



The
Complete Care
Pawbook
For Your
Newly
Adopted Pet



PHOENIX GREYHOUND PARK



A Few Hints About Your Greyhound



I just wanted to give you a reference booklet on handy information about your new pet greyhound. It will serve a dual purpose: help me to be sure I've not forgotten to explain everything to you and give you something to refer to, as there is a fair amount to absorb about these wonderful dogs.

To start, it has been our experience that the more opportunity to walk and run your pet in the first few weeks of ownership, the easier the transition from greyhound to family friend. These dogs are accustomed to running every three days at the race track. They are born to run; it is their greatest pleasure. The change from race track environment to your household is stressful, confusing, and exciting to your new greyhound. Think of how you would react to a similar situation. I find that when stressed, exercise helps me keep everything in perspective. I feel better and less overwhelmed. I think the dogs feel the same. They almost appear to understand that you are doing what you can to help them adjust, and they appreciate it.

I also recommend that you take your dog with you everywhere, when you can. It helps in the bonding process. It also helps them to get the picture of their brave new world. They have never seen cars, grocery stores, etc. They are very curious, sociable dogs, and seem to want to know about everything. They can be left in your car in the winter for short periods of time, and the use of a dog coat or sweater can extend the time during the coolest months. When the weather is warm, the car time can be extended, being careful to always provide proper ventilation. Be sure not to have the window down so far that the dog can jump out and follow you. **In the heat of the summer, it is best to leave the dogs at home** rather than let them sit in the car. **Even 10 minutes can be too long!** You would be amazed at how quickly a car can reach 100 degrees or more.

You may wonder about this thing we call the bonding process. These dogs seem to choose to have a relationship with you. They are very polite and friendly to everyone, but they learn to trust you. Other dogs seem to blindly trust, but greyhounds are uniquely independent, almost cat-like in the way they choose to bestow affection. The more you do with your dog, the more solid your relationship becomes. When training these dogs for racing, good trainers are always touching, playing, loving their dogs; the more you give them, the more you get.

Thank you for adopting a pet through our program. Much love and success to you and your new companion.

Cheryl Lawless
Director
Arizona Adopt-a-Greyhound, Inc.



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*Cartoons provided by Georgia Boone
"Bankruptcy's" Mom*





The Adjustment Period



Recognizing the adjustment period and successfully managing it is a very important part of the greyhound adoption process. It must be remembered that becoming a house pet involves a very dramatic change in routine for your greyhound, and it can be stressful. The greyhound you have adopted has lived his entire life in a kennel. He has never been inside a home before, and he has no idea who you are or why you are taking him someplace, and he doesn't know what on earth you want him to do. He is completely baffled, a little nervous, and probably a little scared. It is time for you to go to work, to turn this bewildered racer into a content house pet.

We tell people that the adjustment period can last up to two weeks but more often it's only a matter of days. Generally, all will run smoothly, but occasionally a greyhound will exhibit some odd behavior: a normally quiet greyhound may be fretful with whining and pacing around, a good eater may be reluctant to eat, a perfectly housebroken greyhound may have an accident. Please be sympathetic with your greyhounds' situation—he has had a traumatic upheaval in his routine life, and it may take him some time to adjust. They are very intelligent dogs, and soon he will grasp that he is now your house pet and what you expect of him. Your patience, love, and understanding will help your greyhound through this adjustment period.

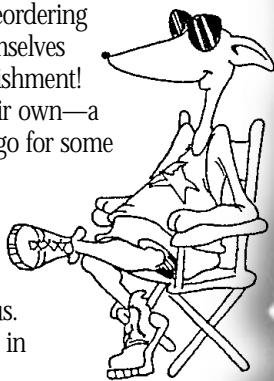
Choice of a veterinarian is another important decision. We recommend that you use the vets that we choose. These dogs have great difficulty recovering from anesthesia. Where it would take any ordinary dog only an hour to awaken, it can take up to 8 hours for a greyhound. The veterinarian cannot cleanse the Greyhound's blood of the drug used and have a tough time getting them to wake up. So, the long and short of it is choose a vet who has worked with greyhounds and is familiar with these problems of this sighthound group. There is ongoing research into why these dogs react the way they do, but no definitive answers yet. Other possible explanations for this problem are that greyhounds lack a certain enzyme in their liver/kidneys to break down the anesthesia, and the other being the fact that greyhounds have virtually no body fat in which to store the anesthesia until the body can break it down, to be filtered out of the body. Regardless of the reasons, it is a fact that greyhounds do have a tough time of it when it comes to surgeries.

If you have any problems during the first week, such as wetting or chewing, that are not solved by following the steps outlined in the text, then I recommend you consider allowing your dog the use of a crate. The usage of a crate gives your dog a clear sense of where his/her special place is in the new home. It is a refuge of sorts. It also eliminates any temptation such as investigating the garbage while you are away, or reordering the dirty clothes in the middle of the living room, just to remind themselves of you while you are gone! Crating a dog is **not** cruel or unusual punishment! Believe it or not, dogs actually **like** their crates! It is a place to call their own—a little den-like atmosphere, where they can sleep undisturbed, or just go for some quiet time. Crates can be purchased rather inexpensively at any local PetsMart, or we sell them in our adoption center.

