet people than when he was in showbiz circles. I think it's lovely he's being remembered because he's behind a lot of very good all-round dogs. They can do everything. He's been neglected, as a good breeder, a unique breeder really," says Cloke.

Despite his dual legacies in music and whippets, Billy's story doesn't have a happy ending. The lyrics to *Party Fears Two* hint at both substance abuse and mental health issues - "the alcohol loves you, while turning you blue". Despite post-Associates solo musical successes, including writing a song for Shirley Bassey and recording with madcap experimentalists Yello, when his beloved mother Lily died of cancer in 1996, Billy went in to a rapid decline. They had been exceptionally close and he appears to have been completely overwhelmed by her death. "Like all very creative people he had a very sensitive side," says Julia Cloke.

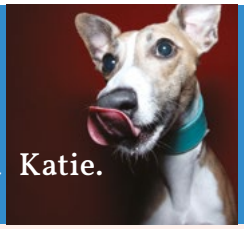
in January 1997, Billy was found dead of an overdose in the kennel at his father's house where many of the MacArthur whippets had come in to the world. He was not yet 40 years old. Watch any video of Billy performing and you are witnessing a huge and spirited life force, at terrible odds with such a bleak, lonely end. As Cloke says, he deserves to be remembered both for his creative output and for his impact on whippet breeding, an impact which is still being felt today.

There is an intriguing subplot to this story which has a link with JR Whippet Rescue. The last Associates album, released in 1990, was called *Wild and Lonely*. Joanna Russell, the founder of JR, was behind the Martinsell line of coursing and show whippets. One of her most successful dogs in the show ring, who went on to be an influential sire, was called Martinsell Wild and Lonely. He was whelped in 1984. I'd like to think Billy Mackenzie must have seen the dog at a show at some point, liked his name and made a mental note to use it in his music. If any readers know of a stronger link between Billy and Joanna Russell, please get in touch.

All images by Richard Haughton

Happily Homed

A summary of the last six months from JR's rehoming co-ordinators Lisa and Katie.



As always we would like to thank our volunteers, foster carers, transporters, supporters and followers for their continued help and support. We couldn't do what we do for whippets without you all.

Lisa & Katie x

SIX MONTHS IN RESCUE - APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2026

It's hard to believe another six months have flown by, and what a busy six months they have been for everyone at JR Whippet Rescue!

Between 1st April and 30th September, 50 whippets headed off to their new homes, each beginning a new chapter with a family carefully matched to their individual needs.

Behind every one of those happy endings is a story. Some whippets have come to us through changes in their owners' circumstances, while others have needed more specialist help, understanding and support before being ready to move on.

As we have spoken about frequently, the majority of whippets coming into our care are not necessarily straightforward dogs. Many require very specific homes, often because of behavioural difficulties such as lead reactivity, separation anxiety or a lack of early socialisation and training.

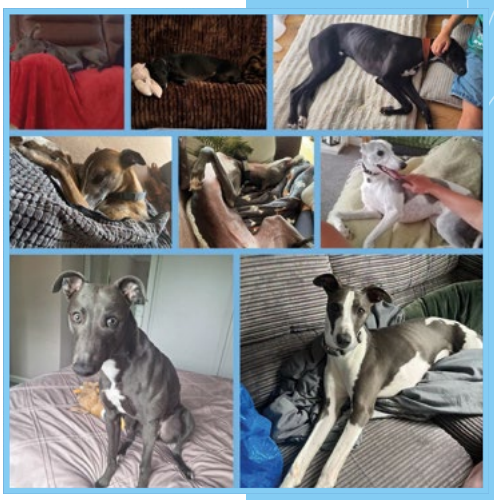
Finding the right home isn't simply about finding someone who loves whippets. It's about finding people who understand the individual dog, are realistic about the challenges they may face and are prepared to put in the time, patience and commitment needed to help them thrive.

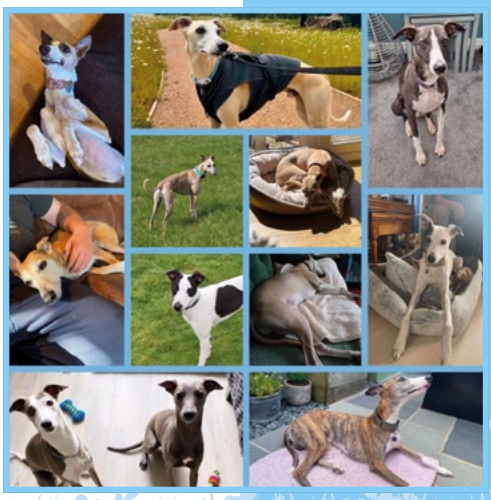
Over the past six months, our wonderful foster families have once again played an invaluable role, providing safe and loving environments where we can assess each dog's needs, begin addressing any difficulties and ensure they receive the veterinary care and support they require.

We've also seen some particularly challenging cases, including whippets requiring extensive veterinary investigations, specialist referrals and ongoing treatment. These are the dogs who remind us just how important rescue is, and why having the resources to provide the right care can make such an enormous difference.

