



GREYHOUND ADOPTION MANUAL

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Greyhound Pets of America

would like to extend our thanks to the following
Veterinarians for their help in our adoption program.

If you are looking for a vet or want to make a change, we recommend these
Veterinarians. They are all very caring Veterinarians and truly know and love the Greyhound.

PINELLAS COUNTY

Clearwater

Sunset Point Animal Hospital
2572 Sunset Point Road
Clearwater, FL
727-797-1166
Kevin Conrad, DVM

Animal Health Care Clinic
1710 Drew Street
Suite 7
Clearwater, FL
727-446-5501
Joseph Supow, DVM

PINELLAS COUNTY

Pinellas Park/St Petersburg

Animal Medical Hospital (AMH)
2540 30th Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL
727-896-7127

Bayshore Animal Hospital
and Bird Practice
3845 Tyrone Blvd.
St Petersburg, FL
727-381-3900
Steve Sanders, DVM

Live Oak Animal Hospital
5362 Central Avenue
St Petersburg, FL
727-321-1116

Pinellas Animal Hospital
7791 52nd Street
Pinellas Park, FL
727-546-0005

Tyrone Veterinary Hospital
3451 Tyrone Blvd
St Petersburg, FL
727-381-8911

PASCO COUNTY

New Port Richey

Animal Care Center
of Pasco
4041 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL
727-376-7600

Animal Hospital of
New Port Richey
8117 Little Road
New Port Richey, FL
727-842-7350

Paws Clinic
11720 US 19 #18
Port Richey, FL
727-819-1910

Advanced Veterinary Hospital
1334 US 19 North
Holiday, FL
727-938-6879

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

North Tampa

Gregory Veterinary Clinic
1329 West Fletcher Ave
Tampa, FL
813-968-5515
Dr. Gregory

Keene Veterinary Hospital
4542 West Village Drive
Tampa, FL
813-962-8499

Southpaw Animal Health
15421 North Dale Mabry Hwy
Tampa, FL
813-968-4025
Bruce Dejnozka, DVM
Debra A. Drake, DVM
Alphons Vanderbrand, DVM

South Tampa

Bayshore Animal Clinic
4205 South MacDill Ave
Tampa, FL
Michael Hayworth, DVM
Rhonda Johnson, DVM
Stuart Rosenberg, DVM

Westchase/Oldsmar

Westchase Veterinary Center
12043 Whitmarsh Lane
Tampa, FL

BRADENTON

Manatee Veterinary Clinic
3607 Manatee Ave West
Bradenton, FL
941-746-7902
Patricia A. Campbell, DVM, CVA

PLANT CITY

Animal Wellness Center
Of Plant City
3109 State Road 574
Plant City, FL
813-752-2869
Jennifer Connor, DVM

SARASOTA

University Animal Clinic
8356 Lockwood Ridge Road E.
Sarasota, FL
941-355-7707
Tyrene Fellman, DVM
Robert W. Rill, DVM
Andrew Whittington, DVM

EMERGENCY CLINICS

Blue Pearl Veterinary
Of Brandon (24 hours)
607 Lumsden Prof. Court
Brandon, FL
813-571-3303

Blue Pearl Veterinary
Of Clearwater (by appt)
4525 Ulmerton Road
Clearwater, FL
727-572-0132

Tampa Bay Veterinary
Emergency Service (24 hrs)
1501-A Belcher Rd South
Largo, FL
727-531-5752
Specialty Clinic (Mon-Fri)
727-535-3500

Blue Pearl Veterinary - Tampa
(24 hours and Specialty Clinic)
3000 Busch Lake Blvd.
Tampa, FL
813-933-8944

Tampa Veterinary
Emergency Service
14923 North Florida Avenue
(Florida & Bearss Ave.)
Tampa, FL
813-265-4043
Mon-Fri & Weekends
6PM - 8 AM

Southern Eye Clinic
5406 Hoover Blvd Suite 20
Tampa, FL
813-881-9799
E. Dan Wolf, DVM, DACVO

PASCO COUNTY

Pet Luv Low Cost Shot Clinic
7348 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL
352-799-9990

Dr. Figarola
837 South Broad Street
Brooksville, FL
352-797-9090

Hernando Veterinary Clinic
1377 Anderson Snow Road
Spring Hill, FL
352-683-6268
Dr. Wempe

