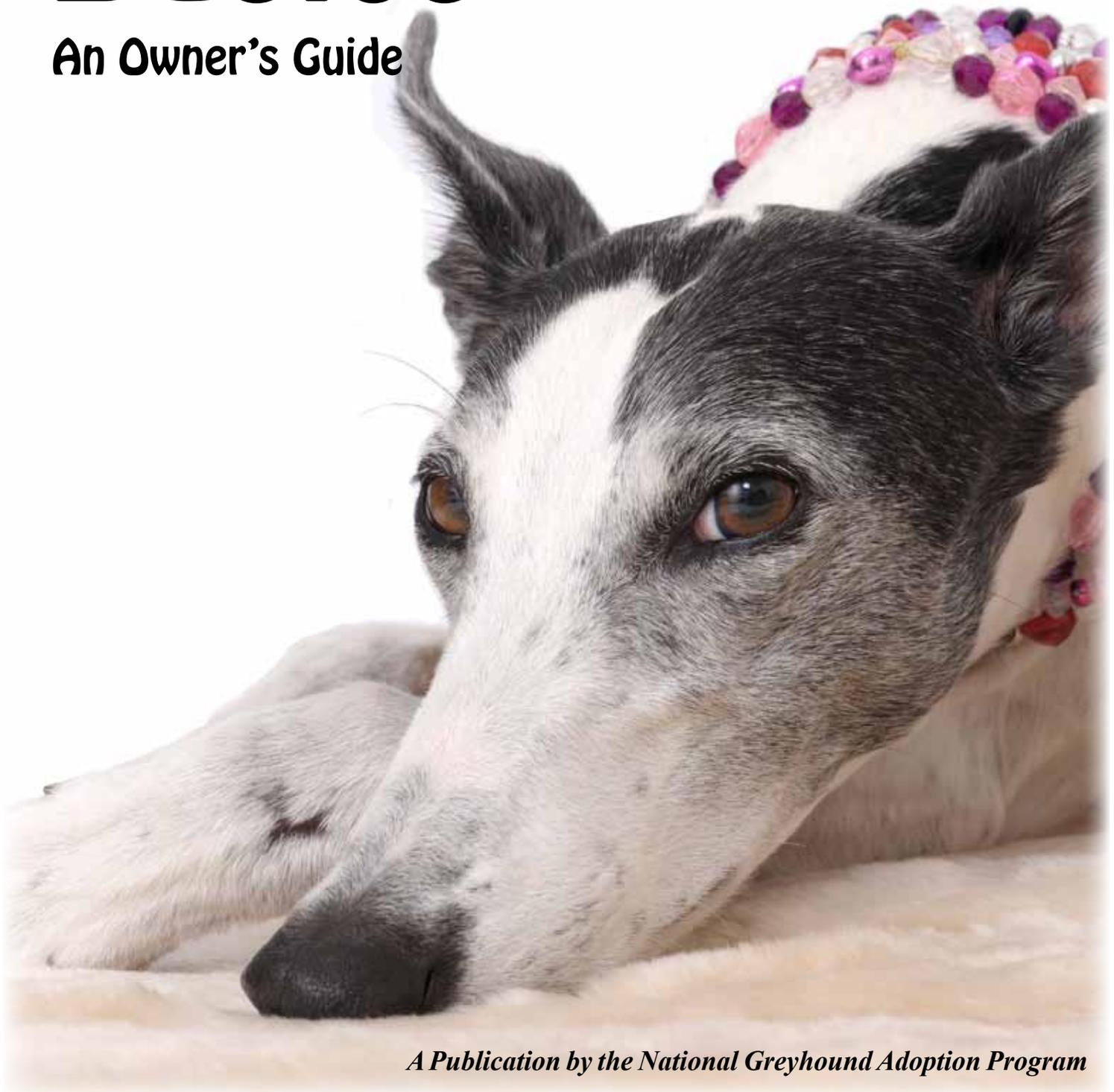


Greyhound Basics

An Owner's Guide

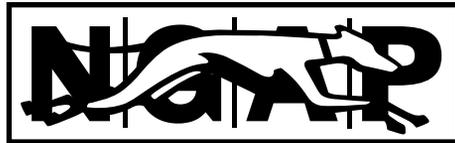


A Publication by the National Greyhound Adoption Program

Greyhound Basics

An Owner's Guide

A Publication By



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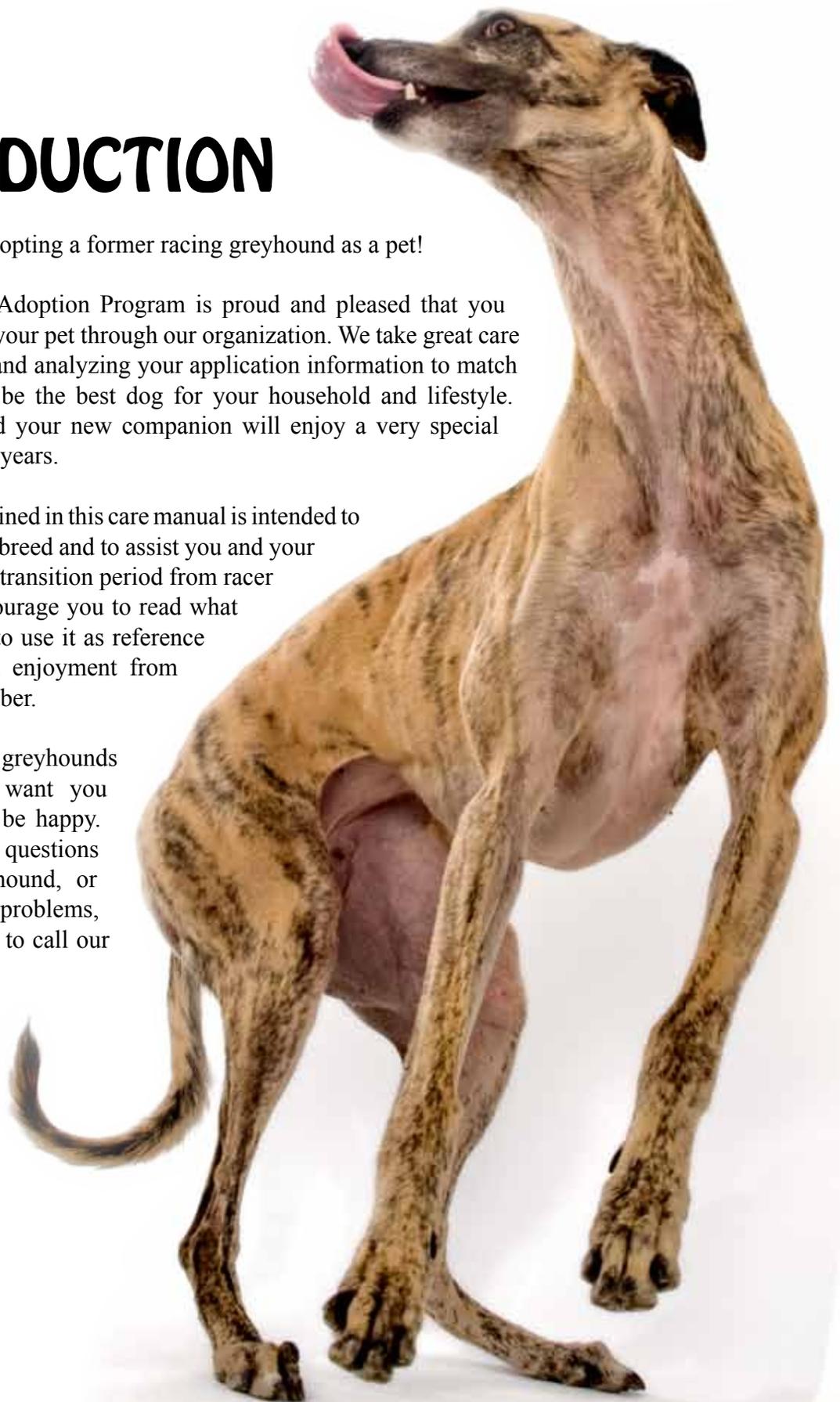
INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on adopting a former racing greyhound as a pet!

National Greyhound Adoption Program is proud and pleased that you have chosen to adopt your pet through our organization. We take great care in profiling our dogs and analyzing your application information to match what we consider to be the best dog for your household and lifestyle. We trust that you and your new companion will enjoy a very special relationship for many years.

The information contained in this care manual is intended to acquaint you with the breed and to assist you and your greyhound during the transition period from racer to house pet. We encourage you to read what we have written and to use it as reference to achieve maximum enjoyment from your new family member.

NGAP is devoted to greyhounds and their care; we want you and your new pet to be happy. Should you have any questions regarding your greyhound, or if you encounter any problems, please do not hesitate to call our Dutton Road office.



PROPER USE OF THE GREYHOUND MUZZLE

Adjust the strap to the proper approximate size of your greyhound's head. The muzzle strap should fit easily over the head with the strap closed and adjusted, but should not be so loose that it can be rubbed off against a fence or other object.

To put the muzzle on, position the basket in front of your greyhound's nose and slide the strap over its forehead and ears. Re-adjust the strap if necessary so that basket of the muzzle does not push against your greyhound's nose.

MUZZLING YOUR GREYHOUND

Your greyhound began wearing a muzzle at the same time it started wearing a collar. He was always muzzled while racing and often wore one in the kennel where he lived. Muzzling your greyhound is not cruel and can serve a multitude of purposes.

Knowing the appropriate time to use a muzzle really depends on how well you know your dog. Newly adopted dogs should be kept muzzled whenever they are introduced to children, other dogs (both large and small), cats, and other pets. Your greyhound should be muzzled anytime you are not in the immediate vicinity to supervise the situation until you are sure everyone is getting along. If your greyhound exhibits aggressive, territorial, shy, or anxious behavior, especially while in his crate or while sleeping or resting, muzzling your greyhound is your safest option until your dog learns to trust you and until he learns what is expected of him. In addition, the muzzle eliminates your greyhound's ability to chew his way out of his crate.

Muzzles can also be used to restrict your dog from exhibiting other undesirable behaviors such as counter surfing, chewing, and general destructiveness when left unattended and to control the licking and biting of sutures and stitches after surgery. A stool guard inserted into your greyhound's muzzle will eliminate feces consumption when outside. Competitive greyhounds that nip and bite other greyhounds and dogs while running should be muzzled as a precaution against such behaviors.

