

# **GREYHOUND SUPPORTERS'**

## **INFORMATION HANDBOOK -**

### **ALL ABOUT TRANSITING A RETIRED RACING GREYHOUND INTO YOUR HOME**



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**NEXT STEPS:**

Following steps after the home visit:

- Approval of application
- Discuss available greyhounds (Some may be in foster care)
- Adopting a retired racing greyhound
- Post-adoptive support

**WITHIN 30 DAYS OF ADOPTION:**

**Adopters must establish a visit with their veterinarian for follow-up:**

- Health check
  - Fecal sample (essential)
  - CBC (recommended)
  - Urinalysis (recommended)
- Parasite medication (required)
  - Heartworm, Hookworm, Tapeworm, Roundworm, Whipworm, Giardia
  - Fleas
  - Ticks
  - NOTE: Never use flea collars or Hartz products or other products purchased at the store. Parasite medications must be prescribed by your veterinarian to ensure the health and safety of your hound.

MANDATORY DOS AND DON'TS
<p>DO NOT LET RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS OFF-LEASH unless in a fenced (5' minimum) area (totally enclosed).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No flexi-leads (extendable leashes)</li> <li>• No leads over 6 feet</li> </ul>
<p>Don't leave your greyhound outside in the yard without supervision (winter and summer).</p>
<p>Do not ever tie up your greyhound.</p>
<p>Do use a martingale collar. Do not use a metal choke collar and never use a pinch collar. Do use a tag collar to ensure that your hound is never without its ID tags.</p>
<p>Do provide your greyhound with at least 30+ minutes of walking (on-leash) each day.</p>
<p><b>Outerwear</b></p> <p>Do ensure that your greyhound is dressed for the weather:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter coat and neck snood.</li> <li>• Raincoats and sweaters should be considered for cool spring/fall weather.</li> <li>• Boots or PAWZ if walking on city streets to protect from salt.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medications</b></p> <p>Do ensure your greyhound is on heartworm and tick preventatives and if required, flea or internal parasite preventatives.</p>
<p><b>Human Medications/Vitamins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not let your greyhound access human medications.</li> <li>• Do keep all medications (including OTS painkillers), vitamins in closed cupboards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Human medications can kill a hound, i.e., one Advil tablet can kill a dog and Ventolin or other asthma medications can also be fatal to a hound.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>CHECKLIST OF THINGS A NEW ADOPTER NEEDS</b>		
	ITEM	COMMENTS
2	Elevated food and water stand	Can be purchased at a pet store or online, or purchase plant stands
2 or more	Dog beds	Have dog beds wherever you spend time as your new canine companion will want to be with you
1 or 2	Quilts	Can be used as extra beds, used in vehicle, or cover furniture during house-training
	Dog Food	Good quality kibble, dehydrated or raw
	Kong & a couple of toys	Introduce with supervision
	Plain Yogurt	Helps reduce upset stomach
	Canned pumpkin	Helps reduce upset stomach (1 tbsp/meal)
	First Aid Kit	List of items to be provided to adopter
2 or 3	Non-slip Runner Rugs	Helps hounds adapt to flooring in house and eliminates slipping.
	Enzymatic cleaning products	Stain and smell remover. Also consider a pee repellent spray.
<b>CONSIDER PURCHASING</b>		
	Bissell Little Green Machine	Great for clean-up of soiled carpets
	Xpen	
	Baby gates	
	Belly band (for boy hounds)	

# TRUST ~ A DEADLY DISEASE



There is a deadly disease stalking your dog; a hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called TRUST.

You knew before you ever took your puppy home that it could not be trusted. The breeder who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. Puppies steal off counters, destroy anything expensive, chase cats, take forever to house train, and must never be allowed off lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice of the breeder, you escorted your puppy to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand.

At home, the house was "puppy-proofed". Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door of the living room to keep at least part of the house puddle free. All windows and doors had been properly secured, and signs placed in all strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR!"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes .9 of a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is "NO!") You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your puppy becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less destruction, less breakage. Almost before you know it your gangly, slurpy puppy has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night?

At this point you are beginning to become infected. The disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind. And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. And, after a time, you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing in a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. And, remember he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that proves the rule. (And sometimes late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.)

At this point, the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head.

Years pass -- it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was a puppy. He would never think of running out of the door left open while you bring in packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out of the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect!)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer.

He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running -- Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever -- Your heart is as broken as his still beautiful body.

The disease is TRUST. Its final outcome -- hit by a car.

Every morning my dog, Shah, bounced around off lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

- by Sharon Mathers

Courtesy of Canine Concepts and Community Control magazine, September 1986



## SETTLING IN – THE TRANSITION PHASE

<p>Adjusting – Being a Pet</p>	<p>It cannot be stressed enough that sufficient time must be given to your new retired greyhound for decompression. You must be willing to make a commitment to your new hound – don't give up on it if you are experiencing problems or issues.</p> <p>Your new canine companion has just undergone massive changes in its life. It is in a new environment, with a new climate and new people. It is expected that your greyhound will be confused, tense and possibly withdrawn. Retired racing greyhounds are not “turnkey” pets. Don't expect it to be cuddly right away. Expect it to be confused and unsure, but also probably very curious. Although house manners will have to be learned, greyhounds are very intelligent, and they learn quickly.</p> <p>There will be a transition period. Some hounds handle the change very quickly and the adjustment is just days. It is as if they were born to be in your home. Others will take a longer time to adjust and may need weeks. This is normal. A few days or a week is not sufficient time for the hound to settle-in and adjust. Consider the 3-3-3 guideline for transitioning a dog into its new home and helping it to settle in. It suggests that the first three days should be used for adjusting to its new surroundings, the next three weeks for training and bonding, and the first three months for continued socialization and training.</p> <p>You must be prepared to deal with their issues and the related consequences, such as inappropriate chewing, barking, crying, house soiling, etc. The key is compassion and consistency, and a lot of patience.</p>
<p>Adjusting - Canadian climate</p>	<p>A significant adjustment your new greyhound will have to make is to our winter climate. Although your Australian greyhound may have some experience with snow, it won't be used to the extremely cold temperatures in Canada, nor will it be used to the amount of snow Canada may experience. Please ensure you have appropriate outerwear for your hound and be patient if he or she is reluctant to go outside in the cold.</p> <p>Thunderstorms may also be foreign to your new hound so it may find them frightening, especially at first. Symptoms may include shaking or shivering, salivating, panting, pacing, hiding, being clingy, having urination accidents. Things to consider trying if your hound does react to storms are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thundershirts or something similar.</li> <li>● Dog treats with CBD or other calming aspects to them.</li> <li>● CBD oil.</li> <li>● An Adaptil or other calming collar.</li> <li>● Valerian (a natural herb used for anxiety).</li> <li>● Lavender in a diffuser.</li> <li>● Melatonin (a naturally occurring hormone that helps reduce anxiety and encourage sleep).</li> <li>● Bach's Rescue Remedy (a blend of flower remedies used to reduce stress).</li> <li>● A dark safe place by drawing the curtains or covering the crate (if one is used by your hound) with a heavy blanket.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other noises to help drown out the sound of thunder such as the radio or TV, fans or your washer or dryer.</li> <li>• If the reaction to thunderstorms is really severe, you should talk with your vet about a short acting anti-anxiety prescription medication.</li> </ul>
Alone-Training	<p><b>Alone-training is essential</b> and should be started within a few days of arrival of the new hound. But first, your hound does need time to decompress and recover from its journey to Canada. You should <b>NEVER</b> expect a hound to be left alone for a full day without alone training. Your hound will have been in the company of other dogs most of its life so being without canine companions will be a new experience for it. Your hound can be taught to accept being alone as long as you don't rush the transition process. Each dog responds differently, but in most instances, they will learn to patiently await your return and suffer little or no anxiety.</p> <p><b>Ensure someone is present for at least a week to supervise the settling in of your new greyhound.</b></p> <p>When you arrive home with your new hound, stay with it for the rest of that day and the first night. Be prepared for it to be restless and unsettled. Use this time to concentrate on introducing the hound to the whole house and the area outside to be used for potty breaks.</p> <p>When you start the alone-training, leave the house for 5 to 10 minutes and then return, without making a fuss. That afternoon, repeat the same procedure, but extend your absence by another 10 or so minutes. If that goes well, try 30 minutes the next morning and extend your absence again in the afternoon. Slowly work up to four hours. If there are issues, reduce your time away and then work up to four hours again. Usually, if a hound can be left alone for four (4) hours, it can adapt to the full day absence without incident.</p> <p>The first day that the hound is to be left alone for the full day – someone should return home at lunch. Repeat this for the next two or three days, continually reassuring your pet that you will be back. Hopefully, by the end of the week, your new hound will understand that someone will always return home. This helps alleviate the hound's fear that it has been abandoned whenever you leave the house.</p> <p>Hints:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't make a big fuss when leaving or arriving.</li> <li>• Leave for a short period of time and return home (5 to 10 minutes at first) – this can be done two or three times in a single day.</li> <li>• Extend the period of time away in small increments and assess the reaction of the hound.</li> <li>• Provide items that can distract the hound, i.e., Kong filled with frozen peanut butter or yogurt or canned food with kibble, pizzles, dehydrated trachea, Yak cheese, etc.</li> <li>• Leave radio or television on with volume set low.</li> </ul>
Beds	<p>Your greyhound should have access to thick dog beds. Because hounds have so little body fat, they can develop hygromas which are a fluid filled sac that forms on their</p>



	<p>joints if they are lying down on hard surfaces. That being said, your hound might not have experienced a thick cushy bed before, and it might take some time for it to get used to such luxury.</p> <p>You should plan on having a dog bed in those areas of the house where you spend a lot of time because your greyhound will want to be close to you. TV rooms, dining or kitchen areas and bedrooms are usually where you will need a dog bed.</p> <p>Some hounds like to “nest” which is when they pull the bedding into a pile – you can put inexpensive quilts on top of beds to allow them to do this.</p>
Collars	<p>Greyhounds should wear a martingale collar. This type of collar has been specifically designed for sighthounds because their necks tend to be bigger than their heads, thus allowing them to slip out of regular buckle collars. The design of the martingale makes it difficult (but not impossible) for a greyhound to back out of them.</p> <p>A martingale is made with two loops – the larger loop is slipped onto the hound’s neck, and the leash is clipped to the smaller loop. When the hound pulls, the tension on the leash pulls the smaller loop taut which makes the larger loop smaller and tighter on the neck – thus preventing the collar from slipping off and allowing the hound to escape.</p> <p>The martingale must be properly fitted so that the collar is comfortably loose when not in use. Because martingales are a type of choke collar (albeit humane), the hound should not wear the collar when left alone to avoid accidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not used properly, martingale collars can be dangerous. If the D-ring gets caught on something, it can cause the hound to choke or, in a best-case scenario, frighten or spook the hound.</li> </ul> <p><b>Never</b> hang tags from the “D” ring on the collar – use a tag collar or hang the tags on the side slides of the martingale collar. The tags could get caught in something (floor register, drawer pull, another dog’s collar, a tree branch) and your hound could strangle before you could reach it.</p> <p><b>Never</b> use electric, shock or prong collars on your greyhound.</p> <p><b>PLEASE SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS HANDBOOK FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON PROPERLY FITTING A MARTINGALE COLLAR.</b></p>
Counter surfing	<p>Kitchen counters are at nose level for some hounds – and in their past, when a hound has smelled food, it was their food. Your new greyhound has not been taught proper manners yet when it comes to food on the counter. A sharp "NO" when he shows interest is enough to deter him, at least when you're around. <b>It is recommended that no food be left out, including bread, butter, pastries, etc., or defrosting meat.</b></p> <p>Also, teach your hound that the stove is a definite no-no. A nose on a hot pot on the stove can cause real difficulties for you and your new hound.</p>