POLK COUNTY

Veterinary Emergency Care Clinic
3609 US Hwy 98 South
Lakeland, FL
863-665-3199

HOLISTIC

Robin L. Cannizzaro
5500 Haines Road
St Petersburg FL
727-528-0298

ACUPUNCTURE/LASER

Dr. Todd
1355 Pinehurst Road
Dunedin, FL
727-733-9351

Sunset Veterinary Surgery
1969 Sunset Point Road
Suite 8
Clearwater, FL

727-447-0256

Dr. Malnate

Bayshore Animal Hospital
& Bird Practice
3845 Tyrone Blvd
St Petersburg FL
727-381-3900
Dr. Steve Sanders

BRANDON AREA

Bloomington Animal Hospital
3404 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Valrico, FL
813-681-6612
Dr. Ramirez

Boyette Animal Hospital
10931 Boyette Road
Riverview, FL
813-671-3400

Advanced Veterinary Services
1107 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Seffner, FL
813-653-9779
Dr. Sanchez

Meadow Run Animal Hospital
804 Lithia Pinecrest Road
Valrico, FL
813-685-7775

WHEN I GET MY NEW HOME

(The first few days)

I've probably not been in a house long and things will be strange. I may be tense, possibly withdrawn. Be sure I "empty before entering". I may be afraid though you may not notice. This is normal. At some point I'll pick a spot and lie down (on an old blanket or whatever). Let me remain quiet unless I come to you. Be patient and gentle. Speak soft soothing one-word assurances such as "good" or "easy". Speak "no" more strongly for unacceptable behavior.

If you do not want me in a certain room, use your hand as a traffic cop and say firmly but gently, "no". Stay that way until I get the message. Repetition and softness are the keys to my learning.

I like comfort so start now to block me from the sofa and your bed if you do not want me on them. Show me where to lie, on what soft surface.

Mirrors, fireplace glass, sliding glass doors all reflect my image. This may perplex me—"who is that other dog?". Let me explore.

Time my feeding (portion feeding) and remember, the hand that trains is the hand that feeds. I will also start bonding at feeding time. Even though others may want to share in this at first, it is best for one person to eventually do the feeding. Time my duty trips close to mealtime (usually within one hour)

Feed me twice a day with high quality dog food. Remember I am not used to sharing my food. Be sure to feed me separately from any other animals.

I may startle easily at first---don't sneak up on me. Come from the front. Speak softly. I will always hear you unless I am asleep.

I may be very afraid the first night. The sounds, smells and shadows are all new to me. I may fuss. Reassure me with words and your closeness.

If you let me into your bedroom I will quickly settle down. Your closeness and scent are my security in this bewildering environment. Remember, once you allow this you have committed. Like all learned behavior, this is how I will respond and what I will expect to be allowed to do.

If I am not allowed in your bedroom, please keep me nearby and develop my confidence with soft words of assurance.

At first, I may stare ahead and seem unresponsive. Remember, I am undergoing stress adjustment as you probably are also. Quiet and calm is the way to go. A light, gentle massage all over with soothing words is great for both of us (try not to pat).

When it is duty time, let me loose, if I am in a safe, enclosed area. Otherwise use a 6 or 8 foot lead. After I have done my "duty" praise me with "good" and "let's go eat". I am beginning to learn to please you and stay with you and I know that you will reward me with acceptable behavior.

For athletes, extras are rarely allowed. I'll fatten up a little on my own and will probably need to when I first come to you. But remember, overfeeding causes problems later on and will be harmful.

Underfeeding is also harmful and can result not only in physical problems, but also in behavior problems such as stealing food. A good rule of thumb for weight is that you should be able to feel my ribs but not see them. GPA can advise you as to the amount of weight I should or should not gain and GPA can further advise you on the amounts of food that I should receive daily.

If I am asleep, please do not startle me. I may make a sassy "grumpf" if you startle me, as I would do to my kennel mate. Over time I will adjust to a soft intrusion.

I'm a puppy at heart and a swift runner. Unlike other breeds, I rely mostly on sight. I cannot easily find my way back home, as scent oriented pups can do, so, do not let me loose. You will not be able to catch me if I start to run, so do not let me loose where I can escape, even unintentionally.

I don't know what traffic is. All the sights and sounds will easily distract me in my new world. My safety and my life depend on your wisdom, care and understanding. Never allow me loose where I might chase across traffic.

With your patience and devotion I'll surprise you and respond more in kind. Then we will know that I've come in FIRST.

If you feel that you no longer want me, call GPA. They will gladly take me, love me and find me a new home. Be straight forward and honest about why you are returning me so that there is no misunderstanding when I am placed in another home.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Greyhound is an intelligent, adaptable dog, each with his own distinct personality. They are able to adjust well to their new life as a companion. Raised with litter mates and kennel companions where they competed for attention, the Greyhound is now the center of attention and loves it.