If your greyhound has not been wearing a muzzle for awhile, chances are he will not enjoy wearing one. Rest assured that he will get used to it. Be forewarned that some greyhounds will be very clever in removing their muzzles from their face by rubbing it against a protruding object and pulling it off. This can be avoided by obtaining a plastic collar like those worn at the racetrack and looping it through the muzzle while it's on.

Responsible use of a muzzle can be a very useful tool because it will help you to achieve positive results early on so that ultimately you won't have to use it in the future!



Proper position of the muzzle.

LEASH AND COLLAR



Martingale Collar

Most dogs can wear a buckled collar or metal or nylon choker, **but not a greyhound**. Your greyhound has very little hair around his neck and needs a collar that will not injure or irritate it. He also needs a collar that will not allow his small head to slip out. A martingale collar is designed for the greyhound and, when adjusted properly, will keep your greyhound from escaping.

Always be sure to have the following ID tags on your greyhound's collar: NGAP ID, Personal ID, Rabies, Microchip, and Applicable County License (if any). If your NGAP tag is lost, please notify us at 215.331.7918 for a replacement. Replacement tags are \$4.00 each. It is important to attach the tags to the side ring of the collar and not the "D" ring where you attach the leash. If the tags get caught on something, a dog could panic and choke because the collar tightens around their neck by the "D" ring.



Personal ID

Use a four to six foot nylon leash. Your greyhound should be very familiar with the leash. If he does pull on the leash as you are walking, then correct him. The best way is to just stop and make him ease up before you continue. Try working with him indoors on the leash until he learns that pulling only means he will not be going anywhere. Soon he will be walking by your side.

Your greyhound may walk great on a leash at the park and always come when called in the backyard but do not assume he will hear you or even pay attention to you in a wide-open space. NEVER LET YOUR GREYHOUND RUN LOOSE IN AN UNSECURED AREA. His natural instinct, bred in him for thousands of years, is to run after anything that excites him and to run away from anything that frightens him. His total attention is then focused on what he is doing, whether you approve or not.



Rabies Vaccination ID



HomeAgain Microchip ID



NGAP ID

ADJUSTING TO A NEW ENVIRONMENT

The first few days in its new home, your greyhound will probably follow you every-where. This is his way of learning your routine and his intense desire to fit in. Your greyhound's past was centered on imposed uniformity in a rigid environment. A daily routine helps him know what to expect and when. Include him in your activities to make him feel special, useful and like part of the family. Leave him for short periods without making a big fuss when you come and go, so he understands that he will be spending some time alone; you do not want to unintentionally create separation anxiety. Do not overwhelm your new pet. Where to eat, sleep and eliminate should be the first priorities with exercise and play also being taken into account.

The more your greyhound is handled and talked to, the sooner he will trust you. Start by giving names to things he enjoys. He will learn non-verbal signals first and will use his senses and your routine to determine the outcome. For example, the sound of the food bin means mealtime, the sight of the leash means a walk. By accompanying simple words like "dinner" and "walk" with these activities, your greyhound will soon associate words with their outcome.

Introduce your greyhound to his new environment at a comfortable pace and let him lead the way and absorb what he encounters. The sights and sounds we experience daily are all new to your retired racer. If he becomes frightened and stressed, he will rely on you for reassurance by watching your reactions. Encourage him to view new experiences as positive and not fearful. Do not overly comfort him at the first sign of something unpleasant or he may think that being afraid is something you want because you reward him with a lot of attention when it happens. Do not crate or restrain your dog when he is afraid. Instead try to divert his attention with another activity, get him to relax and, when he is calm, reward him. Every greyhound adjusts differently and you must be sensitive to your dog's feelings.

When your greyhound is unsure of something he may watch and listen from afar until he feels more secure. Once he becomes more comfortable he will emerge and join in. You know your former racer is adjusting to his new home when he starts to do things that are funny and make you laugh. He may have his head so far in a basket that all you see are bare buns, your cat is now his pillow and they are both happy, the kiddie pool has become a great place to cool off and your greyhound comes to you wearing your daughter's doll's hat. Your former racer is now a family pet!!!





HOUSEBREAKING

Former racing greyhounds are not housebroken, they are crate-trained. They keep their living areas clean, but need to be taught to view their new home as one big crate. Some greyhounds learn quickly while others have to be taught room by room. This is done by confining him to one room and gradually increasing the areas he is allowed in.

At our kennels the dogs are turned out at 6:00am, 9:30am, 1:30pm, 4pm and 8:30pm-10pm. This schedule may not be suitable for your household. The best way to help train your new pet is to take him out every few hours during the day to a specific area. Gradually extend the time he has to wait before going outside and soon a pattern will emerge. Remember that he was turned out at the same time four times a day and never had to communicate his need to go out. You can look for signals, such as pacing or sniffing the floor. Take him out and calmly praise him as he is eliminating and offer him a treat immediately when he is done. Always take him out 15 minutes after he eats, a few minutes after he has played hard, when he wakes up from a long nap and just before bedtime.



If your greyhound has an accident, use an enzyme-based cleaner specifically for pets such as Nature's Miracle or vinegar and water, to neutralize the odor. If you catch your dog in the act, do not punish or reprimand him or he will be afraid to go when you are watching. Instead take him by the collar and calmly say "outside" and escort him there. Reward him when he finishes his business outdoors. Eventually your greyhound will learn to give you cues indicating he wants to go outside.

FURNITURE, DOG BEDS & CRATES

From the moment your greyhound comes home, everyone in the family should be clear on what furniture he is, and is not, allowed to be on. Giving in just once will start a trend that it is okay to be there. Greyhounds are well-versed in 'Adoption 101' - find the most comfortable spot (remember they may not offer it to you), look content (they have a soft heart) and pretend you are asleep (they have heard of sleep aggression).

Even if you allow your greyhound on the sofa or bed, he still needs a cushion he can consider his own. Soft and comfortable padding is needed for your greyhound's bony joints. Greyhounds love to dig and rearrange their beds, so make sure what you select is sturdy and filled with manageable materials - you may encounter having to stuff the contents back in. A bed made of cedar chips may irritate skin, solid foam may tear, beads generate static and down fill may make your house look like a feather factory. Loose Dacron or shredded foam is best, along with a washable durable cover that will keep the bed clean and the contents intact.

A crate was your greyhound's first accustomed home. He considered this his private retreat and where he was fed both at the racetrack and at the NGAP kennel. When selecting a crate, choose a wire crate versus a plastic travel-style crate. Wire crates allow better air circulation and enable your dog to see what is going on around him. The crate should be large enough to allow your greyhound to stand comfortably and to be able to turn around. A crate measuring 30 inches wide by 48 inches deep by 36 inches high will hold most greyhounds. Use a nice thick crate pad and add a washable blanket for cold nights. Place it in an area that is warm and free from drafts. Leave a radio playing softly nearby since music was played in his kennel both at the racetrack and at the adoption center.

Your greyhound should never be left in a crate for more than 8 hours. When it is not being used, keep the door open to allow him to choose when he wants to use it. Crates are a great management tool, and should never be used as punishment.

Baby gates and x-pens are also good ways to manage your greyhound.



FEEDING YOUR GREYHOUND



NGAP recommends that your greyhound be fed twice a day; once in the morning and again in the evening. At the NGAP kennel, the dogs are fed at 8:30 am and 4:30 pm. Because most of our food is donated, we feed our greyhounds a blend of premium dogs foods so as not to upset their stomachs, although you can use any food of your choice. We recommend feeding four to five cups of dry food a day and then adjust the amount of food by watching your greyhound's weight. Some dogs may actually need to gain 2-3 pounds. A healthy physique is characterized by a slight definition of the last two or three ribs.

Feeding time should be fun and enjoyable for your greyhound. Make sure he is fed in the same place and about the same time every day. Free feeding (always leaving food available) is discouraged; it will encourage a picky eater. If you have more than one dog, monitor their

feeding, so each dog can finish his meal at his own pace.

Dry food helps keep teeth and gums healthy. You may add a small amount of warm water or broth to the food, but do not make it sloppy. Adding cooked vegetables, rice or meats into his food is a personal preference. If you decide to change your pet's food, gradually add the new into the old to allow his system to adjust. Always try a small amount first to see how well your pet tolerates the addition. Most dogs love cottage cheese and yogurt, which is a healthy addition. Avoid junk foods containing a lot of salt, sugar or fat. Some dogs cannot tolerate the lactose in milk products and ice cream. **NEVER GIVE YOUR DOG CHOCOLATE, GRAPES, RAISINS OR ONIONS. THEY CAN BE FATAL.**

Keep in mind that proper nutrition should be the most important feeding consideration. Read labels and avoid foods containing less than 20%, or more than 27%, protein, more than 12% fat, and less than 5% fiber. Older dogs will need more fiber and less protein in their diets. Many pet owners avoid dog food that contains artificial colorings, meat by-products (leftover animal parts), soy (can cause gas), or meal forms of grains (manufacturing by-products). Regardless of what brand of dog food you select, if your greyhound's weight is good, his coat is shiny and healthy, and his energy level strong, you are doing it right!

Greyhounds enjoy chewing as a means of cleaning their teeth, massaging their gums and relieving stress. Make sure you provide your pet with some chew products. Hard natural bones are very abrasive and can actually wear away the teeth of an aggressive chewer. If you want to give your dog a bone make sure it is a raw marrow bone, about 6"-8" long. Let him chew on it for one hour intervals then freeze it for later use, allowing about 45 minutes thawing time before giving it to him again. Dried or pressed rawhide can cause problems if chunks are swallowed because they will swell when wet and are not always completely digestible. Treats containing Red Dye #40 can cause diarrhea, vomiting and allergic reactions. Molded rawhide is safe. Nylabone brand of treats are made of a non-abrasive nylon that is digestible. Regularly inspect all chew toys to make sure they are in good condition and throw away pieces that have become very small.

Your long-legged dog will appreciate a raised feeder; otherwise you may find him eating while lying down. Use a stainless steel flat-bottomed bowl; it can be easily cleaned in the dishwasher.

Omega 3 capsules (1000mg per day) are good for your greyhound's coat and Vitamin E (400mg per day) will help his immune system and muscle tissues.

Fresh water should always be available to your pet.