I can't think of anything else. I'm sure I may have forgotten something, but if you have any questions or problems you need answered, or just want to share a story please, please feel free to call us. That's our job—to help make this greyhound a most wonderful thing in your lives!

There are a few other things that can happen during these first critical days of your life together:

Stairs—Your greyhound has never seen nor had to deal with stairs. Making things worse, his long, delicate legs are slow to negotiate the treacherous steps in your house. Many of our adopting families have called to tell us that their greyhounds got halfway up the stairs, became scared and confused, and refused to budge in either direction. A little help from a trusted human is all that is needed. Just show them, one paw at a time, what they are supposed to do. Or you can start by carrying him almost to the top of the stairs, then put him down and allow him to climb the last few steps. Gradually increase the



The Adjustment Period *continued...*



number of steps he climbs. Reverse the procedure for going down stairs. They are quick to learn and soon become old pros at it. But no matter what method you choose to teach your greyhound stairs, **do not ever force** your greyhound up or down stairs by dragging him by the collar. If pushed into doing the stairs, he will become so frightened he may try to jump all the way down the stairs, and possibly break a leg—or worse.

Other confusing household items include full length mirrors (your pet may stare for hours at the mysterious dog on the other side of the mirror), television sets, and sliding glass patio doors. Watch out for the glass doors, as your new pet may get a sore nose trying to walk through it. We suggest putting masking tape at eye level for a day or two.

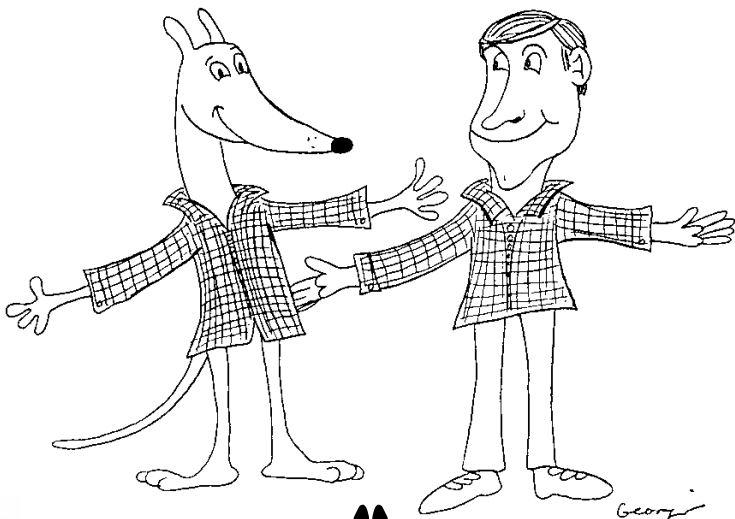
One man's trash is another man's treasure—this applies to your new greyhound as well. They don't know they are not supposed to root around in the garbage, and those old tuna cans may smell simply delightful to him and well worth investigating. Protect your greyhound from getting into trouble or possible harm from eating something dangerous in the garbage by keeping it either out of his way, or use a tight fitting lid on the can. A sharp, verbal reprimand if he should try to nose around the garbage will soon teach him not to disturb it.

Kitchen counters happen to be nose level with most greyhounds. Remember they have been raised in a kennel, where every time they smelled food, it was **their** food. Your new greyhound has not been taught proper manners yet when it comes to food on the counter. Please remember, though, this is just a dog—a temptation such as a steak defrosting within his reach while he is alone would be too much to ask.

If it is soft, your greyhound will like it. Shag carpeting is a bliss for your retired racer. But a comfy sofa is even better! A good rule to enforce right from the start: if you don't want your dog on the couch, don't ever let him on. He'll quickly learn to love the luxury of the cushions, and you'll never get him to stay off. If your greyhound figures out the couch all by himself, and lounges on it while you aren't home, then I suggest you take an old blanket and cover the spot he's chosen prior to leaving the house. It really isn't the worst thing in the world.

A final word about the adjustment period and your greyhound. You will be surprised at how quickly your greyhound becomes attached to you and your family and what a difference your presence makes to him. Do not shut your greyhound in a separate room to sleep – he will much prefer to sleep in the same room with any member of the family (in the same bed, if you let him!). He will feel more secure and is less likely to cry or cause damage during the first few weeks if you allow him this pleasure.

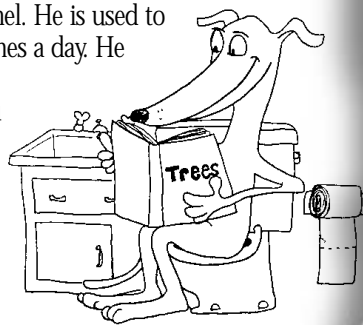
Provide your greyhound with as soft a bed as possible. Greyhounds not only love comfort, they actually require it, as they have virtually no padding on their elbows, and can develop problems such as fluid collection or callouses if left to sleep on hard surfaces. A nice, comfy bed is also a place that he knows he can call his own—to go to rest, relax, take a breather, chew a rawhide bone and not be bothered. Every dog needs a small spot to have all their own.



