



# **GAGAH**

## **Winter Newsletter**



# **Merry Christmas**

## **Review of 2010**

### **and NEWS for 2011**

**Give A Greyhound A Home - Rescuing Greyhounds & Lurchers**

**For Aberdeenshire & The Rest Of Scotland - Contact Pat  
01224 782489**

**For Glasgow Strathclyde & Lanarkshire - Contact Elaine  
01236 727653**



**" I`m sooooo looking forward to  
Christmas "**

**Please Donate to GAGAH - Clydesdale Bank PLC - A/C  
10040635**

**Sort Code 82\_61\_04 Name - Diane Henderson for GAGAH**

# INTRODUCTION

*By Diane*

Hi Everyone,

Well, what a year it has been, probably the busiest ever fundraising etc... we have had our fair share of emergencies which has taken it's toll on the funds but thanks to everyone's hard work we survive another year!!



The GAGAH Hope kennels, kindly being built by Liz & Phil, with help from many of you, are really taking shape and will allow us to save more hounds and save thousands of pounds in the process, the professional plans look amazing and the dogs in their care will be so looked after.

The fundraising will be a huge help here to allow us to get them finished as soon as the weather allows.

Well as you know GAGAH has been going now since 1999 and in that time we have all helped rehome over 1,000 of these amazing hounds, we home on average approx. 100 dogs per year, what an amazing achievement which would not have been possible without all of you.



Our last major emergency as you know was 19 of Davy Browns dogs. Davy sadly died of cancer and he was one of the very decent racers we have dealt with for 10years.

Davy helped us out in emergencies by kennelling dogs, including a good few of the Whitemyres dogs. All of the 19 dogs were saved thanks to your amazing help and Scottish greyhound Sanctuary, Greyhound Rescue Fife and Greyhound Awareness League, and with the huge help from Bandeath Council Pound who took all 19 dogs and looked after them until they could be moved.

It's been a sad year for a lot of people who have lost their beloved hounds and my thoughts are with all of them. All of these special four legged friends will now be running free at Rainbow Bridge along with their amazing happy memories of what the last years of their lives were like here, being so loved and looked after by their devoted owners.



It has been a good year for a few of our 'long-termers' namely Wee Rab, Minty, Luca and of course old Scootsy boy, who as most of you know did get 4 weeks of being loved and spoiled in a nice warm cosy house, so he got to be part of a family again in the end before he sadly parted.

We have also gained some new foster homes this year which has been a huge help.

Fostering is invaluable allowing us to help these souls get used to domestic life and to be assessed and matched to a forever home, thanks to each and every one of you who help in this way.

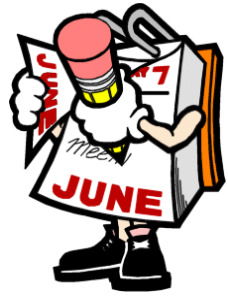
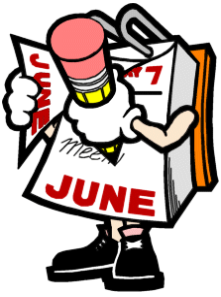
Everyone of you folk reading this are an invaluable help to the GAGAH dogs. We all do our bit in different ways and with so many factors of what's involved it always comes together and works amazingly well. What would we do without your help with transport, fostering, fundraising, amazing PR work, dealing with the phone calls, donating blankets/quilts, ebay shop, calendars, gagah summer raffle, helping at the events, making coats/jammies the list is endless really and this doesn't cover all of it.



Next year we plan to have another GAGAH Funday, and I will try and come up with a few more entertaining/ fun activities for the humans and the hounds, so can't wait to see you all their again. Last year was a huge success and once again, thanks for everyone's help and support and I hope you all enjoyed it.

Well I will go now and let you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Thanks again to everyone.  
Huge thanks Di



# Calendar of Events 2011

It's been a busy year, and next year looks to be even busier. We have a lot of events pencilled in for 2011, so keep checking the website for updates.

We will continue the monthly walks next year, the 1st Sunday in the month, moving round different locations, and these will be announced beforehand.

