



The Greyhound Adoption Handbook

The History of Greyhounds	2
Greyhounds as Pets: Common Questions	2
The Ear Tattoos	6
Before You Bring Your New Pet Home	6
Shopping List	7
The Ride Home	7
Bringing Your New Pet Home	8
Greyhounds And Other Pets	9
Kids And Your Greyhound	10
Feeding Your Greyhound	11
Housebreaking Tips	13
Training Your Greyhound	14
Home Alone	15
The Crate Game	16
Exercise	17
Grooming Your Greyhound	18
Veterinary Care	18

THE HISTORY OF GREYHOUNDS

The origin of the Greyhound is deeply rooted in ancient history. In fact, morals and paintings of dogs strikingly similar to today's Greyhound existed over 4,000 years ago.

From the beginning, the Greyhound was held in high regard in the Middle East and throughout Europe.

Their pictures were etched on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs, and Pharaohs rated them first among all animals, both as pets and hunters.

The Arabs so admired the physical attributes and speed of the Greyhound that it was the only dog permitted to share their tents and ride atop their camels. In early Arabian culture, the birth of a Greyhound ranked second only in importance to the birth of a son.

In Persia, Rome and Greece, the Greyhound enjoyed similar stature and is the only canine mentioned in the Holy Scripture (Proverbs 30: 29-31).

Their link with nobility was established in 1014 when King Canute of England enacted the Forest Laws, which stated that only noblemen could own and hunt with Greyhounds.

Greyhound racing did not begin until much later in this majestic breed's history.

The Forest Laws were abolished in the 1500's by Queen Elizabeth I who later initiated the first formal rules of Greyhound coursing (the pursuit of Hares), thus officially inaugurating the Sport of Queens.

In the late 1800's, the Greyhound was imported to America to help Mid-western farmers control the jackrabbit, a noted crop destroyer. With the advent of the Greyhound in America, coursing events soon followed.

Greyhound track racing, as we know it today, began with Owen Patrick Smith's invention of a mechanical lure around 1912, which made racing around a circular track possible.

The first circular track opened in 1919 in Emeryville, California. Although this track was not very successful, it paved the way for the development of the Greyhound racing industry in America.

Because of their loving nature, Greyhounds are the pet of choice for an increasing number of people. Throughout history and today, Greyhounds have been pets to a number of prominent people, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, President Rutherford B. Hayes, General George Custer, President John Tyler, actress Bo Derek and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals President Roger Caras.

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS: COMMON QUESTIONS

What kind of pets do ex-racing Greyhounds make?

Greyhounds are affectionate, friendly dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship and make terrific pets. Raised with their litter mates, where they competed for affection, Greyhounds love

becoming the centre of attention as household pets. Greyhounds do not usually make good watch dogs. Their friendly nature is not really very threatening.

Are they good with children?

More so than most breeds. They are not as playful as puppies, of course, being mature dogs, but most are very tolerant of children and will usually walk away rather than growl or snap if children become overbearing. This is not to say that they can't be tormented for long periods of time and still not growl or snap. Even a gentle Greyhound has its limits.

How are they with other pets?

Greyhounds are friendly by nature and socialize well as a result of encounters with other Greyhounds in the racing kennel. Cats are unknown to a Greyhound and a little extra time and care are required to make a happy home for all.

How old are retired Greyhounds?

The retired racers are usually between two and four years old but can be as old as 6.

What is their life expectancy?

These pure-bred athletes enjoy many years of good health. With proper care, they have a life expectancy of 12 years or more.

How much does it cost to own a Greyhound?

Greyhounds, like any other dog, should be given regular veterinary care. It costs about \$1.00 a day to feed a Greyhound.

Are ex-racing Greyhounds already housebroken?

Frequently an adopted Greyhound is completely housebroken right from the start. In their kennel environment they are turned out three or four times a day to relieve themselves. Therefore, racing Greyhounds are kennel-broken, which means they're trained to go outside and keep their kennels clean. Walk them frequently at first, and they quickly learn that their new home is the place they keep clean and outside is where they go to relieve themselves.

How big do they get?

Greyhound males generally stand 26 to 30 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 55 and 85 pounds. Females generally stand 23 to 26 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 50 to 75 pounds.

Do Greyhounds shed?

Yes, but less than most dogs. Their coats are short and sleek and don't smell doggy for long periods between baths and many people choose not to bathe their Greyhounds.

Why do they wear muzzles? Is it because they are so high-strung?

Actually the Greyhound is a wonderfully unique creature blessed with both the ability to be very competitive and aggressive while on the track, yet on the other hand, a very loving and docile companion, living to please a beloved owner. They wear muzzles while racing for two reasons: to help

racing officials determine the outcome of a photo finish race, and to protect the Greyhounds from injury during the excitement of the chase.