Housebreaking Hints



Greyhounds are “housebroken,” however, they have never been inside a house. Your greyhound has been kept in a large crate in his trainer’s kennel. He is used to being put outside in a fenced-in pen to relieve himself about 6 times a day. He may be used to getting up quite early (about 6 a.m.) to be taken outside. To avoid accidents in the house, we recommend that you take him outside as soon as he gets up, and be sure to give him lots of time to relieve himself right before bedtime. If your dog is an early riser, you can gradually get him used to sleeping in later, but I don’t recommend trying this until the dog has settled into your homelife routine, about two weeks.



Watch your dog carefully during his first few days in his new home. If he starts to have an “accident,” give him a firm “no,” then take him outside and praise the dickens out of him when he goes in the right place. Do not hit your dog or try to put his nose in the accident, as your dog will respond more quickly and more positively to kindness.

Your greyhound may not give you a clear signal when he needs to go out. He is used to being let out at the same time each day, during his turnouts. Therefore, greyhounds often don’t communicate the need to be let out. Look for restlessness, pacing, panting, and sniffing about the floor. These are universal signals for many breeds and may indicate your new pet needs to go out. Let your greyhound out often during the first few days until he gets used to his new environment.

If your greyhound is a male, he may attempt to lift his leg in a few places around the house to “mark his territory,” especially if you already have a dog. He is making the house **his** house, so he feels more at home. Watch him carefully as he walks or sniffs around the house and try to catch him before he does it. If this should happen, it does not go on for long, so try to be patient.

There are a couple of ways to clean up after your dog has an accident. Paper plates cut in half make great “Pooper Scoopers.” I use a small scrub brush and bucket specifically for this purpose, add a little detergent with warm water and scrub the spot thoroughly. Then rinse with a solution of white vinegar and water. This will neutralize the odor and discourage his going in that same spot again. If the accident is simply wet, use paper towels and blot up as much of the urine as you can then use the vinegar-water rinse on the area. It is important to remember that a dog will return to the very same spot if they can still smell any remaining scent. There are several very good preparations available which also neutralize the scent. These preparations can be found in the rug shampoo section of your grocery store, or in the pet food section. They can also be bought in most pet shops.

I cannot, however, stress enough that prevention is the best solution to any house-breaking problem. For the first few days, it is a very good idea to walk or let your greyhound outside in a fenced yard more frequently than you ordinarily would—as often as every couple of hours. This teaches your greyhound where his new home is and where he is supposed to “go,” and helps to relieve the tension of being in a strange place, thus preventing accidents. It is very common in their first few days for the greyhounds to drink a lot more water than they would normally. They do this because they are nervous being in an unfamiliar place. But all this drinking plus being nervous means they will need to go outside more. Also, quite often the change from kennel dog to house pet can give a greyhound diarrhea, caused by nerves, change of water, change of diet. If your greyhound should have loose stools the first few days, try giving him a Kaopectate Diarrhea tablet once in the morning and once in the evening. Put him on a very bland diet of 2 cups kibble and 2 cups cooked rice. Be sure to allow your greyhound to relieve himself quite often if he has diarrhea, as they cannot “hold” it for long. This type of diarrhea doesn’t last more than a few days. If it does, take your dog in to the vet, as there may be some other problem, such as worms or even a common cold, which could be causing it, and it needs to be treated by your vet.

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Greyhounds are very clean dogs by nature. If your greyhound has any type of accident, rather than blame the dog, look for the reasons why it happened. He either wasn't taken out early or often enough, or not allowed enough time to fully relieve himself. Remember, a dog which has fully relieved himself has nothing left in his bladder to make an accident on your rug. Also remember that your new greyhound does not have any way to tell you he needs to go out. He is used to a set routine, where someone came and got him and put him outside in a turn-out pen. Try to establish not only a fairly set routine that your new greyhound can learn, but a word or phrase that your new greyhound can identify and respond to, such as "Do you want to go out?" You will notice, if you watch carefully, that within a few days your greyhound will adapt to his new routine, and also start giving you "signals" when he needs to be taken outside.

Diet and Feeding



A greyhound's diet at the track consisted of 6-8 cups of quality dry meal/kibble, with 1-2 lbs. of meat added, and often cooked vegetables were mixed in. In retirement as a house pet, your new greyhound won't need the volume of food nor the added meat. You can still add cooked vegetables if you and your greyhound like.

Our adoption program uses and recommends Pro Pac 26, Pro-Plan Adult Formula by Purina, and Iams. They are available at pet stores and feed stores, but not in grocery stores. The only addition you need to make is 1 to 2 tablespoons of corn oil from the grocery in the winter. Greyhounds originated in a desert climate and hence have very little oil in their coats. Cold, dry weather can mean itchy, flaky skin and corn oil will help.