FORCE FEEDING YOUR GREYHOUND

In your greyhounds lifetime, you may encounter several instances in which it is appropriate to force feed your greyhound. Most greyhounds will permit you to force feed them.



1. Prepare several manageable chunks of canned dog food. We like Hill's Canine Maintenance.



2. Take a chunk of dog food in the index finger of your dominant hand.



3. Firmly hold the upper jaw and tilt the head back.



4. Open the mouth and use your index finger to push the food/pill, etc., all the way down the greyhound's throat.



5. Use your free hand to rub the dogs neck until it swallows.



6. Wait a few minutes and then repeat if necessary.

EMPTY STOMACH SYNDROME

Many greyhounds suffer from 'empty stomach syndrome'. If your greyhound metabolizes food quickly, he will begin to build up stomach acid not long after his last meal. If you can hear his stomach growling and/or see him eating grass, you know he probably has an upset stomach. Your dog may not want to eat, which will only compound the problem. If your dog will not eat on his own, the best way to break the cycle is with forcefeeding. We suggest using a solid-type canned dog food such as Science Diet Maintenance. Scoop it out into chunks with a tablespoon and follow the force-feeding instructions in the next section. This puts food into their stomach which then begins to metabolize. Your greyhound will start to feel better and should be more willing to eat. Empty Stomach Syndrome can be corrected by separating your greyhounds daily rations into three meals instead of two. The last meal should be fed around 9:30pm so that your greyhound does not wake up with an upset stomach.

GULPING FOOD



Gulping food can be a problem for greyhounds because it can create bloat. Dogs that gulp their food down can also ingest pockets of air which can cause this condition. Although it is not common in greyhounds, we have seen a few cases over the last twenty years and it can be fatal. Placing a few large, smooth, round rocks into your dogs food bowl will make it more difficult for him to gulp food. He will have to work around the rocks to get to it. Wash the rocks off after each feeding with a little soap to prevent the build-up of bacteria. You may also spread your greyhound's food across a cookie sheet. The dog then has to move around and slowly pick the food off of the cookie sheet. Eventually your dog may learn that its food is not going to go away and may start eating at a more leisurely pace, at which point you can start using normal feeding practices.



DEALING WITH SLIPPERY FLOORS

Many greyhounds never had any exposure to slippery floor surfaces such as ceramic tile, linoleum, vinyl or polished floor boards while they were on the track. Introducing your greyhound to these new surfaces sometimes requires a little patience and ingenuity. The best way is to let your greyhound conquer his fear of slippery floors on his own. Initially, he will probably try to find ways around them. Some dogs will lean against the wall to get to where they want to go. Any strides he makes toward overcoming this fear should be greatly rewarded. Encourage him slowly and positively. Non-skid area rugs can make it easier for your greyhound to adapt.



It is also important to keep in mind that dogs do not generalize. The tile floor at the back door may not be a problem, but the tile floor in the hallway might be because he may have slipped there before. Time and experience should sort out any difficulties your greyhound may be having as long as he is introduced slowly and without force.

Some greyhounds that fear slippery floors may also fall into the category of having low esteem. We have seen greyhounds with low esteem respond favorably with thyroid supplementation, which may often eliminate that fear of walking across hard surfaces.



GLASS & MIRROR HAZARDS

To a greyhound, a glass window, door, or even a full-length mirror can appear as an opening instead of a solid surface. Take the time to lead your new pet to each window, door and mirror and tap on it or let him touch it. It may be necessary to cover the glass with stickers, masking tape or a curtain until you are sure your greyhound is safe.

Screened-in openings can mean an escape route to greyhounds interested in pursuing something outdoors, even if the window is on the second floor. Please take care when leaving screened windows and doors open.



LEARNING STAIRS

Every greyhound can be trained to go upstairs if you want it to. Some people may not want their greyhound to join them upstairs, but most people like to know where their dogs are as they sleep at night. They can tell you if they need to go out and wake you in the morning with a wet lick! What better way to wake up (as long as it's not 3am)!

Many greyhounds have never been exposed to stairs before and find them quite frightening. In fact, the anatomy of a greyhound was not built for the stairs. He will probably need assistance and to be convinced to even try them. If you have carpeted steps, that always makes it easier. If you have wooden steps, that makes it harder. Carpet treads will help if you can put them down. Usually getting your greyhound up the steps is easier than getting him down. One method which teaches your greyhound to do steps is the 'Push/Pull/Reward' method. Make sure you have a good supply of small treats.

Leash your dog and gently but firmly pull your dog upstairs while another person gently pushes from the rear. Once the dog gets to the top, he gets a reward. The same applies when going down. If your dog is an alpha be sure to muzzle it for safety purposes. After going up and down the stairs several times using the reward system, your dog should have it down pat!

You may also introduce him to a low set of stairs initially (numbering no more than three or four) to gain the dog's confidence. Let him lean against your leg as you take hold of his collar at the bottom of the steps. Use the treats to encourage him while you put his front paws on the first step, and then encourage him to bring his rear legs up onto the first step. Slowly alternate his front and then his rear legs up the stairs, rewarding him as he goes. Some greyhounds



may attempt to tackle steps as one continuous motion and get stuck halfway up. They will pause and then need to regroup to figure out which foot should go next to continue. Make sure nothing is left on the steps or your greyhound may become bewildered and fall. Some greyhounds will have no difficulty with stairs right from the outset. For some, going up is easier than going down. Assist him carefully down or he may be inclined to jump all the way down in a single bound. Wood, metal and tile steps are especially hazardous and you should consider carpeting them if your greyhound is having difficulty.

TRAINING YOUR GREYHOUND



Greyhounds are very bright and intelligent. They are very obedient as long as they are convinced that what you want them to do is important. They are great at filtering out what does not interest them. The “Intelligence of Dogs” ranked the greyhound’s obedience and working intelligence at 46 out of 79 (1 being the highest). Your former racer will tune into his environment, using what he sees, hears and smells, to discriminate. He will filter out and use only what is important to him. If something your dog sees, hears or smells is familiar, then he experiences certain expectations. For example, reaching for your briefcase means you are leaving, the sound of the garage door opening means you are home, and the smell of bacon means it is Sunday.

Training must be interesting, challenging, fun, and positive. You must always use rewards he will work for. He will conserve his energy waiting for the right thing to come along. Anything having to do with running and jumping is considered interesting. Figuring out how to do things is challenging. He will learn quickly but will also bore easily.

The tone of your voice makes a big impact on the way your greyhound responds to a situation. If you shout, your dog will become confused, scared and stressed. A firm regular tone allows your greyhound to better comprehend what you want him to do or not to do. Only use his name when something good is happening.

Always reward your greyhound and use the word “come” when he approaches you, whether you called him or not. You want him to associate that coming to you will mean good things happen. Treats can mean lots of praise, pets or food. Never use the word “come” if it means something unpleasant is about to happen. If you need your dog to do something he does not like, then go and get him without using his name or the word “come”.

Your greyhound should be taught to wait before bolting out the door or charging at his food bowl. You can first start with a treat. Show it to him and tell him to “wait”. If he starts to go toward it, close your hand. Try it a few times until he does not try to get it and then say “okay”, and give it to him. The same technique can be used with his food bowl. Make him stand back and “wait” until you tell him it is “okay”. You can raise and lower the bowl until he understands to stand back.

Train your greyhound to wait calmly while getting on his leash. Teaching him to wait not only reinforces that you are the leader of the pack but is a great safety measure while you are walking on the leash. Always praise him when he does something right.

If you have a greyhound that jumps he could injure a small child or a frail adult. You need to leash him or put him in another room until he calms down. If he tries to knock you down every time you walk in the door, simply turn your back to him and pay no attention to him until he calms down. In time he will learn that jumping does not pay off.

If you own a counter surfer then you need to first remove anything worth stealing from the counter. Some greyhounds are very sensitive to noises and if you use a noisy booby trap, like soda cans filled with pennies, it could scare him to the point that he will be fearful of the entire room. It is better to catch him in the act and firmly but calmly correct him.

Most greyhounds are never taught to sit during their early life. At the track, the dogs were discouraged from sitting because they always had to be ready to take off. Also, their cages were not tall enough to enable their bodies to get into that position. The easiest way to teach your greyhound to sit is from a laying down position. Keep a treat close to his nose and move it slowly upward. When he is in sitting position, give him the treat and say the word “sit”. Another method is to start with his back-end in a corner. Hold the treat near his nose, and move it between his eyes. Sitting is not very comfortable for a greyhound because their weight is on their hind legs and their rear ends usually do not touch the ground. But they soon forget how uncomfortable they are when they discover that treats are involved!

GROOMING



Grooming your greyhound should include coat brushing, ear and teeth cleaning, nail clipping and an occasional bath. Not only is grooming a good way to bond with your dog, but it allows you to inspect your dog for possible problems. By constantly touching and inspecting your dog's teeth, ears, feet, and body, you will become aware of anything unusual such as irritations, parasites or lumps. If, all of a sudden, your dog becomes uneasy or uncomfortable when you touch a certain part of him, it may be a sign that something is wrong.

The first few weeks we recommend that you brush your greyhound daily using a special grooming mitt or a micro fiber cloth. After that, once or twice a week should be sufficient for keeping his coat shiny and healthy with minimal shedding. Add Omega 3 to his food if his coat is dull and dry and make sure he drinks more water.



Your greyhound had his teeth professionally cleaned and any dental issues were addressed prior to his adoption. Once your greyhound is home, it is up to you to maintain his teeth. Healthy teeth and gums means daily care. Greyhounds generally have bad teeth due to their previous track diet and track care. Dry food, biscuits, chewies and daily use of a finger brush or dog tooth brush along with toothpaste or gel specifically designed for dogs, will help keep plaque and tartar under control. If not properly taken care of, your greyhound could get dental disease, which can cause serious health problems. Infections can form along the gum line causing tooth loss and the bacteria can be transmitted into the bloodstream and carried into the kidney and heart. Watch to make sure your greyhound has a healthy mouth. Inspect his gum line regularly. Once or twice a year you must have your dog's teeth checked and cleaned professionally. Red swollen gums, bad breath, loose teeth and tartar accumulation are all signs your greyhound is having dental issues and needs immediate attention. Your greyhound's mouth is its #1 impactible health issue. You must always keep a vigilant eye on its teeth and gums.

