



## **Arriving at home**

When your Greyhound arrives home, please bear in mind your dog may not have been in a home environment before. Your dog will settle in at its own pace, there should be no rush. Remember, they want to become part of your family as much as you want them to be, so be patient and you will reap the benefits and enjoy the experience of seeing them grow from a kennel dog to a family pet.

Domestic appliances which are commonplace to us, such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, TV etc. will be all alien, even laminate flooring may initially spook them. When taking your dog around the house put them on a lead initially so they can see everything in a calm manner. After a few minutes, take the lead off and sit down, letting them roam around on their own. By this stage the initial excitement will have worn off and they can snoop around calmly. Set the house rules from day one, so they know what they can and cannot do, and ensure all family members are familiar with these guidelines.

Their first few days in this alien world can be quite daunting for them and they may become anxious. Signs of anxiety are pacing, panting, and diarrhoea, not eating and drinking and whining at night when left alone. Some anxiety can be shown through destructiveness.

## **House training**

No one can guarantee a house-trained dog but most Greyhounds are clean in their kennels, and once they know where you want them to empty, they will be happy to stick with that routine.

House training should begin as soon as your dog arrives home. Take them straight into the garden, wait until they relieve themselves and then reward them.

After this initial visit to the garden, keep repeating the routine at regular periods throughout the day.

If your dog has an accident indoors, bear in mind punishment does not work and can make the dog worse. Anticipate when your dog needs to go, take them outside and praise and reward them when they 'go'. Any 'accident' in the home should be washed thoroughly with a solution of biological washing powder, as this will take away the smell, otherwise they will constantly re-mark over that spot.

Take them to the toilet immediately after food, when they get up and before they go to bed and, of course, in between. Some signs to look for when your dog needs to go to the toilet are restlessness, pacing up and down, whining, scratching at the door or circling

# Feeding

Many new owners already know how and what they want to feed their dog, based on past experience. There is a huge range of food products to choose from. These guidelines will help to keep your Greyhound fit and healthy. Our Rescue will advise you on what to feed your hound and how much.

## Water

Water should be available at all times and changed regularly. **Never** leave your dog without fresh water.

## Fresh Meat & Vegetables

All dogs and Greyhounds are no exception, love meat, fish, pasta and vegetables added to their main meal. It gives the sometimes bland food, a bit more flavour and adds extra vitamins and minerals.

## When to feed

Your Greyhound will benefit from a smaller breakfast in the morning and a main meal in the evening – it has to suit your routine, but try to stick to regular feeding times. Additional items that can be added to the main meal are:

- a. Teaspoon of sunflower/fish oil to help maintain a glossy coat.
- b. Cooked eggs in any form can be enjoyed once a week or so.
- c. Cheese, an excellent training aid and can be crumbled on top of dog food.
- d. Oily fish, such as sardines or pilchards and other filleted fish are a healthy treat each day.
- e. Red cooked meat (beef) only a small amount.

Human chocolate, raisins, salt and raw onions are poisonous to dogs. They simply cannot digest it. Please keep these things out of Greyhound nose reach as most of these dogs are thieves and will pinch anything.

Also be aware of dangers in your kitchen, open food tins, broken glass etc. Keep all bin lids closed. Never allow your Greyhound to scavenge or pick up bits of food outside the home. There may be poison or vermin bait present and the consequences can be a serious illness or even death.

Do not feed your dog before a long journey or just before or just after exercise. Always wait about one hour to help food digest properly. It is recommended that you feed your greyhound from a raised bowl on a stand whenever possible as greyhounds have such long necks and legs that it is awkward for them to eat from a bowl placed on the floor.

## Keep a grip of your dog

From a very young age Greyhounds have been trained to walk and exercise on the lead. The only off lead running they do is at the track and sometimes in an enclosed area.

When adopting a GRNE dog, you must sign a disclaimer to state that you will not let your dog off for at least the first 3 months after you have signed the adoption papers. We feel that this is enough time for you to bond with your dog and the dog to know that you are its owner. However some Greyhounds cannot be let off the lead but are still happy to go for their walk on a lead.

Muzzles should be used when exercising off lead

# Fireworks

Any pets, including Greyhounds can be terrified of loud noises. Fireworks, storms, thunder and lightning may scare your dog. Don't leave them alone if possible. During firework season, take your greyhound out for their walk before dark. Draw the curtains at dusk and put the radio or television on. Your greyhound will look to you for your response to the sounds so try not to react. Let your dog go to where it feels safe and do not keep pampering them – they will only respond more to the noises around.

## General care

### Ears:

Ears should be checked regularly, as although ear infections are no more common with Greyhounds than other breeds, they can occur. Regular cleaning of the outer ear with cotton balls, plus warm salt water, will keep the ears free of wax that can trap germs leading to infection. Many Greyhounds have very sensitive ears due to the tattoos that are put in them while they are puppies. This helps identifying the dog in its racing period and also helps determining a dog's age, so take care when handling them.

### Parasite Control:

Regular grooming of your Greyhound will ensure you are quickly aware if they pick up fleas or ticks. There are a variety of products available to control parasites; however the more effective ones can be obtained from a veterinary surgery or animal supply shops e.g frontline.

Your dog will have had a worming treatment at the kennels before you take them home to ensure their intestines are free from infection. Regular doses with a complete wormer available from the vets or animal supply shop are necessary. We recommend worming at 3 monthly intervals.

### Feet & Nails:

The feet and nails have been very important to your Greyhound while they have been racing and need continuing care from you. Their nails will have been clipped short on a regular basis and you will notice they grow quickly. Once you have their trust, hold their feet firmly and gently clip a small amount from their nails straight across with sharp animal nail cutters or you can ask your vet to give them a trim.

