



Marty



and Max; left to fend for themselves.

From Winning Athlete to Starving Stray

Press Release – April 2011

Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) recently took in two abandoned and neglected greyhounds now safe in the refuge at their kennels. The charity, unable to speak out during an RSPCA investigation, has now released information describing the condition in which they found these gentle ex-racing hounds.

After an illustrious racing career (including several wins) Marty became one of many thousands of dogs found abandoned every year (*the 2009 Dogs Trust survey found 107,228 were picked up as strays by local authorities, of which 7052 were put to sleep*). “Marty came to us in very poor condition” said Jan Lake, GRWE Somerset Rehoming Officer. “He was very underweight at 24kg (approximately 10kg under his racing weight). He had severe

mange with secondary skin infection and pressure sores, dental disease and eye infection”.

Like Marty, Max a retired racing greyhound was also waiting to be put to sleep after being found as a stray. “This dog also came to us in very poor condition; he was very underweight at 25.3kg and had a large abscess on his body.” Max was also suffering from pannus, and ulcerated eyes, which had been left without treatment and has affected Max’s sight.

“It is so sad to see these gentle creatures having won races for their owners then passed on and abandoned. They were in such poor condition when they came into our care that they needed immediate veterinary treatment, and a lot of TLC to get them well. It was shocking to see the condition they were in. Marty was so weak he has difficulty supporting his own weight” said Jan Lake. A month later Max and Marty have regained some of their weight, and are beginning to heal, but still have a way to go before they are fully fit and well.

The RSPCA and Greyhound Board of Great Britain are now completing their investigations into how these beautiful dogs fell from graceful athletes to starving strays. Marty and Max are making a good recovery with GRWE, which last year homed 862 dogs and are waiting for loving homes. If you would like to find out more about homing an ex-racing greyhound, visit www.grwe.com or call 07000 785 092.