Although we are delighted to celebrate 50 successful rehomings, the work never stops. There are always more whippets needing our help, and finding suitable homes for those with more complex needs remains one of our biggest challenges.









We are incredibly grateful to our adopters, foster families, transporters, volunteers and supporters. Whether you've welcomed a whippet into your home, helped with transport, donated, shared our appeals or simply supported our work, you've all played a part in making these happy endings possible.

50 Whippets, 50 new beginnings, and so many lives changed.

Thank you for continuing to support JR Whippet Rescue.

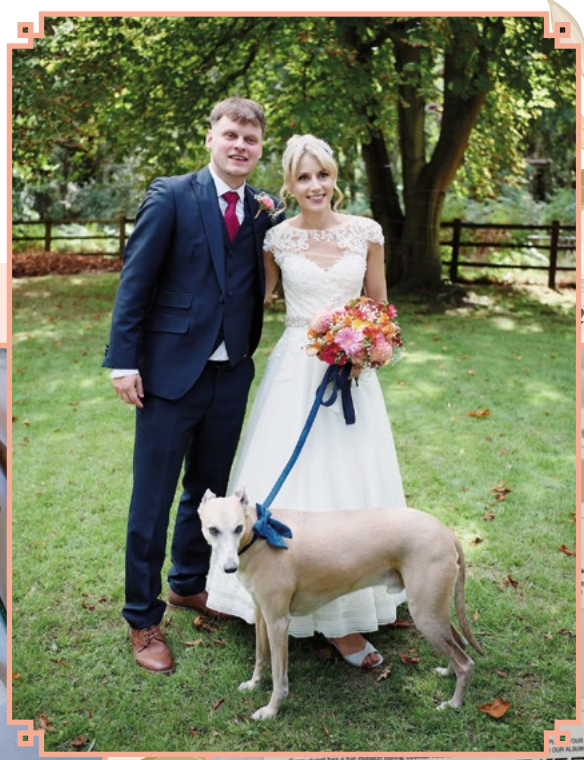
Lisa, Katie and all the team x

With this whippet, I thee wed

Sharnie and Ash got married on 12th September with the very handsome Billy in attendance. They very kindly set up an ongoing donation to JR Whippet Rescue instead of traditional favours for which we are very grateful.

Sharnie said *"There's something so special about whippets, it was a no brainer to choose your rescue. Billy Whippet is my absolute soul dog, and was our ring bearer on our special day."*











Stallholder's 2026 Autumn Report

Dear JRWR Friends,

We are here again - Christmas and New Year is around the corner. We now have the JRWR Christmas cards and 2027 calendars in stock.

Once again, we have three calendars to choose from - our very own JRWR Calendar (£7.00), The Whippet Calendar by Hannah Wayman (£11.00), and of course Rob Houghton's Roll Call Calendar (£11.00).



Whippet Roll call calendar 2027
£11.00

There are three choices of our JRWR Christmas cards:

Fleet waiting for Santa
Echo wearing a Santa hat
Banks and Esme - a cosy Christmas evening

Prices held from last year £4.50 pk 10 or £1.00 each.

We have some new Christmas fleeces in stock - the prices are the same as the regular fleeces from £18 to £25.00.

There are many gift ideas on the website for Christmas and other occasions but always call if you require any advice or guidance.

We will be at Crufts 2027, hopefully on the new stand, which worked very well for us. Come and say hello on March 4th to 7th. Hound Day is on the Saturday which will be very busy.

I want to give my thanks and gratitude to so many people for all the support at the shows, for the donations, the hands-on help, to the knitters and fleece-makers. There are so many of you, and you are all wonderful.

Finally, to the clubs who support us - The Whippet club (Stu Middleton), SWWC (Mary Rigby), Three Counties (Helen Wayman), Hound Society (Martin Sanders) and MWC (Ann Defaye).

Hope you have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.
See you in 2027!



JR Whippet Rescue calendar 2027
£7.00



The Whippet calendar 2027
£11.00

Rose Hutton

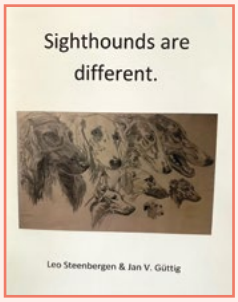
https://shop.whippetrescue.org.uk







JRWR 2026 Christmas cards: £1 each or £4.50 for 10 pack



Sighthounds are different
£13.95



Christmas Tails dog clothing (*limited stock*)
£2.50 - £5.00



Christmas fleece
from £18.00



Hand-knitted woollen Santa
£10.00

If viewing this digitally, click/tap to see the items on the website

Living with Lupus … Jimi's story

In 2023, following a rabies vaccination, my fit and healthy three year-old whippet, Jimi, suddenly became unwell. Little did I know that what started as a slightly swollen leg was about to turn into a rather unexpected and unwanted adventure into autoimmune disease! By Katie Manners.

Late one evening, while sitting on the sofa with Jimi, I noticed that one of his wrists looked rather inflamed. Knowing whippets, my first thought was that he had probably managed to knock, twist or otherwise injure himself while charging around the garden with the other whippets.