Your dog should be fed twice a day. The adoption staff will tell you the amount your dog has been eating. You may need to modify the amount after the first few weeks according to your dog's activity level and age. You should be able to feel ribs, but not see them.

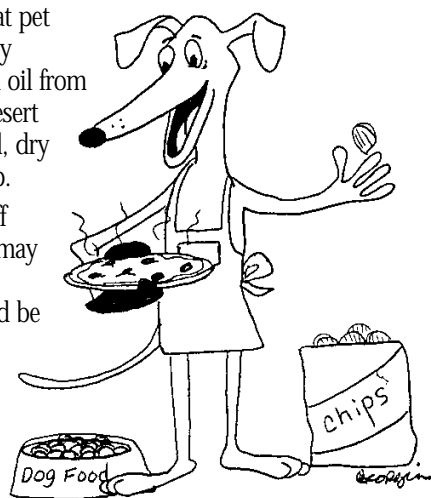
Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat everything. Unfortunately everything doesn't quite agree with them. Like most sighthounds, greyhounds have sensitive digestive systems that could respond with diarrhea. Despite what the advertisers would have us believe, your greyhound will be happiest with the same food every meal.

It is not unusual for a new greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. The addition of two tablespoons of a good quality canned food is the supplement we suggest. When selecting snacks for your pet, we suggest good quality basics such as Milkbones, and Purina or Iams biscuits. Avoid "people shaped" treats like miniature hot dogs or bacon. These usually contain lots of dye and sugar.

Your greyhound may have eaten bananas, apricots, pumpkin, applesauce, spinach, and even vanilla ice cream on a limited level as a racer. Don't be surprised if your pet expects you to share your banana as you slice it for your cereal. We don't expect you to be completely perfect!

You should be perfectly clear about one thing though—**Chocolate can be dangerous.** Reactions vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed your dog's heart rate and can cause allergic reactions.

As you introduce your greyhound to your home, you will also have to teach him a new concept—that not all food he sees is for him as it was in the old kennel days. Feeding him at your meal time will help, but you still need to teach the difference between dog food and people food. In order to send this message, you need to think like a dog. One dog would growl at another as it approaches his food, and you must do the same.



Exercise



One of the questions you'll be asked most often is: "how can you give your greyhound enough exercise, they must need a lot!" Once you live with a greyhound, you'll know the truth: this is a pretty lazy hound.

Lazy or not, your pet will need some physical activity. The most obvious and easiest answer is in your own backyard. The typical greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished.

Care should be taken to introduce your new greyhound pet to your yard or any new fenced area before turning him loose in it. This means a walk around the fence so that the dog can familiarize himself with the boundary. You should also let the dog investigate hazards in your yard such as a barbecue or planter. The first time your dog exercises in your yard off the leash should be in the daylight and under an adult's supervision.

Surprisingly, you may need to restrict your dog's activity in a new area. For example, if you take your dog to a fenced football field, it is wisest to have someone at the far end to call and then catch the dog. Greyhounds have been conditioned for sprinting and may be so excited and interested by a new exercise area that they overdo and could overtax themselves.

If you plan to use your greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program, you should have an enthusiastic partner as long as you start slowly and use a little common sense.

Greyhounds exercise primarily on sand in their kennel situation, which means the pads on their feet are smooth and soft. A little time must be taken to build up the calluses needed to exercise with you on cement or blacktop. Start your dog's regime the same way you did yours—slowly. Walk or jog 2 or 3 blocks at first and then gradually increase.

Care should be taken during extreme temperatures. Your dog is susceptible to heat stroke, just as you are. During hot weather it is wise to exercise early and easier. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding.

Cold weather presents other hazards for this desert breed. A warm-up blanket (coat) made for greyhounds is an excellent idea for walking or jogging in winter. Check your dog's feet for snow packing which can cause ice cuts or split webs. It's also a good idea to swish the dog's feet in lukewarm water to rinse off salt and other ice melters after your walk.

Each dog is an individual with different activity levels. Generally younger dogs enjoy higher activity levels. If your dog has a medical problem that would indicate a restricted activity program, the adoption staff will advise you of those restrictions.

Most greyhound pets can be kept happy with a 10 minute walk daily. Although romping and running in a large fenced area is fun, it is not essential.

One note of caution—exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for a disaster to happen. Your pet may be entirely devoted to you and never leave your side at home, but you must remember that this pet is the product of centuries of specialized breeding to produce a lightning fast hunter. The greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. A paper cup blowing across the street from the park could mean your dog's death. Once your pet is focused in on this moving object, it no longer hears you, it is running on pure instinct. The car driving down the street does not expect to see a 45 mph blur of a dog bounding after the paper cup crossing in front of it. It is not worth your dog's life to take chances.

Please understand that we are not talking about being disobedient. This explosive hunting run is pure instinct. You would not expect a bloodhound not to sniff, please don't expect a greyhound not to run.