- January:- Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> or probably 9<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am
- February:- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am
- March:- Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am
- April:- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am
- May:- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Monthly GAGAH walk 11am
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> BA Stores Vintage Weekend (to be confirmed)

\*

BA Stores Vintage Weekend will be the launch of the 2011 BIG SUMMER RAFFLE

Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Baker Hughes Aberdeen 10k Start Time 9.30am

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> DAWGS Day at Haddo House

June:- Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

GAGAH Fun Day Date to be confirmed.

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Great British Greyhound Walk (Venue to be decided)

July:- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> – Sun 17<sup>th</sup> New Deer Show

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> – Mon 1<sup>st</sup> August Turriff Show

August:- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> DAWGS Day Hazelhead Park

September:- Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Sponsored Walk (replacing the Bennachie Walk)  
Venue for this walk to be decided

October:- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

November:- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

December:- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Monthly GAGAH Walk 11am

# Toby - Best In Show

By Gaynor Marshall

Gaynor Marshall was at the GAGAH Fun Day this year with Toby. Toby outshone all the opposition on the day, to win the Meadow Cup which is the prize for Best in Show. Gaynor agreed to tell us Toby's story.



Toby was a Whitemyrs dog although from what I can gather, fairly young when he was rescued. Prior to coming to us, I believe he was homed twice unsuccessfully because he is an emotionally challenged dog and his behaviour can be difficult!!

Before he came to us, Di decided a spell with Sue at "It's a dog's life" would help with some of his issues. We got involved when there was an email saying another large group was coming to GAGAH and asking for help. We replied that we could possibly manage a small one. Di asked us if we would be interested in Toby because he is quite small for a greyhound and it would free up much needed funds. We went to visit with our other hounds and all went well, so we took him home.

It all went well for a while until he settled in and then we realised what we were in for. Toby has issues with passive aggression, separation anxiety and has the most horrendous panic attacks. The aggression means that he has bitten every dog in our pack with Roy getting the worst of it. The poor boy looks like a patchwork quilt down one side. The problem with this type of aggression is that there are no warning signs i.e.growling, raised lip etc.

It just takes another dog to look at him the wrong way and he will lunge. We think this goes back to having to fight for any food that came his way.

We haven't had any incidents for a couple of years now but he still has to be muzzled when they are running free. Separation anxiety speaks for itself, ask Alex. When we stop to get petrol, she has to endure Toby's squeaking and whining until I get back in the car.

Funnily enough, we have never had bedtime problems though but there are times when I would love to be able to go to the loo or get dressed without listening to him squeaking. The panic attacks are a mystery. Neither we nor our experienced vet can figure out what triggers them. They often come in groups and all we can do is sedate him with ACP and let him doze it off. In the past we did give him diazepam but it had side effects. He had a terrible case of the munchies as it wore off or he would stick his head into the water bucket and shake himself off all over the kitchen.

Problems aside, because that is a small part of Toby. He is an affection dog who loves to curl up beside you on the sofa and snore his head off or lie on his back with his legs in the air, getting his tummy rubbed. He loves to play with young Mandy and they have great fun together. He loves walks and running until he can hardly get his breathe.

In the summer he comes home and jumps into the paddling pool, lying down to cool off. He loves coming through to the "big bed" with me and Mandy and Brora while I read my book at night and will play dead when I say it's time to go through to his own bed. He loves to go in the car and in the summer we would drive slowly down country lanes so he and Mandy could stick their heads through the sun roof, their ears flapping in the breeze. He loves life and we wouldn't part with him despite his problems.



# GAGAH HOPE KENNELS

## Opening in 2011

A few months ago we fostered Hope, a beautiful sweet natured black greyhound girl who came to us with a badly broken leg. We'd never fostered before so were not sure what to expect. She was a dream. After the first couple of weeks when she was quite shy and a little withdrawn she blossomed into the most happy playful little girl you could ever see. She is now with her new Mum and Dad who just adore her.

It was whilst she was with us that I kept thinking about how could we fit more fosters in? Impossible really as with our own three greyhounds, one lurcher and four whippets plus Tommy the cat there is hardly room in the house for us let alone more doggies. I then hit on the idea of kennels. I was thinking of two but where to put the kennels?.

