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# GGPAC NEWS

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Keeping members informed . . .



## What Is the Great Global Greyhound Walk?

The Great Global Greyhound Walk is a worldwide celebration of **greyhounds, lurchers and other sighthounds**, bringing together thousands of dogs and their owners for one special day each year.

Held in towns, cities and countrysides across the globe, these walks help raise awareness of sighthounds as gentle, loving pets and promote greyhound, galgo, and podenco adoption and rehoming.

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Organized by local volunteers, every walk is a chance to meet fellow sighthound owners, make new friends, and enjoy a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Whether you are part of a big group or walking on your own, everyone is welcome to join the global sighthound community and take part.

### **What Are the Breeds of Sighthounds (according to Wikipedia)**

- Afghan Hound
- American Staghound
- Azawakh
- *Bakhmull*
- Borzoi
- Chippiparai
- Galgo Español
- Greyhound
- Chortai
- Ibizan Hound
- Irish Wolfhound
- Italian Greyhound
- Kaikadi dog
- Kangaroo dog
- Kazakh Tazy
- Kombai dog
- Levriero Sardo
- Longdog
- Lurcher
- Magyar Agár
- Mudhol Hound
- Old Croatian Sighthound
- Pharaoh Hound
- Podenco Andaluz

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- Podenco Canario
  - Polish Greyhound
  - Rajapalayam dog
  - Rampur Greyhound
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- Rhodesian Ridgeback
  - Saluki
  - Scottish Deerhound
  - Silken Windhound
  - Sloughi
  - Taigan
  - Thai Ridgeback
  - Whippet

Sunday, Sept. 28th, is this year's World Greyhound Day, and GGPAC would like to have a significant showing in this event. How can you participate? It's simple.

Join a group in your area, and if there is no group in your town, why not begin one? I am the only greyhound owner in Antigonish County, but I know of several people in neighbouring communities who have a greyhound or another breed of sighthound, and I intend to reach out to them and ask them to join me for our small but (I hope) mighty walk. You can register your walk so you and your friends will be counted and perhaps others could join you. You can register your walk so you and your friends will be counted, and perhaps others could join you - <https://greatglobalgreyhoundwalk.co.uk/submit-walk/> .

Or, if you feel uncomfortable organizing a walk in your area, why not drive to a community near you and join their walk? (Pictou County and Cape Breton greyhound friends, I am speaking to you.)

Choose a location and a time where people should meet and determine your route, making certain that you and your team will have maximum visibility.

It's as simple as that! Advertise any place you wish: Facebook or other social media are good choices but you may have other means of communication that are equally effective.

Let's make the 2025 Great Global Greyhound Walk the year that GGPAC makes itself known in your community. The aim is to encourage interest in Sighthounds in general, galgos and pods in particular.



### **And Then There Were Four**

In 2019 Doug and I had only one greyhound left, Tia, after having many over the years through GPAC. At that time, we felt we wanted another dog, a true rescue dog, and we became interested in the podencos, also known as ‘The Invisibles’ or ‘The Great Forgotten’, that were being brought to Canada.

Our first podenco (commonly referred to as a pod) was Pia. She is a small, sweet, and gentle girl that was found on the streets in Spain and found her way to Bev Farmer of Podenco Friends. We immediately fell in love with her. Then, in September of 2020 we adopted the famous Crystal, another sweet, gentle, and shy girl (also from Bev Farmer) who, during her trip to Canada, managed to get loose for eleven hours on the airport runway. You can read about her adventure by googling Crystal Podenco. Sancho, an Ibizan Hound, is a type of large podenco that was supposed to be a foster but he never left. (LOL) Sancho is our vocal clown and rabble rouser who likes nothing better than stirring up the household for some fun. Mateo, a podenco maneto, is our most recent addition to the pack. He is a very small, happy, and energy-packed little guy.