This dramatic change in routine places a strain on the Greyhound just as it would anyone, and time must be allowed so that the dog can adjust to it's new surroundings. A normally quiet Greyhound may become fretful and nervous and the dog may start pacing. A good eater may become reluctant to eat. A perfectly housebroken one may have an accident. Give the dog time to get settled and do not press the panic button when the dog exhibits any odd behavior during the first few days.

Your Greyhound must be kept inside as that is how they have been raised. The Greyhound is definitely a house dog and most will rebel at being kept outside for very long periods of time. It stresses them and they may panic, pant, get anxious etc.

Your Greyhound is a very loving and sociable pet and wants to be near you. You will be surprised at how quickly the dog becomes attached to you, and what a difference your presence will make. Greyhounds are routine oriented and like to go out in the mornings, after eating, in the afternoon and before bedtime at night. They are kennel broken and will normally let you know when they want to go outside. Sometimes they will pace, other times they will walk to the door and back to you. You will need to learn their signals. You can start by taking them out every 2 – 4 hours. The normally can go for 8 – 9 hours without a turn out if you are not at home. Let your pet out frequently during this initial period either on a leash or in a fenced area.

Take notice where your pet likes to lie down and provide him with an old blanket or pillow to lie down on. He can curl up in a small space and prefers to sleep in his owner's room or somewhere near him/her.

A stern tone of voice should be all that is needed to keep the dog off the sofa or bed if you do not want him there.

For the first week, if you have to leave your Greyhound alone for hours at a time, you might want to muzzle him if he exhibits any chewing tendencies. They are used to wearing a muzzle so this is not cruel. Muzzles are not cruel. They are humane muzzles and Greyhounds can eat and drink through them.

You may also be interested in getting a crate to use as a bed for your Greyhound. They love an old blanket in their crate. To the Greyhound, their crates are like their home. Many people crate their Greyhound while they are away at work. Again, this is not cruel. When you are home, just leave the crate door open and the dog will go in or come out at will.

If your Greyhound seems nervous when you leave, you can turn on a radio. The kennels leave a radio on all the time. The sound can be soothing to the dog.

If you do not crate your Greyhound when you leave, make sure the house door is securely closed. Your pet might feel that you are leaving him and that you won't come back. The dog will want to go with you. If the dog feels nervous or insecure when you leave, you might want to give him an old piece of clothing which has your scent on it.

NEVER CHAIN OR TIE A GREYHOUND TO ANYTHING! They are not used to it and will freak out and try to chew the bond off, or worse, in lunging they could break their neck. They must be kept inside the house or in a fenced in yard. **NEVER TRUST THEM OFF OF THE LEASH OUTSIDE A FENCED AREA.** Since they are a hunting sight hound they can see for over one-half mile and run up to 40 miles per hour. They love to chase anything that moves. They are **NOT** "street smart" and if they see something or hear something they will dart into the road and be killed before a motorist has time to react. You cannot catch them unless you can run up to 40 miles per hour. If, by accident, your Greyhound should get loose and see something and try to chase it, clap your hands and turn the other way while calling his name. Hopefully, this will distract him enough and you will be able to catch him. If he should get loose, always call GPA at 727-595-7852 immediately and advise us. When you adopted your Greyhound, it was explained that he has a number in our computer which registers the dog back to you. If he is found, people will call the phone number on his GPA tag and we will know who he belongs to. If you have a cell phone take it with you and give us the cell number when you are out looking for him. There have been times when someone has found a pet and called us and we could not reach you because we didn't have a cell phone number. We strive to reunite a pet with its owner but we can't succeed without your help.

SPAYING/NEUTERING/TEETH CLEANING/VACCINES/HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE

Your Greyhound will have been spayed or neutered, have received all of it's annual vaccines and be on heartworm preventative when you adopt him.

A cleaning of the teeth is performed while your new pet is still under anesthesia from the surgery.

FEEDING INFORMATION

We recommend feeding two times a day, AM and PM. If you want to change the dog's schedule, give him a snack in the morning and then feed him ½ portions twice a day at whatever time you wish to change the feeding to.

Food

Always feed a good brand of dog food such as Science Diet, Purina One, Pro Plan, Nutra Max or Natures Recipe. The following amounts are for a 65 – 70 lb dog. (smaller dogs will require less): 3-4 cups of dry food per day, moistened with water. You may add ½ cup of cooked vegetables. A tablespoon of yogurt daily helps to keep the dogs gut healthy. Always leave fresh water for your pet.

Treats

Milk Bones or large bones such as shank bones, boiled. Segregate the dogs if you have more than one pet.

Gums may bleed for the first few times but this will soon stop.