After a week of prowling about the croft looking for suitable sites, I still hadn't come up with anything. Too cold, or too steep, or too far from house. Nowhere looked like it would do. By now I had decided to let Phil in on my plans.

As soon as I told him he said he knew just where they should go and that he had also been thinking about kennels. Very strange that. He also had thought of heating, water, electric and such. This had never entered my mind.

The site Phil had in mind is just perfect, also he said we could get three kennels in, which was even better.



I let Diane know what we were thinking and she thought it a great idea, as once the initial cost of building the kennels was sorted there would only be general maintenance to pay for and food etc, no other running costs.

There are enough of us here to take care of the visiting dogs and as Phil has now retired I think he is quite looking forward to taking on that job. There has been a great response from all the GAGAH people and from many other folks as well. There has been donations of beds, leads, food, collars and building materials.

We have also had several discounts from local firms when they realized that their goods are going towards such a good cause. Chief among these are Kirkmyres sand and gravel. Once the kennels are up I intend to post a list of all the kind people that have helped in any way.

Well that is how the kennels came into existence. Of course they had to be the GAGAH HOPE KENNELS as it was little Hope that was the inspiration for them.

The kennels are now well under way, and the concrete base is down, walls and timbers are going up, next is the roof, with the cage partitions, doors, insulation and then just the plumbing in and the work area to do.

Hopefully this won't take too long, although we depend on the weather quite a bit. We are all looking forward to the day that the very first doggie comes in, it will be a really exciting moment. Thanks to all the GAGAH folk for being so supportive. It could not have been done without your help.

*By Liz and Phil Jones*



## ***RUNNING the 2011 Aberdeen 10K to RAISE MONEY for GAGAH***



*Have you ever thought about running a 10K and raising money for **GAGAH** at the same time. **GAGAH** is looking for runners, or anyone who wants to try something new for 2011. The idea is to raise money from team and individual sponsorship in the 2011 Aberdeen 10K Taking place on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May at 9.30am*

*The event is known as the City of Aberdeen Baker Hughes 10K, and the course is based around the Aberdeen harbour with a good stretch along the prom. Serious runners could post a very fast time, and the flat course will help anyone who is doing their first 10K. The events is very well organised, with good parking and not too early a start time.*



*If anyone would like to do the 10K for the first time, but you're not sure please give it a try, you'll find it's a lot of fun going along with friends. We can give you a bit of help to get started on the road to your first 10K Just send an e mail marked Aberdeen 10K to [alfiedolphins@aol.com](mailto:alfiedolphins@aol.com)*

*Please be assured that in this event you are not going to be left behind to struggle home on your own. All your hard work will be well worth it, and helping to raise money for **GAGAH** will go to help rescue more dogs. Plus you will get a nice shiny medal at the end of the race. (and a rest)*





## **Susie Hunt – Artist and friend to GAGAH**

*Firstly about Susie Hunt the artist –*

*Susie is a local artist living and working near Kemnay, and just recently has had a painting hung in the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh, which is a great achievement for any artist.*

Susie very recently contacted GAGAH as she loves greyhounds, and has very generously offered to help raise funds for GAGAH.

Many of you met Susie at the Newburgh Estuary walk, where she came along to meet the dogs, take photos and do some sketching.

The result will be to produce a special painting that will go on sale at an exhibition in March, over at the Woodend Barn Arts Centre in Banchory.

This is just one of a number of ideas and projects that Susie has in mind to help raise funds for GAGAH, and she will be joining us on some of the other monthly walks in future.