Greyhounds have little oil in their coats for dirt to cling to, so a bath is only occasionally needed. You can spot clean any mud or dirt he has encountered with a damp cloth or pet wipe. Your new pet is sensitive to temperature. Bath water that is too hot may cause your dog to faint and bath water that is too cold may cause your dog to get chilled. Always use a good quality shampoo designed specifically for dogs.

Former racers come from the tracks with very dirty ears. Even though your dog's ears were cleaned several times prior to adoption, you still must check and clean them regularly. Ears can be cleaned with a cotton ball and an ear cleaner made specifically for dogs. Greyhound's ears should be nice and pink and never have an unpleasant odor.

Keeping your greyhound's nails trimmed can be your greatest grooming challenge. You will need dog nail clippers, a file and styptic powder (such as Kwik Stop) to stop any bleeding. Take off only the part of the nail in front of the quick. If you find it difficult to trim your greyhound's nails, have them done regularly by someone who can do them properly.

While you are grooming your greyhound be sure to inspect his footpads. When you first get your greyhound you will notice that his pads are very soft. The sand he ran on protected those delicate pads. Be mindful of their contact with extreme heat and cold. Friction can cause the pad skin to thicken and develop a painful corn. If your greyhound starts to develop rough pads you can use a special ointment to aid in softening them. If he does develop a corn he will need a dog boot or to have it surgically removed.

GREYHOUNDS & CHILDREN

Greyhounds are successfully placed in homes with small children everyday. If children properly handle your greyhound he will become the love of their life. However, public records show that children are the most common targets of dog bites in general and even a gentle greyhound can snap at a child who hits, pinches, startles or otherwise torments it. When an excited, squealing child rushes up to a dog, the intense stimulation can trigger a defensive or fearful response.

Greyhounds are not built for the rough and tumbled world of boisterous children and do better with older, quiet, considerate children. Their docile quality reinforces the need for children to be calm and gentle when playing with them. Even though they love to run and seem to be rugged, they are prone to injury and must be treated gently due to their lack of padding, thin skin, light coat and long bones.

Do not teach your greyhound to fear children by holding his leash too tight, pulling him back or acting edgy around children. These actions will signal something is wrong and, if you reassure him at the same time then, you are teaching him to fear children. Watch first how he reacts. If you feel unsure, use a muzzle to keep the meeting positive and happy. Reassure your greyhound as he responds positively to children so he knows he is doing the right thing. Teach your dog to accept child-like handling. Gradually have a child slowly and gently handle him. Reward him with a kind word, a treat or just a nice pet. Use a muzzle until you are sure it is safe and separate both child and dog when you cannot supervise all of their interactions. Remember, even an overly happy greyhound's tail can hurt or knock down a small child.

All children should be taught how to interact with your dog. They should never approach a dog while he is eating or sleeping. When a dog retreats to his crate or another area that he considers safe, he should not be bothered or cornered. Greyhounds are very mild-mannered and have a natural flight instinct rather than a fight instinct. If they get cornered they will try to escape, rather than confront. A greyhound will feel threatened if unable to escape and may growl, bite or give a warning snap. A warning snap is not intended to make contact. It is your dog's way of communicating that he is upset with the situation and wants to get away. Rather than break through this invisible barrier, call the dog to you, subsequently eliminating the barrier.

Children should be taught to pet a dog below his head. Patting a dog quickly on top of his head is annoying to the dog and violates his concept of secure, personal space. Have the child reach up under his chin and scratch his neck.

Do not let your greyhound sleep with your children until you are totally sure your dog shows no signs of sleep aggression. Make sure children are careful when using doors and gates so your greyhound does not escape. Teach your new pet to "wait" and not bolt out of the door until you give the "okay".

A greyhound will enjoy bonding with children who understand how to treat them properly. They are perfectly content lying by children's sides as they read or play quietly. With some encouragement, he may become very playful. Once your new pet discovers how much fun he can have with the children, he will be romping and joining them in their daily activities.

It is important to understand that not every match is perfect. If you are having a problem with your greyhound and your children, you may, under some circumstances, have to return the greyhound to insure everyone's safety.



SEPARATION ANXIETY



Some greyhounds suffer from mild to severe separation anxiety. This stems from confusion in your leaving and fear that you will not come back. Typical severe symptoms are howling, barking, scratching or chewing at furniture and papers, and even wetting and messing around the house in your absence.

Greyhounds are pack rats. Collecting family member's personal belongings is a mild form of separation anxiety. If something is missing, just go look in your greyhound's favorite spot and you will probably find it there. They do not mean to steal; they just like to accumulate a stash of goodies, since they never had anything in their crates at the racetracks.

Below are some helpful suggestions to help your pet adjust to your comings and goings. Get your greyhound used to being alone gradually. Leave him for short periods of time and gradually extend the time. Before leaving the house, pay minimal attention to your greyhound and keep your contact low key when you return. Try not to make a big fuss over either event.



If your greyhound has a tendency to chew, use a muzzle while you are away.

You can also crate your greyhound while you are out. Greyhounds often regard their crate as a safe and comforting place to be but if the crate makes the condition worse, then confine your greyhound to a room instead, using a baby gate so he can see out. Do this randomly, not just when you intend to go out, so he does not connect the two events together.

Music is helpful; it was used at both the racetrack and our kennels.

Leave your greyhound something special to find while you are away and remove it when you return such as a treat-filled toy, or a nylabone.



Making sure your greyhound gets enough exercise can also be beneficial when dealing with separation anxiety. Most anxious greyhounds are usually destructive within the first few minutes after you leave, but if he is worn out both mentally and physically he may take your departure as a chance to get some peace and quiet.

It is important to not punish any separation anxiety related destruction. Your dog will not only fear your leaving, but also your return.

If your greyhound shows extreme separation anxiety, please call our office for further instruction and possible medication.

FEAR OF THUNDERSTORMS

All dogs have sensitivity to the static charge that is built before a storm, the change in barometric pressure and the smell of ionized air. They may become anxious long before a storm as they begin sensing these changes. Some dogs will head to the nearest tub, sink or toilet where the electricity is grounded or retreat to an area where the sounds are less noticeable, such as a closet. Try to make the area where your dog feels safe as comfortable as possible. If rain is in the forecast when you know you will be away, make sure the area your dog retreats is accessible to him.



Do not comfort your greyhound at the first sign of thunder and lightning. Instead, calmly and cheerfully, try to divert his attention and then reward him as long as he is not fearful. Turn on the radio and close the window curtains. Never lock your dog in a crate or other small space; it will cause panic to a fearful greyhound.

A “storm defender coat” can be purchased and worn by your greyhound. It has a metallic liner that discharges the static from his fur. Some people rub their dog’s fur with a fabric softener sheet to decrease the static. Sometimes it helps to place a dog bed or blankets in an interior closet with the door open. You may want to try multiple remedies to help with this problem.

If nothing else works, talk to your veterinarian about medication to help your dog; he may have a thyroid deficiency.

SLEEP AGGRESSION

At the racetrack kennels, greyhounds spend most of their time in their crates. The sound of the kennel door opening woke them before they were touched. Being touched while he is sleeping is something your greyhound has not experienced. Your greyhound may respond to being disturbed or surprised with a restrained snap or snarl. Understand that a dog that growls or snaps upon being disturbed while sleeping is not automatically or generally considered to be an aggressive or vicious dog. There are many schools of thought on how to desensitize your greyhound from exhibiting this behavior and they all take patience, understanding and time. Still, some dogs will never overcome the tendency to be startled upon waking, and some will never be willing to share their sleeping quarters. The best rule to enforce with friends and family, especially children, is that the dog is to be left alone while resting and/or sleeping. When waking your greyhound, try to use his name or make a sound, like clapping or whistling, before you touch or try to move him. Some greyhounds sleep with their eyes open making it difficult to know if they are awake or asleep.

If your greyhound is known to be sensitive while sleeping or resting, it is best not to allow the dog to use your furniture as its bed. A specific place for the greyhound should be designated with a soft bed or blanket on the floor or in a crate with the door left open, and everyone should understand that this place is off limits for all but the dog. It is also important to take great care while walking over or around a sleeping dog.



GREYHOUNDS & OTHER PETS

Retired racers are very social and have lived with other greyhounds all their lives. However, the situation can be very different with cats and other small house pets. Greyhounds were bred and trained for centuries to chase, catch and kill small animals. Great care must be taken when introducing your greyhound to any animal, but extra precautions must be taken when acquainting him to your cat, small house pet or small breed dog.



GREYHOUNDS AND OTHER DOGS

NGAP suggests that when you first arrive home with your new greyhound that you bring your other dog or dogs outside or to neutral territory to meet each other. Utilize a leash and muzzle and try not to pull on the leash during the introduction. Take them on a 15 minute walk so that they can get accustomed to one another. If the resident dog is not a greyhound, your greyhound may seem hesitant.

If all goes well outdoors, bring your pets inside and remove their leashes. Interaction should take place with both dogs muzzled until you are sure everyone is getting along. Feed your dogs in separate areas and avoid giving them treats or toys that they might potentially guard. Aggression is mostly related to food, toys, space and certain family members. During the first few months, please be vigilant whenever your greyhound encounters other pets and/or animals to prevent any unfortunate encounters from occurring. Remember to reward all positive responses.

GREYHOUNDS AND CATS

At NGAP, each of our greyhounds are put through an extensive series of tests to determine whether or not we feel that greyhound is cat safe. Each greyhound is exposed to our five cats, each with very distinct personalities, in a very controlled environment. Our staff member closely observes its reaction to the cats on several different occasions to be sure of an accurate read. If you do not have a cat in your household at the time of your adoption with us, your greyhound may have been chosen for you knowing it will not be exposed to cats and other small animals. If you decide to bring cats and/or other small animals into your home at a later date, please do so with caution. If we are aware that you have a cat, then be assured that we have selected a dog that we feel would get along with him. It is still important to muzzle and leash your greyhound before introducing him to the cat. Keep the cat at a distance and if your dog begins to overreact, firmly correct him. Reward him for any positive responses. Use the muzzle and leash each time they interact. If things are progressing well, use just the muzzle until you are confident they are getting along. Keep in mind that even though your greyhound and cat may get along indoors, the situation could change drastically once they are outdoors. Be sure to supervise any outdoor interaction as you would the initial indoor interaction until you are sure it is safe for both pets. Every dog/cat relationship is different and you should always err on the side of caution until you know that everybody is getting along. If you feel that your greyhound and your cat are not getting along, please contact us immediately.