Chicken or turkey bones, **RAW, NOT COOKED**, will help keep teeth free of tartar.

Do not try feeding a raw diet without doing research. Some Vets oppose raw diets. Always check with your Vet. For more information on raw feeding, check The Internet.

NEVER GIVE YOUR PET:

Pork Bones or **cooked** bones of any type

Small bones from steak...they can lodge in the throat

Small, round bones that they could choke on

Grapes, chocolate, caffeine, onions, garlic raisins, sugar free gum or candy (all are toxic to dogs)

For more information on foods that are injurious to dogs, check The Internet.

If you have any questions about any food or treat items, contact your veterinarian or call GPA.

Exercise

You should not exercise your pet or take him on long walks 1 hour before or after eating. Care should be taken in the beginning not to overdo walking on concrete or asphalt until your Greyhound's muscles and especially his pads toughen. Remember, the Greyhound is a sprinter, not a runner and, in both cases the muscle involvement is different.....**NO** jogging or running with your Greyhound.

Turnout and sprint pens are lined with fine sugar sand. At the track the surface consists of fine, wet sand approximately 3 feet deep. The dog's feet are flushed after each race and often times sprayed with betadine to prevent infection and soreness. Moving to an asphalt or concrete surface, especially if it is hot, can be very painful if care is not taken.

We know that you like to show off your Greyhound, so do we, but go slowly. Work up to those long walks. Once their pads toughen and their muscular structure has acclimated to your pace, concrete walking is an excellent way to trim down their nails in a natural fashion.

Never walk your pet for long periods during the heat of the day. Always remember, if you aren't comfortable, neither is your pet.

HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE

The following are some basics on keeping your Greyhound healthy and well groomed.

Shot Schedule

Florida law requires a rabies vaccination. There are 2 types of rabies vaccinations. One must be given annually, the other every 3 years. A dog can contract rabies by coming into contact with a rabid animal. Rabies also can be transmitted to humans if the human is bitten by a rabid animal. The other vaccines which are highly recommended are DA²PPV (distemper, hepatitis, leptosporitis, parainfluenza and parvo), corona (protects against intestinal virus), parvo (can be contracted through the environment if pet comes in contact with feces from an infected animal) and bordatella (kennel cough). Check with your Vet. Most Vets will give a 3 year rabies and 3 year DA²PPV shot. We recommend the 3 year option.

Worming Schedule

At the time your pet was spayed or neutered and vaccinated, he was also dewormed. Worms, fleas and ticks are the Greyhound's worst enemies. They must be kept under control. Tape worms can be seen in the stool. They are white and usually are moving. A dog can get tape worms by ingesting an infected flea. They are not passed from pet to pet. Hookworms, roundworms and whipworms are detected by your Vets inspection of a stool sample. Hookworms can be transmitted from pet to pet. They are serious and need to be addressed with your Vet. Bloody or mucous looking stools may indicate hookworms. A gurgling tummy and no appetite may also indicate hookworms. When walking your pet, stay clear of other pet's fecal matter.

Heartworms can only be detected by a blood test. When you signed your contract with GPA for your pet, you agreed to keep your pet on a heartworm preventative. Dogs can contract heartworms from a mosquito. Heartworms are very dangerous because, as their name implies, the worm actually gets into the heart and can kill the animal without prevention or treatment. Should your pet contract heartworms, the treatment is very expensive and hard on the pet. There are many preventative products on the market. Interceptor or Heartguard Plus, given monthly, in a pill form will prevent heartworms and other worms in dogs. They will not prevent tapeworms. **NEVER** give a heartworm treatment unless you have had your dog tested and it is heartworm free.

BATHING

Don't bathe your dog often. Greyhounds do not have a doggie odor; therefore, they do not need to be bathed often. Wipe them down with a damp towel and brush them often. If you must bathe them use a mild dog shampoo. If flea control is desired, use a product with pyrethrum as the active ingredient. Check with your Vet for the best flea control shampoo.

Never allow a groomer Vet or boarding facility to flea dip your pet....**NEVER!**

NAILS

Nails should be trimmed once a month. You can learn to do this or take your pet to the Vet. A small Dremmel works well. Do not cut the nails too short or cut the quick. **ALWAYS** muzzle when trimming the dog's nails.