Crates	<p>Your Australian hound will not be used to a crate. The only exposure it will probably have had to crates is the 6-week familiarization training it had prior to its flight to Canada. Australian greyhounds are maintained in outdoor paddocks.</p> <p>This is not to say that a wire crate can't be a tool to help your new canine companion while it's transitioning and settling into its new life, but it should not be assumed that your greyhound will be comfortable and happy in a crate.</p> <p>If you are using a crate, do not crate it while you are home. Allow your greyhound to sleep in your bedroom on a dog bed at night.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a baby gate to keep your new hound in your bedroom at night with you, until it has settled in, and the housebreaking is complete.</li> </ul> <p>DO NOT close your greyhound in a room with the door, i.e., the bedroom or laundry room, while you are away. If confined to a room and unable to see (remember – they have been raised in paddocks or run which allow them to see what is happening all around them), greyhounds may become frantic and destructive. Even worse – they may severely injure themselves when trying to escape.</p>
Dental Care	<p>It is important to maintain your hound's teeth - poor oral hygiene may lead to dental disease which may shorten your hound's lifespan due to its effect on heart, kidneys, liver and respiratory system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brush your hound's teeth every day – it only takes a couple of minutes. Be sure to brush both the inside and the outside of the teeth.</li> <li>• If it was deemed necessary, your hound will have had a dental before it came into the adoption program.</li> <li>• It is important to maintain this, or your hound may need to have a dental done by your vet which typically starts at about \$1500.00 in most areas.</li> <li>• Start brushing your hound's teeth with a finger brush and work your way up to a full-sized soft toothbrush (some adopters use an electric toothbrush).</li> <li>• Use a good quality toothpaste from your vet (never use human toothpaste).</li> </ul>
Dog Parks	<p>Dog parks (off leash parks) are not recommended for your greyhound – especially during its transition to becoming part of a family. You don't know how your new family member will react to other dogs, or how it will respond to other dogs that are running. It is vital to safeguard your new hound from potential risks, as well as safeguarding other dogs in the park, especially little/smaller ones.</p> <p>Racing greyhounds have body language that is different from that of other dogs, which may result in them becoming the "victim" of bites or inappropriate behaviour by other dogs. Greyhounds have very thin skin and a bite (even a play bite) from another dog can become a significant injury.</p> <p>In addition, greyhounds may decide that another dog is "prey" and chase that dog and potentially injure it. If your hound decides to go after another dog, it is unlikely that you will be able to stop it before it injures another dog.</p> <p>While being fostered, Greyhound Supporters' hounds <b>MAY NOT/are not allowed to</b> go to any off-leash dog park. This would be a violation of the Fostering Agreement.</p>

Drive Home	<p>Greyhounds are usually good travelers and settle quickly once in the vehicle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Plan on having another adult with you in the car for the first drive home.</li> <li>● Use a Dog Hammock to increase safety in the car.</li> <li>● Have a blanket or quilt on the back seat.</li> <li>● Consider using a special pet seat belt to keep your hound secured inside the vehicle.</li> </ul> <p>Once at your destination, have someone hold the leash inside the vehicle when you open the door. This prevents your hound from jumping out and possibly getting away.</p>
Enrichment	<p>Dogs need mental exercise as well as physical exercise to make them happy and prevent any undesirable behaviours that manifest as a result of boredom, such as digging and barking. Your greyhound should be provided with toys to play with, this may include chews, kongs or food puzzles. Other activities you may include are hiding small amounts of food around the outdoor area for the greyhound to find or freeze a treat in an ice block (water or stock) for the greyhound to lick and chew (also good for cooling in summer).</p>
Exercise	<p>Greyhounds don't need lots of exercise, but they do need a certain amount each day. This is also vital mental stimulation for your hound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Off leash in the backyard allows your hound to run around if it wants to.</li> <li>● Be sure to walk your hound around your yard on leash the first time to acquaint it with the new environment.</li> <li>● Ideally, your hound should get between 30 and 45 minutes of exercise each day.</li> <li>● When walking your dog on sidewalks – remember that in the summer months, asphalt can get very hot and damage your hound's feet. The heat is also reflected off the sidewalk onto the belly of your hound so keep that in mind when walking your hound. In winter months, you will need to protect your hound's feet from salt.</li> </ul> <p>If you plan to jog with your hound – work them up slowly. Remember they are not endurance runners – they are sprinters (about 33 to 36 seconds) so they can't jog for 30 minutes the first time.</p>
Feeding	<p>Avoid overfeeding; your hound is not designed to carry extra weight, which can cause health problems and be harmful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If your dog needs to gain weight, it should be done gradually over several weeks/months.</li> <li>● Avoid underfeeding; it results not only in physical problems but behaviour problems as well.</li> <li>● Do not feed your hound table scraps. Table food may contain salt, grease, or seasonings that may upset your dog's stomach. It's simply not worth taking the chance to "treat" your greyhound, only to have it get sick.</li> </ul> <p>If feeding kibble, avoid grocery store kibble – usually lower grade foods that use wheat flour and corn as a filler. The first few ingredients listed on the bag should not contain by-products or corn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Good quality (with grain or grain-free) kibble is recommended.</li> <li>● Australian greyhounds are normally fed a turkey-based kibble.</li> </ul>

	Other diets to consider are raw, dehydrated and home cooked. If using home cooked, it is recommended to consult a nutritionist to ensure you are providing a balanced diet.
Fencing	<p>Greyhounds are very athletic which means a minimum of 5-foot fence is required.</p> <p>Electric fences are <b>not</b> acceptable for greyhounds as the hounds can race through the fence before the signal can reach the hound. And once outside of the fence, your hound won't be able to come back into the fenced perimeter, putting it in danger.</p>
Hound-proofing your home	<p>Hounds can be very curious and are likely to poke their noses into every nook and cranny. Picking things up in their mouths is one way for them to explore their new world.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Garbage pails should be in cupboards or with secure lids.</li> <li>● Decals or painters' tape should be affixed to mirrors that are close to the floor – until your hound learns that it is not another dog or an extension of the room.</li> <li>● Decals or painters' tape should be affixed to sliding glass doors so that the hound doesn't run into the glass. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoid broken necks or severe injuries.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Large expanses of hardwood or tile floors should be covered with area rugs or runners – until the hound becomes accustomed to these surfaces.</li> <li>● Wooden stairs – at a minimum, should have a small non-slide rug at the head and foot of stairs.</li> <li>● All human medications and vitamins must be in closed cupboards or cabinets. These can kill your hound if they gain access to them, i.e., 1 Advil tablet can kill.</li> <li>● Check fencing outside to ensure gates can be closed completely and that there aren't any holes or gaps.</li> <li>● Check screen doors and repair tears/gaps and ensure they close properly.</li> </ul>
House-training	<p>Some of the greyhounds may have had some level of house-training, but you must expect to house-train your hound in its new surroundings.</p> <p>Australian greyhounds are maintained in outdoor paddocks, so they are used to toileting whenever they need to – they don't have a schedule, and they have never needed to ask to go out. In time, they will learn how to let you know, but first you need to take responsibility for establishing a schedule in place of the regular turnout your dog is used to. And you will need to learn their body language. Signs that they need to go out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pacing/restlessness</li> <li>● Going to the door used to go out (if door not easily visible, consider hanging bells on door)</li> <li>● Coming to see you and then running to door</li> <li>● Barking</li> <li>● Whining</li> </ul> <p>Time duty trips close to feeding time, usually within an hour before or immediately after. Duty trips should be to a specific area or path – they will quickly learn the difference between duty trips and fun walks.</p>

	<p>Dogs, particularly male dogs, may ‘mark’ what they perceive to be their possessions and territory by urinating on things. This is totally normal dog behaviour, and your new hound may be more inclined to mark in its new home. Reduce the chances of this behaviour by restricting free access to all areas within your home - at least until it is house-trained. Always encourage your hound to “empty” in an appropriate place, or while on walks. The use of an enzymatic stain remover and a pee repellent are recommended to clean up any accidents.</p> <p>Accidents will happen, so you must be prepared. <b>Do not</b> chastise your hound if you find an accident has happened. Dogs cannot relate your actions to the pee or poop that it has done inside the house.</p>
Interactions with children	<p>Most Australian greyhounds have had some exposure to children, but caution must still be taken when introducing your new hound to children.</p> <p>As a general rule, greyhounds are gentle and reasonably patient but because children move erratically and make a lot of noise, you will need to carefully introduce your new hound in small doses. Greyhounds tend to walk away from situations that distress them. However, a greyhound is a dog, and like any dog, it will have its limits. A greyhound growling at a persistent child is the only way the hound has to indicate it has reached its limit.</p> <p><b>NEVER</b> allow your child to approach or jump on your hound while it is on its bed – the hound’s bed is its safe zone. Children should be taught that they leave the hound alone when it is lying down in case of sleep startle. Children must learn to let the hound come to them for supervised cuddles.</p> <p><b>No dog should ever be left alone (not even for just a second) with small children (under the age of 10). Always ensure that there is adult supervision.</b></p> <p><b>Use the basket muzzle the first few times the greyhound is around children – until you know how your new hound will react.</b></p>
Interactions with other dogs	<p>All interactions must be carefully monitored and keep first interactions short and positive. 3 seconds is enough time for the first few interactions. Praise when things have gone well.</p> <p>Greyhounds have thin, tight skin. Their skin can tear easily, so you need to make sure that when playing with other dogs, the other dogs aren’t too rough and are not prone to nipping or biting. A little nip that wouldn’t do anything to another breed could cause a tear.</p> <p>Off-leash dog parks are not recommended especially during the settling in period. During any foster periods, your greyhound is <b>not allowed</b> to attend off-leash dog parks and is <b>not allowed to be off-leash</b> unless in a contained area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you can’t see your greyhound, you don’t know what it is being exposed to and you are putting it at risk.</li> </ul>