PACK STATUS



Whether you have just one greyhound or several, each dog must have an unmistakable understanding that you are the leader of the pack. When you have one dog, its pack is your family. With two or more dogs there are two packs; one pack is with you and your family and the second pack is with just the dogs.

The dog-only pack has a pecking order that can be very subtle or very obvious. The dogs themselves decide their leader and you must reinforce their decision and try not to change it. Disturbing this natural pecking order can be very confusing and dangerous to the dogs. The appointed leader should get everything first. Most dogs understand where they fit in and really do not care.

It is common for pack status to change several times a day under different situations. Have faith that the dogs will straighten out their own problems by bickering and play fighting. These are natural ways in which dogs communicate with each other. Unless it is serious, do not interfere. If a problem should occur among your dogs, make sure they understand that **YOU** are the ultimate leader. Be calm if you have to intervene. Many times an argument will occur only in your presence, when the pack dynamics have changed. If all this is confusing, just remember that dogs decide, discuss and argue over whose turn it is to be top dog and they will let you know who the boss is at the moment.

HIGH PREY CHARACTERISTICS

If your greyhound sees an animal and starts to blow puffs of air from the sides of his cheeks, smacks his lips, pricks up his ears, flicks his tongue from side to side or freezes in place and intently stares at the animal, then he is ready to chase. These high-prey signs mean he is not safe around small animals. Some greyhounds react only to small animals when they are outdoors, but not indoors. Some greyhounds only react to all-white animals. Be aware of these signs. If you have no other pets then everything should be fine. If your neighbor, friends and relatives have small pets then you need to take extra precautions. Use a muzzle and leash for the safety of both animals and humans. Your greyhound could get injured while trying to catch the animals and you could get injured trying to intervene. Make people aware that your dog is not good around small animals.

The greyhound possesses an independent trait which motivates him to chase a moving object regardless of human permission or guidance. This is done with such a quick burst of energy that you cannot even begin to try to stop him. Because this is such a strong instinct, the need for a fenced-in yard and the use of a leash is of the utmost important to the safety of your greyhound. Your greyhound will not change and it is not fair to risk his life by hoping he will remember you do not want him to chase.

A greyhound should never be restrained on a chain run or tied up outside. If attracted by an animal, he will run to the end of the run so fast that he could break his neck or become tangled and get injured. If your dog is high-prey driven, do not use a retractable leash. It will have the same dangerous effect as a chain run and will be compounded by potential injury to you. If you happen to let go of the leash, the sound of the retractable handle hitting the ground will frighten your greyhound as he continually tries to run away from it.

People who do not have a fenced-in yard may want to install an electronic fence. This type of fence does not keep your dog safe from outside dogs and animals. Greyhounds with a high-prey drive will run after whatever has gotten their attention and may not stop even if pain is involved. They may, however, be afraid to return and get shocked again. Electronic fences do not work for all greyhounds and are discouraged.



EAR TATTOOS

Every greyhound is unique because of the tattoos in its ears. Those tattoos were applied by the breeder when your greyhound was still a puppy. They are intended to provide permanent and positive identification for each greyhound.

Inside the right ear you will find a series of two or three numbers followed by a letter. This indicates the month and year when your pet was born. The digit just before the letter is the last digit of the birth year and the other digits are the numbers (1-12) represent the month your pet was born. For instance a right ear tattoo of 118A means that your greyhound was born November (11) of 2008(8). The letter following the numbers sets your dog apart from its littermates as their ear tattoos are identical.



Right Ear Tattoo: Birth Month, Year & Order



Left Ear Tattoo: Registered Litter Number

In the left ear you will find a series of five numbers digits. That number is the litter registration number assigned by the National Greyhound Association, the sole registry for racing greyhounds in North America. These numbers were checked every time your greyhound raced to ensure the integrity of the race.

These tattoos can be quite useful should your pet get lost or be stolen and can result in the return of your pet should it ever stray or become lost. Anyone familiar with greyhounds knows to check tattoo numbers and report them to the NGA or to local greyhound groups. If you are having trouble reading your greyhound's ear tattoo numbers, it helps to shine a flashlight behind the ear.

All racing greyhounds have two names. One is its registered racing name which is the name listed in the racing program when it raced. This name must be unique to the dog and cannot exceed sixteen letters and spaces. Your dog's other name was its kennel name or 'call name'. It is generally a short name by which the dog is called in the kennel. Hence, the registered name 'Sundee Extra' may become 'Dexter'. Dexter would be the name to which the dog answers. You will be told your new greyhound's call name if we know it, but if you would like to change it, your greyhound won't mind! Given enough time, he will answer to any name you give him!

Littermate, racing, bloodline and breeding information on your dog can also be obtained by calling the National Greyhound Association at 785-263-4660 or by logging on to www.greyhound-data.com and using these numbers. Please be advised that these two entities are not affiliated with each other and there may be some discrepancies.



Screenshot of Pa's Ice Man from www.greyhound-data.com

TEMPERATURE SENSITIVITY

The greyhounds low body fat, thin skin and fine coat make them very sensitive to temperature extremes and insects. They must live indoors and cannot be kept in an outdoor kennel or pen.

SUMMER

During the summer months, try to confine your greyhound to shady areas when he is outside. If he will be exposed to the sun for any period of time, protect his ears, nose and skin, with sunscreen designed for babies. Pavement can become too hot for your dog's paws once the temperature reaches over 80 degrees. Walks are best taken early in the morning or once the sun begins to go down. Be sure to provide fresh water if you are going on a long walk, riding in the car or spending some time in the yard together.

Your greyhound's tongue is a major dissipating organ. If it becomes swollen, immediately cool him down with a cold damp towel. The ears also act as dissipaters and you can dampen them to aid in cooling. Always seek medical help if your dog has trouble cooling down. Never leave your dog in a hot car.



WINTER

Your greyhound will need a warm coat on cold wintery days and should not be out for long periods of time once temperature drops below 40 degrees. However, your greyhound may take great delight in romping in the snow. Make sure his playtime is safe by checking for ice balls and salt that can get lodged between his toes. Don't forget to dry him off thoroughly when he comes indoors so he does not get chilled. If your dog begins to shiver or lift his paws, it is time to go back inside.



EXERCISING YOUR GREYHOUND



Your greyhound will spend most of his time indoors relaxing and laying around. He needs to burn off this conserved energy with a run in the yard, a nice walk or a burst of energy up and down your hallway. Greyhounds need at least an hour of exercise per day. Although backyard exercise is perfectly acceptable, daily walks provide more mental and physical stimulation for your dog and help build a bond of trust between you and your new pet.



Your living space will be a big factor when evaluating your dog's exercise needs. If you live in an apartment, small house, or condo with no yard, your dog will need around 2-3 short walks per day and 1-2 long walks. Your greyhound will also enjoy a good run in a completely enclosed fenced area a couple of times a week.



The age and condition of your greyhound will also determine the type of activity you can engage him in. A senior greyhound may be not as eager to join in romping with other dogs, but will love a nice quiet walk with just the two of you - he still wants to be part of your life even though he is slowing down.

Greyhounds are sprinters, not distance runners, so if you intend to run long distances with your dog, start with a one-mile jog and slowly increase the distance. A long run can be detrimental to your greyhound's health if he is not conditioned.



Whether it is jogging or walking, make sure to monitor your greyhound for signs of fatigue or overheating. Heat exhaustion is common in dogs. It can happen in your backyard, or on a walk. New environments and areas can be exciting to your greyhound and he can easily overdo it. Always carry a bottle of water in case your dog gets overheated. Dogs cool themselves by panting. If panting does not adequately reduce the body temperature of your dog, he will develop heat stroke. Look for signs such as heaving sides, heavy panting, vomiting and wooziness while standing. If this happens, give your greyhound small amounts of water at a time so he does not vomit it back up. Apply cold, ice-soaked wet towels or cloths and walk him slowly to cool him down and keep changing the towels as they warm up. Immediately call a vet. If you can, take your dog's temperature. Your dog's normal temperature should be 101.5 degrees. Any temperature over 104 degrees is extremely dangerous. If your dog has heat stroke every second counts and it is imperative that you act quickly.



Never walk your dog in the heat. Early morning and evening walks are the safest times to walk your pet during the warm weather season. If the sidewalk is too hot for you to walk barefoot, it is too hot for your dog to walk on. Greyhounds are also prone to sunburn. Gentle sunscreens made for children can be applied to your greyhound's skin, but it is best to keep your dog in the shade whenever possible.

Wait at least an hour after your greyhound has eaten before engaging him in any kind of physical exercise to protect against bloat or indigestion. Bloat is a condition affecting mainly large-breed dogs where the intestines become twisted and blocked. Symptoms can include pacing, restlessness, a swollen stomach, and attempts to vomit. This medical condition is extremely serious and will require emergency veterinary care. A nice short leash-walk after a meal is fine.

GREYHOUNDS & YARDS

If you have a fenced-in yard, you should walk your greyhound around it on a leash the first few days after his arrival. Once you are certain he will come to you you may let him off-leash to explore. Otherwise, you may spend hours chasing your dog to get him back in the house.

Greyhounds are prone to injuries because of their speed and fearlessness toward chasing moving objects. Even a fenced-in yard can be dangerous to a romping greyhound exploring or on a mission in pursuit of the backyard squirrel. Inspect your yard regularly for potential hazards. Poisonous plants, lawn chemicals, damaged fence areas, holes, tree branches, garden tools, toys, swimming pools and even lawn furniture are some of the things you need to be concerned with when you have a greyhound. Confine those areas that may pose a problem or divide your yard with a second fence.

Greyhounds are very creative and can learn to unlatch gates. Make sure your lock is secure and that everyone knows to always keep the gate locked. Also, make sure all boxes, garbage cans, other obstacles, etc. are placed far away from the fence so your greyhound cannot use them to climb out.

Greyhounds love to dig. You can provide him with his own sandbox or give him a digging pit filled with pine bark and a few toys so he will use it and not the rest of the yard. If you do not want him to dig then you will have to supervise his outdoor excursions. Fill any unwanted holes and cover them with plastic fence mesh to curb re-digging and promote the re-growth of grass.