You can find out more about Susie at [www.susiehunt.co.uk](http://www.susiehunt.co.uk) or contact **The Studio Mill Farm Kemnay Inverurie Aberdeenshire AB51 5NY 01467 642955**



*Here are two fine examples of Susie`s work in Watercolour featuring Greyhounds*

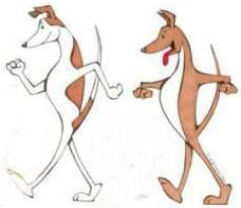


## **THE GREAT BRITISH GREYHOUND WALK 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010 & LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT ONE - 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

*This year saw the very first Great British Greyhound Walk, the aim was to have 1,000 Greyhounds walking on the same day all over Britain. Stuart (Major's Dad) kindly organised the GAGAH one in the Aberdeen area at Countesswells. We all had a great time with a turnout of 40 dogs on the day. The total all over Britain was 1,641 dogs. On Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 the aim is to have 2011 dogs walking all over Britain, and I think the way things are going it will be possible. So come along and join in on what promises to be a great day out. Stuart will post information about the event on the GAGAH forum next year*



*Just some of the dogs from the Great British Greyhound Walk 2010*



## **3rd Bennachie Sponsored Walk 2010 and looking forward to the 4th walk in 2011**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bennachie Sponsored Walk this year took place on Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. The turnout was better than last year, with 12 hounds and 12 humans. This year's walk changed from climbing the hill to a much more enjoyable flat walk. The easy pace suited everyone there including the dogs. More than £500 was raised to boost GAGAH funds. *WELL DONE***

**It's been fun walking around Bennachie for the last three years. The dogs have had fun, new friends have been made and money raised as a result of the Bennachie Walk. So now in the spirit of adventure it's time to move the 2011 walk to another location.**





# GAGAH SHOP

Visit the GAGAH online shop for the latest GAGAH Calendar, at £10 each. All proceeds go towards GAGAH funds, all costs for the Calendar are met by this year sponsors, many thanks to them all.



Also see dog coats, collars, notecards, address books etc,

The GAGAH on line shop, run by Eliza, is a must visit for your Greyhound goodies.  
e-mail:- [gagahshop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gagahshop@hotmail.co.uk)



## Ebrie Lodge Pet Hotel

[www.ebrielodgepethotel.co.uk/](http://www.ebrielodgepethotel.co.uk/)

Email [linda@ebrielodgepethotel.co.uk](mailto:linda@ebrielodgepethotel.co.uk)

*Ebrie Lodge Pet Hotel  
Clockhill Maud  
Peterhead AB42 5SN*

*Tel. 01771 644807  
Fax. 01771 644188*



*Ebrie Lodge Pet Hotel* has accommodation for dogs, cats, rabbits, small animals and domestic birds. The business has now been operating for over 20 years by the ever smiling, cheerful Linda Riseborough, who has helped GAGAH on countless occasions.

Ebrie Lodge is also the home of the GAGAH emergency rescue kennels. The kennels have saved many a dog when it had nowhere else to go, and was waiting to come into GAGAH HQ to then be re homed. It's of a very high standard, very well run, and is as good a place as anywhere to leave your dog should you be going out of town and you can't take them with you. It's very popular and very busy, and it pays to book early.

# You won't change the world by adopting a Greyhound But you will change a Greyhounds world.

adopt a



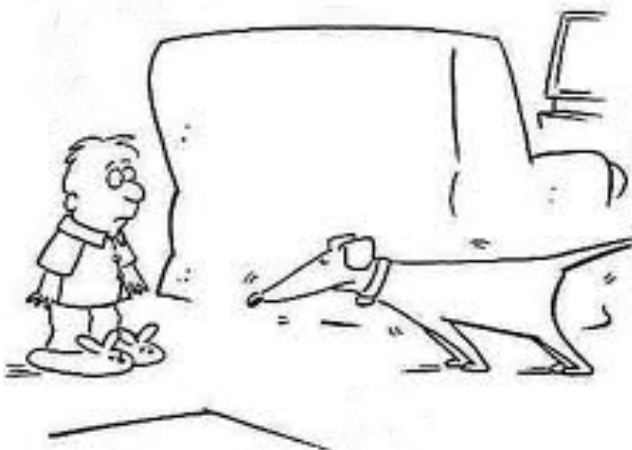
## The 40 mile an hour couch potato



Sue finds another use for Reggie !!



Luca has found the perfect spot !!



Dude doesn't know what to chase first  
the RABBIT or the RABBIT !!



On the Internet nobody knows you're a dog !!

