

Tia's Story-her version

I am Tia and I was born in April 2010. I raced at Sheffield and was successful in winning 5 races with also 4 second places. Following this success, I was then moved on a free transfer to Sheffield RGT on 1 Dec 2012. I would have thought I could get more money, footballers do and I have two more legs than them.

When I entered the RGT kennels, I was a bit at a loss. All my usual friends and surroundings had changed. This confused me and when being walked I just wanted to chase anything that moved – especially those pesky cats which my 2 legged acquaintances seemed to like. Frustratingly they would not let me chase them and I was used to chasing things which moved.

Anyway time went by, and this family kept coming to see me at weekends. I think they liked me, but some of the other two legged ones thought I was a bit of a handful. They even blamed me for pulling the lead out of their hand a couple of times. It has to be said I tried it with the man who liked me, but rather annoyingly he kept me held firm and would not let me have my fun. Although when he was not there I did manage to get away a couple of times and ran all the way down the hillside, those two legged ones just could not keep up.

I did hear this man telling people what a good dog I really was, and just needed some time and patience – the cheek of it, I was perfect in every way.

In June I thought I was in with a chance. The family had recently lost one of their Greys and were looking for another, but it was not to be. I was still deemed too boisterous when distracted by other small furies. Anyway the one they took soon ended up back in kennels along with their other two, some excuse about going on holiday abroad. Serves the little black one right, fancy taking the small one with few teeth over me!

All through the summer and in to autumn, this family always helped taking the dogs out, and the man always made sure I was one he took out even if I'd been out. I now had come to recognise when they came to visit me and used to jump and wag my tail at them.

In October 2013 I heard people saying they were going to get rid of me before Christmas – not for Christmas you understand, that's for turkeys. They were going to do that by finding me a home, whatever one of those is.

Then In early November, I had my coat and lead on, and the man and his wife arrived. They had the small black greyhound with them which they'd got in July. I remembered her, I thought she was called Goofy or Gummy, but in fact it was Molly. Anyway we walked round the usual walk all morning, and I walked beside her behaving myself – I can you know.

The next thing that happened was the back end of the car opened up and I jumped in. Seemed alright, and I was not made to get out. The car started and I was on my way.

We arrived at a place called home. Here I ran in to the garden and found another friend I had met a few times before. He was a brindle grey called Pedro, daft name but nice enough guy.

I was invited in to this "home" and found they'd made a place for me to lie down and sleep. They also fed me several times a day. Well I was not used to this, so I ate the lot.

My two new friends were great – especially the little black one. It's great being able to chase her round the house, Pedro seems to prefer to run on his own. Pity really as I think we get along fine, but he seems wary when us girls start having fun.

Christmas and New Year came and went, and I got some new toys. Some I still have. From listening in on conversions, it appears I have fitted in fine. Apparently I have turned out better than the man expected and he thought I would be a good dog, apparently I'm a really good dog and I always let them know when someone comes or a cat crosses the street!

Tia's Story-the human version

When we first met Tia in Dec 2012, she was one of those dogs who looked good but was strong on the lead when she saw something. The rest of the time she would walk well on the lead.

At Easter 2013, we'd walked Tia quite a lot. We knew to have her on a short lead, but she was not for us as we already had three Greys. We honestly thought all she needed was some quality time on her own with someone to just train her. When people were talking about dogs, and ones they were thinking about, we said you'd not go far wrong with Tia. However she was always over looked.

When we were looking to replace a dog in July, we did consider Tia. It was a tough decision, but handling Tia and our current dogs might have been a bit too much at that time, especially if they saw a cat or squirrel. So we took Molly, a small black greyhound who had been used for deer hunting.

During the holidays in August, with time to relax and think, I thought we could give Tia a home if we could calm her down and spend more time with her. I remember saying that if she was still there at Christmas, I'd bring her home; as she would have been in the kennels over a year at Christmas.

1 November we said we give Tia a trial with our other three dogs. When we arrived on the Saturday, Zena had Tia waiting for us. We'd taken Molly with us to get them used to each other and walking together, as if there was going to be a disagreement it would be with those two and not Pedro. We walked the two around and everything was fine so we took Tia and Molly home. It must be said, Tia had a reputation, but I'd never experienced any aggression from her, only the leaping and spinning around on the lead.

When we got home, we introduced her to Pedro and they all went up the garden together.

They all got on fine.

I slept in the lounge that evening, and for several months! In case Tia wanted to go out, she never did.

We went back to Sheffield the following day and took Tia with us. The staff thought we were bringing her back, but we'd just gone to help walk the dogs. Tia had settled in fine, so she was stopping another week (at least).

The following week, we took Tia to Scarborough. We had lost our old dog, Shelley, during the week to cancer, so it was strange seeing a different dog on her bed in the flat. Tia was content and they all got along well.

It was shortly thereafter we said we'd keep her and the relevant paperwork was duly completed.

We'd always thought Tia was a stunning dog, and would be a really good family dog. She just needed control when she saw a small furry animal such as a rabbit, squirrel or cat. In fact Tia is not just a good dog; she's a great dog who has exceeded all our hopes and expectations. Now we have had her 8 months and she is the one who barks when people come, she's even managed to get Pedro to join in. She plays nicely with the other two Greys and we are truly lucky to have her.

So if you are thinking about giving a dog a home, get to know the dog and consider ones which others might overlook and don't let reputations precede them, they are different when homed and behave themselves given the ground rules.