This is Jimi, just before his trouble started

So, naturally, I reached for the most sophisticated veterinary equipment available in my freezer: a bag of peas!

I applied a cold compress and, although there wasn't much improvement, it was late, so I decided to see how he was in the morning.

By morning, all four legs had swollen dramatically, right up to his elbows. Off we trotted to the vets, with Jimi walking remarkably like the Spotty Dog from The Woodentops! He was given a 10-day course of gradually tapering steroids (prednisolone). There were lots of "it could be this or that" possibilities, but no definitive diagnosis at this stage.

The steroids worked brilliantly and within 48 hours, Jimi's legs were completely back to normal. Excellent, I thought. Problem solved.

Oh, how little I knew!

A few weeks later, exactly the same thing happened again. This time, however, I noticed that the tips of his ears were bleeding. Like many Whippets, Jimi's ear tips had always been a little crusty, but they had never caused him any real problems. This time, though, they were definitely not behaving themselves.



Jimi's very swollen legs (Polyarthritis)

Back to the vets we went for another short course of steroids. His legs settled down beautifully, but his ears had other ideas and continued to deteriorate.

Then, as soon as the steroids stopped, Jimi developed uncontrollable diarrhoea, resulting in another emergency trip to the vets and a stay on a drip. Naturally, this all happened over a weekend, because apparently it seems that my whippets save their most interesting medical emergencies for Saturdays and Sundays!

By this point, something was nagging at me. Jimi was responding so dramatically to steroids that I felt there had to be an underlying immune related problem. I had absolutely no idea what it could be, but I asked for a referral to a specialist as soon as he was well enough to travel.

And all I am going to say at this point is: thank goodness for pet insurance!

Jimi was seen very quickly by the Internal Medicine Team at Cave Vet Specialists near Taunton, Somerset. He was admitted for a series of tests and was subsequently diagnosed with Polyarthritis, Cutaneous Vasculitis and Inflammatory Bowel Disease. All three are immune mediated diseases in dogs (and, as I was soon to discover, in humans too).

As these conditions had appeared so rapidly and one after another, it became clear that Jimi's immune system was in complete chaos and had, quite literally, gone rogue.

His final diagnosis was Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, commonly known as Lupus (SLE).

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect almost any part of the body, but particularly the skin, joints, internal tissues and organs.

Jimi was prescribed three times the dose of steroids he had previously been given by my local vet, and this time, we weren't talking about a 10-day course. This was going to be months.

The first pot of prednisolone I collected from Cave contained more than 500 tablets!

So, off we went back to Cornwall. I'm fairly sure Jimi rattled when he walked from the sheer number of tablets he was taking.

Thankfully, his legs never flared up again and his diarrhoea stopped. Unfortunately, his ears continued to deteriorate.

Eventually, they were bleeding so profusely that every enthusiastic shake of his head resulted in blood being splattered across the walls, furniture, kitchen cupboards and, inevitably, me.

At this point, my cream coloured walls were starting to look like the set of a particularly low-budget horror film.

My solution? Little "ear hats" made from gauze and microfibre tape. They weren't going to win any fashion awards, but they did help keep the blood off the walls.



Jimi's protective 'Ear Hats'



Jimi undergoing a new treatment to the UK – Phovia® Light Therapy to encourage faster healing. Kirstin imported this treatment to the UK after attending a veterinary dermatology conference in the USA

Sadly, the damage to Jimi's ears was severe. The vasculitis had restricted the blood supply to the ear tips, causing the tissue to become necrotic. Today, he has a rather distinctive, slightly moth-eaten look about him, although I think he carries it very well.

I'm going to fast-forward now because it has been a very long journey, Jimi has trialled nearly every immunosuppressant drug going and continues to take immunosuppressive medication to this day.

Over the past three years, his immune system has repeatedly demonstrated that it cannot cope without medication and has developed something of a talent for throwing enormous curveballs at us. The disease has aged him considerably and he often gets the comments 'how old is he' or 'poor old boy' … he has only just turned six!



Pemphigus Foliaceus on Jimi's back



Celebrating his 5th birthday

Jimi was subsequently referred to specialist veterinary dermatologist Kirstin Phippard. Kirstin's vast experience with dermatological conditions, including many patients with unusual and challenging autoimmune diseases, has been invaluable. Under her guidance, we have been able to trial different immunosuppressive medications and treatments to find the combination that works best for Jimi and keeps his immune system under control.

Meeting Kirstin was a real turning point for Jimi and he adores her, which makes his regular vet visits a walk in the park for 'old' Jim.

Most recently, another autoimmune disease decided to join the party: Pemphigus Foliaceus. This time, large pustules erupted across Jimi's back and loin.

Managing Jimi's condition hasn't always been the easiest of journeys. There has been plenty of trial and error, although I have found that, like many things in life, his condition seems to have a particular dislike of winter!

Thanks to the steroids, his coat doesn't grow back quite as well as it used to, and getting his ears or back wet can be enough to trigger a flare-up. So, these days, Jimi has taken matters into his own paws and can be found sporting a rather fetching collection of waterproofs whenever the heavens open. He may not be a fan of the rain, but at least he's doing it in style!