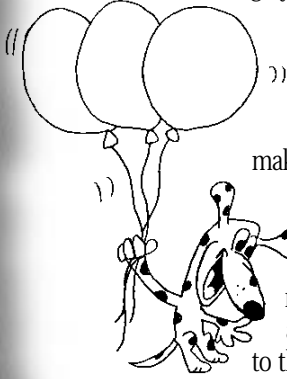
Most greyhounds walk very well on a leash. If your pet starts to pull or freezes as it sees something on the horizon, "pop" or "snap" the leash to quickly jerk the collar and give the command, "heel," "let's go," or something similar.



Greyhounds and Other Pets



Your greyhound should get along well with other dogs as he has had lots of “socialization” experience in the racing kennel. Watch all the introductions carefully, however, as the “old dog” may be jealous of the newcomer. We have successfully placed greyhounds into homes with other dogs, cats, birds, and even rabbits. If you now have a pet at home, your present pet and your new greyhound may well become the best of friends. **But be careful at first!** The introduction and the first few days of co-habitation are critical. All of nature is telling the greyhound that the cat would be fun to chase, and would make a delightful breakfast. All you have to do is tell the greyhound that both of these are bad ideas.



Greyhounds are quick to respond to all kinds of encouragement. Try to show your greyhound that the cat is, (a) a loved member of the family, (b) a pretty tough character, and (c) **Off Limits!!!**

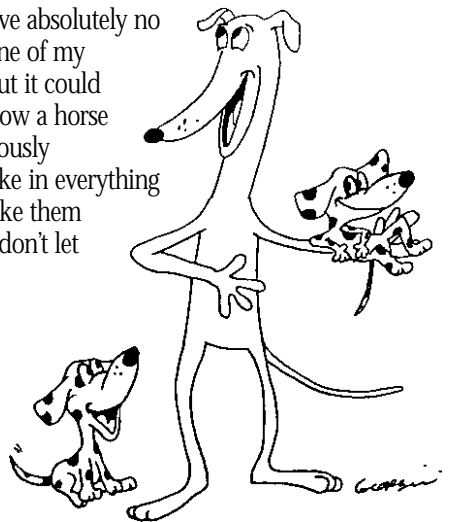
If you are lucky, your cat will help out by being pretty bold, and will make clear to the lurking greyhound that he is the boss.

Remember while making the introductions between cat and greyhound to keep the muzzle on the greyhound. No matter how the first meeting goes, the greyhound **cannot** hurt the cat while muzzled. Muzzling the greyhound is **not** cruel. They have been wearing a muzzle for as long as they have been wearing a collar. It is more cruel to the dog to give him the opportunity to make a dreadful mistake such as grabbing or hurting your cat, and then being angry with the dog. The greyhound simply does not know better, but until he is taught to behave properly around the cat, keep the muzzle on! He may make a terrible mistake that both you and your cat will be sorry for. Every time I have gotten a call from new owners of a greyhound who are having problems with dog and cat, invariably the greyhound has not been muzzled. So take heed and keep that greyhound muzzled until you are **absolutely certain** the dog no longer is going to chase or hurt the cat.

A final note about cats and greyhounds. Most greyhounds, once they have accepted the cat, get along quite well all the time. But occasionally a greyhound who accepts a cat indoors may not apply the same rules of behavior outdoors. Be very careful if you allow cat and greyhound outside at the same time. Greyhounds are sighthounds, and outside their instincts may take over, and they will give chase to the cat. Most cats can outrun dogs, but greyhounds being the fastest breed of dog, are fast enough to catch them. The cat may not know the dog is after it until it is too late, as greyhounds often do not bark even while chasing something. And always keep in mind that though your greyhound may totally accept your cat, his acceptance may not apply to your neighbor's cats.

Introduction of the greyhound to a caged bird follows the basic procedures detailed above. A severe jerk on the lead and/or collar or maybe even a piece of flying Tupperware accompanied by a bellowed “**No!**” will do wonders.

If you own horses, remember that greyhounds have absolutely no sense when it comes to behavior around horses. None of my greyhounds have ever attempted to chase a horse, but it could happen. Also, the greyhound may not understand how a horse moves. Around horses, the greyhound could be seriously injured by a kick or being stepped on by a horse. Like in everything else, these dogs are highly intelligent, and it won't take them long to understand about horses, but until they do, don't let them get hurt.



Children and Greyhounds



A Although everyone's favorite photographic subject, kids and dogs present special problems for parents. Teaching the new greyhound his manners must go hand-in-hand with teaching the children their manners around the new pet.

Many people envision their pet duplicating the wonderful relationship Nanna of *Peter Pan* fame had with her family's children. Unfortunately, we cannot animate and script any dog into this ideal of human kindness and wisdom packaged in an appealing, hairy dog suit!

Please keep in mind that you are dealing with a live, adult animal with all the accompanying instincts and needs. The greyhound is one of the most easy going dog breeds, but it is nonetheless just a dog.