Why do Greyhounds need to be kept on a leash?

A leash assures the Greyhound protection from disasters, such as barbed wire fencing, contact with wild animals, traps and poison. Greyhounds have no fear of cars and other hazards in our world and as history has proven, the Greyhound is an animal born to run and run using their sight. They can see things up to a mile away and are at full speed within 3 strides, all of which is a disaster waiting to happen if they aren't on a leash and take off after something. Greyhounds are accustomed to walking on a leash and enjoy the exercise, as well as the attention they receive from the people who pass by.

Do Greyhounds need a lot of exercise?

Greyhounds easily adapt to the lifestyle of their new owners. Feel free to take your Greyhound walking or jogging with you as your exercise regime dictates (more details on exercise later in this booklet).

Can Greyhounds swim?

Many people believe that because of their structure and low body fat that they cannot swim. This is not true. Some Greyhounds are excellent swimmers. Never leave a Greyhound unsupervised near any body of water, including a pool, until you are confident that it can swim and can safely get out of the water unassisted.

Aren't all Greyhounds grey?

Not at all - they come in many colours including brindle, black, brown, fawn, or a combination of these colours. The name Greyhound is not derived from the colour of the animal. The name originates from four possible sources. The ancient Greeks may have called Greyhounds "Greekhounds" or may have named them "Gazehounds", since they relied on sight rather than smell in hunting. Third, the name may be derived from the Latin *Agre* or *Agradus* meaning degree, which related to the principle and care in breeding. And lastly, some people believe they may have been called "Greythounds" in the past. If you see a "Grey" Greyhound it is actually called a "Blue" Greyhound and it is one of the rarest colours.

Why are Greyhounds so streamlined (that's nice for "skinny"!)?

Greyhounds are like any other competitive athlete. During their racing career, they eat heartily (up to two pounds of meat per day), but burn off excess weight when they run. As a pet, they eat much less, just four to six cups of dry food a day.

What has the life of a racing Greyhound been like?

Greyhounds spend most of their lives in the company of other dogs. When they are born, the average litter size is about eight pups. Young Greyhounds are given a lot of attention and handled as much as possible. As they approach their first birthday, their training begins and they are taught to chase a lure, eventually progressing to a racetrack. Track life is very routine - feeding in the morning, turnouts in the exercise yards to relieve themselves and retiring between races in individual kennel crates. Dogs race every three to seven days.

What should I expect if I adopt a Greyhound?

Expect a gentle, loving pet who, with a little time and patience, will be a great addition to your family. Because everything is brand new to the Greyhound, expect him/her to be somewhat confused and very curious. House manners have to be learned, but Greyhounds are very intelligent dogs and learn quickly.

Does my dog need a special space in the house?

In the kennel, your dog has always had its own kennel crate where it felt safe and secure. There are a number of ways to accomplish this in your house. Using a large crate or having a special bedding area during the first few weeks will help the Greyhound adjust at his/her own pace to the unaccustomed freedom of your house. Although many people feel uncomfortable about using a crate, Greyhounds are quite at home in them. Indeed, using a crate can provide for a completely successful transition by affording the dog actual physical security when left alone during the adjustment period and thus preventing any possible damage due to separation anxiety. It also can eliminate any temptation to investigate the garbage. Another advantage to the crate is that Greyhounds, like other dogs, instinctively will not soil their own living space. This makes crate usage a very effective tool in the housebreaking process.

Why is routine important to a Greyhound?

Because Greyhounds are used to having a daily routine in the racing kennel. They tend to feel more comfortable in unfamiliar situations if a routine is established with regard to feeding, answering calls of nature and resting. In a home situation, until you have established a workable routine with your Greyhound, you will need to take more frequent trips outside to avoid accidents.

What about feeding?

Feed your dog between four and six cups of dry dog food (kibble) each day. Gradually, as your dog seems to eat less and begins to gain weight, you can cut back to three and a half to four cups of food a day. A limited amount of table scraps or water from cooked vegetables also can be added to your Greyhound's food. A special treat might be a large, soft marshmallow. Avoid rawhide treats! Pigs ears, dog-safe toys, and cow hooves are OK.

What sort of medical care will my Greyhound need?

The best medical care is preventative in nature. Your dog will need to be checked periodically for worms. Your dog also should be checked annually for heartworm and placed on heartworm preventative medication. Dental exams on a regular basis are also necessary. For some reason one of the only real medical issues that they experience as a breed is a tendency for dental issues.