<p>Introducing your greyhound to cats or small animals</p>	<p>Even if your hound tests as safe with small animals, it will need some time to get used to your other pets. Teaching them about smaller dogs, cats, and other small animals can take a little longer.</p> <p>Even if deemed cat-workable, you must still be careful and aware when introducing your new greyhound to any other animals in the home. A period of at least a week is needed to ensure your new hound is safe with your cat(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a muzzle and keep the hound on leash.</li> <li>• Limit time together at first, gradually getting the hound used to other pets.</li> <li>• Do not leave unattended.</li> <li>• If the greyhound lunges, hold the leash and give a firm “no”.</li> <li>• Provide your cat/small dog with a safety zone, i.e., place a baby-gate at the doorway to a room or area that your cat/small dog may enter (go underneath the baby gate) remember though a greyhound can jump/clear anything up to 6ft tall. You must monitor your new pet.</li> </ul>
<p>Introducing your greyhound to other pet dogs</p>	<p>Some simple tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce dogs on neutral ground and on leash.</li> <li>• After the initial sniffing, walk dogs together for a short walk and then bring them into the house together.</li> <li>• Feed the dogs separately at first and move them closer together gradually.</li> <li>• Don't let the dogs out into the backyard unless supervised. Use the basket muzzle. Correct any unwanted behaviour right away. Redirection is key.</li> </ul> <p>If the resident dog is a small breed, closely supervise all initial interactions and playtime very closely to ensure the hound isn't too rough and doesn't lunge at the small dog.</p>
<p>Microchip Registry</p>	<p>Your retired Australian greyhound comes microchipped, so it is recommended that you register it at one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Pet Registry - <a href="https://petchipregistry-ca.info/">https://petchipregistry-ca.info/</a> - \$25.50 for lifetime</li> <li>• Free Pet Microchip Registry - <a href="https://www.freepetchipregistry.com/faqs/">https://www.freepetchipregistry.com/faqs/</a></li> <li>• International Pet Registry - <a href="https://internationalpetregistry.com/">https://internationalpetregistry.com/</a> - \$35 for lifetime</li> </ul>
<p>Muzzling</p>	<p>The Greyhound Supporters believes in the use of a basket muzzle for its retired racing greyhounds, so much so that it provides one as part of its adoption fee. The muzzle is a preventative, a safety tool, and it is easy to use. The use of a basket muzzle is not cruel nor is it a punishment. Its design inhibits the wearer from nipping or biting other animals or people. This is extremely important when your new canine companion is stressed or when it is meeting other pets or small children as its response cannot be predicted. The basket muzzle is a form of protection for your hound.</p> <p>The basket muzzle should be used on your hound when it is in the yard or other area and is interacting with other dogs, especially at first. Greyhounds can be nippy when playing or running and you don't know how your resident dogs will react to this. Having your greyhound wear the provided basket muzzle will reduce these risks.</p> <p>A basket muzzle can also be used to inhibit destructive behaviour that may be harmful to your hound, such as chewing electrical wires, wooden furniture, etc. Again, the</p>

	<p>muzzle is a tool you can use to safeguard your new greyhound, until you know how your hound is settling into its new home.</p>
Outerwear/footwear	<p>Your greyhound will need appropriate outerwear because of its lack of body fat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winter coats/snoods, raincoats, sweaters, etc.</li> <li>• If the house is cool during the winter months, consider lightweight pajamas.</li> </ul> <p>Boots are not necessary but if walking your greyhound on roads with salt (during winter), consider Pawz which are a lightweight rubber boot that look like rubber balloons for dog feet (don't come off easily &amp; are reusable).</p>
Poisonous Substances	<p>The following foods/substances are considered toxic for dogs. If you suspect your hound has eaten any of the following, please seek urgent veterinary treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chocolate, coffee or caffeine – These foods contain a stimulant called methylxanthines which are stimulants that can stop a dog's metabolic process. A small amount of chocolate, especially dark chocolate, may cause diarrhea and vomiting. A large amount may cause seizures, irregular heart function and possibly death.</li> <li>• Onions, garlic and chives – these, especially onions, contain sulfoxides and disulphides which damage red blood cells and cause anemia.</li> <li>• Alcohol – is significantly more toxic to dogs than humans and may lead to alcohol poisoning and even death.</li> <li>• Grapes and raisins – these are highly toxic, and consumption of grapes and raisins can cause rapid kidney failure.</li> <li>• Macadamia nuts - it's still unknown just what it is about these nuts that is poisonous to dogs, but they are. Even a small amount can make your hound very sick.</li> <li>• Fat - Fat trimmings and other greasy foods may cause pancreatitis in dogs.</li> <li>• Xylitol (birch sugar) and other artificial sweeteners - These can cause low blood sugar, seizures, liver failure and death. It is important to check the labels on any human food that you may feed your hound as xylitol and sweeteners are used in a myriad of products like gum, candy, children's medicines, cough drops, baked goods, diet foods, ice cream, peanut butter, yogurt, etc.</li> <li>• Avocados - these make their own fungicide, called persin. Dogs are allergic to persin so keep your hound away from all parts of avocados and avocado trees.</li> <li>• Bread dough - dough continues to rise in a dog's stomach and can stretch the abdomen. Not only is this very painful, but it may also cause the intestines to rupture. Also, yeast contains ethanol, just like alcohol.</li> </ul> <p>POISONS AROUND THE HOME - please ensure your hound does not have access to poisons and toxins that are commonly kept in homes, gardens, garages, sheds. This includes soaps and cleaning agents, cockroach bait, mouse/rat poison, snail bait, human medications, and human vitamins.</p>
Prey Drive – <b>See attached article at end of handbook.</b>	<p>Prey drive is a dog's instinctual need to chase after things and catch them. This is a fairly common behaviour. A dog that loves to play fetch, chase squirrels or cats has a strong prey drive. A dog that lifts its head to watch a ball roll by does not have a big prey drive.</p> <p><b>What is the difference between high 'chase' drive and 'prey' drive?</b></p>

	<p>Many dogs like chasing things like toys, squirrels or people, but are motivated more by the thrill of the chase than catching the thing they are chasing. Even though these dogs have 'chase' drive, they may not necessarily have high prey drive. Dogs that are highly prey driven are usually motivated by the thrill of the chase and the grab, bite and sometimes kill sequence. A hound that was a good racer is not necessarily a hound with a high prey drive – rather it has a high chase drive.</p>
Resource Guarding	<p>This is when a dog displays a behaviour that is intended to convince the other dogs or people to stay away from something that the dog has decided is a treasure (resource). This resource can be food, treats, toys, dog bed, couch, etc. and can also include humans. It is important to understand that resource guarding is normal dog behaviour, but while it is normal dog behaviour, it is not a desirable one. Resource guarding becomes an issue if a dog is willing to bite or fight to keep an item and if the dog is not predictable in what things it decides to guard.</p> <p>The most obvious signs of resource guarding are growling, lunging and air snapping and biting. But your dog has probably been showing less obvious signs of guarding behaviour that you may have missed. The following are subtle signs that your dog may have been displaying are freezing, eating faster, picking up the item and moving away, a braced body position over the item, side eye staring (showing the whites of their eyes), ears pinned flat against the head and a hard stare at whomever the dog thinks might be trying to take the prized item away.</p> <p>Sharing our lives with dogs means that we need to make sure they understand that there are plenty of resources, so they don't need to guard. The dog needs to learn that giving up the prized item results in them receiving something of equal or better value. Giving up something to their humans in a willing and happy manner needs to be trained and rewarded.</p> <p>Your reaction to the resource guarding behaviour is of vital importance. Unfortunately, for too long, people's response to a dog's resource guarding has been the wrong one. Punishment and aversive training methods can make resource guarding worse. You and your dog need to do positive training so that your dog learns that there is no need to growl and guard "precious" items and you learn management techniques. Please look for a certified trainer if your hound is resource guarding. Never punish a growling dog. The growl is how your hound is communicating with you and telling you that it is uncomfortable. Punishing away a growl makes a dog bite more likely. Being taught that growling gets punished, your dog is more likely to skip the growl and just bite. You don't want to take away important warning signs that your dog needs to communicate with you.</p> <p>A good resource is a book by Jean Donaldson called "Mine! A Practical Guide to Resource Guarding in Dogs".</p>
Separation Anxiety	<p>Most greyhounds have spent their lives surrounded by other hounds, so being left alone in a new house can be very unsettling. They may become very insecure if left with the run of the house when no one is around. Conversely, it may terrify them if confined to a small room.</p>



	<p>Using a crate or a secured area in the house while you are out may ease the transition for both you and your hound. Please don't put your new hound alone in a room and shut the door to close it into the room. This could cause your hound to panic. Keep your hound in the larger living space and close the doors to rooms to which they should not have access, i.e. bathrooms or bedrooms.</p> <p>Be sure to leave a radio or television on low volume during your absence as it may soothe an insecure dog.</p> <p>There are ways to overcome SA – but it takes time and patience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Repeat alone training</li> <li>● Thundershirt</li> <li>● Melatonin/Valerian Root/Gabarex</li> <li>● Kong with peanut butter/chew toys</li> <li>● Lick mats with frozen yogurt or peanut butter</li> <li>● Speak with the Adoption or Foster Coordinator</li> </ul> <p>Signs of SA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Barking/howling</li> <li>● Whimpering/crying</li> <li>● Destructive behaviour (chewing)</li> <li>● Elimination in house (belly band)</li> </ul>
Setting Limits	<p>Greyhounds, like all animals, need limits set for them.</p> <p>Consistency and clarity about what is and what is not acceptable behavior and training your greyhound to understand that you are in charge are imperative to a good transition for your hound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All family members must enforce the same boundaries and “rules”.</li> </ul> <p>Establish what you will allow your hound to do and maintain those limits. Use lots of praise when the hound has done what has been asked of it as this is positive reassurance which your hound needs.</p>
Settling In	<p>Your new canine companion has just undergone massive changes in its life. It is in a new environment, with a new climate and new people. It is expected that your greyhound will be confused, tense and possibly withdrawn. Unless completely terrified, your hound will exhibit very subtle signs of stress which may go unnoticed. It is normal for a new dog to be afraid at first.</p> <p>At first your new greyhound may stare ahead and seem unresponsive. This is typical stress behavior. Remember it is undergoing stress adjusting to its new environment. Quiet and calm is the way to go. A light and gentle massage all over (paws and all) with soothing words is great for both the dog and the new owner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Don't have lots of visitors over to meet the new family member – give it time to settle in and bond with you.</li> </ul> <p>Your new hound may be very afraid the first few nights. It was used to living in a kennel where it felt safe and secure and surrounded by lots of other dogs. The sounds,</p>

	<p>smells, shadows of your home are all new to it. Reassure the dog with words and your physical closeness.</p> <p>Establish a special place – dog bed, xpen – and ensure that special place is always available to the hound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The special place for your hound should be one that gets them out of the mainstream of traffic in the house and provides a quieter area.</li> </ul> <p>Provide your hound with a quiet and safe place for it to eat. Please don't place it in a high traffic area or next to noisy appliances. Your hound may pick at its food, or it may wolf it down, but it would not be unusual for it to exhibit some resource guarding behaviours. Do not place your hand into your hound's food bowl – that is asking for a negative reaction from it.</p> <p>Your new greyhound may startle easily at first – don't approach your dog from behind, come from the front or side. Speak to it as you approach so that it may hear you and start to get used to your voice. Use a gentle and calm tone.</p> <p>Signs of stress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawn/sad</li> <li>• Dripping nose</li> <li>• Tucked tail</li> <li>• Diarrhea</li> <li>• Whimpering</li> </ul> <p>Expect a gentle, loving pet that, with time and patience, will be a great addition to your family. Because everything is brand new, expect your hound to be somewhat confused and very curious. House manners must be learned, but greyhounds are very intelligent dogs and learn quickly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be a transition period. Some dogs handle the change very quickly and the adjustment takes days. Others take a longer time to adjust and need weeks. This is normal and should be expected.</li> <li>• A few days or a week is not sufficient time to allow the hound to settle-in and adjust to its new life.</li> <li>• <b>You must be prepared to deal with their issues and the related consequences,</b> i.e., chewing, barking, crying and the time it takes to help them through the transition.</li> </ul> <p>The key is patience and consistency.</p>
<p>Sleep/space startle</p>	<p>Your new hound may growl or snap upon being disturbed while sleeping – this does not mean your new hound is an aggressive or vicious dog. These dogs are usually well adjusted, sociable, affectionate dogs in all other aspects of their ability to relate to people and other pets. Reacting negatively to sleep disturbance is not uncommon, even in human beings.</p> <p>Deprogramming or desensitizing a greyhound to these acquired behaviors takes patience and understanding and, above all, time. Some dogs will never overcome the</p>