Check your Greyhounds pads, feet and legs for cuts after they have been exercising outdoors. This is particularly important if they have been running in a large area that you cannot examine completely. Sharp stones, sticks, thorns and glass can cause cuts or become embedded in the foot. Wash their feet in warm soapy water and seek veterinary advice if necessary

### Skin & Coat

Many Greyhounds have bare patches, especially on the bony prominences or on their rumps. This is usually due to poor bedding or the hound's preference to lying on concrete or wet paddocks or stress. With good food, soft bedding and regular brushing, your dogs coat will soon improve and look shiny and healthy. Some dogs may come with scars from their racing days. These, once healed, rarely give any trouble.

## Teeth

Good dental hygiene cannot be overstated.

Dogs, like people, can get gingivitis (inflammation of the gums caused by bacteria) and can suffer from decay and lose teeth without proper care. Gingivitis is a primary cause of bad breath in canines.

Regular chews, cooked knuckle bones and dental treats (available from pet stores) will help with some of the plaque build-up, however brushing their teeth is the most effective form of dental care. Some dogs will let you brush their teeth straight away; however, others will need to have their confidence built up.

Regular attention to the mouth will save money for you and pain for your dog later. Check your greyhound's teeth and gums regularly and seek veterinary advice if in doubt

## Heat and cold

Greyhounds are particularly susceptible to extreme temperatures, as they only carry a small portion of fat on their bodies.

This may be more obvious in the cold weather, but not so obvious in the heat. In the colder weather pop a coat on them to keep them warm. They could develop pneumonia should they become too cold. Coats should be big enough to cover from the neck to over the tail.

Like all dogs, greyhounds get very hot on warm days. They will pant, possibly be grumpy (like us really) and try to find cool places to lie. In hot weather, leave your greyhound in peace as much as you can. Remind children to cuddle a lot less, if at all.

Please remember to take care and to only walk your greyhound before it heats up in the morning or at night when it has cooled down. If they are reluctant to go for a walk, then just give them the opportunity to toilet in the garden and let them lie..

**Never leave a dog in a hot room or car – they can die within ten minutes.**

Symptoms of heat stroke are distress, severe panting and collapse. If you think your greyhound is showing signs of this, cool your dog as fast as possible with cold water or ice applied to the head and back. If there isn't an immediate improvement get veterinary help immediately.

## Cats

It is important to remember that not only greyhounds chase cats – so do many other dogs!

Greyhounds are sighthounds after all and their instincts have been deliberately bred for chasing and they have been trained to chase something small that is moving. Always watch your dog around cats and smaller animals while out walking.

Take the advice of the Rescue, if it states that it is **Not Cat Friendly**, it won't be and if you have a cat, leave well alone.

# Getting older

Ageing is a genetic process and your dog ages at a much faster rate than you do. Dogs are classed as mature at 18 months. The life expectancy of a dog ranges from 8 to 16 years and varies according to state of health.

## **Signs of ageing:**

Ageing changes occur gradually and may not be obvious to you as you see your dog every day. You might see changes in coat colour, greying of the muzzle, sleep pattern, appetite and thirst, body shape, reluctance to exercise and behaviour. Many of these changes also develop as symptoms of diseases, so have your dog checked by your vet regularly.

## Dealing with anxiety

It is extremely important to remember that probably your greyhound has never been left alone in a house before. So if you have to leave him at home alone, he may be scared and confused. He's wondering... Where did you go? Will you return? Where am I?

Here are a few tips to help ease this common separation anxiety:

### **Practice leaving your greyhound for a few minutes at a time, to start with.**

Don't make a big deal about leaving (If he thinks you're going somewhere and having more fun than he is then he'll definitely be upset!) and just leave for 15 minutes at first. If possible, gradually increase this time away to a few hours. He'll soon get the idea that you're coming back and his anxiety about you leaving him forever will be eased. An item of worn clothing that belongs to yourself can provide comfort for your dog.

### **Dog-proof your home.**

Keep your windows unobstructed from knick-knacks and blinds. Your greyhound will go to the window first to look for you and if there are blinds or other objects in the way, they could get eaten when he gets anxious! Be aware of the danger that your greyhound may try to run through transparent glass in patio or other doors, unless the glass is obscured in some way.

## Your dog in the countryside

Whether ambling along leafy lanes, rambling through forests, or exploring new access land, the countryside is a great place for you and your dog to explore and enjoy.

1. Control your dog so that it does not scare or disturb farm animals or wildlife.
2. When using the new access rights over open country and common land, you must keep your dog on a short lead between 1st March and 31st July - and all year round near farm animals - and you may not be able to take your dog at all on some areas or at some times. Make sure you follow any official signs.
3. As a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals.
4. If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead - don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it.
5. Take good care that your dog doesn't scare sheep and lambs, or wander where it might disturb birds that nest on the ground and other wildlife - eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.
6. Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess can be and how it can cause infections, so always clean up after your dog and dispose of its mess responsibly.

## **Important points to remember**

- It is a legal requirement that an ID tag is worn by the dog at all times.
- Never use an extendable lead. A greyhound can accelerate from a standing start to nearly 40 mph in no time at all and with an extendable lead, the potential for disaster is all too obvious.
- The positioning of the dog's collar is very important. It should go up behind the ears, which is the thinnest part of the neck and should be tight enough to get two fingers between the collar and the neck.
- When out and about in public places with your dog, pick up its dog mess with a bag and put it in a bin.
- If exercising a Greyhound off lead in a public area (keep a grip of your dog) then a muzzle should be worn

Any Problems please get in touch

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