Flea and Tick control

Flea control is a must and a flea comb is handy. Go over your dog carefully, paying special attention to the base of the tail, the nape of the neck and between the toes. The comb will catch the fleas in the comb's small teeth and you can dispose of them by dunking them in alcohol or soapy water. A once a month application of **ADVANTAGE** will protect your pet from fleas. Should your pet become infested with fleas, you must treat the pet, your house and your yard at the same time. There are many products on the market that will kill not only adult fleas but the larvae as well. **NEVER** let your pet roam the yard or house until the area is thoroughly dry. Check with your Vet or the GPA or pest control company to make sure what you are using is safe for Greyhounds. Greyhounds are susceptible to many pesticides. If you walk your pet, monthly flea control is a must. Even if your home and yard are cared for by a pest control company, you pet can pick up fleas while going on those wonderful walks.

Ticks.....Dogs can manage to get ticks on themselves. They are easily found between the toes or on the animal's body. The ticks burrow into the skin and can be removed by grabbing them with a tweezers or dabbing alcohol on them. Dispose of the tick immediately. Kill it and either put it in alcohol or flush it down the toilet or sink. **FRONTLINE** is a once a month treatment for ticks. Frontline will also kill fleas for up to 3 months. Ticks are dangerous if left untreated. There are diseases that dogs and humans can get from ticks.

EARS

Ears need a periodic cleaning. Use alcohol or Seabreeze and cotton balls. If you notice an odor coming from the ears, or if your dog digs at his ears, have them checked by a Vet.

SKIN

If your dog's skin becomes dry, you can add a teaspoon of olive oil to their food once a day. You can also use a good conditioner such as Avon Skin Soft, mixed half and half with water and applied with a spray bottle. The mixture also makes a good flea and mosquito repellent. Use it moderately.

Another skin treatment is to thinly slice a whole lemon, including the peel. Add this to one pint of boiling water and steep it overnight. The next day, sponge the solution onto the dog's skin and let it dry. This can be done daily.

Diatomaceous earth (found in health food and pool supply stores) can be dusted on rugs, furniture, bedding etc. It is harmless to pets and people and it kills fleas. Borax is also good for this purpose.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT....To keep your Greyhound healthy, safe and parasite free, stay away from dog parks...they are dangerous for many reasons, not just parasite infections.....remember that your Greyhound is a retired racer that may have had an injury. Do not tempt fate by allowing flat out running. Greys are trained to properly run a race. Many have been retired for a year or more before adoption. They are no longer in peak running condition.

Greyhounds do not swim well because they lack body fat. They also have difficulty climbing stairs but they can be taught. Go slowly. Do not force or drag him.

The Greyhound has a heart the size of a human heart, and is 65% muscle. They smile, laugh, grumble, growl, yodel (rooing) and whimper in an attempt to communicate. These are not aggressive acts.

Most greyhounds seldom sit by choice. You must teach him. Be gentle, sitting is not a comfortable position for the dog. Never force your greyhound to sit.

Greyhounds can be cat-like in nature. They will sometimes ignore you. Don't be offended or hurt...this is their temperament. "You threw the ball, you go get it" is the way they seem to think. Besides, they never got an opportunity to play ball much while they were working. Carefully monitor your greyhound or muzzle when you busy doing other things, or are away from home if there are toys or stuffed animals around. They cannot discern if items are for them (or for humans) or if they are "toys" or not. Do not let allow them to destroy stuffies or bedding and eat it. That can create a dangerous situation for your greyhound. It's best to put such toys away until play can be monitored by you. Kong toys filled with a dog treat or peanut butter is a wiser choice for unmonitored entertainment for your greyhound.

Insecticides

Greyhounds, although strong, healthy, long-lived dogs, are very sensitive to insecticides as are all sight hounds. You must be careful when using insecticides or any strong medication on them. Since they lack body fat, toxins get into their bloodstream quickly. There are flea collars that are now safe for pets but check with GPA or your Vet before using them. If you must use a flea spray, use one of the citrus based variety. Most Greys can tolerate pyrethrum based sprays such as Adams Mist. **NEVER allow a groomer or boarding kennel to "dip" your Greyhound. This is worth repeating as it can kill your greyhound.**

Anesthesia

When your Greyhound was anesthetized for surgery, the Vet knew about their sensitivity. This is very important as certain types of anesthesia and ways of administering can kill your dog. They need about 25% of a normal dose. This is because they are lacking certain enzymes that break down the anesthesia in their systems.

Anesthesia is administered according to weight and could be fatal. Discuss this with your Vet. If he refuses to acknowledge this danger, CHANGE VETS. Vets listed in this manual know/understand the special needs of Greyhounds. You will find the proper protocol for greyhound anesthesia on our website (www.greyhoundpets.com) on the home page. Print this out and give to your vet. It could save your dog's life.