	<p>tendency to be startled upon awakening, and some will never be willing to share their sleeping quarters. Desensitizing a hound to touching during sleep can usually be accomplished by exposure to frequent petting, touching, or verbal communications while the dog is resting, but not asleep. For instance, any time you are passing by your hound – say its name and let it know that you are near. This will help reduce the risk that your hound is startled.</p> <p>While your hound may get used to you touching it or passing by it when it is sleeping, <i>the best rule to enforce with friends and family is that the dog is to be left alone while resting and/or sleeping.</i> If visitors or children want to pet your hound, wait until it is awake and then call it over. <b>Never allow children to throw themselves on your hound's bed.</b></p> <p>If your greyhound is known to be sensitive while sleeping or resting, it is best not to allow it to use your furniture as its bed during the beginning. Being on the furniture is a privilege and not a right. A specific place for the hound should be designated with a soft bed on the floor, and everyone should understand that this place is off limits for all but the dog. Teaching children this rule is important for both their sake and the sake of your dog.</p>
Sleeping Arrangements	<p>Please provide a dog bed in your bedroom for your hound. Your greyhound has never been alone before and they are pack animals, so they will do much better if they sleep in the bedroom with you – you are their new pack. It is recommended that you use a baby gate to keep your new hound in the bedroom with you until they settle in. This ensures that your hound won't wander around, potentially falling down the stairs or having an potty accident.</p>
Socialization Activities	<p>It is important to start exposing your greyhound to a myriad of new experiences, so they become familiar and not causes of anxiety. These experiences should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• different flooring surfaces (carpet, concrete, tiles, wood floors, bricks);</li> <li>• stairs;</li> <li>• elevators;</li> <li>• increasing exposure to people outside of the home;</li> <li>• playing;</li> <li>• travelling inside a vehicle (including helping your hound jump up into the vehicle instead of being lifted);</li> <li>• a variety of noises inside the home (vacuum cleaners, beeping microwaves, television/radio, blenders);</li> <li>• outside noises (children playing, skateboards, strollers, lawn mowers, leaf blowers); vehicles on the street (garbage trucks, motorcycles, trucks, cars, trains); etc.</li> </ul>
Stairs	<p>Most greyhounds have never used stairs so they will have to be taught</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wooden or tile stairs are particularly difficult for greyhounds</li> <li>• On wooden floors, consider using non-slip area rugs at the bottom and top of stairs.</li> </ul>

	Monitor use of stairs at beginning (block off the top and bottom of the stairs with a baby gate initially to ensure safety)
Supplements	<p>Consider using supplements to ensure the health of your hound but do your own research and be comfortable with what you decide to use. If you plan to use more than one supplement, please stagger their addition to your hound's food. Adding more than one supplement at a time may cause gastric upset. The following are some of the ones we've used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kelp (<a href="http://www.natural-dog-health-remedies.com/kelp-for-dogs.html">http://www.natural-dog-health-remedies.com/kelp-for-dogs.html</a>)</li> <li>● Missing Link Ultimate Skin &amp; Coat (<a href="http://www.missinglinkproducts.com/">http://www.missinglinkproducts.com/</a>)</li> <li>● Synovicare or Hyalcare Plus (Herbs for Horses – <a href="http://www.horseherbs.com/">http://www.horseherbs.com/</a>)</li> <li>● Fish Oil</li> <li>● Coconut Oil</li> </ul>
Toys/Chews	<p>Your greyhound may not be familiar with toys and chews so always introduce them with supervision.</p> <p>Never leave your hound alone with stuffies or chews until you know what his/her behaviors with them are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Do they gut the toy to get and eat the squeaker?</li> <li>● Do they gut the stuffie and eat the stuffing or just throw it around?</li> <li>● Do they crack the chew and create small pieces that they try to eat?</li> <li>● Do they try to consume the entire chew at once (potential for choking)?</li> </ul> <p>Don't leave things around that they may mistakenly think are stuffies or toys, i.e., stuffed toys with sentimental value.</p> <p>Types of chews:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Greyhound Supporters recommends the use of all-natural chews (Icelandic sheep horn, pizzles, beef trachea, yak milk chews) which can be purchased at local pet stores and on-line. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Remove when too small due to danger of swallowing/choking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Avoid "cheap" rawhide (dangers of rawhide and treats from China). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rawhide, in general, may be problematic so it is not generally recommended.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Training/ correcting your greyhound	<p>Greyhounds are smart and react very well to positive reinforcement – praise when they do what you want. They'll know you're happy, and they'll continue to try to make you happy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be patient and gentle, speak soft, soothing, one-word assurances.</li> <li>● Speak "NO" more strongly for unacceptable behavior.</li> <li>● Consistency is essential.</li> </ul> <p>When you need to discipline, and it must be done while the 'bad' incident is occurring (peeing in the house, chewing on something they shouldn't, barking, etc.), use your voice, not your hand.</p> <p>Lower your voice, get your hound's attention and tell it "No" and then leave it alone for a bit. Your hound will feel chastised, and this may result in it never doing that bad thing again. If it does, intensify the level of your voice and be even more influential to</p>

	<p>show that you mean it. It really is like dealing with kids, some of them will ignore you until they really think you mean it.</p> <p>Do not fail to correct your new hound because you want your hound to like you. Failure to correct/redirect may cause behavioral issues – not that the hound wants to be bad, but because it has not learned what is or is not acceptable behavior. Try to understand why they are doing what they are doing, but don't cater to every whim every time. Remember you have a new family member, not a houseguest!</p>
Understanding routine	<p>All dogs feel more comfortable in unfamiliar situations if a routine is established regarding feeding, answering calls of nature and resting.</p> <p>In a home situation, until you have established a workable routine with your greyhound, you will need to take more frequent trips outside to avoid accidents.</p> <p>Try to establish routine immediately, and don't deviate too much for the first few weeks until your greyhound has settled in. Make sure the routine is workable for all family members.</p>
Use of leash	<p>Greyhounds are sighthounds and can see movement that could exceed up to a kilometer away. It is impossible to know what may catch their attention and cause them to leave your property.</p> <p><b>Your hound must never be let off-leash in public.</b> (It is against the By Laws in most Canadian cities and fines can range from \$30 to \$500 per infraction.)</p> <p>Being off-leash should occur only in a fully fenced area. It only takes a second for a tragic accident if off-leash in other areas. Your greyhound's safety and its life depend on your wisdom and understanding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leashes should be between 4 and 6 feet.</li> <li>• Leashes with traffic handles are a good option.</li> <li>• <b>NEVER</b> use a flexi-lead or a retractable leash. Greyhounds can reach their top speed in 3 strides (72 kph) so they can injure themselves if yanked to a sudden stop at the end of this type of leash. Or, the leash may be yanked out of your hand and your greyhound runs away, thinking it is being chased by the handle that is smacking the ground behind it. Both are recipes for disaster.</li> </ul> <p>When adopting a retired racing greyhound through the Greyhound Supporters, you agree to not let your hound off-leash unless it is in a totally enclosed area. If it is determined that you are letting your hound off-leash inappropriately, the Greyhound Supporters will request that you return the hound to its ownership.</p> <p><b>Never tie up a sighthound.</b></p>
Vet Clinic	<p>Your greyhound will need a vet that is familiar with sighthounds in general. Because of their more specialized physiology, sighthounds need vets that are aware of their special needs and will treat them appropriately.</p> <p>When choosing a vet, ask if their clinic has treated a greyhound or other sighthounds.</p>

	Select a vet you trust and can talk with. You are your greyhound's advocate – you must be able to ask questions and discuss issues. Do research on issues and be prepared to ask questions.
Veterinary Care – Post Adoption	<p>A thorough veterinary health check at least once a year is an essential part of your hound's general healthcare. An annual vet check allows your veterinarian to detect and manage issues and illnesses, such as dental disease, diabetes or kidney failure that may develop as your pet ages. In addition, an annual visit gives you an opportunity to discuss other topics such as behaviour, nutrition, parasite control and the care of your pet.</p> <p>Vaccinations help protect your hound from potentially serious or fatal diseases. Vaccinations are given to stimulate the dog's immune system against possible infection before the hound is actually exposed to a disease. Your veterinarian can advise you as to which vaccines are necessary in your area, but the Greyhound Supporters recommends rabies, DHPP (distemper, parvovirus, parainfluenza and hepatitis) and leptospirosis.</p> <p>Annual veterinary checkups should include a full exam; wellness profile (CBC); heartworm testing; heartworm, flea and tick prevention; urinalysis and fecal exam.</p>
Welcome Home	<p>Your home is very different from where your new hound is used to living, so it will need time to adjust. Everything is new and he needs time to discover and adjust to his new environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When you first arrive home, keep your hound on leash and walk him about so he may relieve himself before going in.</li> <li>● Once inside, let him explore at his own speed but under your supervision. You can praise or redirect him, depending upon the desired behaviour, so that you start establishing good habits right away.</li> <li>● Your new hound may not eat right away so don't be discouraged if it refuses a meal or two.</li> <li>● Your hound may drink more so be prepared for extra "outs".</li> </ul>

## RESOURCES

### APPAREL VENDORS:

#### Collars:

- [A Little Sparkle Design](#)
- [Crazy Beautiful Collars](#)
- [Huggable Hound](#)
- [Longboi Collars](#)
- [Lyly & Aglae](#)
- [The House of Earl](#)
- [Wiggle Bumz](#)
- [Your Paws Only](#)

#### Coats:

- [Chilly Dogs](#)
  - Long and Lean line
- [Voyagers K9 Apparel](#)
- [DG Dog Gear](#)
- [Dogerel Apparel](#)

### GREYHOUND-SPECIFIC READING MATERIAL

- Adopting the Racing Greyhound by Cynthia A. Branigan
- Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound
- Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies by Lee Livingood
- Running with the Big Dogs by Lee Livingood

### GENERAL READING MATERIAL

- Fiesty Fido: Help for the Leash-Aggressive Dog by Patricia B McConnell, Ph.D. and Karen B London, Ph.D.
- I'll Be Home Soon! How to Prevent and Treat Separation Anxiety by Patricia B McConnell, Ph.D.
- Mine! A Practical Guide to Resource Guarding in Dogs by Jean Donaldson
- The Cautious Canine: How to Help Cautious Canines Conquer Their Fears by Patricia B McConnell, Ph.D.
- The Culture Clash: A Revolutionary New Way to Understanding the Relationship Between Humans and Domestic Dogs by Jean Donaldson

### Additional reading if you have young children:

- "Childproofing Your Dog" by Brian Kilcommons

### HOUNDSITTING

- [Ottawa Greyhound Sitting](#) – A Facebook page for those who are looking for a houndsitter in a greyhound-savvy home. This is a quid pro quo arrangement.
- [Sighthound Central Houndsitting](#) - Laura Simmermon for Ottawa/Gatineau ([laura.simmermon@gmail.com](mailto:laura.simmermon@gmail.com)). Laura has over 25 years of experience caring for greyhounds and other sighthounds.