Be sure your vet is familiar with the problems Greyhounds have with anaesthesia and if your dog's teeth have a build-up of tartar, consider having them cleaned. Greyhounds are particularly sensitive to the chemical in flea collars. For this reason, the only type of flea medication that should be used is sprays or powders containing PYRETHRIN AND PYMETHRINS. As with any pet, regular veterinary check-ups are recommended. Sentinel is a safe and useful product for all dogs and is recommended for retired racing Greyhounds. Please ask your vet about the advantages of using Sentinel as a preventative for heart worm and fleas as part of the routine health care for your new dog.

EAR TATTOOS

All racing Greyhounds born in the United States are registered with the National Greyhound Association in Abilene, Kansas. To provide positive identification they are tattooed in both ears when about 2 months old. The left ear is tattooed with the litter identification number assigned by the NGA. All Greyhounds in the same litter will have this number.

The tattoo in the right ear tells the Greyhound's age. It consists of the numbers 1 through 12 for the months of the year, followed by the last digit the year of birth. For example, 107 would indicate the Greyhound was born in October 1997 while 66 would indicate June 1996. To differentiate between Greyhounds in the same litter, the letters A, B, C, and so on follow the month and year. Therefore, Greyhounds in the same litter would all have the same tattoos as far as litter registration number, month, and year but would be differentiated from each other by a letter of the alphabet. Thus, no one can ever lie about a Greyhound's true age, nor can dogs be switched in a race as tattoos are checked prior to the start of each race.

True, the numbers representing years repeat after ten years, but it is very easy to differentiate a 12-year-old Greyhound from a 2-year-old. Other countries have different registration systems. For example, Irish Greyhounds are also tattooed in their ears, however, the Irish registry uses a series of letters rather than numbers and the tattoos can only be interpreted with the aid of the registry itself.

Pet Greyhounds may also be tattooed at the owners request on the inside to the thigh for registration with other tattoo registries such as National Dog Registry (NDR) or Tattoo-APet. All NGA registered dogs can be registered (with written permission form the NGA) with the CK C, UKC, and the AKC.

BEFORE YOU BRING YOUR NEW GREYHOUND HOME

Before the big day, you'll need to make a few preparations:

A Greyhound safety collar, muzzle, and SAGA I.D. tag will accompany your Greyhound. This sight hound collar is the only type of collar that can be used on your dog. If you need a replacement, please speak with SAGA. You will need a dog tag and an owner identification tag with the dog's name, your address and phone number.

Purchase other supplies such as food, food and water dishes, grooming brush, toothbrush, blanket, collar, and play toys. You may also want a squirt bottle full of water on hand for discipline purposes. Greyhounds hate to be squirted in the face and it doesn't hurt them. You may also want to purchase a crate to help with housebreaking and making your new pet feel more at ease.

Prepare your house for your new family member by removing any fragile knick-knacks, checking your fencing for holes or weak spots, and placing clips or locks on your gates.

You'll also want to check the latches and locks on screen doors and mark large windows and sliding glass doors with a band of tape for easy visibility.

Clear your kitchen counter of any tempting treats and cover your waste container with a secure lid or place it inside a cabinet.

Select his sleeping place and arrange your dog's blanket. Our usual suggestion is in the master bedroom with the door closed. Place his bed next to yours. This serves several purposes. If the dog needs to go out, you'll know. It reassures the dog who, after all, has never slept alone in his entire life. It also continues the plan of making good habits, not bad. If he had the run of the house, he could get into all kinds of trouble: sleeping in your room means you know what's going on.

Scout for nearby fully-fenced baseball or soccer fields for suitable areas to exercise your new dog. Or off-leash areas that do not have any open access to roads or other hazards.

Contact your veterinarian to alert him/her about your new family member and set an appointment to review the medical information form and discuss on-going health care programs.

Discuss Greyhound pet rules with all family members, particularly children, to ensure an easy transition period.

SHOPPING LIST

- Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies
- Adopting The Racing Greyhound, by Cynthia Branigan
- Dog Crate - Extra Large (30 x 48 x 36)
- Dog bed(s) - Costco is a wonderful resource for great beds for Greyhounds
- Tooth Brush & Tooth Paste
- Grooming Brush or Glove (soft bristled or rubber)
- Toe Nail Clippers (scissor ones are the best)
- 2 Metal Dog Bowls - 2 quart/litre
- 6 ft. Lead
- Ear Cleaner
- Dog Coat For Winter / Rain Coat for rainy season
- Cod Liver Oil Capsules (20 min)
- Imodium / Kaopectate / Pepto-Bismol / Loperamide tablets (2mg)
- Supply of Food - see food section for further information
- Dog Toys Kong, Chewman, tartar busters
- Treats Milk Bones, Pigs Ears & DentaBones, etc.