- 1) The greyhound is not a toy. It deserves respect and responsible care. No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. The old adage of "let sleeping dogs lie" should be adhered to. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. If the dog is sleeping, he needs rest. When he's ready to play, he'll let you know. A greyhound needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed. A crate is an excellent choice.
- 2) Small children often want to express their affection for the pet greyhound by hugging or clinging on the dog. Teach your children that this can be "scary" for the dog and encourage gently stroking the neck and shoulders or brushing instead. Tails are private things, not play things.
- 3) It is important to reinforce the idea that children are part of the "human coaching team," not litter mates to the dog. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that it is still a person and must respond appropriately, not as if the child was another dog.

For this reason, we strongly recommend that your greyhound does not share your child's bed or bedroom. A similarly sized dog and child sleeping together only encourages the dog to think of the child as a brother or sister and respond accordingly. If one dog rolls on or kicks another as they sleep in their den, the dog naturally responds with a growl or a disciplinary nip. Hardly the way to encourage the relationship you want.

- 4) Outdoor games with your greyhound should be closely supervised, especially initially and until both child and dog are fully trained. No dog and especially no greyhound could be expected not to chase after an excited, squealing child. Unfortunately, the greyhound's idea of fun is to play "imaginary hunter" using the child as a lure. Being run down and flattened by a large dog would hardly be classified as fun by most kids!

Instead, encourage your child to join you as you stand in place and happily encourage your dog to come to you, with each person taking a turn. This provides exercise for the dog and reminds him that all people are in control—large or small.

The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy—**Safety First**. This applies to both the dog and the kids. Do not leave young children and dogs alone together. If you cannot supervise, crate your dog.

Although protection of the children is the first thought we have, you must also protect your dog. Your greyhound could be seriously injured as a youngster decides to "play horsey" on his back or tries painting his nose.



Bugs, Beauty and Baths



One of the nicest features of your pet greyhound is that he is virtually permanently pressed! Most of the year, a quick brushing with a soft bristle brush in the morning will keep him looking great. During the Spring and Fall shedding weeks, you may need to repeat this routine in the evening as well.

A short nubbed rubber brush will aid in removing dead hair and dried mud, etc. Your greyhound should only be bathed when soiled; if he decides to doze on that spilled motor oil, he'll need a bath. Otherwise, expect him to do fine with his routine brushing. Greyhounds have little oil in their skin and so have little "doggy odor." If you do need to shampoo, select a conditioning shampoo from a good pet supply store or your vet. We also use Adams products available at the trailer.

Once a week you should inspect your pet's ears and clean gently with a cotton ball and baby oil if needed. Your veterinarian will probably recommend brushing your dog's teeth and will be happy to show you how.

Greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Just lean over and bend each foot backwards, so that you can see the underside of the nail. If you're nervous about trimming the nails, ask your vet or local groomer to show you how much to trim. Greyhound toes and nails are longer than the average dog, but will still need to be clipped every four to six weeks.

Do not ever put a flea collar on a greyhound!!!!

Flea collars work by releasing their flea-killing chemicals onto the skin of the dog, which is then absorbed into the dog's bloodstream. Most breeds can have their livers/kidneys filter these toxins out. But a greyhound's liver/kidneys do not work that fast—so the toxins continue to build up until it eventually kills the greyhound. For this very same reason, do not ever use any of those internal flea preventative pills on your greyhound either.

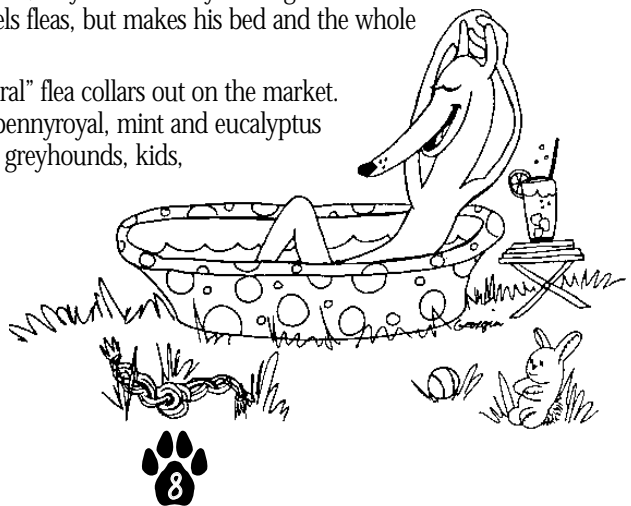
The best way to handle fleas safely is to use flea shampoos and flea sprays. Be careful when using flea sprays. Take time to read the label. Many flea products cannot be used on a dog who is taking heartworm preventative medication. When in doubt, check with your vet. Also, many flea sprays that advertise long duration protection are far too strong to be used on greyhounds. This includes the new product on the market, Hartz Blockade. Apparently several dogs have been killed by this Blockade—avoid using it!

Your safest bet on flea products are to use ones that state they are natural based pyrethrins. I have used Adams brand flea products—Adams Flea Shampoo, Adams Flea-Off Mist, and Adams Flea-Off 14 Day Mist—very successfully on my greyhounds. I have also used Bio-Spot and Frontline products with good, safe results. These products are available at Goober and also in our adoption center.