Podencos are the most overlooked breed in Spain but are such a loyal, fun loving,

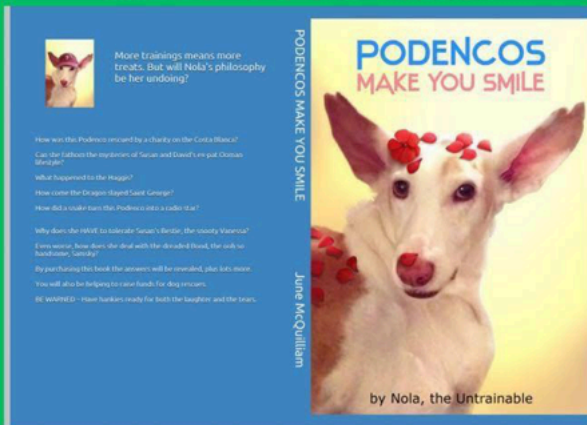


intelligent, athletic breed that is also great with kids and other dogs. You might want to consider adopting one of these beautiful dogs. For more information you can contact me at [vicepresident@ggpac.ca](mailto:vicepresident@ggpac.ca) or go to the [GGPAC.ca](http://GGPAC.ca) website for an adoption application form.

Karen Balser



## 29 more book sales



and we will make  
the amazing total of  
**500**

### Podencos Make You Smile – A Special Book with a Big Heart

Written by our dear friend June, **Podencos Make You Smile** is a beautiful collection of stories celebrating the joy that Nola brings into her family's life.

June and Elaine were both deeply involved in helping podencos in need. June wrote this book during lockdown to raise funds for dog rescues, and just before her passing, 400 copies had already been sold.

Here are a few of the many volunteers ( we couldn't get them all rounded up )who helped make our GGPAC Doggie Expo a wonderful success. Thank you to all our incredible sponsors & vendors. Sancho, Mateo & Reo were great Podenco ambassadors greeting so many people & different breeds of dogs. Without volunteers, sponsors & vendors this event wouldn't be possible!



### **Akira Comes to Stay by Lindsay Steeves**

In June of 2023, Akira the galgo joined our family at a 4 a.m. drop-off at a nearby ball field. Weighing just 40 lbs, she was tiny and apprehensive, but she quickly adapted and seamlessly integrated into our home. She was a gift for our now late greyhound, Austin, who had lost both of his dog brothers over a period of six months and was struggling with depression, loss of appetite, and a lack of joy. Akira immediately bonded with Austin, bringing light back into his life. He welcomed her presence and connected with her more than any other dog.

Over her first year with us, we watched Akira experience many new things: trips to the ocean, snowfalls, a first wipeout on ice. It has been a joy to see her thrive and blossom. Akira has a true love for life, people, and snacks. Her confidence has grown, she has become more independent, and her goofy side has emerged along with her demands for belly rubs. She is a relaxed and easygoing pup but has no qualms about being herself and sidling up to strangers to demand a head scratch. She is driven by curiosity and has an intense desire to solve mysteries and make new discoveries. She has already made one canine blood donation in Canada and is scheduled to make a second donation soon. She is smart, stubborn, composed, playful, and most importantly, she was





left: "If I fits, I sits.

right: an assortment of Akira's favourite toys

### Dino Comes to Stay

Two and a half years ago I was looking for a new dog to join our family. Somebody recommended GGPAC to me and I looked at their website. I was really impressed with the look of the podencos and read up a bit on them. Smart, affectionate, loyal. I decided I wanted one. However, I have senior dogs and cats. The member of GGPAC assured me the dog would be tested to make sure it was cat safe. Dino was deemed safe and he came to join our family. He is very respectful of the other dogs and cats. And he showed very quickly that he was smart, loyal and all the other traits I was hoping for. I was so happy that I decided to get a second one. This time I wanted a podenco maneto. Which is a podenco on short legs. I was fortunate that one became available and 6 months later Etaya joined our family. Etaya also has the beautiful traits I love in the podencos. They are both extremely intelligent, affectionate and very good around other dogs and cats. The only noticeable difference is that Etaya loves to meet new people and Dino is suspicious of strangers. It takes him time to warm up to new people. And although they are active dogs who love to run and play when outside, inside the house they tend to be couch potatoes and prefer to cuddle. I would definitely be open to getting another podenco at some point in the future as it is a breed that I have grown to love.

submitted by Chantal Sirois



### **A man sees a sign outside a house: 'Talking Greyhound For Sale'**

He rings the bell, the owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden. The man sees a very nice looking greyhound sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" he asks the greyhound.

