



Beagle Tails

Run Free Alliance Newsletter 1

June 2016



A Story of Hope

*From an Italian laboratory
to freedom in the UK*

It was hot and crowded when my daughter Dani and I arrived at the kennels to collect the beagle we were due to adopt from the ill-fated Greenhill facility. So many kind people waiting for so many, at this stage, illegally rescued dogs. The beagles had travelled in boxes from Montichiari by train and car. The journey would have been approximately 8 hours and must have been confusing and frightening for the dogs. However, this was a journey with a happy ending as they left the hell of the breeding facility and a future of painful medical experimentation for freedom and loving homes.

It all started when Dani saw an advertisement for homes needed for ex-laboratory beagles on a program called Striscia la Notizia (Save a life) in Italy. We already had Angel our adorable female dog and thought she would be a wonderful role

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The Past, Present and Future

*Run Free Alliance's journey to becoming a respected
UK & Wales registered charity number 1162858*

Little did I realise 6 years ago when I presented my idea of campaigning about Beagles being bred, and then used for animal experimentation to the other Trustees of Beagle Welfare (BW), that it would completely take over my life. Over the next couple of years, balancing my work as Trustee/National Secretary of BW and the RUN FREE Campaign became almost impossible as BW work had to take priority. So when I resigned from BW, I was delighted that the remaining Trustees asked if I would take-over the campaign. I was then able to devote 100% of my time to a subject which has been and remains very close to my heart.

Within a couple of months everything had been put in place with new objectives and a management structure. I don't think we realised how much work would be involved in trying to save Beagles from the appalling experimentation they go through, and there were some who, due to other commitments, understandably fell by the wayside. Fortunately, we now have a strong Management Team of which two of us are founder members.

Many people do not understand our strategy of working with the regulatory bodies and organisations rather than shouting and waving placards. Our view is that there are plenty of groups that do this. Thinking outside the box, we presented ourselves as a welfare and care group and it took a lot of time for those who make and maintain legislation to take us seriously. Quietly and logically we are slowly being respected for our views and without boasting - we have been listened to and some of our suggestions have been taken on board where it can make a difference.

This led to us applying last year to be accepted as a registered Charity. It was not an easy exercise as animal rights campaigners and activists are not allowed to be a charity. As we could effectively demonstrate to the Charities Commission that our ethos was and will continue to be the welfare, care and future of Beagles who fall within the Animal Scientific Procedures Act

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model to help one of these poor souls. Greenhill, owned by Marshall BioResources, had been the target of much publicity since 2010 when it became apparent that illegal practices and cruelty were being carried out. In April 2012 about 40 dogs were rescued during a day light raid and later that year the site was closed and more than 2,500 dogs were liberated.

The application form we were asked to complete was rigorous – ten pages in total asking about our experience with dogs, lifestyle, financial status and work commitments. Understandably the Lega Anti Viviseccion (LAV) who had helped with the rescue of these laboratory beagles wanted to be sure they went to the very best homes. Not everyone who applied was accepted. We were one of the lucky families.

The dogs were all waiting in little pens and as each person approached they were handed a dog from a particular pen. Naturally, we were anxious. We had applied for a female puppy but had no idea what we would actually be given. After what seemed like an eternity our names were called and my daughter and I were handed what could only be described as an ugly, thin and very smelly creature that looked more like a rat than a dog. Undeterred by this and knowing what she had been through we called her Hope – Hope that she would live as she was so very poorly and Hope because she was one of the lucky ones to have made it out of that place.



The first few months were far from easy. Hope was extremely ill and we were not sure she would live. She had a mass of internal parasites and a lot of digestive and stomach problems. The poor thing had a smell of sickness and unhealthiness about her that permeated our house for the first two months. She also had fur loss in many places on her tiny body. Our vet was not sure how she had made it through so far. We received no financial help for Hope's illnesses but of course we were happy to get her the treatment she needed. We had already grown attached to this poor little beagle and we were terrified we might lose her because she wasn't strong enough to fight her way back to good health. Sadly, we heard that many of the dogs that came from Greenhill died due to their poor health. To this day we are thankful that Hope lived up to her name and

came through and are convinced that Angel's sweet nurturing nature was fundamental to Hope's recovery.