Great care must be taken if your backyard has a pool. Your greyhound has never seen one and will not understand that it is water and not a solid surface. He may also think your swimming pool is not deep and just a big puddle. It is important to expose him to it right away, so he can adjust and understand what it is and how to deal with it. If not, your retired racer could mistakenly run right into it without even knowing! Greyhounds are not natural swimmers. Their low body fat and large muscle mass mean they have no buoyancy; they do not float. They may not instinctively dog paddle and may just slowly sink to the bottom or turn over on their sides in the water. If this happens, be prepared to jump in and save them. Introduce your greyhound to the pool by walking it around the perimeter and touching his paw into the water. Be sure to supervise any outdoor activities where your greyhound will have access to it, much like you would a small child. Put a life jacket on your dog until you are sure he can swim. Fencing-in your pool area or a special area for your dog is also helpful in ensuring the safety of your greyhound and may provide you with more peace of mind than supervision alone.

Many greyhounds enjoy soaking in kiddie pools. You may want to take your greyhound to visit a friend who owns a kiddie pool to see how he acts before you buy one.



BOARDING YOUR GREYHOUND



NGAP has its own boarding facility and will happily accommodate your greyhound and other dogs in your household, enabling all your four-legged family members to be together while you are away. Your greyhound will enjoy romping with other greyhounds during his stay. If you would like to **schedule a boarding reservation** for your dog(s), please call our office at **215-331-7918**. All dogs boarded are required to be up to date with all vaccines including the Kennel Cough vaccine, Bordetella.

Always thoroughly check out any boarding facility before leaving your greyhound so you are confident he will be properly cared for. Take your dog's food, treats and medication so his system will not be disrupted. Make sure you leave all the necessary phone numbers where you and your veterinarian can be reached. Many places allow favorite toys and blankets to accompany your dog. Jot down information about your dog such as his routine, habits and personality traits. If your greyhound loves to smile, let them know, so they do not think he is aggressive. If he is not staying at a kennel that is familiar with greyhounds, make sure they understand what to expect from your dog and what your dog cannot tolerate.

If you decide to board your greyhound with NGAP, he will be treated to nail clipping and ear cleaning. Your greyhound can also enjoy a professional grooming shampoo just before being picked up for an additional fee of \$20. Boarding time is a good time to have dental cleaning and booster shots. NGAP performs more dental procedures than any other facility in the United States and our over-all rates are extremely reasonable.

Drop-off and Pick-up Hours:
8:30am – 10:30am
2:00pm – 4:30pm
7 days a week, including holidays*

***Holiday hours may vary. Please call the office at 215.331.7918 for more information. NGAP reserves the right to adjust boarding rates at any time. Please check our website for the most current rates.**



TRAVELING WITH YOUR GREYHOUND

If you are one of the many greyhound owners who can't bear to be apart from your best friend for any length of time, you will need to know the basics of traveling with your dog.

Traveling with your greyhound can be a great source of fun. Most greyhounds enjoy riding in a vehicle, and also do well on trips or vacations and careful planning will make your trip go that much smoother.

Although NGAP does not endorse any particular method of traveling with your greyhound, we trust that you, as the owner, will research your options and decide on the method that is best for you, your family, and your dog.

Whether you plan to fly or drive, a trip to the vet is a necessity before you leave. Airlines will definitely require a health certificate to be issued by your veterinarian before your departure. Check with your airline for paperwork deadlines and requirements. If you're visiting a foreign country, they will require a health certificate to enter the country. Each country's requirements may be different. Without the required vaccination records, your pet may be quarantined. We also recommend that you know the laws regarding pet ownership in the areas you will be traveling to. Some areas may have very strict regulations, and you may prefer to leave your pet at home rather than risk encountering any difficulties.

Discuss with your vet any medications you may need to take along, or that may come in handy while you and your pet are traveling. If your greyhound does not get a clean bill of health from your vet, he would probably be better off staying home.

Make sure you have current tags on your greyhound. An accurate personal ID tag, county license, NGAP ID and microchip tag are a must. Do not attach your greyhound's ID tags to the "D" ring of their martingale collar; use the side rings. That way if the tags get caught on something, he won't choke attempting to free himself. While traveling, you may want to cover your dog's personal ID Tag with opaque adhesive tape or paper with the address of where you are staying and local or cell number where you can be reached and then seal it with clear tape.

You might consider informing NGAP of your travel plans in the event your pet gets loose while you're traveling. Many people and organizations will contact us when they can't find you. Keep a recent photo of your greyhound along with a record of their ear tattoos, microchip number, proof of vaccinations and your greyhound's health record with you. Keep our phone number with your travel documents so you can contact us if you lose your dog on your trip.

Don't forget to take plenty of food, water and any medications your greyhound needs. It's always preferable to keep your pet on the same food and routine to eliminate some of the stress from traveling. Be sure to take lots of plastic bags, paper towels, water and a pooper-scooper for cleaning up after your pet. Research your destination and route as many parks and recreation areas do not allow pets. You may also want to research local vets for emergency purposes. If your greyhound is going to meet other animals, make sure you pack his muzzle. Take your dog's toys and other belongings to help him adjust to his new environment





TRAVELING BY CAR

If traveling by car, you may choose to crate your dog. A wire crate is a good choice as it provides better air circulation and viewing for your greyhound than other types of crates. Your pet will be far safer in a crate in the event of an accident than he would be if he was loose in the car or van. Make sure the crate is large enough for your dog to stand and turnaround in. Place the crate in a well-ventilated area of your car so he gets plenty of air.

For greyhound owners who prefer to have their greyhounds remain loose in the car, make sure there is plenty of room for your greyhound to stretch out and relax during your trip. Providing soft blankets and cushions for him to sleep on

will help him to settle down and get comfortable. Fill the backseat leg-space of four door cars with cushions or soft packed bags and cover with a blanket to increase safety and provide more room.

Try to stop at dog friendly locations, where your pet is welcome. Provide him with plenty of water. Never, ever leave your pet in a car. In warm weather, your car will heat up quickly and your greyhound can overheat and die.

Dogs should only travel on long trips if they enjoy car travel, if it can be helped. Some dogs will routinely get sick while traveling by car while others love it.

HOTEL ROOMS

Many motel and hotel chains have become pet-friendly in the last few years, but it is important that you check with your specific hotel location on the weight and size specifications of your canine companion and any restrictions they may have.

Before you subject your greyhound to a hotel for the first time, we suggest that you try an overnight stay at a local hotel first. This will allow you a chance to monitor your greyhound's behavior in a new and strange place. Not all greyhounds enjoy and adapt well to new environments. If your greyhound is comfortable with hotel stays, you may still want to keep him confined to a crate or X-pen when you leave him alone in your room. Your greyhound may try to follow you after you leave and a stressed, anxious, or frightened dog may become destructive.

AIR TRAVEL

If you're traveling by air, make sure you find out your airline's requirements for animals traveling with you. Airlines will require you to crate your dog. Check with your airline for specific crate requirements. Some airlines will not permit large animals to fly in or out when the weather gets hot (above 80 degrees). Space is also usually limited, so be sure to make your reservations early. If traveling by air, make sure you have the approved crate and label it properly with ID and destination. Discuss all details with your airlines.

Most importantly, never, ever let your greyhound off the leash when traveling! Be very careful when opening and closing the crate door and vehicle doors.



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR GREYHOUND GETS LOOSE

National Greyhound Adoption Program would first like to stress the importance of always having identification tags on your greyhound. You never know when he may slip out your door and it is far better to be safe, than sorry!

If you can still see your dog once he escapes, quickly try getting his attention and then run the other way in hopes that his chase instinct will kick in. Make noises or act like you found something he would like so he will run after you.

PEOPLE TO CONTACT

If you cannot get your dog back in less than five minutes, immediately notify National Greyhound Adoption Program, both office and kennel. This is important if your dog is found and someone calls the number on the ID tag from our group. Someone will be there to help them and you.

Your greyhound has been micro chipped and registered to either HomeAgain Pet Recovery or AKC Companion Animal Recovery. Be sure to notify whichever pet recovery program your pet is registered with that your pet is missing. If you do not know which one, call both. Animal shelters, animal control and veterinarians all have microchip readers and should be able to read this microchip and accurately identify your pet in the event that he comes into their custody.

Call all surrounding town police departments. They won't look for your pet but they will pick it up if they see it. If your Police Department is separate from Animal Control, be sure to notify your local Animal Control Officer/Dog Warden as well. Call local animal shelters and humane societies to alert them, as well as nearby park workers in case your pet ran into a park.

Give the breed, size, sex, color, name and where your greyhound was lost and last seen. Give your name and phone number in case he is found. Continue to check in with the various agencies each day or every other day for any updates.

The following numbers are important to have handy in the event that your greyhound goes missing:

NGAP Office:	215.331.7918
NGAP Kennels:	215.331.3625
HomeAgain (24/7):	1.888.466.3242
AKC Car:	1.800.252.7894

Call your friends and family - anyone that can help. Group members, volunteers, friends and family can initiate a search.

FLYERS

Make up flyers and posters as well as place an ad in your local newspapers. Radio stations may even be able to give you a plug. Flyers should include the following information:

- your pet's picture
- your pet's name, size, sex
- date it became missing
- where and when last seen
- phone number where you can be reached
- any special instructions, medical conditions, etc.

If you have internet access, register your pet on www.petfinder.com or www.dogdetective.com. These websites can also help you to design flyers and contact local shelters. Plastic page protectors will help preserve flyers in extreme weather. If you want to offer a reward do not specify what or how much.

Post flyers on poles, stop signs (eye level to cars), bus stops, park benches, pet shops, vet offices, convenience stores, near the mailboxes of the houses in the area where your pet was last seen, business windows in the town the dog was seen and in at least one nearby town – any place where groups of people frequent. If you receive calls of sightings, extend this to those areas.

Hand out flyers to mailman, construction workers, cable guys, telephone repairmen, etc. Keep a picture with you and show it to anyone walking on foot. The more people who know who your dog is and what he looks like, the more chances you will have of someone spotting him and calling you, or picking him up.

YOUR INFORMATION HUB

Someone should always be available to take or return any calls coming in regarding your lost pet. Respond immediately to any phone calls regarding sightings. Many people will just let a dog loose that they have found, thinking it will find its way home. It's important to let them know you will come get your dog immediately.

If you cannot be reached directly by phone, make sure you have an answering machine on at all times. If possible, have someone who can check it frequently and can get in touch with you if there is a sighting. Some people may call and say they saw the dog "2 hours ago". Though the dog may have moved on, check that area anyway. It's a clue to where he/she might be. Change your out-going message to include your cell phone number and include your pet's name and any instructions necessary to keep your dog safe until you can pick him up.