Be careful when using one brand of shampoo and a different brand of spray. They may not be chemically compatible, which could harm your greyhound. Your safest bet is to stay with the same brand, as these products were designed to be compatible and work in conjunction with one another.

Cedar is a natural flea repellent, so you can stuff your dog's bed with cedar chips. This not only repels fleas, but makes his bed and the whole room smell delightful

There are a few "totally natural" flea collars out on the market. These collars are treated with pennyroyal, mint and eucalyptus oils. They are perfectly safe for greyhounds, kids, whatever.



Spoiling Your Greyhound



We all want to make our new pet comfortable in their new home, and one of the ways we do this is to give them the affection and attention we think he wants and needs. If we do this, he will like his new environment and love us in return.

Correct—to a point—be a little cautious about overindulging your new companion.

Although it is a rare occurrence, once in a while your new family pet thinks that he is the Alpha of their new pack.

- The Alpha is the pack leader.
- Dogs are generally pack animals.
- Greyhounds are no exception!

If you really spoil your greyhound, he might possibly think he is in charge. After 2 to 4 weeks of uninterrupted attention, he might not react well to your suddenly leaving him alone for an extended period of time. There are some who get upset with this new treatment after a period of constant attention and affection.

Plan to keep a balance from the beginning. Don't cater to every whim every time. In the long run, it's better for your pet and you, especially if you don't want to develop an Alpha! Remember you have a new family member, not a houseguest!

This breed responds well to verbal discipline. Don't overcompensate for their behavior because they are in a new setting. Start off with your rules and teach them to abide by the rules.

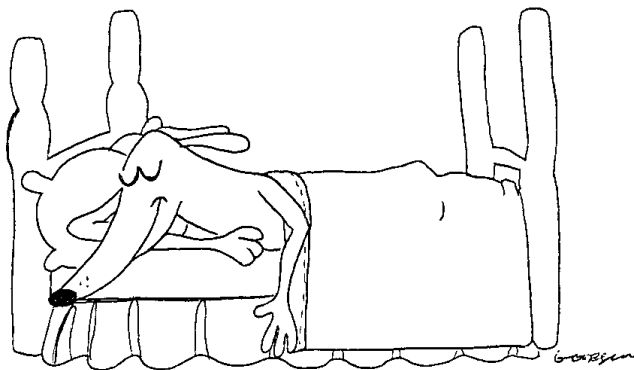
Occasionally new greyhound pet owners fear reprimanding their pet because they think the dog won't like them any more. Unfortunately, these are the adoptions that have problems several months later.

Throughout the dog's life, it has relied on someone to set boundaries for it. First its mother laid down the law, and the puppy quickly learned that as long as he followed the rules, life was great.

The leadership role was transferred to humans, of course, as your greyhound left his litter and began his training. Although he was exposed to lots of new experiences and places, there was one constant factor he could rely on: there was always someone to tell him what was good and what wasn't. Every dog needs this reassurance.

A dog without a leader quickly becomes a bratty, overbearing animal that no one wants to live with, and therefore the dog suffers without the one thing he needs most, acceptance and a place in the pack.

Your pet doesn't need to act like a robot, but it does need to know that it can count on you to be in charge. If you want your dog to sleep on your bed, that's fine. As long as he knows this is a privilege, not a right. You need to control the situation; the dog doesn't. You invite the dog up, and he stays until you tell him to get off. The first tiny growl as you roll over would be met with an explosive shove off the bed, a reprimand, and no more bed privileges for the night. You're in charge, and he's not.



Playtime



F For some reason, the first urge of almost every new adoptive family is to rush out and buy a 24 inch rawhide bone!

Please take a moment to read this article and then spend your money in a manner that will make you and your greyhound happiest.

We do not suggest purchasing rawhide toys for several reasons. Inexpensive rawhide is cured overseas, often with dangerous chemicals like arsenic. Safely cured, American rawhide can be quite expensive and the typical greyhound can wipe out a \$5 chew-bone in just a few minutes. Rawhide can leave little nasty bits on your carpet, and, more importantly, can slide down your dog's throat and then stick. If you must splurge on a rawhide treat, please supervise, and consider a compressed rawhide instead.

One of the most popular toys in the adoption center is a cotton rope toss about a foot long. Not only is it safe, durable, and fun for your pet, it also flosses its teeth! Nylon rope toys should be avoided.

A Nylabone may seem rather expensive, but will last forever and provide a good cleaning action for your dog's teeth. A note of warning though: stepping on a Nylabone in your bare feet can be excruciating....