Although he will never be completely free from this awful disease, with Kirstin's continued guidance, expertise and support, Jimi is once again living his best life. I'm very aware that this is a life limiting condition, so Jimi's quality of life is always my top priority. As a result, every birthday is celebrated as though it's his last, with plenty of fuss, treats and probably a little more spoiling than strictly necessary!

He may have slightly fewer ear tips, a very impressive medication schedule and a tendency to keep his veterinary team on their toes, but he is happy, cheeky and enjoying life again.

And after everything he's been through, that is what matters most.



Jimi's new wardrobe


JR WHIPPET RESCUE CIO
Registered Charity No. 1215071
ebay SHOP
SUPPORTING WHIPPETS IN NEED
SINCE 1971
Whippet CHAMPIONS
Whippet
ANNE VICKERSTAFF
THE ENGLISH WHIPPET
E.G. WALSH & MARY LOWE
7 DAY AUCTIONS AND BUY IT NOW ITEMS
BEING ADDED ALL THE TIME
Perfect Christmas Gifts
FOR WHIPPET LOVERS
ITEMS INCLUDE:
whippet books, whippet figurines and statues,
whippet collars, show leads, whippet themed
kitchen ware, whippet artwork and much more

A very special whippet dinner

An evening celebrating whippets, friendship, art and the work of JR Whippet Rescue.

There are few things more likely to bring a room full of people together than a shared love of whippets and on an evening at the beginning of October, that was certainly the case at a very special whippet dinner which was generously hosted by our wonderful JRWR ambassador, art dealer and fellow whippet enthusiast, Philip Mould.

Held at Philip's beautiful gallery in Pall Mall, the evening was a wonderful celebration of our remarkable breed. Surrounded by an exquisite collection of whippet artwork, guests enjoyed an evening of good company, fascinating conversation and, naturally, plenty of whippety stories!

One of the evening's particularly special moments was the opportunity to view an original drawing by Lucian Freud of his beloved whippet, Pluto. It was wonderful to see such an amazing piece of whippet history, and even more meaningful knowing how treasured the artwork is by Philip himself. To be able to stand amongst works of art celebrating the whippet, while also sharing stories about our own much loved dogs, made the setting truly perfect for such an evening.

We were delighted to be joined by some very special guests, including Jennifer Saunders and Ade Edmondson. Jennifer has been a long standing supporter of JR Whippet Rescue and, as a devoted whippet owner herself, understands only too well the unique charm and occasional mischief that comes with sharing your life with these extraordinary dogs! It was particularly lovely to spend the evening with people from all walks of life who share such a genuine affection for the breed and an interest in the work we do.



L to R Lisa Samson (JRWR), Kate Bent (JRWR), Jennifer Saunders, Lilah Wainman (JRWR patron), Philip Mould, Louise Saturninus (JRWR trustee), Katie Manners (JRWR), Ade Edmondson

For JR Whippet Rescue, the evening provided a wonderful opportunity to talk about our work and to shine a light on the whippets behind the rescue. We shared stories of some of the dogs who have come into our care, the challenges they have faced and the often complex journey involved in finding them the right new home.

And, of course, it wouldn't be a gathering of whippet lovers without photographs! There were plenty of proud whippet owners sharing pictures and stories of their own beloved companions – a reminder of the extraordinary bond we all share with this elegant, funny, sensitive and sometimes wonderfully eccentric breed.

Evenings such as this are particularly valuable to JR Whippet Rescue. They allow us to introduce new people to the work we do, raise awareness of the challenges faced by whippets in need and, importantly, demonstrate what can be achieved when people come together with a shared passion for the breed.

We are incredibly grateful to Philip and Catherine Mould for opening the doors of their beautiful gallery and for bringing together such a wonderful group of people for an evening that was both memorable and meaningful. We would also like to thank everyone who attended for their genuine interest in JR Whippet Rescue and for helping us to spread the word about the whippets who need our help.

For our team, it was a privilege to have the opportunity to share our work in such a beautiful setting, surrounded by people who understand just how special a whippet can be.

And while the evening may have taken place amongst beautiful works of art, for us, the real stars of the evening were, as always, the whippets themselves.

With the continued support of friends, ambassadors, supporters and the wider whippet community, we can continue to give more whippets the second chances they so deserve.







Puppy or rescue - which whippet is right for you?

There is something rather irresistible about a whippet. But choosing the right one for your circumstances needs a lot of consideration. By Lisa Samson, JR Whippet Rescue relinquishing rehoming coordinator.

Perhaps you have shared your life with them for years and can't imagine your home without one. Or perhaps you've admired the breed from afar and finally decided that now is the time to welcome one into your family.

Then comes the next question: Puppy or rescue?

As a rescue organisation, you might expect us to say that adoption should always be the answer. But it isn't quite that simple.

JR Whippet Rescue is not against responsible breeding, and we recognise that adopting a rescue dog isn't right for every household. Equally, a puppy isn't automatically the best option either.

What matters is making an informed and honest decision about which is right for your circumstances and understanding that neither option is the easy option.

Whether you bring home an eight-week-old puppy or adopt an adult whippet through rescue, you need to be prepared to give them your time, patience, training and commitment.



