

## Sprocket's story by Leone Cobham

I walked past the pet shop and saw two puppies. One fawn coloured with pale blue eyes and the other white with fawn patches. I couldn't quite work out what they were. The sign in the window said "Italian Greyhounds". 'Oh' I thought 'they are not the prettiest pups around and being Greyhounds they must be big'.

They were there the next time I walked past and the time after that looking sad and jumping up on the glass at anyone who vaguely seemed interested. I felt for them as they weren't the cuddly fluffy pups like the ones in the next box that people would 'goo & gah' over. I spoke to a vet nurse friend who told me they were miniature. They only grow to be 40cm tall. Well that changed everything. A small dog I could handle. (Little did I know how relaxed and laid back Greyhounds are!!!)

After much consideration I decided we had what it takes to be dog owners. I chose the fawn puppy and gave him lots of cuddles as we filled in the paperwork. Over all of the excitement of becoming pet owners there was another sound. What is that? It was his brother howling, very upset that we were taking away his only company. I fell apart and broke down in tears right there in the middle of the shop. I couldn't leave him there calling out in hope we would bring him back. After a pleading conversation with my mum we went home, both owners of new Italian Greyhound pups!!

He was diagnosed with epilepsy at the age of 2 and had ongoing seizures that got more and more frequent until we got the level of medication right. He now has very occasional seizures and is very manageable.

He loves his brother Pinchie and they are virtually inseparable. Sprocket is very gentle and cuddly. He isn't too keen on other dogs, especially if they are bigger than he is! He loves to sleep all day and despite his very thin physique, he LOVES his food!!!