THE RIDE HOME

Greyhounds are good travellers. While they have never ridden in a car, they have been transported in specially designed trucks. Normally they settle right down once the drive is under way.

Following are a few tips to make the drive an easy one:

You may bring a six-foot-long leather or nylon leash with you. Plan on two adults to bring your pet home. A friendly Greyhound that decides to help the driver could cause an accident! Do not plan on having the Greyhound ride in back with children. Please make alternate arrangements for childcare. Prepare your car by putting an old blanket over your back seat. Not only will the seat be more comfortable for the Greyhound, but the blanket will protect your upholstery as well. If you have a station wagon or van, an old comforter, blanket, or similar soft item will provide a comfortable spot for your new pet.

Unless your trip is longer than four hours, you will not need to bring water or stop to walk your dog.

BRINGING YOUR NEW GREYHOUND HOME

Bringing home a new pet is an exciting and rewarding experience. For the Greyhound, adjusting to the life of a pet from that of an ex-racer can take a few days. The following are a few suggestions to make the transition easier.

Once you get home, you should first offer your Greyhound a chance to relieve itself and for a good walk to release excitable energy. Walk your dog back and forth in a small area until the dog does his business.

Allow the dog to explore its new home at its own speed but for the first day on lead, and always under your supervision. It will be much easier to establish good habits early than to correct bad ones later. You may also choose to allow the Greyhound to continue to drag its lead in the house for the first few days.

Although your dog is used to living indoors, everything is new to him in your home. As he sniffs his way through the house, you can offer words of encouragement or discouragement.

Your dog will not know stairs when you first bring him home. Start slowly at first taking him up and down two to three steps. On the way down, he may try to take all the steps at once, so stay in front of him so he can only take one at a time. With some patience your dog will learn quickly and soon he will be climbing stairs like an old pro.

Sliding glass doors and plate glass windows are new to your dog. They may not realize they can't get through. Take care to introduce your dog to these obstacles by tapping on the glass to let them know it's there. You can also put tape or stickers on the glass at eye level. Mirrors are also a new experience for your dog. He may think his reflection is another dog and try to play with it.

Take precautions when cooking. Your stove and counters are at eye level and your dog will be curious about the food smells. When cooking or baking your stove will become hot and your dog does not realize he will get burned.

The patterns you set in the first few days are the ones you will live with the rest of your pet's life. If you do not want your pet on the furniture, do not break down at three A.M. and cuddle him on the couch!

Verbal commands are generally enough to train your Greyhound. He/she will know by the tone of your voice what is acceptable and what is not.

This may be a very stressful few days for your Greyhound. It is best to keep things quiet, delay the welcome home party for a week or two.

It is not unusual for a new pet to refuse to eat for a day or two. He will probably drink more water than normal and consequently need to go out more often. Also, he will need more rest than normal.

The change of diet and excitement of his new home may cause your new pet to have diarrhea. Should this occur, give your dog two teaspoons of Kaopectate every hour for four hours or until the diarrhea stops. If unsure, give the same dosage as recommended for a small child. If it continues for more than a day, consult your veterinarian.

GREYHOUNDS AND OTHER PETS

One basic philosophy will describe the way to handle this situation - you're in charge, they're not! When introducing your Greyhound to other animals, follow these simple rules:

Dogs

Introduce them on neutral ground. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing them to meet in an area your other pet doesn't "own" such as down the block from your house.

After the initial sniffing, you should walk the dogs together for a short time and then bring them into the house at the same time, but your existing dog should always walk into the house first. This is almost like having your dog act as a host to the new Greyhound.

Any sign of growling or aggression should be met with a quick jerk of the leash and a sharp and firm "NO!"

Although Greyhounds are used to sharing attention, your other dog may feel jealous and need a little extra attention. You should always respect the hierarchy of your existing pack order. The dogs should be fed separately in their crates or different parts of the house.

Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out in the yard together. Always use your muzzles on the dogs when in doubt.

Once you feel that they have accepted each other, you'll be in for a treat as you watch the two of them play. If your other dog is older or overweight, make sure he doesn't overdo it trying to keep up with his sleek new roommate (the settling-in process usually takes a few months before the dogs really establish themselves and become accustomed to each other. If your other pet is a very small breed, you should supervise play situations closely, especially at first. Your Greyhound's playful chase and lunge could be too rough for a toy breed. You'll need to teach him/her otherwise. Remember, you're in charge.

Always use the muzzle on the Greyhound when introducing your new dog to small animals and this is especially important during play.