EXTRA DO'S AND DON'TS

1. Do not over feed your Greyhound. A little rib (hint of the last two) should always show.
2. Do not allow your Greyhound to exercise less than one hour before eating and less than one hour after eating. Serious and possible life threatening conditions, such as "bloat" or "torsion" can occur in greyhounds or other deep chested dogs if this procedure is not followed.
3. If your Greyhound becomes overheated in the summer, do not allow too much water at one time. Give small amounts and add Gatorade mixed one to one with the water. Do not use ice cold water to cool a greyhound down. Cool towels/water will begin the cool down process without further shocking the greyhound's system. Get the dog to the Vet ASAP.
4. Do not become offended if your Greyhound "snaps his jaws" at you. This is not an aggressive act, and is often called "nitting." It is usually caused with the greyhound becomes excited or is startled in some way. It is for this reason that small children should always be monitored around ANY dog. Greyhounds are no different.
5. Do not chase your Greyhound if he gets off the lead and will not come to you. Stop, bend down, call his name, and clap your hands. If he does not respond, turn and walk away still calling his name. Break into a slow run and he should respond. Make every effort to get him to come to you and do not reprimand him when he does. Running is a big game for him, and if he can get you to chase him, this is even more fun. If he gets out of your eyesight, STOP pursuing him and call GPA at 727-595-7852 IMMEDIATELY.
6. Do not try to jump out of your dog's way if he runs at you. Do not try to catch him. Stop and stand still. He will not hit you; however, if you try to catch him, you could get hurt. Remember, the Greyhound is 65% muscle and can run 40 miles per hour.
7. Have your Greyhound's teeth cleaned periodically. Give the dog a shank bone to gnaw on....brush the dog's teeth using one of the many products for dog's teeth. Be sure and monitor your greyhound when they are gnawing on any product, and dispose of when the bone, etc. is small enough to become a choking hazard.
8. If at any time your Greyhound should commit an aggressive act (growling over food or his bed) tap him under the jaw immediately with the palm of your hand, point your finger, make eye contact and tell him "bad" or "no". This does not happen very often with the Greyhound, but some dogs are very possessive of food, blankets, and toys. Do not use any other physical punishment other than the above. The Greyhound is ultra smart and tone of voice or a quick, small jerk on the leash will do.

9. Never startle your dog when he is asleep. Call his name until it is apparent the dog is fully awake and alert before bending over or petting a resting greyhound. Sight hounds such as greyhounds have the ability to sleep with their eyes open. The “third eye,” a reddish membrane common to all dogs, may or may NOT be readily observed. For this reason, everyone, including children, should respect your dog’s sleeping times. Always remember, you would not want someone to startle you if you were sleeping, and neither does your pet. Teach children to respect your pet.
10. Never let children take food out of your pet’s mouth while he is eating. Pets and children can live together in peace and harmony. Small children should **always** be supervised around pets. Greyhounds typically get along with children, and GPA has certain guidelines and procedures in place to match properly suited greyhounds to a family’s particular needs and lifestyle. (This is why ALL family members living at a residence, either part-time or full time, must be present during the initial home visit.)
11. Do “scrub” your dog’s coat with your fingers often. This brings up the oil from the skin and your dog loves it. And don’t forget – brush, brush, brush.
12. Training your Greyhound is easy as they want to please you, and they are very human-like. As mentioned before, the Greyhound is a bit cat-like in its temperament, and he can be very aloof at times. You must learn to accept this as his nature and respect it. Keep an open mind. Relax, be calm and loving. Treat the dog much as you would a human child. Praise him when he is good, and scold him when he is bad.
13. Your Greyhound might be a “counter surfer”. Never defrost food on the counter. Always place it in the refrigerator or out of total reach of your pet. Always keep garbage in a container with a tight fitting lid, or better yet, contain it behind closed doors in a cabinet/pantry/closet.
14. Keep all poisons out of the reach of your Greyhound. Greyhounds are curious. Poisons should be kept in an area where your pet cannot go.
15. Most cities and counties have ordinances that require you to pick up after your dog both when walking and in your yard. This can be done by putting the waste in a plastic bag and then disposing the waste in your garbage. You can also purchase a doggie Dooley to dispose of the waste.
16. Do NOT use retractable leads. The same fate awaits your greyhound with these mechanisms as was mentioned with tethering or using a stake to tie your greyhound outside. Using retractable leads or tethering can result in severe injury or death to your greyhound.
17. Do not utilize dog doors. There are too many unknown hazards awaiting your greyhound when you are not present (snakes, poisonous toads, gates unintentionally left open etc. This list could go on and on....