Neither arrives as a finished product, and both will rely on you to help them become the happy, well-adjusted companion you hope for.

Could a rescue whippet be right for you?

There are many advantages to adopting an adult whippet.

Unlike a puppy, their personality has already begun to develop. While dogs can behave differently in new environments, spending time with them in foster allows us to learn a great deal about who they are and the sort of home in which they are most likely to thrive.

We may know that a particular whippet enjoys living with other dogs, prefers a quiet household, needs a home without children, needs somebody around for much of the day or would be happier as the only pet.

That allows us to match dogs with homes rather than simply finding somebody who wants a whippet.

An adult dog may also fit far better into the life of somebody who simply doesn't have the time or circumstances required to raise a puppy.

Occasionally, a whippet comes into our care who is relatively straightforward: well socialised, able to live with other dogs and without significant behavioural concerns. Unsurprisingly, these dogs are usually very easy to match and usually go into a new home very quickly.

What we see far more frequently are whippets who need something more specific from their new home. They may need to be the only dog, require an adult-only home, struggle with separation, need an experienced owner or, in most cases, require ongoing training and behavioural support, particularly around reactivity and separation anxiety.

We are also frequently asked for whippets who can live with cats or young children, but these are particularly rare through rescue. When we do have a whippet who has been reliably assessed as suitable to live with cats or young children, there will understandably be considerable interest and often a waiting list.

It is also important to remember that whippets are sighthounds, and their natural breed traits need to be understood and considered. Their sensitive nature, instinct to chase, and strong prey drive are part of the breed, and prospective owners need to be realistic about how those traits may fit with their own household and lifestyle.

This is another reason prospective owners need to think realistically about whether a rescue or a puppy is right for them. If your circumstances mean you require a dog with a very particular set of characteristics, there may simply not be a suitable rescue whippet available at that time, and there is nothing wrong with acknowledging that.

Many of the dogs who come into our care have complex behaviours because of their earlier lives. Some have had negative experiences, while others have missed out on important socialisation or training. A small number arrive with very few problems at all, but they still need time to adjust to the enormous change in their lives.

Whatever their history, every rescue whippet deserves an adopter who is prepared to give them that time.

Rescue needs commitment too

Adopting an adult dog does not mean receiving a ready-made, perfectly behaved whippet.

We put enormous effort into assessing our whippets and matching them with homes we genuinely believe can meet their needs. But even the most careful matching cannot guarantee that everything will be perfect from the moment a dog walks through the front door.

They don't understand that they've been "adopted" They simply know that everything familiar has changed. New people. New smells. New sounds. A different routine and different expectations.

Unfortunately, we have experienced occasions where whippets have been returned to us within as little as 48 hours, from homes which appeared to be an excellent match.

Forty-eight hours simply isn't enough time for most rescue dogs to understand that they are safe, let alone show their new family the dog they will eventually become. In fact, even two weeks may not be enough for a dog to fully adjust to such a significant change.



This is why our foster-to-adopt period typically lasts for up to six weeks, allowing both the whippet and their new family the time they need to settle and for the dog's true personality to begin to emerge.

There may be sleepless nights. There may be accidents. They might pace, cry, refuse food or follow you everywhere. A behaviour we haven't seen in foster might emerge as they adjust, while something they were doing in foster may temporarily disappear or become worse.

That doesn't automatically mean the adoption has failed.

Usually, it simply means you've adopted a dog who needs you to give them some time.

Rescue dogs need patience, training and commitment, just like puppies. There may be setbacks along the way and things you need to work through together.

Our team will be there to support our adopters and, where necessary, help them access appropriate behavioural support. But successful adoption requires commitment from both sides.

We will put everything we can into finding the right family for the right whippet. In return, we need our adopters to be prepared to put the work into helping that whippet become part of their family.

Would a puppy suit your life better?

For some people, the answer genuinely may be yes.

A puppy gives you the opportunity to shape their experiences from an early age, introduce them to your lifestyle and put good foundations in place from the beginning.

But that comes with an enormous responsibility.



Puppies are hard work.

They need frequent toilet trips, training, appropriate socialisation, supervision and gradual introductions to being left alone. They chew things. They wake you up. They make mistakes. And that adorable tiny puppy eventually becomes an adolescent whippet who may temporarily appear to have forgotten everything you taught them!

If you work long hours and your puppy will regularly be left alone, if you don't have time to attend to their needs throughout the day, or if you aren't able or willing to put considerable time into training and socialisation, then a puppy probably isn't the right choice at that point in your life.

Having enough love for a puppy isn't the same as having enough time for one. And time doesn't simply mean being physically present.

Raising a puppy well requires actively putting the work in. Training needs repetition. Socialisation needs thought and planning. Learning to be alone needs to happen gradually. Good habits need to be encouraged, and boundaries need to be consistent.

There will be frustrating days. There will be setbacks. Adolescence can test even experienced owners.

Buying a puppy means committing not just to enjoying all the lovely parts, but to working through the difficult ones too.

The puppy you choose is only the starting point. The adult dog they become will be influenced enormously by the time and effort you put into raising them.

