



## Happiness is... time with your greyhound.

**Charity GRWE explains how greyhounds make 'grey-t' pets as this year's National Pet Month commences.**

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### **Press Release – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011**

**Frome Pets and Aquatics Centre's open day on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (10am 'til 4pm) will coincide with the beginning of 'National Pet Month'. This great local business holds an event every year and invites along animal charities and vets, and this year greyhounds from GRWE (Greyhound Rescue West of England) are set to take centre stage.**

National Pet Month aims to raise awareness of the mutual benefits of living with pets. Stuart Parslow, press officer of Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) says this particularly applies to greyhounds "Many of the dogs we rescue are literally homeless. What they don't have are the basics of care, food and shelter, but what they give back is boundless love and affection". He continued "Many people rehome greyhounds knowing they're helping the dogs, only to find the hounds *give* more than they take."

GRWE would like Frome's shoppers to meet the dogs and give their velvety ears a tickle. Volunteers will also be available to describe how owning greyhounds brings new dimensions to life, and give advice to anyone thinking of homing an ex-racer.

Philip Mansbridge, Trustee, explains more: "Greyhounds make absolutely great pets but many people still have the impression that they are a very specialist or high maintenance dog. This is really not the case - and the most common misconceptions that we are working on overcoming this month are exercise, temperament, and living with children."

“Most people’s image of a greyhound is it racing around a track at mind boggling speeds. But, once they have finished their racing career (often when they are only 2-3 years old), what happens next – surely they need lots and lots of exercise and walks and a large house and garden? Not true! For the lucky greyhounds that are being rehomed you will find that they are actually surprisingly lazy, and a surprisingly low maintenance breed!

Greyhounds are built for quick short bursts of speed and don’t have amazing endurance for very long distances. What this means is that they spend most of their days laying on their bed or much more likely, laying on your sofa! Like most dogs, they just need a couple of short walks per day, plus any toilet walks (or outdoor access) that they may need if they are house trained.

The next most common misconception is about their temperament. All dogs are individual, but as a breed they are surprisingly easy going and most love people of all ages – including children, and many live happily with other dogs, and even cats! They tend to be very gentle and very docile.” He adds.

If you think you would like to share your life with a greyhound, head along to the pet centre or get in touch on 07000 785 092 or visit [www.grwe.com](http://www.grwe.com) .

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Notes to editors:

- 1) National Pet Month is a charity (Reg Charity Number 1114880) whose aims are to:
  - Promote responsible pet ownership
  - Make people aware of the mutual benefits of living with pets
  - Increase public awareness of the role of pet care specialists
  - Raise awareness of the value of working and assistance companion animals

GRWE and National Pet Month are not in any way affiliated, and this release has been written independently of National Pet Month, but in line with their charitable objectives. National Pet Month runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and more details can be found at:  
[www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk](http://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk)

- 2) GRWE is a Registered Charity (Reg. Charity No. 1131399) and the largest independent greyhound rescue organisation in the UK working specifically to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned and abused greyhounds and lurchers. Last year GRWE rehomed over 900 dogs across England and Wales.
- 3) GRWE receives no funding from the racing industry, is run entirely by volunteers, and is entirely funded by donations. More information about the charity can be found at [www.grwe.com](http://www.grwe.com) .