Cats

If you are introducing your new Greyhound to a cat, you should shut the cat in one room as the Greyhound explores the house. Use your muzzle! After the initial exploration one adult should take the Greyhound on his leash while the other lets the cat out.

Keep the dog on a leash and place the muzzle on. You can allow your Greyhound to drag its leash in the house. You don't need to lead the dog, but you should follow him and be able to jerk and correct

sharply if he tries to dart for the cat. Stepping on the leash will also provide a quick and respectful correction for the dog.

After the initial introduction, you may remove the leash, but should keep the muzzle on until you feel confident. If your cat is older or very shy, the process could take several weeks.

The Greyhound should be crated when no one is home.

Cat food has an irresistible smell to dogs and should be placed in a high spot so that the Greyhound can't get to it.

Litter boxes should be hooded and turned into a corner to ensure peace for the cat and no access for the dog.

Also keep on hand a squirt bottle full of water.

Birds

Introduction of the Greyhound to a caged bird follows the basic procedures above.

Just remember, a severe jerk on the lead and/or collar accompanied by a firm "NO" will do wonders.

KIDS AND DOGS

Although they are everyone's favourite 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. 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 a dog.

In order to establish a loving relationship between Greyhound and child, it is a wise idea to review the following ideas and discuss them:

The Greyhound is not a toy. It deserves respect and responsible care.

No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. Greyhounds may sleep with their eyes open, so it's easy to mistake them for being awake. 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. Small children often want to express their affection for the pet Greyhound by hugging or clinging to the dog. Teach your children that this can be "scary" for the dog and encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders or brushing instead. Ears and tails are private things, not play things.

It is important to reinforce to your dog the idea that children are part of the "human coaching team", not litter mates. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that the child is still a person and must respond accordingly. For this reason, we strongly recommend that your Greyhound does not share your child's bed or bedroom.

Outdoor games with your Greyhound should be closely supervised, especially initially and until both child and dog are fully trained.

Instead of running and jumping with your new pet, have your child 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.

FEEDING YOUR NEW PET

Your new Greyhound has had his diet adjusted from the special high calorie, high protein, racing diet he required as a professional athlete to a top quality, well-balanced, pet diet. Your dog is an omnivore not a carnivore, so it needs a balanced, quality diet.

Mealtime Do's and Don'ts are as follows:

DO feed your Greyhound twice a day. Four cups of dry food (kibble) per day, 2 cups in the AM and 2 cups in the PM. 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.

DO use a small chunk, high-quality food (24-26% protein). SAGA recommends Purina Pro-Plan

DO pick a quiet corner of the room where your dog will be left when you're gone for feeding. If you are using a crate, you should feed your dog in the crate.

DO feed your dog at the same time every day. Greyhounds like consistency.

DO pick a time that will be convenient enough to allow you to let your dog out about twelve hours after feeding to relieve himself or herself (usually 6:00 am & 6:00 pm).

Most Greyhounds are used to a bathroom break before eating their meal.

DO monitor your dog's eating habits. It is not unusual for a new Greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. To encourage eating, you may want to add a couple of tablespoons of good quality canned food & warm water poured over the dry food. Do not allow the food to soak after adding water.

DO pick up any wet food not eaten in 10 minutes and discard. Otherwise for dry food, save what is not eaten for the next meal. Repeat this routine at the next feeding and your Greyhound will quickly learn mealtime limitations.

DO watch for itchy, flaky skin. Cold, dry weather can irritate a Greyhound's skin. During the dry winter months, add one to two tablespoons of fish oil, cod liver oil flax seed oil or 1 capsule of Evening Primrose oil given orally/day. 1 cup of bran or 1/2 cup oatmeal to food weekly mixed with water.

DO add Glucosamine and Chondroitin (50-100lb dogs, 1000mg 2x/daily)

DO add blueberries, broccoli, raspberries, organic meat, 2-3 garlic cloves to your dog's diet occasionally.

DO treat your dog with carefully selected snacks such as pig's ears, cow hooves, & biscuits. A sterilized beef bone, peanut butter bone, frozen raw turkey necks, denta-bones, tartar busters are also excellent treats.

DON'T let your Greyhound eat everything in sight. Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat anything. Unfortunately, everything doesn't quite agree with them.

Despite what advertisers would have us believe, your Greyhound will be happiest with the same food every meal.

DON'T let your Greyhound drink large quantities of water or exercise immediately before or after eating: allow at least one hour. All deep-chested dogs, including Greyhounds, are susceptible to bloat, a condition that can be fatal.