Think about the next 15 years, not just today

There is another question prospective owners sometimes understandably don't want to think about:

What will my life look like throughout this dog's lifetime?

Whippets can live well into their teens. A puppy joining your family today could still be relying upon you 14, 15 or even 16 years from now.

None of us can predict the future, and age alone doesn't determine whether somebody can provide a wonderful home. We know plenty of older people who offer exceptional homes to whippets.

But we do believe prospective owners, particularly those later in life, need to think honestly about whether a puppy is the most appropriate choice.

Whippet puppies and youngsters can be extremely energetic, fast and surprisingly strong. They require exercise, training and physical management, and there is always the possibility of being pulled over or injured by an exuberant youngster.

There is also the dog's future to consider.

If there is a realistic possibility that you may struggle to meet the needs of a young dog as you both get older, an adult or older rescue whippet may be a far better match.

We would love to see more people consider our older whippets, including those with medical conditions (with our ongoing support). They still have enormous amounts of love and companionship to give and, for the right person, an older dog can be a perfect fit.



Choosing an older dog isn't "settling" for second best. Sometimes it is simply making the responsible choice for both ends of the lead.

However, please be mindful that there may be a wait for the right match. It is far better to wait for the right whippet than to take on a puppy simply because one is available, particularly if you don't have the time or circumstances to cope with the demands of raising one.

If you choose a puppy, choose the breeder first

JR Whippet Rescue is not against breeding. Responsible, ethical breeders are incredibly important to the health, temperament and future of our breed.

But there is a world of difference between responsibly breeding whippets and simply producing puppies.



If you decide that a puppy genuinely is right for you, finding a responsible breeder and a health-tested puppy should be your priority, not colour, markings, how local they are or simply how cute they look.

A responsible breeder should carry out appropriate health testing, including heart testing, and be happy to discuss the health and temperament of the parents. Puppies should be raised carefully, appropriately socialised and given the best possible foundations for life. And you should expect the breeder to ask plenty of questions about you.

A good breeder will want to know about your home, lifestyle, working arrangements, other pets and previous experience. They should want to see your home and garden and understand where one of their puppies is going to live. They may even decide that one of their puppies isn't right for you.

That's not them being judgemental. That's a responsible breeder.

There should be appropriate paperwork, clear information about the puppy and a written contract. You should know what support will be available after you leave with your puppy and what the breeder expects to happen if your circumstances change.

Most importantly, their responsibility shouldn't disappear when your payment clears.

A responsible breeder should remain available for advice and support throughout that dog's life and should be willing to help if, at any point, the Whippet can no longer remain in its home.

A breeder should never simply take your money, hand you a puppy and disappear.

Ask questions. Ask to see health-testing documentation. Meet the mother. Find out how the puppies have been raised and socialised. Ask what happens if you have problems six months, five years or ten years later.

A responsible breeder won't be offended by those questions. They should be pleased you're asking them.

A good breeder is only the beginning

Even the best breeder in the world cannot hand you a perfectly trained adult dog at eight weeks old Their job is to provide the foundations. Your job is to build on them.

Socialisation isn't simply letting a puppy play with lots of other dogs. It means carefully and positively introducing them to the world they will need to cope with as adults.

Different people. Children where appropriate. Different breeds and sizes of dog. Traffic. Travelling. Veterinary handling. New environments. Household noises. Being left alone for appropriate periods. Learning to settle.

It also means training, boundaries, recall and helping them learn how to cope when life isn't quite as exciting as they would like it to be.

Those early months require considerable effort, but the work you put in can influence the dog beside you for many years to come.

A responsible breeder can give your puppy an excellent start. What happens next is up to you.

At JR Whippet Rescue, we see first-hand what can happen when puppies are bred without enough thought for health and temperament, or when those vital early months of training and socialisation are missed. The consequences may not become apparent immediately, but months or even years later, it is often rescues like ours that receive the call for help.

Responsible breeding gives a puppy the best possible start. Responsible ownership must continue the work.

Different beginnings, the same commitment

There is no universally "right" way to bring a whippet into your family. For one household, a carefully bred puppy from a responsible breeder may be absolutely the right choice.

For another, an adult rescue whippet whose personality and needs are already better understood may fit their circumstances perfectly.

And for someone else, now may simply not be the right time to have a dog at all.

None of those decisions is wrong.

What matters is being honest about your lifestyle, your time, your experience and what you can realistically offer throughout that dog's life.

A puppy needs you to teach them about the world and put in the work to help them grow into a confident, well-adjusted adult.

A rescue needs you to give them time to adjust to a new world, while patiently helping them work through whatever difficulties their previous experiences may have left behind.

Both need training. Both need patience. Both need your time. Both will sometimes test you. And both need you to remain committed when things aren't quite as easy as you hoped.

Because whether you buy responsibly or adopt responsibly, bringing a whippet home shouldn't be about finding the perfect dog.

It should be about being prepared to put in the work to give the dog you choose the best possible life.

So perhaps the question isn't simply: "Should I buy a puppy or adopt a rescue?"

Perhaps the better question is: "What can I realistically offer a whippet, not just today, but for the rest of their life?"



