

# Placing your greyhound with GAPSA



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## INFORMATION FOR OWNERS OF RACING GREYHOUNDS

### How do I place my Greyhound into the Adoption Program?

Contact one of our approved 1<sup>st</sup> point small dog assessors. Arrange with the assessor a day and time to have your dog assessed. The assessor will have the paperwork you need to place the dog, or if you already have the Placement Form, have the assessor sign it once your dog has been assessed. If your dog passes assessment, Complete the enclosed questionnaire with your dog's particulars, and send it to us by post or fax or you may drop the form into GAP/GRSA. Once we receive the questionnaire, the dog will be placed on our waiting list. We do not generally contact you again until we are almost ready to take your dog.

### Is there a limit on how many dogs I can place on the waiting list?

There is no limit to how many you can place on our waiting list. However, the Coordinator may choose only one dog at a time to go into foster at any one time. This gives all trainers/owners and equal chance to place their dog.

### How long is the waiting time once my Greyhound goes onto the list?

This will vary, but is generally a number of weeks or months. We **always** have more Greyhounds available to us than (temporary) foster homes or permanent homes. As a consequence, we are only able to hold a small number of dogs at any one time and are unable to take dogs in at short notice.

As we usually have more dogs on our list than bitches, the waiting time can be longer for the males. We will do our best to take in those Greyhounds that have been on the waiting list longest, but this will depend upon our needs at the time - for example, we usually try to have a mixture of ages and sexes in foster care.

### When is the best time to put my dog on the GAP waiting list?

Because of the unavoidable time delay, we would encourage owners / owner-trainers to put their Greyhound on the waiting list **before** the dog retires from the track.

### What if my Greyhound is on the GAP waiting list and I change my mind?

No problems. If you find an alternative home for the dog before GAP can take it in, or are unable to keep it any longer, we would appreciate a call to let us know this Greyhound is no longer available. We'll take it off our list.

### Will GAP take on any Greyhound?

We would like to be able to re-home every retired Greyhound in SA. Unfortunately this is not possible because of the sheer numbers involved, and because not all Greyhounds would make suitable pets.

We will generally accept dogs over twelve months and up to 6 years of age. Older dogs may be taken but you need to discuss this with the Coordinator. Older dogs may require a family to be found first, before the dog is fostered. This reduces the possibility of having an older dog on the program past the 8 week foster period. We require each dog to be physically sound and without medical problems that would lead to ongoing veterinary costs for the adoptive owner. All Greyhounds must possess an even temperament and be sociable in the presence of other dog breeds.

The majority of Greyhounds re-homed by us will go to family homes in suburban or inner city areas, often with other pets (including some with cats), and must be able to walk with their owners around the local streets and parks without difficulty. If you know your Greyhound wants to chase and grab everything that moves, it is unlikely to pass our assessment .

### **What happens when my Greyhound is ready to be taken in by GAP?**

When GAP is able to offer a place in the Program, we will contact you and arrange for you to deliver the dog to us. All dogs must be recently bathed and free of fleas on arrival. If your dog is not clean and flea free, it may be rejected and you will be asked to bathe the dog before transferring to GAPSA.

We ask for a number of items to accompany the dog: a well fitting wire muzzle, their registration papers, weight card and signed transfer form if applicable (or “puppy papers” for unregistered dogs) and a placement fee of \$60 to help towards their care and veterinary expenses.

At present it costs us in excess of \$250 per dog for vet care. If your Greyhound has a current vaccination certificate, or other veterinary records pertaining to previous treatment, we would appreciate these for our files.

Please let us know if your bitch has just come into season as we will delay taking her until this has been completed. If she is on hormones to keep her off season, then please make sure she gets her last dose on the day she is transferred. If she goes into season we will have to return her to you until she is finished. Approximately 3 weeks. Foster homes can not foster greyhounds in season.

During their week or so at the foster home, new Greyhounds are introduced to small dog breeds, and in some cases, to cats as well. All dogs graduating from GAPSA **must** be sociable with little dogs. Once we are satisfied that this is the case, the dog will undergo a general health check by a vet and will be C5 vaccinated, micro-chipped, wormed, de-sexed and teeth cleaned. When sufficiently recovered from surgery, the Greyhound is placed in one or more foster homes, where it is introduced to general household activities and where its behaviour around people, especially children, and other animals is assessed. It is then carefully matched with a family applying for a Greyhound as a pet. During its time in foster care, the greyhound also has another assessment set forth by the Dog and Cat Management Board. Where upon completion of the test it will receive its “Green Gap Collar”. This legally allows the greyhound to be muzzle free.

If we judge your Greyhound to be unsuitable for re-homing, you have the option to have the dog back in which case you will then be asked to collect the dog within one week. If you decide that you can not or do not want the dog back, then we will arrange for it to be humanely euthanized. The \$60 fee is NOT refundable, even if you take the dog back.

If you decide to take the dog back and are willing to work with it, expose it to all other types of dogs, children etc. then you may have it assessed again and placed back into the program. There is a waiting time of 2 months before you can place the dog again. The placement fee of \$60 will apply again.

### **How does GAP “de-program” Greyhounds so they will no longer chase?**

Unfortunately the perception that we can de-program these dogs from wanting to chase moving objects is **not** true - we are not magicians. We cannot overcome thousands of years of breed history and months or years of race training in a few short weeks in foster care.

However, there is a **huge range** of chasing instinct (or prey drive) within the Greyhound breed. For example, some Greyhounds are terrified of cats at first. Others want to rip them apart. It is our job, on acquiring a new dog, to assess whereabouts in this range the dog lies. We have had some quite successful racing dogs that will live harmoniously with cats and small dogs and also some supposed “non-chasers” that are very keen around small animals. Each Greyhound is assessed on its own merits. Those Greyhounds who are not safe or tolerant around small dogs will be failed from the program.

### **What can I do to assist my Greyhound’s transition from racing dog to family pet?**

There are a number of things you can do to ease your Greyhound’s transition into a pet lifestyle before it is taken in by GAP. These might include:

- Get the dog used to spending time loose in the back yard – pet homes do not generally have kennels and runs.
- Take him or her out on street walks to different places – to the park; past the local school or shopping centre; beside busy roads, etc.
- Bring him or her into the house for short periods.
- Introduce him or her to stairs and slippery floor surfaces like tiles, linoleum or polished floor boards.
- Introduce him or her to other animals under controlled circumstances (on lead and properly muzzled)– eg. other dog breeds, horses, caged birds, poultry etc.

### **Does GAP screen adoption applicants before placing a Greyhound with them?**

Yes, very carefully. It is our primary aim to place all our adopted Greyhounds into caring, responsible, long term pet homes. Where possible, we visit each home to meet all members of the household, including children and other pets, and to assess suitability of fencing and sleeping areas. For applicants living a long distance from Adelaide, we must rely on recommendations from referees and photos of the yard and fencing. GAP also has a policy that if an adopting owner can no longer keep the Greyhound, for any reason, it **must** be returned to us.

### **Once rehomed, can I make contact with my former racing Greyhound’s adoptive owners?**

Because of privacy legislation, we can only pass on other people’s contact details if they have given permission for us to do so. Many, but not all, adoptive families are curious about their Greyhound’s former life and success (or otherwise) on the track. If you are happy to have contact with your Greyhound’s new owners, and if they wish to, we will provide your contact details to the adoptive family, so they can get in touch.

**If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact GAPSA anytime to discuss them. We are always happy to help and we thank you for caring enough to place your greyhound with us and give it a loving 4ever home.**