"Oh yes," the greyhound replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the greyhound talk, the man asks, "So, tell me your story."

The greyhound looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I joined the SAS. I thought they'd have me fighting, but it turned out I was more useful as a spy, so they transferred me to MI5. They had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with world leaders and because no one imagined that a greyhound would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years."

"Eventually though, the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Heathrow to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals. I did that for a few years, but recently I got married, had a few puppies, and I've made a bit of cash over the years, so now I've just retired."

The man is amazed. He goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the greyhound.

"Ten quid," the owner says.

"Is that all? But this greyhound is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bastard. He's never been out of the garden!"





Hello! We are Jason and Mikiko and we live in Halifax with two amazing galgas, Frida and Juno. Perhaps many of the GGPAC members know, Juno is a new Canadian, who flew from Spain with two other beautiful galgos, Reacher (now Lumen) and Dixon (is Dixon still Dixon?) in June of last year.

Not all greys are the same, they say. We know that—whether a greyhound, a galgo, or a podenco—sighthounds are the best dogs. Many of us are most familiar with greyhounds and particularly retired racing greyhounds. Are galgos really that different? Here are some of the observations we have had so far on our new galga, Juno.

**One:** Juno actually comes to us to demand affection—from Day 1. The other three greys we have had were/are demanding of affection, but only to a certain point, and they would never actively initiate it. They would cry a miserable cry to get us to their beloved bed upstairs, get cuddles and kisses, and once satisfied, they leave for another bed as though they are escaping from pesky humans who were invading their privacy. No consideration for our needs. Juno, on the other hand, has an infinite capacity to receive affection and never leaves the site as long as we keep petting and scratching and kissing her. In fact, she actually comes to wherever we are—on the couch, in the kitchen, on the walks, on the human bed, on my yoga mat, the back deck—places where none of our other three had even imagined such a thing is within their purview (Exhibit A).

**Two:** Juno did not come toilet trained. This is one clear difference between racing greys we had (Corona and Della) and galgos who came from Spain. Corona and Della were absolute A+ on toilet business from the get-go; they told us when they needed to go, and they went nearly on command when we were outside. We knew that Juno would require a bit of training because Frida was not quite toilet trained when she came, either. Frida was a conscientious poo-er who, if she

ever had to poo in the house, she did so on the tile floor in our bathroom. When it comes to peeing, Frida would choose the cushiest, softest, nicest spots, which happen to be all of the 14 dog beds in the house. She eventually decided to pee only on a pee sheet (thank goodness), and she never poos in the house anymore. ~~Now, Ms. Juno... She has not quite gotten the hang of it just yet (it has only been less than 3 months).~~ Besides that, she seems to be one of the ‘markers’ who pees in instalment in what she deems as geographically critical locations (as opposed to an ‘empty-er’ more typical for female pups [i.e. Frida, Della] who think the entire outside world is a bathroom and the only purpose to go outside is to empty themselves). Juno would pee in the house a minute after she had a good pee outside, and her favourite spots to pee in the house are the cork floor we just put in the kitchen and my yoga mat—exact the same spots that she likes to lie down and ponder about the world.

**Three:** Juno plays with squeaky toys. We have accumulated quite a bit of toys—some chewy, some squeaky, some cuddly (sheep, snake, skunk, dolphin, fox, bears, whatnot)—which the other dogs expressed ZERO interest in. Some of the toys were so untouched and pristine we put them on shelves like home decorations. In fact, we were about to put them all in the donation bag. That changed when this Dobby-eared, awkward, beautiful fawn thing discovered that some toys squeak (whaaa?!) and went bananas like no one’s business. (Forgot to mention that she is also a lanky thing with no awareness of her size or skills to balance herself. She can also destroy our house while tossing and pulling and chewing the toys.) A couple of weeks ago, she found ‘the one’ which she decided to never part (‘Mr. Sheep’ with black head and feet—Exhibit B). Until she found Mr. Sheep, Juno was sleeping between us closely snuggling up in our bed. Now she wants to sleep with Mr. Sheep, and we are jealous of Mr. Sheep. Mr. Sheep should watch out (-Jason).