### a greyhound wish

When I Die, Let it be as a Pet!  
So that someone will  
remember me!



### a greyhound wish

When I Die, Let it be as a Pet!  
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remember me!



### a greyhound wish

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# Rainbow Bridge



This has been a very sad year for many of our GAGAH friends. The loss of a beloved pet is so hard, most of us can sadly relate to how everyone was feeling. When I asked for contributions for the newsletter, I didn't expect anything as heartfelt. I haven't edited this in any way. I feel everything Eliza has to say is important, not only to her but to everyone in the same situation.

## "FROM THE HEART"

I guess by writing this I am going some way to helping myself with the recent loss of my beloved Phoebe, an Irish, Red and White Setter 9 yrs & also the loss of Daisy 8 months.

This year has been extremely hard for me, I did not expect to lose either of them, and still find it hard to accept. Pets small and large make our house a home, they welcome you home and they spend a great deal of time with you and see you for what you are, you don't hide your personality from your pet – they are part of your personality, and share a lot of day to day activities.

Pets bring so much joy and loving companionship, they don't ask questions they just know how you are, and find a way to make you smile. That is why they become part of the family and are so easy to love and enjoy. If your pet has recently passed away I am so sorry for your loss and truly mean that, I know how you are feeling, it's awful, it may also feel like the grief will never end, it will though, just not today.

One of the worst things about when a pet passes away is not having someone who understands to talk to about it. The GAGAH forum and other pet folk are your best bet. However bereavement is an experience we all go through – losing someone we care about, someone we loved. GAGAH are a group of friends who understand and will know where you are coming from, we don't react in bafflement, incomprehension, impatience or worst still with humour – we react with understanding, most will have already been there, or dread the day that it will happen to them.

Do not apologise for taking so long to get over it or for getting upset, nor should you be embarrassed, or feel guilty...these feelings are very real at the time, but you should not blame yourself for how you react or how you feel. The way we grieve goes through various stages – not everyone will go through them all, but those that have will recognise the pattern.

We feel responsible  
We feel angry  
We have up and down moments  
We feel hurt  
We go through denial  
Shock  
Blame

The above is not in any order – it can jump from one to the other and back. I have read numerous guidelines on how to heal yourself – if am honest – I don't think it works. Time is probably what I need and in time my head will get round it and sort it out for me. One thing I will say is don't push yourself and don't beat yourself up about it. Feelings like these are perfectly normal, sometimes we may also ask WHY? As if trying to find a reason will enable us to move on, unfortunately sometimes the answer to WHY is just not there. Sometimes there are explanations and answers – but very often there isn't.

Being angry is a common factor in all bereavements – the need to blame someone or something – somewhere we can vent our anger. It won't bring your pet back and will just tire you out all the more. If there are lessons to be learned then you will have learned them, but blaming others or yourself does no one any good.

Guilt is a horrible feeling, maybe you should have looked after your pet more, paid more attention. Instead of waiting for better weather we should have gone to the beach. I was holding off till we were able to go on the nicer part of the beach which is closed off during the summer months to dogs... it feels like something I haven't completed, there was still stuff I wanted to do.

My advice – never wait for another day, do it now. It certainly won't be forever that I feel this way, and in time things will get better. Sometimes I try to take a step back and think, but just now it's not working, and I am just on the go all the time.

That is my way of coping – but it will catch up with me and when it does I pity the person who is with me. Let us hope it's someone who will understand. Giving and receiving love has got to be one of the best things about being alive on this planet, and dogs do it 10 times better than we do, which is probably why we suffer horrendously when they part from us. I think all pets want to be remembered with love and laughter.