IF YOU FIND YOU NO LONGER WANT YOUR GREYHOUND

When you signed your contract with GPA, you acknowledged that if you could no longer keep your Greyhound it would be returned to GPA. On a few occasions people return dogs and say that they are doing things they don’t like. When a dog is returned, it is again placed in a foster home. Many times we find that there is nothing wrong with the dog. **If you can’t keep or no longer want the dog, you are legally bound by your contract to contact GPA right away. As per your signed and binding contract, you may NOT give the dog away to anyone, sell the dog to anyone, or give the greyhound to any other entity.** GPA realizes that situations may change, or that greyhounds are not for everyone, and will take the greyhound back into our program for rehoming.

We do NOT euthanize greyhounds for any reason other than terminal illness, and your greyhound will go back into our foster program for an accurate assessment of his personality.

BACKGROUND

To help ease the acclimation period, a little background of your dog's puppy hood may give you some insight into his temperament.

Greyhounds are raised to be "good little soldiers". From the time they are born, they and their mothers are kept on a tight regimen. You must consider that some puppy farms have 250 dogs or more of all ages, making scheduling of activities a must. This regimen is instilled into these dogs and carried on into the compound through his career. After the pups are weaned, they are sent to the puppy building where they are placed with other pups of their own age. They're handled considerably during this time. When they are three months old, each ear is given a tattoo. The tattoo in the right ear signifies the month, year, and letter they were tattooed (125D born December 95, 4th to be tattooed). The tattoo in the left ear is their Greyhound litter registration number. These numbers are recorded with the National Greyhound Association. The pups are also given their racing names and a nickname at this time.

Good puppy care is one of the basics for a good running dog. Being well-bred and properly trained also ranks up at the top. A beautifully bred puppy, if handled improperly, may never run. Different steps of the training program start at a very young age. Care is taken, however, not to overdo training until the pup is almost mature, at about 18 months of age.

They are taught to walk to knee on the lead, wear their muzzle, stand while being groomed, sleep in their crate without soiling it, chase the lure, what the starting box is for, and no fooling around on the track.

Here again the regimen is very strict: up at dawn for outs and water and to relieve themselves. Feeding follows, rest period, then out again. Next, an afternoon nap, evening exercise, and to bed for the night. They are handled and touched constantly. A human is seldom far away.

Between 14 and 18 months of age is when training for racing begins. The young racers learn strategy the hard way as they are raced with the older more seasoned dogs from the very start, so they soon learn what it is all about.

By now, some or all of the pups have been sold. When ready, they are sent to the track. The Derby Lane Kennel Club compound has about 20 kennel buildings. Each building houses upward of 45-65 dogs. The trainer runs the show and he has one or two helpers. Their previous schedules for exercise, feeding, and turnouts are similar as before. Each kennel has their own method of training, but all agree that proper care is very important to the overall well being of the greyhounds under their watch.

SUMMARY

As they mature and become track wise, Greyhounds take on a sophistication much like humans. They seem to be aware of their value and often assume a great pride tempered with humor. They become very mellow and laid back. The older the dog when you acquire him, the easier your acclimation time will be. The younger the dog, the more "puppy" you will have to deal with. Each and every one of them has a different personality. Sometimes this personality doesn't bloom until such time as the dog trusts or accepts you.

It is your responsibility to gain this dog's love and trust. During the short time that these dogs are in a foster home, they are handled and loved. The foster homes make every effort to not "bond" with them. This would not be fair to the dog or to you, the new owner.

The change from the race track environment to your household is stressful, confusing, and exciting to your new Greyhound. Think how you would react to similar situation. When stressed, exercise or work can help keep everything in perspective and you feel better and less overwhelmed. The dog feels similarly. It is as if they understand that you are doing what you can to help them adjust, and they appreciate it. So, plenty of walks, lots of attention, and some exercise will make the transition from racing Greyhound to household pet easier on the dog and will be good for you. Weather permitting; try taking your dog out with you whenever you can. They are curious, sociable dogs. They have never seen cars, stores, trees, etc. before and want to know about everything – almost like a child in their wonder of it all.

NEVER, NEVER TRUST YOUR DOG OFF THE LEAD IN AN UNFENCED AREA. No matter how long you have had your dog or how well it listens to your commands. Someday, that little voice from the past will whisper in his ear and say, "Psst! See that cat or ball? Doesn't it look like it would be fun to chase or play with?" Need we say more?

Recognizing the adjustment period, and successfully managing it without undue stress for you or your pet is a very important part of the Greyhound adoption process. It must be remembered that becoming a house pet involved a very dramatic change in routine for your dog. Other than the foster home, he has never been in a home before. He has not left his foster home and you are taking him to a strange place. He doesn't know you and doesn't know what on earth you want him to do. He is baffled, a little nervous and probably a little scared.

