



Little blue Bella (*Punk Scooter*) had a very successful racing career, earning more than \$23,000 in stakes over 108 starts. She was trained by Huntly trainer D Schofield, and arrived at GAP in May this year.

She now lives with Susan and Rob in Auckland. Susan told us:

Our family had always been involved in the thoroughbred and trotting racing industry, and when my father was transferred to Sydney in 1963 one of our first outings was a night out at Harold Park to watch the greyhounds race. I will never forget the exhilaration I felt at the speed of the hounds, the colours and the general excitement. That was where my interest in greyhounds began.

In June 2012, I finally became the owner of a beautiful hound of my own. With a fluffy poodle and an elderly Siamese cat I had a certain amount of trepidation as to how a greyhound would settle into our household!

But despite my misgivings, Bella (*Punk Scooter*) soon had her nose to the ground alongside Fifi the toy poodle, and the two of them became a great team looking for rabbits and rats! We live on a small farm and at least twice daily Bella flies around a five acre paddock with Fifi running behind as fast as she can. I was worried at first that as Bella lapped Fifi, she might chase, but instead Bella leaps over Fifi and continues her 'race'.

Often at low tide Bella runs flat out through the water, up and down the estuary on our property, chasing the ducks, who now take flight at her approach! Bella has a special relationship with one of my retired polo ponies and despite initially barking at the sheep, has now become quite accustomed to them. She has learned to become very responsive to 'leave it', hand signals and off-

lead recall.

Bella has continued to amaze us with her intelligence, her wonderful affectionate nature, her sense of fun, her love of, and gentle way with, children. She is curious about everything and we sat open mouthed the first time she walked through the house with an empty wine bottle in her mouth.

As dog lovers/owners all our lives, we are loving the experience of sharing our lives with her. She is different from any other dog I have known and it is very obvious how well she has been treated in her racing life.

Many thanks to Bella's trainers Denis and Pam Schofield and to the GAP team for their dedication and support.





