



IS A RETIRED RACING GREYHOUND FOR YOU?

Some information for possible new owners.

So, you've been thinking of adopting a retired Greyhound as your companion? Your kindness will be rewarded many times over as your new pet enjoys its second chance at life and enriches yours. You will have acquired a "second shadow" – be prepared for a pet that wants to share EVERYTHING with you.

You will also gain an intelligent animal – Greyhounds are very quick to learn, easy to train and they love to please. Start out as you mean to continue – i.e. if you don't want the dog on the couch; make that plain from the outset, not in a month's time when you are tired of sitting on the floor!

Remember – a Greyhound is just another breed of dog, just like any other, only **QUICKER!!**

LAWS RELATING TO GREYHOUNDS:

As the law presently stands, a Greyhound **must always be on a lead** less than 2m in length, when in a public place, (street, park, etc) if you want your dog to run freely, it must be on private property, with the consent of the owner.

REGISTRATION:

You must register the dog with your local council as soon as possible. Take the dog's sterilization certificate with you, as you may receive a concession for owning a de-sexed dog. An ID tag (available for purchase from GAP), with your name and phone number should be attached to the dog's collar in addition to the council registration disc. Micro-chipping can be done via a vet or contact your council to see if they have special dates for cheap micro-chipping. This enables a quick return to you if your dog should stray.

Children, other pets:

Greyhounds are very tolerant of children but even Greyhounds have their limits – teach your children to respect the dog and allow it some "space". Teach your children that the dog is "off limits" while it is eating or sleeping. Don't leave young children alone with **ANY** dog.

If you have other pets at home, introduce your Greyhound to them while it is muzzled and on a lead, to gauge the reaction. Remember, the dog is used to the animals at its foster home and needs to get to know the pets in YOUR home. Your other pets may resent a newcomer and react accordingly – play it safe in the beginning.

FEEDING:

Don't feed your Greyhound immediately before or straight after exercise. Allow about an hour between to allow the dog to digest its food properly, and to avoid "bloat". (this applies to all dogs, not just Greyhounds).

If you have other dogs, feed them and the Greyhound separately – Greyhounds can sometimes be VERY protective of their food and may snap at another dog nearby. Don't leave bones or excess food lying about, for the same reason.

To keep your dog and its teeth in good condition, a variety of food is necessary. Avoid a diet of soft sloppy foods and feed predominantly food it can chew – e.g. RAW meaty chicken frames, or RAW chicken necks, or RAW meaty bones, plus a good quality kibble and dog biscuits. When buying kibble, we feed GAP dogs Advance, it is the best quality dog food and has everything they need. If you choose a different brand, look on the packs and compare food analysis – some are very high in fibre, many contain preservatives and foods colouring which may upset your dog's digestion. The remainder of its diet can be cooked pasta, rice, vegetables and any of your left-over's (cheese, toast, eggs etc.)

NEVER feed cooked bones – they may splinter and pierce the dog's bowel. Raw bones are okay.

Many people think that greyhounds are too skinny and that they need to "fatten up their Greyhound" by feeding huge quantities of food. Greyhounds eat quickly and will tell you they are "starving". If you want to put weight on your dog, add some vegetable oil or fatty meat to its diet, and build them up slowly. A couple dog biscuits or toast and Vegemite are usually sufficient for breakfast. For tea, two raw meaty frames and ½ cup kibble plus a small amount of left-over's is plenty for a big dog. Adjust according to the size and weight of your dog. Don't let them get too fat though. The foster carer can also give you a detailed list of what the greyhound has been fed while it was in foster care.

BREEDING:

Winter: Greyhounds feel the cold and appreciate a warm bed elevated off the floor – a trampoline bed with a quilt or blanket is ideal. Put its bed in a warm, draft-free spot and let him know it's theirs. If you don't intend on having the Greyhound sharing your bed, teach them that from the beginning. They'll also appreciate their warm winter coat in the cold weather.

Summer: Greyhounds also feel the heat and also like to be cool. If they are to be outside while you are at work, please make sure they have adequate shade and water. A small hard plastic shell pool placed in a shady spot is good for them to cool off in. You may find the greyhound laying/sleeping in it to keep cool.

Some dogs can get sunburn very easily so a little bit of suncream or Zinc on their noses and bare areas will help with that.

EXERCISE:

Greyhounds are not endurance animals and only require a short walk each day. Greyhound races last less than a minute and so you can see they are not used to long marathon runs. If you want your dog to cover longer distances with you, build them up slowly. Its pads will need to toughen up and adjust to the extra walking too.

As the law stipulates Greyhounds must be kept on a lead in a public place, it is not possible to allow them to run freely in the park or on the beach, as much as you might wish it. Remember too, Greyhounds are very fast and can run out of sight very quickly. If you want to let your dog run freely, it must be on private property with the consent of the owner. Some Greyhound trial tracks may allow you to let the dog run freely in a safe environment – contact GAP for details.