In summary, we certainly feel that galgos are different from greyhounds (though Frida is another story that we may write about some other time...). But with Juno, we kind of feel like we now have a *dog*. Juno is the most dog-like dog we have had among the four.

Both Juno and Frida are the centre of our world. We know that all parents think their pups are one of the kinds and super special. That does not stop us from thinking so. We just could not imagine our lives without them, and we know we will keep adopting for the rest of our lives—hopefully from GGPAC. We are so grateful for all that GGPAC does. The group is not only changing the lives of the pups but also the lives of the humans who adopt them. Thank you, GGPAC!

**Please note that the preceding article was submitted in the summer of 2024, and since then Frida has become perfectly toilet-trained. She has also had several vacations at Rose Cottage Greyhound Retreat and is an excellent guest, as is her big sister Juno.**

## GGPAC EXECUTIVE

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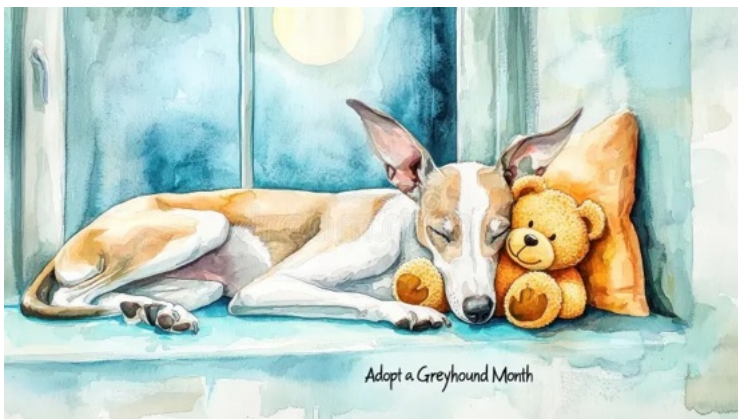
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## Notes from the Editor

- Submit all articles, pictures, and notices for the newsletter via email. My email address is [brendaannerose@gmail.com](mailto:brendaannerose@gmail.com)
- Pictures forwarded via Facebook Messenger cannot be retrieved or moved.
- Have you enrolled your pup in activities such as aqua-diving, scent detection, barn rat hunts, puzzle dog, or any other enrichment? If so, why not tell others about it? Word of mouth is the best advertising.
- If you no longer have a pet (dog or cat) are you willing to accept a shy or nervous galgo or podenco into your home? Send in your contact info.



Adopt a Greyhound Month

**THAT SNOOT OUT THE WINDOW?  
IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK.**

### EYE INJURY

Large, exposed eyes make greyhounds vulnerable to:

- Corneal ulcers
- Scratches or abrasions
- Eye infections
- Dry eye or irritation

### PLUS:

- Neck or spine injury
- Jumping or falling out
- Lung stress or airway irritation

**A SAFE RIDE IS A HAPPY RIDE.**



## THE DANGERS OF BLOAT

Life threatening, requires immediate veterinary care

### WARNING SIGNS

- Distended or hard abdomen
- Pacing, trying to vomit but unable to
- Excessive drooling
- Restlessness, collapse

### PREVENTION TIPS

- Feed twice a day
- Avoid exercise before and after feeding for 1-2 hours
- Slow feeder for fast eaters







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## Who Is SHIN/ACE

‘Animal Care Espana’ or ACE|SHIN was created on December 11, 1999, with a dual presence as ACE in the Netherlands and SHIN in Belgium.

These dedicated organizations maintain two shelters in southern Spain, providing sanctuary and care for approximately 650 dogs, each with a unique and often challenging backstory.

Their charges encompass dogs scarred by abuse, abandoned puppies, street dogs struggling to survive, fortunate escapees from hunting, retired breeding females, and pets left behind by relocating owners. These examples merely scratch the surface of the diverse and heart-wrenching situations ACE|SHIN encounters daily.