DON'T be surprised if your new pet expects you to share your banana as you slice it for your cereal. Your Greyhound may have eaten bananas, apricots, pumpkin, applesauce, spinach, marshmallows, apples, broccoli, carrots and even vanilla ice-cream and jelly doughnuts on a limited level as a racer. We don't expect you to be completely perfect! Most Greyhounds will attempt to drink your coffee or tea (and some even like beer!) and this should be discouraged.

DON'T EVER feed your dog chocolate, raisins, onions, grapes, and Macadamia nuts. Reactions to these tempting sweets vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed up your dog's heart rate, cause allergic reactions, and can be fatal. Dark chocolate is the most dangerous but all chocolate should be avoided.

DON'T feed your dog "people shaped" treats like miniature hot dogs or bacon. These usually contain lots of dye, salt, and sugar. Stick to the basics of good quality biscuits.

DON'T feed your dog any food treats containing red dyes. Also don't feed your dog any beef basted chews. Plain white chews will do just fine. Coloured treats are acceptable if they are coloured naturally with carrots, beef, or spinach.

DON'T feed you Greyhound from the table. This will only encourage bad habits that will be hard to break.

DON'T leave alluring items on kitchen counters. Greyhounds are curious by nature and may sample items left on the counter. Remember that if it's left unattended, it's fair game in their minds and Greyhounds are very good at "counter surfing"!

DON'T be alarmed at your Greyhound gulping down his/her meal. Greyhounds generally "bolt" their food without much, if any, chewing. Spreading the food out on a cookie sheet will eliminate the bolting and choking.

Recipes

Satin Balls

A great one for putting weight on underweight dogs. This recipe is from "Greytalk"

- 5 pounds ground meat
 - 5 cups total whole grain cereal
 - 5 cups oats (slow cooking type)
 - 2 1/2 cups raw wheat germ
 - 3/4 cup oil
 - 3/4 cup molasses 6 egg yolks
 - 6 packets gelatin
 - 2 1/2 Tablespoons Solid gold sea meal supplement
- Mix all ingredients together like meat loaf, roll in balls no larger than 1 inch diameter,

Divide into separate containers and freeze, thaw as needed.

Dog Bones

Dogs love these cookies. This recipe is from "Company's Coming - Kid's Cooking" so it is easy.

- 2 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1 Cup Cornmeal
- 1/4 Cup Wheat Germ
- 2 tsp Beef Bouillon Powder (OXO)
- 1/2 tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 Large Egg
- 1 Tbsp Cooking Oil
- 1 Cup Hot Water

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Combine first 5 ingredients in a bowl and stir. Add the egg, cooking oil and water. Roll out on a well-floured surface to a 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with bone or other shaped cookie cutter. Arrange on an un-greased cookie sheet.

Bake on the centre rack in the oven for about 2 hours until dry and very hard. Let stand overnight to dry thoroughly. Store in a container with a lid.

HOUSEBREAKING TIPS

The main difference between Greyhound hygiene habits and average pet habits is that the Greyhound expects you to tell him when it's time to go. He has always expected his trainer to let him out into his yard on a schedule; unlike a pet puppy who is taught to scratch at the door to be let out.

However, because your Greyhound is used to living indoors and going outdoors to relieve himself, adjusting to his new lifestyle is relatively easy. Develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can.

Tips to follow include:

- Out first thing in the morning
- Out after meals
- Out after naps
- Out before you leave

- Out before meals

It is important that you supervise your pet, especially at first. This gives you the opportunity to praise your dog for doing the right thing and also to keep an eye on him.

If you catch your dog attempting to urinate in the house or you catch him while he is in the act of urinating, give him a sharp, verbal reprimand and 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 positively to kindness. Dogs live in the moment and will not associate the reprimand with the accident after it has been done.

Your Greyhound may attempt to lift his leg or squat in a few places around the house to "mark" their territory, especially if you already have a dog. He/she is making the house THEIR house, so he/she feels more at home. Watch them carefully as they walk or sniff around the house and try to catch them before they do it. If this should happen, it does not go on for long, so try to be patient.

"Accidents" may be cleaned with 1 part water and 5 parts vinegar.

Also, by allowing your Greyhound to drag its leash in the house you can catch him in the act and this will ensure your Greyhound trains that much quicker.

Greyhounds are used to going out in their yard with a human around. If you just shove your pet out the door, he'll spend more time worrying about where you are than on what he's supposed to be doing.

If he doesn't go when you expect him to during the first few days, you should make an extra effort to keep him close to you so that you can prevent a mistake.

If you're busy, you should crate him.

If he looks antsy, he goes out again.