If you do allow your dog to have a free gallop, don't let them run until they're exhausted. Some Greyhounds just don't know when to quit! Remember, your dog was retired for reason, be it through age, injury, or lack of competitive speed or ability, and he won't be as fit as it was when racing. Unfortunately the dog doesn't know this and may injure themselves or their system by attempting to do what they're no longer capable of!

BOREDOM:

Most Greyhounds are content to sleep the day away while you are at work or absent from home for a time. Others may get bored and turn to something in the garden for entertainment. This is not just a "Greyhound thing" – any dog can get bored waiting for you to return. Step up its exercise routine, make sure there are plenty of toys or take them to Obedience training. Many GAP dogs are now excelling at Obedience work as they are such quick learners and love to please.

Occasionally Greyhounds suffer from "separation anxiety" when you go out. They have always been used to the company of other dogs and people. If it is your only pet, it might miss the company. Turn on the radio and don't make a big fuss of them when you leave or when you return. It will soon learn that your absence is a normal happening and that you do return!

If all else fails, we have just the companion for your dog! (Yep, another Greyhound!)

VACCINATION:

Your Greyhound has been de-sexed, vaccinated, begun heartworm preventative, vet checked, nails clipped, teeth checked and wormed. As you will see on its vaccination card, his next immunisation is due in 1 year.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION:

All GAP dogs have been started on heartworm preventative and it is advisable for you to begin treatment for heartworm prevention as soon as possible. Please seek your Vet's advice regarding the best heartworm prevention for your dog. GAP uses Advocate for heartworm and parasite preventative.

WORMING:

The Greyhound has been wormed for roundworm, hookworm, tapeworm and whipworm (we have used Advocate). Advocate combines all the worming and heart worm preventatives all into one. If you wish to change this contact your vet for another source of worming, flea and tick control.

SOCIALIZING:

GAP holds a few annual "get-togethers" where owners and their dogs, their family and friends, fosterers, trainers and interested people meet for a barbecue & fun day out. It's a good way to get to know other GAP owners, exchange ideas, have some fun and show off your dog.

GAP also conducts promotions at various events throughout the year and we welcome the support of our owners and their Greyhounds. Contact GAP if you would like to spend some time on one of our stands, with your Greyhound.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Can a Greyhound sit?

There are several theories about this – one is that the Greyhounds can not sit due to its tail is very stiff and won't allow the dog to sit completely.

Another is that it is believed to be generally uncomfortable for them, although they will sit, with encouragement.

Do Greyhounds act like a puppy?

Puppy-like behaviour is sometimes seen in an adult Greyhound when it first goes to its new home. This only lasts for short time and is thought to be because the dog has spent its life doing "serious racing", with the little time to enjoy puppyhood.

Why do greyhounds follow you everywhere?

Your Greyhound has probably known several homes in its life so far – it has been a rearing-farm, to the breakers, possibly back to its owner and then to a trainer or two. It has then come into our program and been in a couple of foster homes retraining for life as a pet. Owners often comment that after a time the dog realises that it is at last in its permanent home.

How long do Greyhounds live?

Many get to the old age of 13-15. They are generally very healthy animals with very few genetic defects. They have been bred from generations of racing stock where only the fittest and healthiest animals are bred from.

What do Greyhounds weigh?

The average female weighs approximately 26-29kg, and males 30 - 36kg. You will need to know how much your dog weighs before worming, so visit your Vet and have him weigh your dog for you.

How often should I wash a Greyhound?

Greyhounds have little doggie odour and don't require frequent bathing. Brushing with a good bristle brush is all that's needed for most of the time. When you do bathe your dog, choose a warm day and if bathing outside, choose a sheltered spot. An old baby's bath half-filled with warm water can be used, with a bucket of warm water for rinsing. Collect some old towels for drying. Eucalyptus wool wash is recommended as human shampoo can be too drying. Stand the dog's front legs in the bath and slosh the water over them with a jug and then shampoo the front half. Lift them out and do the back half and then rinse off with the warm water. Towel dry gently (especially under the tummy and between the back legs – that's a sensitive area). Either blow dry with a hairdryer or rub as dry as you can with the towels and then put their coat on to keep them warm if in winter. If this is all too hard, ring the mobile dog-wash! If you have a problem with fleas, after bathing apply a tube of Advocate between the shoulder blades.

If you have any questions or concerns about adopting a retired racing greyhound please do not hesitate to contact us. We will do our best to assist you. Alternatively you can visit our website for more information or to submit an online adoption application. www.gapsa.org.au

We look forward to helping you find your new greyt mate!



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