JR WHIPPET RESCUE CIO
Registered Charity No. 1215071

Adoption Donations

As of 1st October 2026 our adoption donation fees will be:

Puppies under 1 year	£400
Whippets aged 1-8	£300
Whippets aged 8+	£250

For pairs and special circumstances, we discuss the adoption donation depending on the individual situation.



Fees have increased because of the following factors:

- **Veterinary fees** have soared by over **70%** in the last decade.
- **Increase in fuel prices** for transportation.
- **80%** of whippets coming into our care requiring neutering, this can cost us between **£200-400** for a male and **£300-£900** for a female.
- Many of the whippets require **behavioural support** which can cost between **£200-£2000** per whippet depending on their individual needs.

What does the Adoption donation include?

- Martingale or Fishtail Collar and Lead.
- Escape proof harness (if required).
- Food for at least 1 week on arrival to their new home.
- Fleece Jumper (if required).
- Waterproof coat (if required).
- A full health Veterinary health check and anything that arises from this check.
- A vaccicheck blood test to check the whippets antibody levels for Distemper, Hepatits and Parvo Virus and, if required following a low score, a DHP vaccine.
- We also cover the initial puppy vaccination course for all puppies that have not already received these (DHP ONLY).

Where it is not possible for the adopter to collect the whippet from their foster home, transport by a DEFRA registered and insured transporter is also included in the Adoption Donation.

For whippets that come into our care with an existing medical condition, we will cover all **veterinary costs** (for the pre-existing condition ONLY) for the remainder of the whippets life.

Turn your everyday shopping into free donations

Did you know that your everyday online shopping could help raise money for our JR Whippet Rescue CIO - at no extra cost to you? Both **Give as you Live Online** and **Easy Fundraising** are free services that turns purchases from thousands of participating retailers into donations for the cause you choose.

From the weekly food shop and household essentials to holidays, clothes and gifts, there are more than 6,000 ways to raise funds. The price you pay stays the same: the retailer passes on the donation directly to us.

How it works

1. **Join for free**. Create an account and choose our charity as the cause you would like to support.
2. **Start your shop**. Find a participating retailer through their websites, app or Donation Reminder. Alternatively, if you have signed up for either of these organisations you will get a reminder popup when you are shopping to ask if you would like them to make a donation – usually a percentage of the purchase price.
3. **Shop as normal.** Complete your purchase on the retailer's website at the usual price.
4. **Raise a donation**. Give as you Live or Easy Fund Raising records the purchase and passes the retailer-funded donation to your chosen charity.

Small actions add up

Both organisations have raised millions for participating charities. Every eligible purchase can make a difference, so remembering to click through before you buy is a simple way to support our work throughout the year.

Ready to get started? Join Give as you Live Online, or Easy Fund Raising, select our charity and begin raising free donations with your next online shop. If you already have an account, please check that we are listed as your chosen cause.



Dedications from donations and Friends of JR Whippet Rescue

Linda Beardsley - *The donation is in honour of Pip's (the blind whippet) new owner Nigel's special birthday. Pip is very lucky as he will have a lovely caring forever home now. xxx*

Lisa Shore - *In memory of Merlin. The best whippet friend who is now running free on the rainbow beach with the wind in his ears. Always in my heart.*

Joan Jackman - *In lieu of a gift to my vet, Lucy of Hallam Vets, Sheffield who treated my whippet, Phoebe, with such kindness during her recent terminal illness, and supported me throughout.*

Hannah Crouch - *Always grateful Hicks (was Zero)*

Michelle Kimmins - *In memory of my two best friends ever ..my beautiful and very gorgeous Grace and Edith xxx*

Sheila Blanning - *In memory of Gay Robertson. After her death last year you rehomed three of her whippets, including Moonlake My Way, the sire of our young whippet Obduro Frankly My Dear.*

Christopher Spurgeon - *In grateful thanks for our Whippet Crosscop Just What I Need, seven year old female Audrey adopted from Leigh Morris April 2026.*

Mary Rigby - *It is money collected at my Aunt's funeral. It is in memory of Elizabeth Broome, Matlock. She loved her whippets and adopted several until she was told she was too old to carry on adopting.*

Yvonne Egan - *In memory of our dearly loved lurcher Spider.*

Adele Alderson - *This donation is in memory of Mark Hicks who sadly passed away on 28th February 2026. He left his own whippet Misty in the caring hands of his daughter Emily. The donation was collected in lieu of flowers at his funeral. With fondest thoughts of a dear son, dad, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend.*

Jeanette Clarke - *For helping with Otis.*



Useful info and contacts:

Donations Link
https://whippetrescue.org.uk/donate/

Cheque Donations/Gift Aid Form
Mrs Sally Ashwell (Finance Manager) – Woodcroft, Tibberton, Gloucester, GL19 3AQ:
financial@whippetrescue.org.uk

Merchandise sales/second hand equipment Mrs Rose Hutton (Shop Manager)
54, Austcliffe Road, Cookley, Nr Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 3UP
shop@whippetrescue.org.uk

Give as you shop: Both Give as you Live and Easy Fundraising will make donations to JR Whippet Rescue as you shop online with no extra cost to your self.