As Hope improved she became more confident and she started to play and behave like a normal puppy would. Once again Angel was wonderfully patient with her and put up with all sorts of shenanigans like nipping her ears and pulling at her tail in an attempt to initiate yet more relentless play.

For the first year or so we lived in a state of limbo with Hope. We knew she had been rescued albeit illegally from the laboratory and naturally they were saying the dogs were their property. There was a court case pending against some of the directors and veterinarians who ran Greenhill.



Many marches and demonstrations continued against the re-opening of the breeding facility. Eventually we had to pay a fee of 100 Euros to the LAV and Hope officially became a permanent member of our family.

Hope and Angel now live in the UK with Dani and her mum and I was lucky enough to meet them whilst on holiday in 2015. The Run Free Alliance continues to campaign at government level over the proposed beagle breeding facility in Yorkshire by B&K Universal (owned by Marshall BioResources, who also owned Greenhill). Run Free Alliance also campaigns to improve the welfare of beagles in laboratories with the ultimate goal of seeing an end to all experiments using beagle dogs.

Written on behalf of Hope's family by Elizabeth Cox

Author's Note:

*January 2015 Ghislaine Rondot (Vice-President for European Operations for Marshall BioResources, Director of **B&K Universal Ltd**, B&K Universal Group, BK Star Ltd and Yorkshire Evergreen Ltd); Roberto Bravi (Director of Greenhill) and Renzo Graziosi (Greenhill veterinarian) were all found guilty of cruelty and unlawful killing of dogs.*

June 2015 Ghislaine Rondot resigned from her position with the above mentioned companies.

*July 2015 planning permission was granted by the UK Secretary of State for Dept of Communities and Local Government to allow **B&K Universal Ltd** to build their breeding facility in North Yorkshire.*

COME AND SUPPORT US

THIS SUMMER THE RUN FREE TEAM WILL BE ATTENDING THE FOLLOWING DOG SHOWS/EVENTS. WE'D LOVE TO MEET YOU AND SO WOULD OUR BEAGLES WHO OFTEN ATTEND THE SHOWS WITH US.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BARK IN THE PARK

THANCKES PARK, TORPOINT PL11 2QX

11AM – 5PM, DOG SHOW AND FUN DAY

BATTERSEA FUN DAY

OLD WINDSOR REHOMING CENTRE, BERKS SL4 2JN

10:30AM – 4:30PM, DOG SHOW AND FUN DAY

PUPAID

PRIMROSE HILL, NORTH LONDON

10AM – 5PM, DOG SHOW AND FUN DAY

Holby's Top Tips

Accessorise, accessorise, accessorise - look cool and stylish on that sunlounger!

Find Holby's Adventures on facebook



1986. After many hours, days, weeks and months of lost sleep, tears and frustration, our application was approved. We are now the only charity in the UK focused on our ethos as mentioned above. We also support and promote those researchers and scientists who are developing alternative humane procedures which in turn will eliminate the use of Beagles and could set a precedence for other species.

Charity status has given us the opportunity to increase our profile where it matters. We have been very fortunate for the past 5 years to attend regular stakeholder meetings and work with ASRU (Animal Scientific Regulation Unit) at the Home Office. In September 2015 we became members of APGAW (All-party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare). Again this allows us to attend and participate in meetings at the Houses of Parliament where the attendees range from MP's from all parties to a large cross-section of organisations concerned with animal welfare.

One of the difficulties of working with these bodies is that we are somewhat restricted in what we can announce to our supporters and the public about the work that is being done. Several exciting strategies are in the pipeline, but rather than making sensational announcements, which could raise expectations and then dash those expectations when delays and changes can influence the final 'sign-off', we frustratingly have to keep quiet.

However, I can announce that together with ASRU who released an Advice Note on Re-homing Laboratory Animals in October 2015 (which is currently undergoing slight amendments and inclusions) we are in discussions and negotiations to promote and assist in the re-homing of Beagles. So please watch out for news of this in the future.