It is important to differentiate between bathroom walks and exercise walks. The scheduled bathroom walks should be in a restricted area where the dog is taken to do his duty. You should walk back and forth in this area or stand in one spot and let the dog walk around you. Do not distract him with talk. When he goes, praise him. The use of positive reward or praise gives notice to a specific action so that the dog associates this behaviour with the reward.

TRAINING YOUR GREYHOUND

One of the main reasons Greyhounds make such wonderful pets is that they are easily trainable.

Retired racers believe that people are all-knowing and all-powerful, making you the natural choice to set the ground rules. Keeping your dog under this illusion will be a great benefit to your relationship! A few tips that will make the training process go smoothly:

The role as leader or coach of your Greyhound is a serious responsibility. The messages you send will shape your dog's idea of the world.

Outline ahead of time what is acceptable and not acceptable behaviour for your Greyhound and make sure all family members abide by the rules. A family meeting should be held before the dog arrives to your home, in order to set the expectations and limitations with all the family members, children included.

- Can he get on the furniture?
- Where can he sleep?
- Where can he eat?
- What will be his treats?
- Who will feed the dog?

Be consistent. Don't allow him/her to do one thing one day and not the next. In most instances, a firm, sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your Greyhound.

Once your Greyhound knows the family rules, another effective way to reprimand him is to firmly scold him and then totally ignore him for several minutes. Greyhounds crave attention and this approach will reinforce his guilt.

Remember that your dog will respond to your reaction, not your words. If he seems afraid of something new, and you cuddle and coo over him, he will quickly get the idea that he should react timidly to any new situation. Reassure him by stroking his neck.

Be aware that this life is a new experience for your Greyhound and simple things such as stairs, glass doors and shiny floors may frighten him at first. Take the time to show him that these new things are no big deal and easily mastered.

Always praise your Greyhound when he has done something good.

Adults and children should participate in hand feeding the Greyhound either treats or food on a regular basis. A hand that feeds is also a hand that is more likely to be trusted taking things away.

Throughout the dog's life, he has relied on someone to set boundaries for him; first his mother, then his trainer, and now you. He is counting on you to tell him what is good and what isn't.

Always remember, you're in charge - he's not.

HOME ALONE

Up until now, your Greyhound has led a very different life than that of a house pet. Even the most simple, common things in our everyday life can be completely foreign to a Greyhound and a little intimidating. A little patience and a lot of love will help you and your new pet make the adjustment.

When leaving your Greyhound alone, remember:

One of the hardest things for your Greyhound to adjust to will be loneliness. This dog has lived its entire life with either litter mates or kennel mates and people coming and going most of the day.

Never leave your dog outdoors, particularly in the winter. With their short hair, Greyhounds are very susceptible to cold (and heat exhaustion.)

Never tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain, or "runner" as Greyhounds are not used to being tied to something stationary. They can get tangled up and injure themselves, or will pull, wiggle or chew their way out. Greyhounds can generate a lot of power very quickly. If they are tied up then they could forget they are tied, take off running at their blazing speed, and snap their neck when they hit the end of the line.

A big as set in this adjustment period is the XL crate. This portable XL cage provides the security your dog needs as well as protecting both the dog and your house from each other. You should have an extra-large crate for your Greyhound, the largest crate available.

Your pet is used to having his own crate in the kennel, a nice old bone and a warm comfortable place with a blanket in which to nap the day away. Using a crate is not cruel; it provides the sense of security your dog needs. A radio or TV will provide soothing background noises.

The first few days you should use an old washable blanket or something similar in the crate. A favourite bone can be placed in it and the door left open. Remember, Greyhounds are used to sleeping on paper or carpet in the racing kennels.

At mealtime, one idea is you can place your dog and its food in the crate. This will reinforce the idea that this is his own spot.

THE CRATE GAME

Before you leave you dog for an extended period, you should practice leaving for short time intervals and then build up.

Don't pay attention to your Greyhound a half hour before leaving, or half hour after coming home. This will help the transition period for your dog and curb the separation anxiety problem.

The next time (even a few minutes later) repeat the process, but this time leave the room. Plan to hide for several minutes and then let him out. This teaches him that you always come home. If your Greyhound acts up when crated, stomp into the room and tell him he's terrible then stomp out again. You can even smack the top of the crate if you like-ham it up! After a few minutes of quiet, praise him enthusiastically again. The crate will provide an escape for your dog if children are harassing him. Of course, the strictly enforced rule is that no one should bother the dog when he is in the crate. Keep repeating this crate game and extend to longer periods each time.

If you decide not to use a crate because someone is home most of the time, you should choose a room to keep the dog in when you're gone. You will need to practice just like the people using crates. You will receive a muzzle and using it will help protect the dog and your furnishings.