For more details see:

Give As you Live https://www.giveasyoulive.com/
Easy Fundraising https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/

JR Whippet Rescue would like to thank all the kind people who bequeath legacies; and everyone who kindly gave donations in memory of loved ones.

THANK YOU



Used Stamps: Thank you to all who collect and send off used stamps. Simply cut or carefully rip the postage stamp from the used envelope, being careful that you don't damage the stamp, and once you have a collection pop them in an envelope, making sure you have the correct postage, to:

JR Whippet Rescue CIO
PO Box 16992, Sutton Coldfield, B73 9YA
**Please note that the contact details have changed.*

Recycling for Good Causes: If you have any gold, silver, odd earrings, broken chains, costume jewellery, watches or old bank notes (from ANY country), you can recycle them at no cost to you whilst making money for **JR Whippet Rescue** and saving precious raw materials at the same time. We have enclosed a prepaid envelope for you to use - please note that this should only contain items to be recycled and not any correspondence to the charity. Prepaid labels and more details are also available on our website. If you have more items than will fit into an A5 sized envelope then please call **0800 633 5323** or email customerservices@recyclingforgoodcauses.org to find out more information on how to recycle larger items.

Gift Aid: Thank you to all our Friends of JRWR, your support is vital to us. Gift Aid, if you are a UK tax payer, helps us even further. If you haven't signed up for Gift Aid and would like to, let us know and we will send you a form.

Subscriptions: Can be paid by cheque, made payable to JR Whippet Rescue CIO, and posted to Sally. Direct Debit and BACS can also be used, our bank details are Barclays Bank, account name is **JR Whippet Rescue CIO**, sort code: **20-98-68**, account number: **73259978**.

Any queries or correspondence concerning subscriptions to the newsletter should be sent to Mrs Sally Ashwell, Woodcroft, Tibberton, Gloucester, GL19 3AQ or email financial@whippetrescue.org.uk.

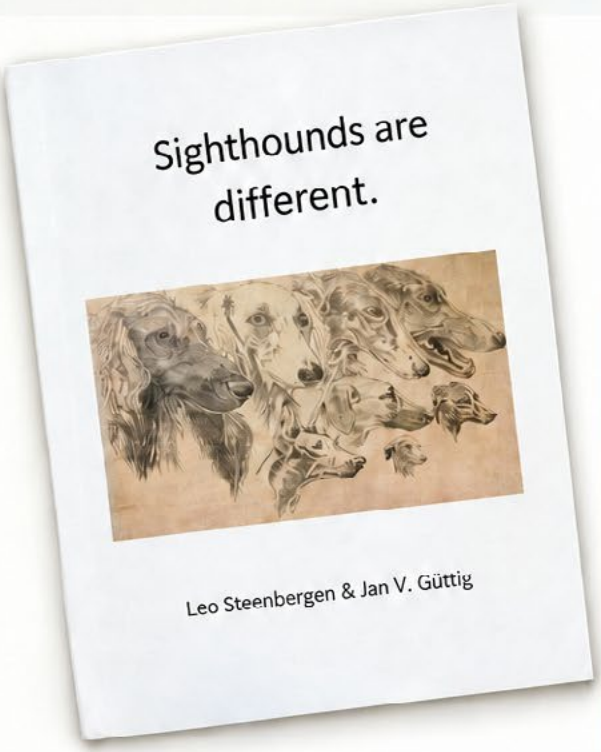
How you receive your newsletter: We are very happy to continue posting hard copies of the newsletter to our members if preferred, however sending a soft copy of the newsletter via email obviously saves us precious funds. If you would like to switch to email delivery please contact Sally as above.

Copy Date: The last date for receiving items for the Spring/Summer newsletter will be Wednesday 31st March 2027. Any letters, photos or articles you would like included, please post to Mrs Kate Bent, 35 Roman Way, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, GL7 3BS or emailed to friends@whippetrescue.org.uk

Privacy Notice: If you would like to see a copy of our Privacy Notice please contact Mrs Vanna Leathart, 1 Jasmine Cottages, Highworth Road, South Marston, Wiltshire, SN3 4SB or email vanna.leathart@btinternet.com.

JR WHIPPET RESCUE CIO
Registered Charity No. 1216101

JRWR Recommends A Read:
Sighthounds Are Different



This book, originally written by the late Leo Steenbergen, is a comprehensive 40 page guide to how sighthounds are physiologically different from other dog breeds.

Including topics such as:

- Differences in red and white blood cell levels, antibody levels and thyroid levels.
- How blood tests can be interpreted incorrectly when compared to other breeds of dogs.
- How the heart differs to other breeds.
- Anesthesia and medication differences.
- How sighthounds can react differently to antibiotics.

This booklet can be an asset to all owners and veterinarians when making a correct diagnosis for a sighthound.

Because sighthounds are unique



Sighthounds Are Different

can be purchased through the JRWR Shop and on the JRWR Stand.

A valuable resource for every sighthound owner and vet.

Contact Rose at **www.shop.whippetrescue.org.uk**

shop@whippetrescue.org.uk