## MISCELLANEOUS LINKS:

### Pet friendly hotels:

- [Pet Friendly Canada](#)
- [Bring Fido](#)



## First Aid Kit Supply List

The following is a list of suggested items to keep in your first aid kit:

Item	Comments
Antiseptic towelettes	For cleaning your hands.
Arnica	Medicine for the relief of pain and inflammation of muscles and joints associated with arthritis, sports injuries, sprains and bruises. Fast acting. Arnica gels and creams should not be put on an open wound or abrasion. If there is an open sore, or an area of broken skin, the tablets should be used instead of the cream or gel. Arnica can be purchased in liquid or cream/gel form and is available at Loblaws in their organic section or at Health Food Stores.
Benadryl	For insect bites/stings and allergic reactions. One Benadryl can be given for immediate relief.
Bulb syringe (nasal aspirator)	For washing out sand from eyes.
Cauterizing wand (surgical type)	To stop bleeding in nails and nicks.
Curved scissors (haemostat)	
Disposable diapers	Very absorbent!!
Elastic or ACE bandage	Stretchy & can be used without tape. Available at drug stores or dollar stores.
Emergency Blanket	For animals in shock or for carrying injured animals.
Epsom Salt	Great for soaking of wounds or sore areas.
Gauze pads (3" X 3")	For small wounds.
Gauze pads (4" X 4")	For larger wounds.
Gauze roll (2" or 3") – have 3 or 4 rolls on hand.	The self-sticking gauze is best as it makes wrapping the wound much easier.
Hand sanitizer	To clean hands before applying first aid <b>(not for use on hounds)</b>
Hydrogen peroxide	1 to 1.5 tablespoons to induce vomiting if your hound has ingested something. <b>No more than ½ cup should be administered.</b> <b>Note:</b> Vomiting should occur within moments of administering. This should only be done within the first 15 to 30 minutes of ingesting chocolate, etc. Can also be used to clean blood from carpeting. <b>Note: Do not</b> use to clean wounds. Hydrogen peroxide will damage skin around wounds.
Instant Ice pack	
Nail clipper	
Oral dose syringe	
Plastic bags	If you have to put something on a foot to it keep dry, etc.
Polysporine Antibiotic ointment	
Saline solution	To clean wounds. The one used by people with contact lenses works well.
Sanitary napkins	Very absorbent!!
Splint material	
Straight scissors (haemostat)	

Styptic powder	Blood clotting agent
Tape	The “paper” tape is very good and doesn’t pull out too much fur when removed
Thermometer (ear)	
Traumeel	This is a combination homeopathic remedy that can be used for a multitude of things for both your hound and you (and other animals). It is great for swelling and bruising of soft tissues and muscles, muscle sprains, cuts and local injuries, inflamed and swollen joints and skin irritation caused by friction.
Variton Cream	Variton is not an antiseptic or antibiotic and should not be used on severe injuries, but it apparently works quite well to stop pain from bug bites & stings. The bitter taste of the cream may also discourage licking and chewing of wounds or bandages. Although this is probably available at your vet’s, it is not usually sold “over the counter”. You will need to confer with your vet to obtain it.
Vet-wrap (2") – have 3 or 4 rolls on hand.	For wrapping of wounds.



\*\*\*SAMPLE\*\*\*

## Contract to Adopt a Retired Racing Greyhound Between

**The Greyhound Supporters (SG) – National Capital Region**

And

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**NAME:**

**EAR TATTOO:**

**SEX:**

**DATE OF BIRTH:**

**MICROCHIP #:**

**COLOUR:**

**WEIGHT:**

**GS' TAG #**

I hereby agree to the following conditions upon the adoption of my greyhound:

I hereby certify that I have this day taken possession of the above-named greyhound with the understanding that it will be kept exclusively as a house pet. I will have this greyhound seen by a veterinarian on an annual (minimum) basis and will keep all vaccinations current, administer heartworm preventative, parasite control and provide overall good care for the life of the animal.

I will comply with all laws and bylaws applicable to said animal in force in the area in which I reside.

I will keep a collar bearing identification on the greyhound at all times and promise to notify the Greyhound Supporters if any contact information has changed so that the Greyhound Supporters may update its records.

- Only a martingale-type collar will be used on my greyhound with the exception of a tag or house collar.
  - Tags **MUST** include one with your home phone number, **and** one with an alternate contact, i.e., Vet, family member or the Greyhound Supporters
- The Greyhound Supporters' tag will be worn by my greyhound at all times.

I will ensure that when walking my greyhound, a six (6) foot lead/leash **MAXIMUM** will be used.

- **Under no circumstance will I use an extendable, flexi or retractable leash.** A greyhound can reach its running speed in fewer than 5 strides. An extendable leash allows more opportunity to reach running speed more quickly and injure itself.

I **WILL NOT** allow my greyhound to run free (off-leash) unless it is in a secure and totally enclosed environment, with a fence at least five (5') feet tall.

I **WILL** contact the Greyhound Supporters if I must contemplate the need to find a new home for my greyhound at any time. If I must relocate and cannot take my greyhound with me, I **SHALL** contact my Greyhound Supporters' contact before making any other decision.

If my greyhound becomes **LOST or STOLEN**, I will immediately contact the Greyhound Supporters:

- Laura Simmermon at 613-986-8097
- Gen Leblanc at 613-795-9205

**I WILL NOT** leave my greyhound unattended with a child under the age of 10. **I WILL** ensure that all interactions between my greyhound and children are closely supervised by a responsible adult.

I hereby release the Greyhound Supporters, and all others previously involved with this greyhound, from any liability incurred from this day forward for this dog.

I understand that the Greyhound Supporters reserves the right to repossess this greyhound (at my expense) if I breach any portion of this agreement or have been found to neglect or mistreat this dog.

I understand that the Greyhound Supporters is a not-for-profit organization staffed by volunteers and all donations made to the Greyhound Supporters are non-refundable.

I have read and understood the questions and statements on the *Application to Adopt a Greyhound*, and the *Contract to Adopt a Retired Racing Greyhound*. I certify that my responses are true and correct, and that falsification will breach this contract.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Greyhound Supporters'  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



\*\*\*SAMPLE\*\*\*

## Foster Contract / Release Form

Between

**Greyhound Supporters (GS) – National Capital Region**

And

XXXXXXX

I / we **have read** the Greyhound Supporters' foster care policy & guidelines (attached) concerning foster greyhounds.

I / we **understand** the Greyhound Supporters' foster care policy & guidelines (attached) concerning foster greyhounds.

I / we **agree to abide** by the Greyhound Supporters' foster care policy & guidelines (attached) concerning foster greyhounds. I/we certify that my/our responses are true and correct, and that falsification will breach this agreement.

I / we **agree** to a home visit and inspection by an authorized Greyhound Supporters' member. I/We understand that home visits and inspections will be repeated when deemed necessary by the Greyhound Supporters. A record of inspections will be kept on file with the Greyhound Supporters.

I / we **have never been convicted** of cruelty to animals.

I / we **understand** that the Greyhound Supporters assumes no responsibility or liability for damages caused by a foster greyhound. This includes injury to a resident dog, a person, or damage to property.

I/ we **agree** that all supplies and hardware provided by the Greyhound Supporters remain the property of the Greyhound Supporters and will be returned to the Greyhound Supporters when I/we become inactive as fosters. All Greyhound Supporters' property that is not returned will be invoiced.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Greyhound Supporters'  
Representative: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Foster Care Policy

The **Greyhound Supporters (GS)** maintains the ownership of any and all greyhounds placed as a foster dog until such time as the greyhound has been formally adopted.

**Greyhound Supporters'** greyhounds, as a rule, will be spayed or neutered and updated on all vaccinations prior to placement in a foster home.

Veterinary care shall not be rendered to any **GS** greyhound without prior authorization by a Board Member. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, veterinary attention should be sought immediately. Documentation from a licensed veterinary doctor shall be submitted to the **GS** prior to any reimbursement of veterinary expenses.

Any veterinary care or attention required for a **GS** foster greyhound due to accidents, neglect or disregard of the **GS** policy will be the responsibility of the foster person.

The **Greyhound Supporters** reserves the right to inspect any and all foster greyhounds while in foster care. The **GS** reserves the right to relocate any foster greyhound should such a move be of benefit to the greyhound.

The **GS** is responsible for the adoption and placement of all **GS** greyhounds. While the input and judgment of the foster person is invaluable to the placement of foster greyhounds, the decisions concerning permanent placement will be at the discretion of the Adoption Coordinator.

The **GS** assumes no responsibility or liability for damages caused by a foster greyhound. This includes injury to a resident dog, resident cats, a person, or damage to property.

The foster home and property will be inspected by an authorized **GS** member prior to acceptance into the **GS** foster program. Additional annual inspections may be made. A record of inspections will be kept on file with the **GS**.

The foster person(s) must complete a foster care agreement and release form agreeing to all the conditions and statements as written.

## Foster Guidelines

1. The foster greyhound will be kept as an indoor family pet while in the care of the foster person/family.
2. The foster greyhound will be crated, if it is deemed necessary by the Adoption or Foster Coordinator, during those periods of time when the foster person/family is not available to supervise the actions of the greyhound.
3. The foster greyhound will be fed daily and in such amounts as to maintain ideal body weight.
4. The foster greyhound will have access to fresh water.
5. The foster greyhound will always be exercised on lead (leash) or in a completely secure fenced area.
6. The lead/leash used when walking the foster greyhound is to be a six (6) foot lead/leash MAXIMUM. **NEVER USE** an extendable, flexi or retractable leash.
7. The foster greyhound will receive care and personal attention so as to develop social skills and good house manners.
8. The foster greyhound will be supervised while interacting with any and all animals while in the care of the foster person(s).
9. The foster greyhound will be supervised while interacting with any and all children while in the care of the foster person(s). The foster hound will never be left alone with children under the age of 10.
10. The foster greyhound will be protected from hazardous materials or products that may be harmful to the greyhound.
11. The foster greyhound will be kept in a safe environment and protected from conditions and / or experiences unsafe for pet animals.
12. The foster greyhound will receive any necessary veterinary care consistent with the **Greyhound Supporters' (GS)** policies.
13. The foster greyhound will wear, at all times, a secure martingale style collar with appropriate identification tags.
14. The foster greyhound will not be taken on vacation by the foster family unless agreed upon in writing by the **Greyhound Supporters (GS)**.
15. The foster greyhound will not be transported out of Ottawa nor is it to reside in a location other than that which is stated on the foster person's agreement.
16. The foster person(s) will immediately notify the **Greyhound Supporters (GS)** should any problems arise in connection with the **Greyhound Supporters (GS)** foster greyhound including, but not limited to health or behavioural concerns, loss or theft of the foster greyhound.