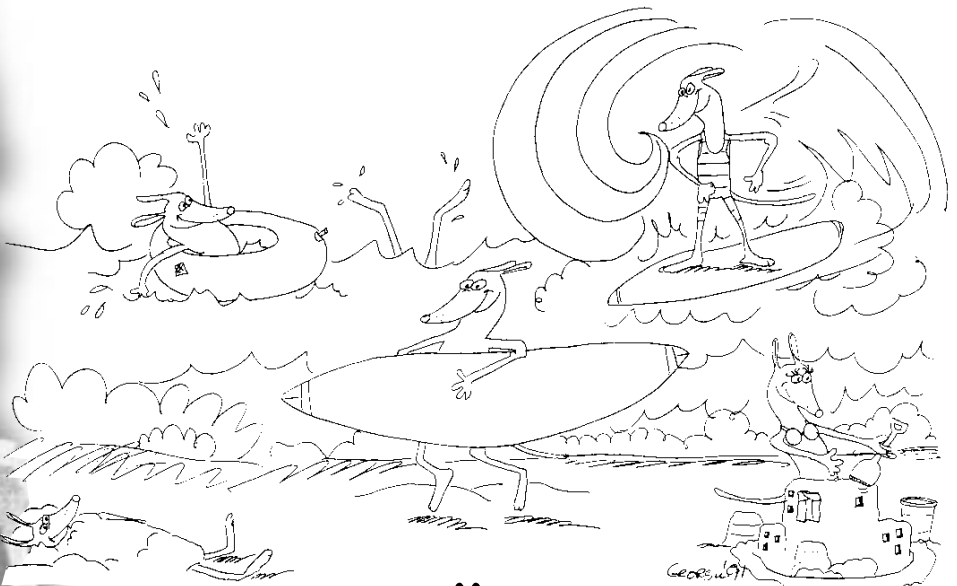
Some greyhounds like to play with a tennis ball. Remember, your pet was bred to chase critters on the ground—roll or bowl the ball, don't throw it. Once the ball is punctured, it should be discarded.

A shank or marrow bone (at least 5") from your butcher will provide hours of enjoyment for your dog and can be a great doggy pacifier. Don't let the butcher convince you a knuckle bone is better. Powerful greyhound jaws can gnaw so much material from the knuckle that the dog's stool will look (and feel) like cement.

Almost every greyhound we've placed has done his own adoption of a stuffed animal, throw pillow, or scatter rug. This breed just seems to need something fuzzy to snuggle up with. So be prepared.

You may not get to see the silly side of your greyhound for a while. He will probably not feel like letting his puppy personality out until he feels quite secure. When you see the classic bottom up, front end down pose bouncing in front of you, you'll know it's time to play.

We do not suggest purchasing rawhide toys for several reasons. Inexpensive rawhide is cured overseas, often with dangerous chemicals like arsenic.



Crates



It is extremely important to remember that your greyhound has never been left alone before! A well behaved new pet may get scared when you leave to go out or go to work, and he finds himself alone in the house for the very first time. Keep in mind that the greyhound doesn't know you yet, he doesn't know that he can trust you to return later, he doesn't know that you plan to regularly feed him, take him outside, and give him love. Basically, he may worry that you're an unreliable old rascal, and may decide to take matters into his own hands. We have had new pets do damage to homes when left alone for the first time. This is not something you want to happen, so here's a fail-safe way of making sure the first few days are harmonious for all: consider buying or renting a crate.

Many people balk at the suggestion of crating a pet. If you have misgivings about the crate routine, please read on. With about two-thirds of the greyhounds we place in homes, the crate system works out for the best.

First of all, racing greyhounds spend a good portion of their lives in their own kennel crate anyway. It is something that they are used to, and during the unfamiliar process of being adopted, the familiarity of the crate may be a welcome sight.

Secondly, there's no need for the crate to be a permanent thing. It can be used only as a device to make the transition work more quickly. Many of our adopting families have used the following system: for the first two weeks, the greyhound is placed in his crate when left at home alone. Then, when he knows the family routine, he is again placed in the crate—but the door is left open, giving him the choice of the familiar nest or run of the house. After a couple weeks of this, the crate can be retired to the attic and a happy house pet exists where once was a frightened racer.

A Closing Word



The previous pages have been filled with warnings, don'ts, and a lot of advice. Many of you adopting your first greyhound probably won't have any problems at all. The greyhound will come into your home, fall in love with you, you with him or her, and all of you will live happily ever after. Most of our owners now claim they will never have any other type of dog because their retired racing greyhound has "spoiled" them! This is true. Having been in the world of dogs, through showing and obedience competition, I can honestly say these lovely greyhounds are the best overall pet I've ever come across. Sweet, gentle, loving, clean, quiet, and smart—there simply aren't enough adjectives to describe all of these greyhounds' fine qualities.

Several of our adoptive owners have taken their greyhounds through obedience classes and competition. The dogs do quite well, and it is an enjoyable experience for both human and hound.

Remember that all the A.A.G.I. representatives are available to you for consultation. **Please, please** do not hesitate to call if you are having any problems that you can't solve, or have any questions at all. That is our job—to make this adoption process go smoothly. We will be calling to check in after 24 hours, seven days, 30 days and 60 days. This is an ideal time to cover any questions you may have.

With your love, patience, and understanding, your newly adopted greyhound will become your nearest and dearest best friend. These greyhounds actually appear grateful for their new homes, and will return the love you give them 110%!!! Few things in life are as rewarding as taking one of these gentle dogs into your home. So, congratulations and good luck!

Cheryl Lawless

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