So in a nut-shell this is a brief overview of our past, our present and our hopes for the future.

Although we have 'hopes' for the future, our determination is that we will NEVER give up our fundamental priority to see Beagles removed from the species used for **ALL** sectors of animal research, experimentation and testing. Not just for human medicine and treatment but for basic research, training, agricultural, pesticides and bio-reactors to mention a few. It has to be everything and not just selfishness in thinking only about humans - it's about BEAGLES!

One of our hopes is that you can continue to support us, and thank you for your past and present backing together with your encouragement to carry on speaking on behalf of Beagles who have no voice.

Christine Wynne

www.runfreealliance.com also on facebook!

Run Free on Twitter

Two years ago I hadn't sent out a single tweet. To say I was twitter illiterate would be an understatement.

So I started, as Run Free, with 0 followers. I began, nervously for some reason, by following other animal welfare related groups and sat and watched what they did. As we had a petition to share then that's the angle I took first of all, asking people to sign.

Gradually, as these tweets were shared and re-tweeted, we began to gain our own followers. In those two years I have seen some very busy times when one of our tweets has been very successful. The support we have gained from other groups and individuals has been phenomenal and I have been extremely grateful for that, as being on twitter, sometimes 12 hours a day, can be quite lonely.

We have now sent out 66 thousand tweets and have 14 thousand followers, phew! that took some doing.

It is through twitter that we gained most of our celebrity supporters: Peter Egan, Sia, Jodie Prenger, Carley Stenson, Wendy Turner Webster, Charlotte Ross, Olivia Hussey and Sherrie Hewson.

We have been re-tweeted by many other animal welfare groups eg : Pupaid, Animals 1st, Beagle Freedom Project, Greens 4 animals, Animal Welfare Party, Sea Shepherd, Animal Advocate, Animals Asia, along with lots of animal rescues and groups, too many to mention, but we are very grateful to every single one. Some I don't even know their names other than their twitter name but others have become twitter friends and we speak regularly.

The support we now see is amazing. Individuals and groups do tweets on our behalf and it is very gratifying that they are showing faith in us and what we are aiming to do, end ALL breeding for and ALL use of Beagles in experimentation in the UK.

In return we re-tweet for them. It's about sharing our causes to a wider audience. We still maintain our stance that we use no graphic pictures and are respected for that.

Twitter has been a huge contributory factor to raising awareness of Beagles used in UK Laboratories and has massively contributed to the number of signatures on the petition.

If you don't already, please follow us @UKRunFree

Sue Starkey

De mystewy ob mees puwple poop

Last week Mudda muttewed somefin' about mees poop bein' puwple in colour. She was sayin' fings like 'what on earff hab yous bin eatin' an' Yous better not be poowly after eatin'somefin' yous shouldnt' As if.....

Anyways dis week she said she was lookin' forward to makin' her favouwite summer fwuit pie. She says dere is only eber enough fwuit to make one pie and she was so excited cos she lubs dem.

She took de colander to de top ob de gawden an' I followed to see which fwuit is her fabouwite in case I hab to wisit her in de hospital or some such in de futuwe. It's best to be pwepared. Den I heawd a shwiek. ..Mudda says ' Where are mees blackcuwwants ? 'Dems mees fabouwites ! Where hab dey gone ? Dere was loads last week...now dere are only 10 !!! 10 blackcuwwants won't make a pie ! Someone has had mees blackcuwwants an' bwoken de bwanches too. She was standin' wight next to de bush dat I found dose delicious bewwies on last weekyou don't fink dey are de blackcuwwants she lubs do yous ?

I moved away quick but heard her say somefin' about 'I bet dats why yous had de puwple poop Winston' yous had dem ! Mees fabouwites. She can't prove it was mees...It might hab been Hawwy. I personally fink his poop looked puwple too....a bit...pewhaps

Dis is Winston, holding ' in mees twumps in case dey smell of Wibena.

Follow Winston the Beagle on facebook!