**Borrowed Items:**

The following items have been loaned in support of the foster greyhounds in care and will be returned to the Greyhound Supporters:

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1	Crate		
2	Raised Feeder		
3	Dog Bed		
4	Quilt		
5	Belly Band		
6	Babygate		
7	Xpen		
8			
9			
10			
11			



## The Greyhound

For people not familiar with retired racing greyhounds, it's good to know a few things about the nature and origin of the breed.

The greyhound is a gentle and intelligent breed whose combination of long, powerful legs, deep chest, flexible spine, and slim build allows it to reach average race speeds exceeding 64 kph (40 mph). The greyhound can reach a full speed of 70 kph (43 mph) within 30 metres (98 ft), or six strides from the boxes, travelling at almost 20 metres per second (66 ft/s) for the first 250 metres (820 ft) of a race.

Males are usually 71 to 76 cm (28 to 30 in) tall at the shoulder and weigh on average 27 to 40 kgs (60 to 88 lb). Females tend to be smaller, with shoulder heights ranging from 66 to 71 cm (26 to 28 in) and weights from 25 to 34 kg (55 to 75 lb), although weights can be above and below these average weights. Greyhounds have very short fur, which is easy to maintain. There are approximately 30 recognized colour forms, of which variations of white, brindle, fawn, black, red, and blue (grey) can appear uniquely or in combination. Greyhounds are dolichocephalic, with a skull which is relatively long in comparison to its breadth, and an elongated muzzle.



Official Greyhound Color Chart

## History of the Greyhound

The true origins of the greyhound are shrouded in the mystery of history, but today's greyhound bears a striking resemblance to the ancient breeds of sighthounds that go back to the Egyptians and Celts. Temple drawings from 6,000 BC in Turkey show domesticated hunting dogs with long, slender bodies. A funerary artifact found in modern day Iran and which dates back to 4,000 BC, has images of dogs that look like greyhounds. The skeletal remains of a dog identified as having the same form of a greyhound or saluki were excavated in modern Syria and were dated as being approximately 4,000 years old.

Even the ancients weren't sure where these sighthounds came from. A Greek historian named Arrian, who lived during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, mentions sighthounds and suggested its origins were from the Celts. But a systemic zoo-archaeology of the British Isles conducted in the 1970's ruled out the existence of a true greyhound-type dog in Britain before the Roman occupation. The Celts believed that greyhounds originated from Greece and came to the British Isles with the Roman troops. This confusion suggests at least that greyhound-type dogs didn't originate in Gaul or Greece, but possibly in the Middle East.

It may be that the ancestor of greyhounds, salukis and other sighthounds came into being in the tents of Middle Eastern nomadic peoples. However, at some point, a special kind of dog was discovered or bred--a dog that could hunt alongside humans, including humans on horseback-- an extremely valuable service. These sighthounds were given a special place inside the camp, even inside the tents, where no other animal was allowed. The unique and highly prized abilities of sighthounds help explain why they have changed very little in 2,000 years.

The Romans used hounds for coursing, testing the speed and agility of the hound against the hare. Dogs apparently did not compete against one another the way they do now. Ovid describes coursing in the early first century AD: the impatient greyhound is held back to give the hare a fair start (read an excerpt). Arrian wrote "On Hunting Hares" in 124 AD in which he tells his readers that the purpose of coursing is not to catch the hare, but to enjoy the chase itself: " When they conquered Britain, the Romans brought with them European hares--more suitable for coursing than the local wild hares.

Greyhounds nearly became extinct during times of famine in the Middle Ages. They were saved by clergymen who protected them and bred them for the nobility. From this point on, they came to be considered the dogs of the aristocracy – nobles and the clergy. Hunting with sighthounds in this era hadn't changed much since the time of Romans like Arrian. It was a sport, not the serious pursuit of food, which pitted the hounds against the hare and against each other.

Coursing races, with dogs chasing live hares, became popular during the sixteenth century. Queen Elizabeth I of England (1533-1603) had Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, draw up rules judging competitive coursing. These rules were still in effect when the first official coursing club was founded in 1776 at Swaffham, Norfolk, England. The rules of coursing have not changed a great deal since this time.

Unlike Elizabeth, King James I (1566-1625) preferred hunting to hard work and he was an avid fan of greyhound coursing. Races between the horses of his followers became as important as the matches between the king's greyhounds. This began the tradition of competitive racing in Newmarket, England.

The English Earl of Orford created the first coursing club open to the public in 1776 in Norfolk. In live-hare coursing, two greyhounds are slipped (released) together. The winner is judged by a code of points: One of the most famous greyhounds of this century is Snowball, who won four cups and over thirty matches in his coursing career. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, breeders began to keep proper pedigrees of their dogs.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the beginning of the advertising of dogs available to stud for a fee. This was a dramatic change from the past, when breeders would never allow one of their champions to sire a dog that might compete against them one day. King Cob was the first successful public stud dog.

The popularity of greyhound coursing in Britain increased greatly in the nineteenth century, as the Industrial Revolution gave the manufacturing classes the wealth and time to enjoy such activities, and the expansion of rail made it easier to get to coursing events. Formal coursing meets reached their peak of popularity in the late 1800s. Some of these meets, such as the Waterloo Cup, are still held today.

The Waterloo Cup was considered for over a century to be the ultimate test of the coursing Greyhound. The first Waterloo Cup was held in 1837 on the Altcar estate of Earl Sefton and was won by a Mr. Stanton's dog, Fly. The competition was held during the week of the Grand National horse racing meet and soon attracted sporting men in considerable numbers. By the second half of the century, it had become a premier attraction by itself. Modern Greyhound enthusiasts, whether of track or coursing sport, have little idea of how important this meet was. In fact, simply to be nominated for entry was a matter of prestige, and early advertisements for stud service or puppies would have a line reading "Waterloo Cup nominator" referring to the sire/stud. To actually win the Cup was to be the top dog of the year.

Dogs were raised and trained in remote hill areas where they could roam freely, and chase anything that caught their attention. The constant exercise and hard climate built a level of endurance into the dogs that some think has been lost with modern rearing methods. In their second spring, the puppies were either sold or began their training for coursing competition.

Greyhounds were imported to North America in large numbers from Ireland and England in the mid-1800s not to course or race, but to rid mid-west farms of a virtual epidemic of jackrabbits that was ruining their farms. Greyhounds also were used to hunt down coyotes who were killing livestock. Americans soon discovered that greyhounds could be a source of sport. One of the first national coursing meets was held in Kansas in 1886. American coursing has been most popular in the western states.

With the formation of the National Coursing Club of England in 1858, coursing was turned into more of a business. It began requiring the registration of dogs for its events in 1882. This led to the creation of The Greyhound Stud Book in Britain and, later, sister publications in the United States, Ireland and Australia.

The evolution from coursing to track racing began in 1876, when the first enclosed or "park" course meet was held. These courses were only 800 yards long instead of the 3-mile traditional courses. Because of this, enclosed courses put a premium on speed. Enclosed courses have stayed very popular in Ireland. Their popularity in England was short-lived at the time, but they helped convince open coursing leaders to shrink the size of their courses. Also in 1876, greyhound racing began at the Welsh Harp, Hendon, England, when six dogs raced down a straight track after a mechanical lure. This attempt to provide a humane alternative to coursing failed, however, and the experiment would not be tried again until 1921.

From these coursing meets, track racing would eventually develop. It came about partly due to the necessity of controlling the enormous crowds of people who came to observe the coursing. enclosed coursing parks were developed. These were huge fields which were fenced with an assortment of escapes (holes) built into the fences. Hares were captured and trained to the escapes so that they would have a fair chance. Then, during a coursing meet, dogs would be slipped in pairs to pursue the hare. They were judged on speed on the "run up" to the hare, on the number and kind of turns they forced the hare to make (a sharp turn earned more points than a slight deviation), and on whether or not they made the kill. The "run up" earned a significant number of points so speed became very important.

After an artificial lure was developed which could be run by a motor, it was an obvious step to turn to racing rather than coursing the hounds. Greyhound racing with an artificial lure began on September 11, 1879 at Hendon, England. Six dogs raced over a 400-yard straight course, chasing an artificial hare riding on "an apparatus like a skate on wheels" along a single track, according to a newspaper account of the day.

Around 1912, Owen Patrick Smith invented the mechanical lure, a lure that could be run in a circle on a track such as horses used that racing began to be considered as a sport. He opened the first greyhound track (circular in shape) in Emeryville, California. Six years later he owned 25 tracks around the nation, including ones in Florida, Montana, and Oregon. Florida became the US capital of the sport after dog racing was introduced there in 1922. The first track race in England opened in 1926. Greyhound racing became very popular with the working classes in America and Britain. Before long it spread to Ireland and Australia as well.

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## **History of Greyhound Racing in Australia**

In 1788, eighteen years after Captain Cook landed in Australia, Governor Phillip arrived with a fleet of 1,000 people. His personal belongings included greyhounds which had been used for

hunting in Britain. As this was a century before shotguns came into general use, squatters learned to survive on whatever they could find to eat. It would be years before farms would become sufficiently established to feed the growing white population, so kangaroos became a vital food source.

### Creating the Kangaroo Dog



Kangaroo Dog Hunting Wallaroo

By 1793, Arthur Philip's marine officers were complaining that the English greyhounds were incapable of bringing down kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies and the myriad of other different sized marsupials which were hunted as food.

Consequently, a Kangaroo Dog was developed by crossing greyhounds with other British hunting dogs such as deerhounds, etc. The result was a large, strong hunting dog weighing up to 80 pounds. It had the greyhound's speed combined with size and strength. If confronted by a dog acting on its own, the kangaroo would use its front legs to grasp the dog and disembowel it with its lethal hind claws. To avoid this, successful Kangaroo Dogs instinctively devised a special way of acting in pairs to upend the kangaroo and then kill it. At an estimated speed of 40 kph, the faster dog would position itself close behind and to the side of the kangaroo and grab the base of its tail on the upward leap. In this way, the kangaroo would fall head-long into the ground. The second dog would then leap upon the kangaroo from behind and break its neck. Because so many brave dogs were maimed or killed by the kangaroos, the dogs which survived were bred. Consequently, the Kangaroo Dog was developed with the instinct vital for its survival. However, in a domestic situation, Kangaroo dogs were sweet-natured, gentle dogs that were totally trust-worthy with all members of the household.



Kangaroo Dogs c 1830

In 1882, the Canterbury Dog Club held a show and described Kangaroo Dogs as *“...big, bony dogs with light shaggy coats, their colours ranging from whitish fawn to brindle iron-grey and black. They were imported from Australia to New Zealand to kill the wild dogs which had become a menace to run holders and their sheep. They were declared to be as game Bulldogs, fierce as tiger cats and match any kangaroo that leapt over the plains.”*

In his book 'Barkers and Biters' (1914) Robert Kaleski wrote *“the first dogs were very big bony devils with a light coat of shaggy hair. They ran by both scent and sight... they are nearly all yellow or brindle, with an odd black one. After about 15 years the breed began to get lighter in coat owing to the climate; continued doing so until now they are now as smooth and shapely Greyhounds, although just as big as ever.”*



Kangaroo Dog c 1900

However, by the late 1800s, fencing surrounded huge paddocks. By this time lamb and beef had replaced kangaroo meat on peoples' tables. Guns had replaced the necessity to use dogs for killing game. Additionally, kangaroo skin had become popular as a fashionable product, and Kangaroo Dogs tore too much of the skin, so they weren't used to hunt kangaroos anymore. Its job was done. People no longer kept them even as pets. After all, it was much more socially acceptable to keep fancy British pure breed dogs! With their job redundant, the Kangaroo Dogs were abandoned. Consequently, through no fault of their own, Kangaroo Dogs became extinct.