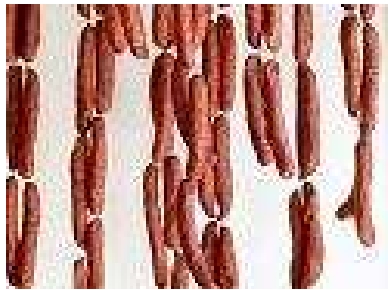
*Eliza xx*

What the heart has once known, it shall never forget.  
Anon

# *THE MISSING LINK(S)*

## Aunty Pat 7<sup>th</sup> November

On Sunday we did have a frown,  
Cos Aunty Pat let us all down,  
No sossages did she produce,  
Whining and tears it did induce,  
Aunty Pat we hope you know  
Cos we all let our feelings show,  
A Sunday walk is not complete,  
Without our special sossage treat,  
So Aunty Pat we must demand,  
Special sossages from your fair hand  
The Houndies



## ODE TO THE HUMBLE SOSSAGE

Sossages are wonderful  
They`re long and thin and brown  
Sossages are wonderful  
They`re easy to gulp down  
Sossages are wonderful  
They`re not just for a treat  
Sossages are wonderful  
Anytime to eat  
Sossages are wonderful  
We get them when we can  
Sossages are wonderful  
Straight from the frying pan  
Sossages are wonderful  
Some houndies are deprived  
Sossages are wonderful  
I know you think I lied  
Sossages are wonderful  
Please give them if you can  
Sossages are wonderful  
I am their biggest fan  
Anon



*We all love Aunty Pat !!!*

## WHAT I WOULD DO

I`d run through fire  
Jump off a cliff  
I`d sprint ten miles  
For just one sniff  
I`d go without sleep  
Your couch you can keep  
I`d jump over the Dee  
Go down on one knee  
I`d give up being lazy  
You might think I`m crazy  
So why would I do  
All these things for you

*For a sausage of course !!!*



# D.A.W.G.S

GAGAH would like to thank D.A.W.G.S for inviting us to be part of their fundraising days this year. We had a very successful day at Hazelhead park in August and again at the Christmas Fete in November, We look forward to being part of next years activities.

## D.A.W.G.S

Dog Action Working Group Scotland



Scottish Charity No.SCO22666

As a dog welfare charity we find loving new homes for unwanted and abandoned dogs throughout the North East of Scotland.

Well over 2,000 dogs and puppies have been given the chance of a new life since we began helping homeless hounds back in 1994

If you can offer a dog a loving new home...

We aim to find our dogs loving new homes by working to a re-homing policy, which matches each dog's individual needs, characteristics and traits with the most suitable new owner and living environment.

To achieve this we need to ask prospective owners a few simple questions, which are followed up by an informal visit to your home. If you have owned a pet before we may need to ask for a vet's reference. Most vets are familiar with the procedure and are happy to help.

Our procedure is aimed to benefit both dog and prospective owner so your help and patience is much appreciated.

As our charity receives no government funding and we are not part of a national organisation we can only continue to provide our dog re-homing service through public donations and fund raising events.

To assist in funding our work you will be asked for a minimum donation of £75 for your dog. This includes our Pooch Pack fact sheet, which details the dog's history, characteristics and any other pertinent information, which will assist you. The fee also includes micro chipping, which aids identification in the event your dog goes missing.



D.A.W.G.S

"The Dawghouse"

Whitemyres Holdings

Lang Stracht

Kingswells

Aberdeen

AB15 8PS

Phone 01224208989



**THANK YOU**  
**THANK YOU**  
**THANK YOU**  
**TO ALL AT GAGAH**  
**WITHOUT EVERYONE**  
**WE WOULDN'T BE HERE**





Hello Everyone,

We hope you have enjoyed the GAGAH newsletter, and there were plenty things to write about. We would like to give a special Thank You to Eliza, Gaynor, liz & Phil for their contributions. GAGAH is a wonderful organisation, with wonderful people, and we wouldn't all be doing what we do of course if it wasn't for the wonderful dogs. We have had so much fun and pleasure since we got our first Greyhound, Frankie four years ago. Then came Jess and now Izzy, the happiness they bring us is priceless. We came up here nearly five years ago, we didn't know anyone, now we have so many FRIENDS through GAGAH it's just amazing.

We really enjoy what we do for GAGAH, and hope to continue for a very long time. We are already planning the next newsletter for Spring 2011, and if there is anything you would like included, any ideas for articles, fund raising, poems, stories, etc please let us know. All that is left is to wish all you humans and all your very Special Hounds.

***A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
From Annie, Alfie, Frankie, Jess and Izzy***