All dogs, including Greyhounds, have a need to chew; it helps to relieve tension and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large sterilized bone or cow hoof to chew while you are away. Children should understand that this bone is strictly the dog's, and not a toy to be taken away from the dog.

EXERCISE

A popular myth about Greyhounds is that, as ex-athletes, they require a lot of exercise. In reality, the Greyhound is a pretty lazy pup. A retired racer is quite content to be a "couch potato" and spend most of the day sleeping. However, we do recommend a certain amount of exercise, which not only is good for your dog, but good for you as well.

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 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 also should let the dog investigate hazards in your yard such as a barbecue or planter. The first time your dog exercised in your yard off the leash should be in daylight and under an adult's supervision.

You may need to restrict your dog's activity in a new area. Greyhounds have been conditioned for sprinting and may become 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. Greyhounds exercised primarily on and 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 two or three 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 split webs, or ice cuts. 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. Boots and coats are also available. Each dog is an individual with different activity levels. Generally, younger dogs enjoy higher activity than older dogs.

Most Greyhound pets can be kept happy and healthy with a 30-minute walk daily. Although romping and running in a large fenced area is fun, it is not essential every day.

But remember that exercise is one of the most important activities of your dog's daily life for both physical and mental health.

DO NOT: Exercise your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed and protected - this is

asking for a disaster to happen. The Greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. Something as small as a paper cup blowing across the street from the park could mean your dog's death. Once your pet is focussed in on this moving object, he no longer hears you; he is running on pure instinct. For this reason, electronic fencing is not permitted. An unenclosed fence also lets other dogs into your yard.

Most Greyhounds walk very well on a leash. If your pet starts to pull or freezes as he 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. A pocket full of treats is also handy to be used as bait.

GROOMING YOUR GREYHOUND

One of the nicest features of your pet Greyhound is that he is virtually permanently pressed! Grooming needs are minimal and take just a few minutes a day. Your Greyhound should only be bathed when soiled. Greyhounds have little oil in their skin so they have little "doggy odour" and rarely need a bath.

If you need to shampoo, select a conditioning shampoo designed for animals from a good pet supply store or your veterinarian. Never use human shampoo. Even products as gentle as baby shampoo will seem harsh to your pet.

Be sure to rinse, rinse, & rinse again after bathing. Any soapy residue left can be an irritant to your dog's sensitive skin.

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-nibbed rubber brush or mitt will aid in removing more stubborn elements such as dead hair and dried mud. Once a week, you should inspect your pet's ears and clean them gently with a cotton ball or swab dipped in Professional ear cleaner (available from your vet), or in 1 part hydrogen peroxide and 10 parts water.

Your Greyhound will have its teeth professionally cleaned upon adoption. When you take your new pet for its first checkup, have the veterinarian inspect his teeth. To maintain dental hygiene brush your pet's teeth weekly, your veterinarian will be happy to show you how to brush your Greyhound's teeth. Most Greyhounds have poor dental conditions so care should be taken to ensure you maintain the dog's oral hygiene.

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.

VETERINARY CARE

Greyhounds are a very healthy breed with none of the inherited health problems commonly found in other large breeds.

Prior to your adoption, your dog was spayed or neutered, checked for heartworm and parasites, tested for tick illness, and had its vaccinations updated. Please take this to your veterinarian so that your Greyhound's file can be established.

Following are a few things you'll want to do to help your Greyhound lead a long and healthy life:

Heartworm prevention will be one of the most important things you can do for your Greyhound. We recommend one of the chewable, monthly, preventative tablets, or liquid topical doses. Your veterinarian will advise you regarding when to start this protection. Many families prefer to continue year round plans, while others find returning to the clinic each spring to have their dog rechecked and restarted on the medication is better for them.

Annual check-ups and re-vaccinations should be planned near the anniversary of your adoption. This will serve as a good reminder to renew your local dog license as well.

Before allowing your dog to be anaesthetized or tranquilized be sure your veterinarian is familiar with the procedures and dosages appropriate for a Greyhound. Because Greyhounds have so much muscle bulk and so little fat, these drugs react more powerfully on them. The normal dose of anaesthetic for another breed of dog of the same weight could be fatal to your Greyhound.

- Avoid administering sulfur containing anaesthetic agents, e.g.; thiopental and thiamylal.
- Monitor a Greyhound's temperature under anaesthesia as malignant hyperthermia does occur.
- Some Greyhounds may develop spontaneous bleeding one-to-four days after routine minor surgery or trauma.

An educated Greyhound owner is the single most critical factor in insuring the long-term health of these beautiful canine athletes and friends.