It is also helpful to have someone home at your house at all times. Some people may just walk your dog back to your house if they are out in the area and do not have access to a phone. Leave your garage door or gate open in the event your pet returns on its own.

SEARCHING

If your dog is out over a day, the best times to search are early morning and after dinner when other people are out walking their dogs - one reason is they may have seen a loose dog in the area attracted to theirs. Also, your dog will most likely be hungry and looking for food. Take a squawker with you if you know your dog is interested in the sound. Know your dog - some are frightened by squawkers! Listen for tags jingling and other dogs barking - this can sometimes lead you to your dog. Remember to always have a leash and collar handy as well as good, strong smelling treats for your pet. Two-way radios can also be very helpful as they allow you to communicate with everyone in your search party at the same time and prevents fumbling for cell phone numbers and phones ringing at inopportune times.

-ON FOOT

Walk both day and night looking for your dog in the area you think he is. Call his name. Bring his favorite toy and squeak it. Have a flashlight. Be safe. Don't go to dark corners by yourself - bring your relatives or friends to help you look.

-BY CAR

Driving your car around can be a good way to cover a large area quickly when looking for your lost pet. It is best to have two people in each car, that way each person can scan their own side of the road. Drive with your hazard lights blinking and place signs or posters on the side and/or rear of slow moving vehicles with the words 'Lost Greyhound' along with a phone number so that other searchers will recognize you, as well as local people and neighbors who may have news of your pet. This will also alert the neighborhood residents to the reason for all of the sudden traffic in the area. Both are good for safety and help to make other cars aware that you may make sudden stops. Keep your windows down and radio off and keep a blanket in your car.

HUMANE TRAPS

If you have determined the places that your dog frequents but you still can't seem to get him back, check with your local humane society or animal control center about the use of a humane trap. Many adoption organizations and animal welfare groups keep a running list of humane traps and their locations. These traps are especially helpful in the case of shy or spooky dogs. Strong smelling foods and treats work especially well to lure your dog inside the trap.

ONCE YOUR DOG IS FOUND

You will be amazed at the amount of support you will get from the community regarding your lost pet, whether you are aware of their help or not. Once the status of your lost pet has changed, please take down any flyers posted and update any of the agencies previously contacted. Return any equipment used or borrowed to the appropriate agency in a timely fashion so that others may use them.

If your greyhound was out for a significant amount of time, had a lapse in his vaccinations, or appears to be injured, schedule an appointment with your local vet as soon as possible.

Lastly, hug and kiss that hound!!!

HISTORY OF THE GREYHOUND



Greyhounds are one of the oldest breeds of dogs, and appear in art and literature throughout history. Evidence suggests that Greyhounds have been living alongside humans for at least 8000 years. Excavations of caves and tombs have revealed hunt scenes bearing images of dogs with long legs, a delicate muzzles and deep chests - probable ancestors to today's greyhounds. So where did this greyhound-like dog originate? The Romans believed that greyhounds came from Gaul (western Europe), land of the Celts. The Celts believed that greyhounds came from Greece, and so referred to them as "Greek hounds" (greyhound may in fact be a derivation of Greek hound). This uncertainty suggests

that greyhound-type dogs didn't originate in Gaul or Greece, but probably in the semi-arid lands of North Africa and the Middle East, as their light coat and thin skin would suggest. One source states that dogs that were very similar to today's Greyhound appear in temple drawings in the city of Catal-Huyuk in Turkey that date back from 6000 B.C.

The wide-open and flat terrain of the Middle East would have been the perfect origin for the fastest dog in the world. In a nomadic camp setting, it was common for dogs to follow the camp, eating from its trash. Their presence was tolerated because of the protection they provided to the camp's unwalled perimeter. Over time, a special kind of dog evolved. This dog could hunt alongside with humans either on foot or on horseback-- an extremely valuable service. He became cherished for his graceful beauty, speed, companionship, intelligence and intuition. The Arabs so admired the physical attributes and speed of the greyhound that it became 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. The Saluki, which almost certainly shares with the greyhound a common ancestor, is still used as a hunting dog by some Arabs today. For centuries, Arab Beduins have been devout Muslims, and so follow ritual restrictions against contact with dogs. But they don't consider their Salukis to be dogs and so don't believe that contact with them is unclean. They consider Salukis the Gift of Allah to his children. The Quran permits the eating of game killed by hawks or Salukis (but not by other dogs). The tribes in Afghanistan make the same distinction between Saluki and dog.

By 1500 BC, greyhounds were often given as gifts to dignitaries, so great was their value. He was transported to various destinations on barges and camels and was considered a rare and valuable exchange along major trade routes. As he traveled around the world, his physical appearance began to vary as he was exposed to different climates and terrain, but his beauty and grace was still maintained.

That the greyhound was held in high regard was evident by pictures etched on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs. They were treated the same as family members by Egyptian Royalty and were prized as royalty among canines, living with their families or housed in special kennels and cared for by special handlers. Like in the Middle East, the birth of a greyhound in Egypt ranked second only to the birth of a son. When a member of Egyptian nobility died his greyhounds were often buried beside him. When a Greyhound would die, the entire family would go into a period of mourning where it would not be uncommon for them to shave their heads, fast in honor of the passed dog and cry.

Pharaohs, such as Cleopatra and King Tutankhamen, rated greyhounds first among all animals, both as pets and hunters. They respected and admired them for their speed, natural grace, beautiful elegance and intense loyalty and used them in recreational hunts, similar to



modern-day coursing.

When the Greeks rose to dominance around 500 B.C. greyhounds rose with them, valued as they had been in Egypt. The Greeks probably bought some of these hounds from Egyptian merchants, some time before 1000 BC. Greyhounds appear in Greek mythology and art as companions of Hecate, goddess of the earth and Hades; Pollux, immortal brother of Helen; and Artemis, goddess of the hunt. Art and coins from Greece depict short-haired hounds virtually identical to modern greyhounds. Perhaps the most famous of all Greek dogs is Argus, Odysseus's dog from Homer's *The Odyssey*. When Homer's Odysseus returns home in disguise after twenty years of wandering, his old dog Argus raises his head wearily, wags his tail once in recognition and dies. Argus was one of the first, if not THE first dog in literature that exhibited unyielding loyalty and fidelity to his master. Argus is described as a hunting dog, fierce, swift and fearless -- the greyhound as the Greeks knew it.

Alexander the Great, an ancient Greek king of Macedon(336–323 BC), was one of the most successful military commanders of all time and is presumed undefeated in battle. By the time of his death, he had conquered most of the world known to the ancient Greeks. He was known to have a Greyhound named Peritas that reportedly accompanied him on his many military campaigns.

The Romans obtained their greyhounds from either the Greeks or the Celts. Roman authors like Ovid and Arrian refer to them as Celt Hounds. The Romans knew a good dog when they saw one and treated their greyhounds even better than the Greeks had, feeding them regular meals instead of throwing them the odd bone. In Roman art, Diana, who succeeded the Greek Artemis, is almost always portrayed hunting among her greyhounds.

The Romans may have also been the first to perfect the sport of coursing, matching their greyhounds against the speed and agility of the hare. Dogs apparently did not compete against one another, as in modern coursing and the purpose of coursing was not to catch the hare, but to enjoy the chase itself. The Romans transported their dogs and hares into the farthest reaches of their empire, incidentally importing European hares into Britain along with them, for their sport of coursing.



The fall of the Western Roman Empire began a period of famine and war commonly referred to as the Middle Ages. This was a bad time for humans as well as dogs and animals generally. Most abandoned greyhounds left behind by the Romans were starved and abused with the rest, but those who were lucky enough to belong to the local clergy or nobility survived. As feudal barons extended their hunting grounds through conquest and expropriation, the demand for greyhounds was maintained. The clergy, being mostly aristocrats themselves, kept and bred the dogs for both profit and for their own enjoyment. Without these priests, it is believed that the Greyhound line might have possibly become extinct.

Greyhounds disappear from art in these centuries except in Ireland. The Celts, who had been breeding greyhounds for centuries before their migration to Ireland, preserved their own tradition. Medieval Irish monks included greyhounds in the illuminations of the world's most beautiful manuscripts.

In England, the greyhounds' link with nobility was re-established in the tenth century when King Howel of Wales made killing a greyhound punishable by death. In 1014, King Canute enacted the Forest Laws, reserving large areas of the country for hunting by the nobility and stated that only noblemen could own and hunt with greyhounds. They used them for the sport of coursing, to assist in hunting, and as companions. Greyhound kennel keepers protected and cared for the dogs and ranked high in society. Many of their greyhounds wore solid gold collars adorned with precious stones.

In 1066, William the Conqueror introduced even more stringent Forest Laws. Commoners and slaves were only permitted to own lame greyhounds. Commoners caught owning a greyhound would be severely punished and the dog's toes mutilated to prevent it from hunting. Those who defiantly hunted with greyhounds favored dogs whose coloring made them harder to spot for obvious reasons. These dogs were black, red, fawn, and brindle.



Nobles, by contrast, favored white and parti-colored dogs that could be spotted and recovered more easily if lost in the forest. It became common among the English aristocracy to say, "You could tell a gentleman by his horses and his greyhounds."

Greyhounds became a prominent subject of Renaissance artists, as the wealthy desired to be portrayed with the dogs of royalty. Gentlemen had themselves portrayed in a wood, attended by greyhounds and spaniels and amidst piles of dead rabbits and birds. Ladies were often depicted as the Roman goddess, Diana, with her hounds.

In 1370, the book "*Mayster of the Game*" was written which detailed the care of hunting greyhounds. The first book to reference greyhounds in English literature is in *The Canterbury Tales*, also dating from the late fourteenth century.

The Forest Laws were abolished in the 1500s by Queen Elizabeth I. During her reign, greyhounds were used for coursing deer, foxes and hares. The Queen, particularly keen on the coursing of hares, assigned the Duke of Norfolk to draw up rules for coursing that restricted the number of dogs per hare to two and gave the hare a fair start, thus officially inaugurating the "Sport of Queens".

In 1493, Greyhounds became one of the first European dogs in the New World. These greyhounds were brought in by Spanish explorers to guard, hunt, intimidate and punish the indigenous peoples of the Americas. English settlers in North America did not import greyhounds for some time, because Forest Laws were still in effect until 1700 and because there was neither the terrain nor the leisure time for coursing. However, greyhounds were present during the time of American Revolution. George Washington had a huge greyhound named Azor which was said to accompany him.