Their mission includes raising awareness of animal suffering in Spain, advocating for improved laws and regulations, curbing dog sales in public areas, promoting mandatory neutering programs, enhancing nutrition and medical care, and launching information campaigns in Spanish schools.

Within the shelters, all animals receive necessary care, including food and medical

attention. A dedicated team of volunteers and students in animal care and veterinary medicine monitors and documents the dogs’ progress. A veterinary clinic on-site provides medical care and tests for common Spanish canine illnesses like Leishmania, Ehrlichia, Anaplasmosis, and Heartworm.

The adoption process involves creating profiles for each animal, assessing their temperament, and character. Suitable dogs are added to their database with photos and videos, leaving for their new homes with a passport, microchip, vaccinations, disease testing, and spaying or neutering.

ACE|SHIN hosts regular fundraising events in Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands to support their operational costs and welcomes any donation, large or small, with gratitude.



**Mr. P**

He makes us laugh every day. He's a goof. He has 18 muscles in his ears and those huge pointed ears maneuver around to show us exactly what he is thinking or feeling. He loves to chase other dogs and be chased. He's intelligent and communicates with barks twice when he wants something. He sits for treats and takes those treats with gentle, tender lips. He is the embodiment of canine love! His name is Reo, our Podenco - Mr. P.

This sounds like the perfect pup but full disclosure, he is a dog, a big, strong dog and of course he has dog characteristics. He loves to chew his stuffed toys and he destroys beds by gutting them and spreading the fluff all about. Play for him is intense, looks rough, and sounds like he is ready to rumble and tear his sisters, Ruby and Scarlett, to pieces. But that's just a show; he quiets in an instant. He has never been in a real fight, except for play, he has never shown aggression during our 3 years with him.

He has escaped through an open door before, and all you see is his tail as he is off down the road. Call all you want but he has no recall this dog. He is a hunter after all. When corralled he looks at you with his big golden eyes as much as to say. "I just wanted a little change of scenery. Do I have to go home right now?"

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He loves the dog park and off we go. There he can run and frolic, playing with the dogs. He is the loudest player at the park, yet he is so gentle. He is a social butterfly, leaning on all the dog people asking for a scratch or rub. Outside he loves to sleep in the sun, play with his ball by jumping up and down on it, shaking an empty stuffy in his funny way and then climbing up on the lounge chair next to you for his most favourite treat - bum scratches. He will wiggle around doing a dance to music only he can hear. He is a very loving companion. He displays his affection through kissing your hand, or hugs, where he presses his body against your legs, giving you a Podenco hug.

Yes, we have been blessed with a wonderful addition to our family. Reo. He may be described as a doofus and his behaviours make us laugh out loud. Everyone knows how therapeutic laughter can be - he is pure joy in our life.

Reo came to us from Spain where his existence was likely full of life-threatening challenges, both social and physical. When he came to us, he was shy and apprehensive. He didn't even know how to get into a car! Yet through it all he has risen above these obstacles and learned to love, play, participate, and grow into a healthy, fun loving, affectionate, indispensable, stubborn and independent member of our family. And he is beautiful, a mature example of what these dogs can truly become with good food, shelter, security and love.

But things weren't always so positive. Reo is a Podenco, a Spanish hunting dog. Podencos are abused animals in Spain. They are fed little food or water to keep them hungry enough to hunt. If the hunter is unhappy with their dog, they are often taken to the woods and given "piano" when the dog is hung in a tree with its nails just touching the ground. So cruel. This, and much more, is the fate awaiting thousands of hunting dogs, yet Reo was able to escape it somehow. He was rescued by Ibizan Hound Rescue in Spain and brought to us by GGPAC.



A quest for survival was not the only challenge facing Reo. He came to us with double cataracts which meant almost total blindness. No wonder he failed as a hunter, yet somehow he was able to escape the piano fate. His owner must have had an ounce of humanity and saw something in Reo's soul that lead to his acquittal.

Yes Reo has developed. It only speaks to his character when you see how he has thrived into the beautiful, well-rounded, comical, sensitive, and now, seeing sighthound dog he has become. We are so lucky to have Mr. P as part of our family. He is our first Podenco, and he will not be our last!

David Horton and Hope Boehm

July 2025