It is now time for you to go to work and turn this bewildered ex-racer into a content and loving house pet. The adjustment period can last up to two weeks, but more often it is only a matter of days. Sometimes they will be fretful, pan, whine, and pace. They may refuse to eat or drink. Be patient and kind. This will pass.

SOME PROBLEMS AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

STAIRS: Your pet may have never seen such things. Making things worse are his long, delicate legs which will be slow to negotiate them. Show him, one paw at a time. Do not try to force or pull him up. They are quick to learn, and just watching you or another pet do it will help. Open backed stairs can be of a particular challenge, and a GPA representative will make the determination as to whether a particular greyhound will be suitable for this situation.

FULL LENGTH MIRRORS: These dogs have been known to stare at themselves for long periods of time, sometimes barking at the dog in the mirror. The television is also interesting.

GLASS DOORS, SCREEN DOORS, BIRD CAGES: "Ouch, my nose" is not uncommon. Show his the door, screen or cage. Gently press his nose against it. Pat it with your hand so he can see that is it solid. Greyhounds cannot see a screen and they will go right through it.

GARBAGE: Use a tight fitting lid and a sharp, "NO, NO, off limits"

TABLES AND COUNTERS: They consider this fair game. "Nice looking roast beef my owners left out for me!" Again, some stern instruction should fix this.

SOFT THINGS: Greyhounds love soft things, stuffed toys, shag rugs, rolls of toilet paper, paper towels and especially the nice soft sofa or bed – they’re the greatest!! A good rule: if you don’t want your Greyhound on the bed or furniture, don’t ever allow it, or allow him his own chair, couch or shag rug. Do not shut your dog away from you at night. Allow his rug, or a nice comforter, fluffy blanket, or dog bed beside your bed. He wants to be near you.

ACCIDENTS: These dogs are very clean; however, accidents do happen. Reprimand with a sharp “NO”, or a tap under the chin with a sharp “NO” then take him outside. They are so eager to please and learn very fast. A sharp “NO” is all that is needed. Hitting your hand with a rolled up newspaper can cause a dog to become withdrawn and fearful. They do not respond quickly to harsh treatment. They respond to kind gentle treatment.

DISCIPLINE: If your dog should try to jump on you, DO NOT put up your knee to stop him. This can cause permanent injury to his heart and lungs. Grab his paws, place them on the floor and say “NO”. If your pet is doing something you don’t want him to do, use a squirt bottle on stream or rattle a jar of change and say “NO”. This works wonders in getting their attention.

CHEWING: If you are to be gone, crate your dog. Allow him to chew only on things that are suitable. Do not allow your child to take treats, dog food, or toys away from your dog.

CATS: Muzzle your dog in the beginning and monitor carefully until the dog understands these are our friends and not the lure, and that they are “off limits”.

CHILDREN: Gentle and affectionate, the Greyhound will tolerate a great deal, but sometimes they will do what we call “throw their head” at the child. This is their way of saying, “I have had enough”. Do not allow your child to mistreat or torment the dog, and this problem will never arise. “Let sleeping dogs lie”. Teach your child to respect your pet.

EXERCISE: In retirement the Greyhound needs no more exercise than any other breed of dog. If you love to see him run, do so in a fenced area, but do not overdo. Running during the adjustment period helps relieve stress as we mentioned, but after your dog settles in, it is not needed. Long walks work just as well.

TREATS: Never, never feed the Greyhound off the table while you are eating. If you do, they will soon take their place in the chair

FEEDING: We ask you to give your Greyhound some “strange” things in his food:

- Greens – high iron content
- Applesauce – high sugar content
- Vegetables – high fiber content
- Oil – good for skin and coat
- Yogurt – it’s good for the gut

NEVER, NEVER OVERFEED!!! Always keep a little rib showing. Extra weight on a greyhound goes against their physical make up, and can cause all sorts of health issues for the breed.

ADDITIVES: Some Greyhounds do not tolerate them well at all. Skin problems or loose stools may occur. Read labels. Contact GPA for knowledgeable advice before administering.

All of these pages are filled with dos and don'ts and lots of advice. Chances are you will have few if any problems at all with your pet. Contact GPA with any questions or concerns, and we'll be happy to guide you.

GPA does sell collars made especially for the Greyhound. The dog cannot slip these over his head because of the width. GPA also sells muzzles. Contact your GPA representative for prices.

Remember that GPA reps are available to you wherever you are in the U.S. If you have adopted a greyhound through GPA, you must notify us immediately of your new address and contact information. It is also important to register your greyhound ASAP with your new local GPA chapter, or other reputable greyhound adoption organization if there is no GPA chapter available.