### **Coursing Greyhounds**

The root of Australian greyhound racing was coursing, and it first began by coursing Kangaroo Dogs, although it wasn't long before coursing greyhounds were being imported from England. Rather than chasing hares, their prey was wallabies, which Kangaroo Dogs were used to hunting. However, due to the harsh Australian conditions (compared to the green fields of England), imported greyhounds did not fare well in the open country. This started the creation of the stronger Australian bred greyhounds that were descended from Kangaroo Dogs. In 1868, the State of South Australia ran the Waterloo Cup with wallabies as the quarry. In 1859, European hares were introduced in the wilds around Victoria so that they could be hunted. The hares thrived and on May 28, 1873, the first public coursing meeting was held in which hares were the quarry.

From that point, Coursing and Racing Clubs were set up across the country. By the late 1800's, coursing greyhounds was ranked as Australia's third fastest growing sport behind horse racing and cricket. The number of spectators to coursing meetings continued to increase and so the area in which the dogs were released became an enclosed circular course to allow several

Greyhounds to race at the same time. The Plumpton racing (enclosed circular course racing) was introduced in Victoria in 1881.



Australian Greyhound c 1897

### **From Coursing to Greyhound Racing**

In 1927, the mechanical or “tin hare” that had been invented in the United States was introduced to Sydney and it completely changed greyhound racing into another form of racing – that of having the greyhounds chase a mechanical contraption around an oval circuit. The Greyhound Coursing Association (GCA) was created to promote this new sport in Sydney. It obtained a lease for the Epping Park Racecourse and started evening “tin hare” racing on May 28, 1927.

The “tin hare” racing turned out to be hugely popular, especially with the working class, and very successful. The race promoters cleverly imitated the atmosphere of a well-known horse racetrack and had attendants formally parading the greyhounds in front of the race attendees before races, and adopted familiar terms like “paddock”, kennel inspections, coloured saddle cloths on the greyhounds and more.



Early Greyhound Racing

Once the mechanical lure was introduced in 1927, most major centres across Australia created clubs and greyhound racing tracks.

Each Australian state and territory has an entity that regulates the racing, training and animal welfare of greyhounds in that state or territory. Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) and Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) are the two largest authorities governing over 40 racetracks. The Queensland Greyhound Racing Authority (QGRA), the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association (WAGRA), Tasracing, Greyhound Racing South Australia (GRSA)

and the Northern Territory Racing Authority all contribute to running and monitoring greyhound racing and the welfare of greyhounds in Australia.

Today, there are a total of 65 Greyhound racing tracks operating across Australia.

### **Why Australian Greyhounds?**

The greyhound racing industry in the United States (US) has been declining for the past few years resulting in fewer dogs being bred, raced and eventually available for adoption upon retirement. This decline was hastened by 2018 legislation to end greyhound racing in the state of Florida. This has resulted in even fewer retired racers being available for adoption throughout the U.S. and Canada. Greyhound breeding and racing continues today in Australia and other countries, such as Ireland. However, there are not enough homes available for retired Australian greyhound racers in Australia, so it is only logical to find them homes in North America.

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# **SOME MEDICAL INFORMATION RELATED TO GREYHOUNDS**

## Medical Links

- Greyt Health by Suzanne Stack - <http://www.greythealth.com/>
- Greyhound Health Initiative - <https://greyhoundhealthinitiative.org/>
- Tick borne diagnostic laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine (North Carolina State University) - <http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/vhc/csds/ticklab.html>

## Anesthesia

When it is time for a dental cleaning, surgery, or minor procedures such as suturing a wound, anesthesia is usually necessary. Like many other sighthounds, greyhounds do have a number of genetic factors that cause them to metabolize drugs differently. Sedatives may be experienced more intensely, and drugs are metabolized more slowly overall. A slower (but safe) recovery time is expected with certain drugs and sedative drugs in general will require lower doses. Thiobarbiturate drugs, once the mainstay of anesthetic induction, are no longer recommended in sighthounds.

Propofol or a combination of diazepam and ketamine are safe, short acting, injectable drugs and are excellent choices for sedation and anesthetic induction. The newest generation of inhalant anesthetics, isoflurane and sevoflurane, are safe and rapidly eliminated by the lungs, unlike some of the older gas anesthetics that were metabolized by the liver. For short noninvasive procedures (up to 30 minutes), medetomidine (Domitor) and its reversal agent atipamezole (Antisendan) are often used.

Some of the issues that greyhounds may suffer from, in reaction to anesthesia, are:

- hyperthermia (body temperature dangerously high) in nervous dogs,
- hypothermia (body temperature dangerously low) in dogs with a lean body conformation, and
- prolonged recovery from some intravenous anesthetics and increased risks of drug interactions.

## Bloodwork - - <http://greythealth.com/blood.htm>

The following comes from information posted by Dr. Suzanne Stack, DVM.

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

### **CBC = Complete Blood Count**

NORMAL VALUES FOR:		
	<u><b>Greyhounds</b></u>	<u><b>Other Dogs</b></u>
Red Blood Cells (RBC)	7.4 - 9.0	5.5 - 8.5
Hemoglobin (Hgb)	19.0 - 21.5	12.0 - 18.0
PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume / Hematocrit	55 - 65	37 - 55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV / HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference. Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia - a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction - in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's - low 40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's - low 40's is an anemic greyhound. Here in Arizona, a greyhound PCV < 50 is a red flag to check for Ehrlichia.

### **WBC**

Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5

Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

### **Platelets**

Greyhound: 80,000 - 200,000

Other dog: 150,000 - 400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Confounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So, if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated globulin and total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.

### **Chem Panel**

NORMAL VALUES FOR:			
	Total Protein (T.P.)		Globulin
Greyhound:	4.5 - 6.2	Greyhound:	2.1 - 3.2
Other dog:	5.4 - 7.8	Other dog:	2.8 - 4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal - T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

### **Creatinine**

Greyhounds: .8 - 1.6

Other dogs: .0 - 1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds

they sampled had creatinine values up to 1.6 times as high as the top of the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.

#### **T4**

Greyhounds: .5 - 3.6 (mean 1.47+/- .63)

Other dogs: 1.52 - 3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds - 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs - so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

#### **Urinalysis**

And lastly, the good news - greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

**THE BASIC PROFILE** OR The ABC's of Diagnostics - <http://greythealth.com/basic.htm>

When that "basic profile" comes back from the lab, what can it tell you? The highlights in greyhounds are:

#### **The CBC**

The CBC (complete blood count) tells how many of each kind of blood cell is circulating. RBCs (red blood cells) contribute to the HCT or PCV (hematocrit or packed cell volume = the concentration of red blood cells in the sample). Hgb is the amount of hemoglobin in the RBCs. These numbers are normally high in greyhounds, low in anemia. MCV, MCH, and MCHC are calculations derived from RBC, PCV, and Hgb.

The WBC (white blood cell) count is a total of the different kinds of WBCs in the sample - segmented neutrophils, bands, lymphocytes, monocytes, and eosinophils. The breakdown of WBCs is called the differential (diff) and by its makeup can indicate a normal dog or possible infection/inflammation. The "diff" gives the doctor clues to what process or disease might be causing an abnormal WBC. WBCs can normally run low in greyhounds.

Platelets are the last component of the CBC. Platelets are the blood cells that form a "platelet plug" to stop the bleeding when you cut your finger. Greyhounds can run under or on the low end of normal platelet counts.

#### **The Chem Panel**

The lab uses serum (what is left of whole blood once the cells are removed) to determine approximately 20 "blood chemistries." There are many other tests that can be run on serum. Most "chem panels" include:

**Total Protein** = the sum total of Albumin + Globulin

#### **Albumin:**

- a protein made in the liver
- can be lost through damaged kidneys or intestines

#### **Globulin**

- a protein produced in response to antigenic stimulation
- increased in chronic infections and some cancers

BUN – blood urea nitrogen

- increased in dehydration or kidney disease
- decreased in liver disease

Creatinine - also increased in kidney disease

- another measure of kidney function less affected by dehydration than BUN
- normally higher in greyhounds than other dogs

ALT (SGPT) - alanine transferase

- released from damaged liver cells

AST (SGOT) - aspartate transferase

- increased in liver damage, muscle damage (including intramuscular injections), or hemolysis (breakdown of RBCs). The hemolysis can be as simple as from a difficult blood draw.

ALKP (SAP) - serum alkaline phosphatase

- increased with liver disease, Cushings, steroids, some cancers & infections. Normally high in young, growing dogs

T. Bili - total bilirubin

- pigment increased in liver disease or hemolysis which causes dog, serum, and/or urine to turn yellow (jaundice = icterus)

CPK - creatine phosphokinase

- enzyme released from damaged skeletal & heart muscle

Amylase

- digestive enzyme increased in pancreatitis, intestinal disease, or kidney failure

Lipase

- digestive enzyme which is more specific for pancreatitis

Cholesterol

- rises after eating or from pancreatitis, diabetes, hypothyroidism, or glomerulonephritis.
- doesn't clog arteries in dogs

Glucose - "blood sugar"

- rises in diabetes, pancreatitis, seizures, or severe near-death type stress
- decreased in sepsis, insulinoma tumor, baby pups who don't eat often enough, but most often from sample sitting around too long before centrifuging

Calcium

- increased in lymphoma & other cancers
- decreased in kidney failure, post-whelping seizures, & hypoparathyroidism

### Phosphorus

- increased in kidney failure

**The electrolytes TCO<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, & Na<sup>+</sup> show a wide variety of derangements in different diseases.**

TCO<sub>2</sub> - total carbon dioxide

Cl<sup>-</sup> - chloride

K<sup>+</sup> - potassium

Na<sup>+</sup> - sodium

**Lastly are 4 calculations:**

A/G ratio - albumin/globulin ratio

- albumin should predominate over globulin in the normal dog

B/C ratio - BUN/creatinine ratio

- helps distinguish dehydration from true kidney failure

Na/K ratio - sodium/potassium ratio

- screens for Addison's disease

Anion gap = (Na + K) - (Cl + bicarbonate)

- reflects acid/base status

There are many other less important or more obscure possibilities for elevations and decreases in these parameters that were omitted for space and clarity. Many values are only something to worry about if they're either elevated or decreased, but not necessarily both. These are the basics.

## Cancer

Cancer is a leading cause of death among dogs in their golden years. Your greyhound is a bit more prone to certain kinds of cancer starting at a younger age. Many cancers are cured by surgically removing them, and some types are treatable with chemotherapy. Early detection is critical!

Hemangiosarcoma is a type of bleeding tumor that affects greyhounds. These tumors commonly form in the spleen but can form in other organs as well. Unbeknownst to a pet owner, the tumour breaks open and internal bleeding occurs. Some tumors can be volleyball-sized or larger before signs of sickness show.

Lymphoma or lymphosarcoma is a type of cancer that afflicts greyhounds. This disease makes the body form abnormal lymphocytes, which are a type of white blood cell. Because white blood cells can be found throughout the body, this cancer can show up almost anywhere. Lymphoma is a very treatable form of cancer, with an excellent success rate in dogs receiving chemotherapy. Treatment can be costly, however, and is a lifelong commitment. Luckily, lymphoma is one of the few types of cancer that can often be found with a blood test. Watch for swollen glands, weight loss, or labored breathing at home and be sure to call your vet if you notice any unusual symptoms.

Osteosarcoma is the most common bone tumor in retired racing greyhounds. Early symptoms include lameness and leg pain. Early detection is critical! Call your vet right away if you notice that your dog is limping. This is a painful and aggressive tumor, and the sooner your hound receives medical care, the better its chance of survival.

## Corns

A corn is a hard mass of keratin, and it presents as a circular area of a hound's toe/foot pad that can protrude past the surrounding pad. Corns usually have a deep root that impacts on the hound's flexor and its bony attachment. About 80% of corns are found in the central toes and are a source of significant lameness, especially when walking on hard surfaces.

The exact cause of a corn is still being investigated, but current thinking is that mechanical load is the most likely cause of a corn's formation. A greyhound's foot has a very thin fatty layer under the greyhound's footpad. This combined with high impact forces between the toe bone and the footpad in conjunction with an uneven gait when walking or running is thought to be the genesis of corns.

There are a variety of ways to combat corns. Some people just file the corn flat with an emery board or a Dremel. This method simply relieves the pressure on the corn when the greyhound is walking and needs to be done on a regular basis. Padded footwear, such as that available from [Thera-paw](#) or a [HunnyBoots](#) can help reduce pain when walking on hard surfaces. Lotions and creams, along with soaking the foot to soften the corn and facilitate its removal from the foot

pad. Hulling or excising the corn removes the entire corn, but it usually grows back. Corns can be surgically removed but usually recur.

Flexor tenotomy is now considered to be the best treatment for corns and is being performed by veterinary clinics and some veterinary clinics. Not all veterinarians are familiar with this procedure so you should ensure your vet has experience. Flexor tenotomy is a surgical procedure that removes a short piece of the superficial digital flexor tendon (SDFT) just above the foot. Recovery is usually quite fast and within seven days, improvement in the hound's lameness and demeanor can be expected.

For more information, please see the following resources:

- <https://www.mikeguilliard.co.uk/copy-of-dysplasia-article-1>
- Facebook – [Flexor Tenotomy: Greyhounds with Corns](#)

## Heart Disease

Heart disease is uncommon in greyhounds, but they may be mistakenly diagnosed with a heart murmur. Greyhounds are extraordinary canine athletes and because they have evolved into specialized running machines, they have a massive amount of blood being pushed through the heart with every beat. The noise that results from this may sound like the turbulent blood flow in a diseased heart, i.e., a heart murmur.

Greyhounds may also have blood pressures on the high side of normal and have slower heart rates than other dogs. This is again due to the athletic nature of the breed.

An ultrasound examination can differentiate normal heart enlargement from a diseased heart.

## Thyroid

Greyhounds may suffer from a condition called hypothyroidism which is when the body doesn't make enough thyroid hormone. Signs may include dry skin and coat, hair loss, susceptibility to other skin diseases, weight gain, fearfulness, aggression, or other behavioral changes. To determine if your greyhound has this condition, your vet needs to conduct a blood screening test. Treatment is usually simple: replacement hormones given in the form of a pill.

The reference levels for retired racing greyhounds is different from the "norm". There is a body of evidence that shows sighthound breeds may have a lower T4 and/or free T4 values than the laboratory reference ranges established from a variety of dog breeds. If there are clinical signs of hypothyroidism and a low T4, a free: T4 (fT4) by equilibrium dialysis and TSH are recommended. fT4 by equilibrium dialysis (be sure this is the method used) is essentially a T4 reading that's less influenced by extraneous factors. TSH is a compromise to actual TSH stimulation, which is considered the "gold standard" in thyroid testing but is not widely available.



Category of Result	RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK (n=1905) (n=1402)	BORZOI (n=380) (n=298)	GREYHOUND (n=2393) (n=1928)	SALUKI (n=140) (n=101)
Normal T4, normal TSH, neg TgAA <i>Normal fT4, normal TSH, neg TgAA</i>	67.1 64.8	53.2 52.7	34.8 40.8	43.6 44.6
Normal T4, normal TSH, pos TgAA	9.2	5.5	0.8	4.3
Normal T4, elevated TSH, neg TgAA	3.8	1.8	0.9	3.6
Normal T4, elevated TSH, pos TgAA	2.1	1.6	0.0	2.1
Low T4, normal TSH, neg TgAA <i>Low fT4, normal TSH, neg TgAA</i>	9.1 11.4	30.3 30.0	57.7 51.5	32.1 28.7
Low T4, normal TSH, pos TgAA	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.8
Low T4, elevated TSH, neg TgAA	1.8	1.8	2.6	7.1
Low T4, elevated TSH, pos TgAA <i>Low fT4, elevated TSH, pos TgAA</i>	3.9 4.9	2.6 3.4	0.3 0.4	3.6 3.0
DCPAH mixed breed reference ranges				
Normal T4 15-67 nmol/L, low T4 <15 nmol/L		Normal TSH ≤ 37 mU/L, elevated TSH > 37 mU/L		
Normal free T4 8-26 pmol/L, low <8 pmol/L		Negative TgAA ≤ 25%, elevated TgAA > 25%		

The full article may be found on Dr. MaryDee Sist, DVM site,  
[https://salukihealthresearch.com/SHR\\_thyroid.html](https://salukihealthresearch.com/SHR_thyroid.html)

## **Understand the difference between aggression and prey drive**

**Apr 12, 2015 12:00 AM By: Joan Klucha, North Shore News**

**(<https://www.nsnews.com/living/understand-the-difference-between-aggression-and-prey-drive-2997116>)**

Aggression in dogs is a very misunderstood behaviour.

Humans often misinterpret normal, healthy forms of communication between dogs as aggression when it is not.

Aggression is also mislabeled as unpredictable when it is not. A dog always shows signs of its discomfort with a situation before it resorts to displaying aggressive behaviour.

Unknowledgeable humans either don't see the signs or misinterpret them and assume the dog is acting unpredictably. To complicate things further, there is a behaviour some dogs exhibit that, to the untrained and unfamiliar, looks like aggression and, because of the nature of its expression, it can even be said to be unpredictable.

This behaviour is called predatory drift. It is not aggression, but it looks like it because it is often preceded by a prey drive reaction.

To understand predatory drift, you first have to understand aggression and prey drive and the difference between the two.

Aggression, simply explained, is the expression of a behaviour with the intention of self-preservation. This means that a dog somehow feels threatened by an external stimulus and has decided its other two options - flee or freeze - will not achieve its goal of self-preservation. Dogs prefer to first use defensive options, such as retreating from a threat. When that does not work or is not an option because the dog is confined, it will freeze in hopes that the threat will leave. If those reactions don't work, it will choose the final option, which is no longer defensive but offensive, and assault the threat to make it leave.

Prey drive is a dog's instinctual need to chase and catch things. This is a fairly common behaviour to witness. A dog that loves to play fetch, chase squirrels or cats has a strong prey drive. A dog that lifts its head to watch a ball roll by does not have a big prey drive.

When wolves passed their DNA to dogs, prey drive was part of that DNA. Prey drive is what motivated wolves to chase and catch their meals. Since it is a survival trait, it is a huge part of their genetic makeup and impossible not to have been passed down to dogs.

Prey drive is not specific to a breed. Prey drive relates to personality and genetics rather than breed.

The majority of dogs with a high prey drive will enjoy chasing a squirrel but are not likely to kill or even injure the squirrel if the opportunity presents itself. This is due to domestication and breeding practices that have softened the predatory aspect of the prey drive.

Predatory drift is a glitch in the system, so to speak, and I want to stress that it is not aggression, although it often gets labelled as such by those unfamiliar with it. Predatory drift is when a dog gets aroused by the high-pitched sounds, the energetic struggles or the frenetic behaviour of an animal or even a person in distress and becomes predatory towards it. The dog focuses with great intent on the object of its arousal.

Predation sounds like a pretty scary word and can create fears about aggression, but it is not the same. Predatory drift is just that - a drift from prey drive to predatory. It becomes dangerous when the object of predation is small. Dogs may have lost the kill sequence of the predatory act, but a great size and strength difference can result in death very easily. This is not an act of aggression, but the expression of a latent aspect of the prey drive.

The limited research on the subject suggests that any dog has the potential to drift from prey drive to predation. Dogs that have never shown any predatory proclivities, past aggression to other dogs and even dogs that are considered well-socialized can display it. It happens in an instant and is generally not preventable if it has not been witnessed in the past. This is where it gets its "unpredictable aggression" label from.

But, anecdotally speaking, dogs have observable personality traits that make it easier to determine whether or not they have the "drift." I will discuss this next week.

*Joan Klucha has been working with dogs for more than 15 years in obedience, tracking and behavioural rehabilitation.*

Another excellent resource related to this topic is:

The Culture Clash: A Revolutionary New Way to Understanding the Relationship Between Humans and Domestic Dogs: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding ... Between Humans and Domestic Dogs by Jean Donaldson, an author who has over 30 years of experience in dog behaviour and training.

# The Rule of 3's

## IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT

THE 3/3/3 RULE IS A GENERAL GUIDELINE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD OF A DOG AFTER ADOPTION. EVERY DOG IS UNIQUE AND WILL ADJUST DIFFERENTLY.

		
3 DAYS	3 WEEKS	3 MONTHS
<b>TO DECOMPRESS</b>	<b>TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE</b>	<b>TO START TO FEEL AT HOME</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● FEELING OVERWHELMED</li><li>● MAY FEEL SCARED/UNSURE OF WHAT'S GOING ON</li><li>● NOT COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BE "HIMSELF"</li><li>● MAY NOT WANT TO EAT OR DRINK</li><li>● SHUTS DOWN AND/OR HIDES UNDER FURNITURE</li><li>● TESTS THE BOUNDARIES</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● STARTS SETTLING IN</li><li>● FEELS MORE COMFORTABLE</li><li>● REALIZES THIS COULD BE HIS FOREVER HOME</li><li>● FIGURES OUT HIS ENVIRONMENT</li><li>● GETS INTO A ROUTINE</li><li>● LETS HIS GUARD DOWN, MAY BEGIN TO SHOW HIS TRUE PERSONALITY</li><li>● BEHAVIOR ISSUES MAY START TO APPEAR</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● FINALLY FEELS COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN HIS HOME</li><li>● BEGINS TO BUILD TRUST AND A TRUE BOND</li><li>● GAINS A COMPLETE SENSE OF SECURITY WITH HIS NEW FAMILY</li><li>● SETS INTO A ROUTINE</li></ul>

## GIVE THEM A CHANCE