The Greyhound was formally introduced in the United States in the 1800's for the purpose of controlling the jackrabbit and coyote population. This prey certainly showed off the Greyhound's ability as a hunter-courser. With the advent of the greyhound in America, coursing events soon followed. The Midwest soon became the coursing center of the nation.

The US Cavalry utilized greyhounds to scout for Indians. General Custer traveled with many greyhounds and was said to have coursed his fourteen Greyhounds the night before the Battle of Little Big Horn. Luckily no greyhounds were present during the battle; they were resting from the previous day's sport. Their caretaker, James Kelly, kept the greyhounds and when he became Mayor of Dodge City, the city was so full of greyhounds people were said to have had to step over them to walk the streets.

Greyhound racing started in the United States in the early 1900's and it is then that the status of the greyhound began to again decline. People saw the dogs' race and concluded that they were high strung, aggressive and unloving. Finally, in the late 1980's, special interest groups and adoption organizations formed to promote the greyhound's attributes as a loving pet and family member. Greyhounds have held such a significant and long-standing role in the history of the world. With your help and the help of adoption groups across the nation and around the world, we hope to ensure it has one in the future as well!

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GREYHOUND

The AKC show greyhound and the NGA racing greyhound are two very distinct types of greyhounds that have developed in the United States due to differences in breeding for desired characteristics. Both come from coursing stock and both are purebred.



THE SHOW GREYHOUND

People throughout the centuries had ideas of what the greyhound breed should look like and the advent of organized dog shows set stricter standards where appearance became more important than performance. Greyhounds bred as show dogs have a softer appearance with more emphasis on a deeper chest, longer neck, thinner tail, taller and sleeker body and smaller and more folded ears. The standard dictates that males are to be 24 to 30 inches tall at the shoulders and can weigh less than 50 to over 90 pounds. They have long muscular necks, small narrow heads and laid back ears. The greyhound's fur is characterized as being short and smooth and can be one of 18 different color combinations. Brindle, parti-colored and solid are the three categories of greyhound coat colors. Brindle is dark tiger-like stripes on a light colored coat. Parti-colored is solid patches on any color coat or brindle patches on white. Solid colors include white, black, chocolate, blue, red and fawn. Solid colored coats may possess dark muzzles or they may have white markings on their chest, feet, muzzle, neck and tip of the tail in what is called Irish markings. Blue and chocolate are rare.

Show greyhounds are actually a rare breed of dog. Only about 150 are registered with the AKC annually in the United States in comparison to the approximate 25,000 greyhounds bred for the NGA racing industry annually.

THE RACING GREYHOUND

The greyhound's physical and mental characteristics have been consistent for centuries. With those long legs, long spine and strong muscles, the greyhound was born to run without question, human direction or approval. This independence displayed by greyhounds is something that you must realize, expect and accept as part of the breed. It takes only a second for this inborn instinct to occur and your pet can be off and running with or without you. First a hunter, then a courser and racer, the greyhound has always been involved in the sport of chasing something.

The greyhound's spine is very flexible and will allow him to change directions while in motion. Without missing a beat your pet can run full speed and abruptly turn in pursuit of the backyard squirrel or neighbor's cat. The hare-like feet, long legs and flexible spine allow him to obtain thrust to grip the ground and he can reach a speed of 40 MPH in his third stride. There are two periods when all four feet are off the ground; once when all legs are tucked under his body and again when all legs are extended outward. He seems to defy gravity. All of his weight is put onto his feet every time he hits the ground. He uses his tail to help him balance. The greyhound is the fastest dog in the world, but this type of running is very demanding so the greyhound is only able to endure a short distance at the speed he undertakes.





The greyhound's thin skin and short fur reduces wind resistance as he runs and he has little body fat to weight him down. His thin skin is prone to lacerations, especially when he is running. The scars you may see on your greyhound indicate an injury that occurred when your greyhound was too focused on chasing to notice what happened.

The deep chest of the greyhound provides the room and protection for his large heart and powerful lungs. His heart is 1/3 larger than a dog of similar size and he has a thicker left chest wall. Compared to other breeds, a greyhound's blood pressure is higher, his heart rate is slower and he has a lower platelet count.

Greyhounds possess two traits that prevent them from becoming obese - a fast metabolism and fewer fat cells. Greyhounds burn calories easily and can lose up to five pounds in a single half-minute race. About 16% of the greyhound's body weight is fat compared to double that in other breeds. The disadvantage is that the greyhound cannot insulate himself from the cold and does not have a lot of food reserve. A slight definition of the last two or three ribs is considered a characteristic of the greyhound. His diet and exercise should be adjusted to enable this feature to be maintained.

In hunting, a greyhound uses three of his major senses: 60% sight, 20% smell and 20% hearing. Greyhounds, like most dogs, see ten times better than humans. They see movement better than most dogs because of their exceptional peripheral vision, which allows them to see off to the side and even movement partially behind them, in a range of 270 degrees. He cannot see items straight ahead nearly as well. They also are light sensitive and see best at twilight. Distant vision is better than close up as they cannot focus as well.



Compared to humans, the greyhound's hearing is more precise, more able to detect sounds at a higher frequency range and able to spot sounds four times further.

The American racing and the English and Irish coursing greyhounds have about the same temperament. They are affectionate, not aggressive and want to be comfortable. However, of the three, the American racing greyhound is said to be most mild mannered and easiest to handle due to its extensive regimented track training. The English coursing greyhound was developed to run longer on uneven terrain and has more endurance. It is taller, bigger boned and deeper chested. The Irish coursing dog was developed for park coursing. He needed to start rapidly and because of this he is shorter and lighter. This split personality of the greyhound from a fearsome and agile predator to a loving and gentle pet has always been a trait of the greyhound for thousands of years has made this breed the wonderful pet that it is.



LIFE ON THE RACETRACK

Even before a racing greyhound is born, every moment of its life is meticulously mapped out. For the first 10 to 12 months of its life, puppies remain with their littermates on a greyhound farm, playing and running with one another while developing muscle, strength and coordination. They play with plastic bottles, towels and toys and also dig.

By 5 months of age the puppies begin training to become racers. They are leash trained, wear muzzles, and learn verbal commands. As they get older, they are introduced to a squawker tied to a pole or attached to the back of a truck. Later, they learn to run in circles and follow a lure called a whirligig. Life becomes regimented with specific times to eat, rest, eliminate and train. Trainers are constantly handling the dogs and each greyhound experiences different situations. Some become familiar with steps, some play with stuffed toys and some even interact with children. By 14 months of age they are taken to the tracks twice a week and when they reach 15 to 18 months of age they will be moved to the racetrack kennels.

While at the racetrack, the greyhounds are fed a diet that typically consists of raw meat, rice or pasta and vegetables with vitamins and supplements. Each dog has a set amount of food; they must maintain a set weight and never vary more than a couple of pounds.

A potential racer is first entered into a non-betting preliminary race and if the dog does well then it will compete in a maiden race; if not, it will be retired. A greyhound must be among the top four finishers in six maiden races to qualify as an official racer; if not, it will be retired. 'Retirement' means either being placed for adoption or destroyed. Reputable industry people and the public have focused on this problem by emphasizing that these dogs not be used for research or subjected to a cruel means of death such as starvation, abandonment or brutality.

Greyhounds that are successful in their maiden races normally go on to race twice a week each season. On the day of a race, each dog is weighed and checked over. A few hours before post time the dogs are taken to a "paddock" where they are quarantined until race time. They usually know where they are going and are excited. There they are given a tag indicating the race and their racing number. A track veterinarian is on hand to observe any issues. Track vets are generally poorly paid and sometimes not the most conscientious.

A greyhound race usually consists of eight dogs running one counterclockwise lap on an oval track. Each race lasts about 30 seconds. The dogs reach a speed of 40 mph in a matter of a few seconds. The tip of the muzzle crossing the finish line determines the winner. Since no collars are worn during a race, the handler must catch the dogs by their muzzles. Following the race, they are cleaned and cooled down before being fed. During the greyhounds' down time, they rest and recuperate in their cages. Cages are generally filled with shredded paper. Many dogs wear their muzzles even while kenneled so they do not chew on their cages.

During a greyhound's racing career they may stay at one track or be moved from track to track by professional haulers who transport a large number of dogs. The National Greyhound Association has set the mandatory retirement age at 5 years old. Greyhounds that do not win enough to be profitable or have reached the age limit are retired and must be removed from the facility. It's all about competition.



GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY FACTS

The following statistics were prepared in September 2007 by the Greyhound Protection League.

There are currently 35 dog tracks in the United States conducting live racing in 13 states; 8 tracks operate seasonally and 27 year-round.

Racing states include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Eight states have banned live and/or simulcast dog racing since 1993. They are: Maine, Virginia, Vermont, Idaho, Washington, Nevada, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

Legislation passed since the 1990's allowed six greyhound tracks in four states to operate lottery terminals or coin-drop slot machines. Because these tracks are licensed as pari-mutual racing venues, they are bound by statute to continue offering live racing. As a result, thousands of greyhounds are being bred to supply these tracks with a live product that is of little interest to the wagering public.

Florida has 13 racetracks. Recent changes in state racing statutes are expected to hasten the demise of live greyhound racing in Florida. On July 1, 2007 legislation allowing racetrack card rooms to operate with live racing went into effect. Wagering on live greyhound racing has declined dramatically in recent years, while card room revenues have exploded.

According to breeding statistics compiled by the National Greyhound Association (NGA) and published monthly in *The Greyhound Review*, 128,593 LITTERS were registered from 1986 through 2006. Multiplying the number of litters by the industry standard of 6.52 pups-per-litter, 838,426 racing greyhounds were born during this 21-year period.

The NGA, based in Abilene, Kansas, is the official registry for all racing greyhounds in North America, which includes Mexico. Greyhounds are tattooed by the age of three months and must be individually registered (named) prior to reaching the racing age of 12 to 18 months (varies by state).

Of the 838,426 greyhounds born from 1986 to 2006, 652,205 were individually registered, a difference of 186,221 young dogs eliminated from the system before reaching racing age. Because the rescue of farm dogs is rare, the majority of these dogs are presumed dead.

A comparison of the published numbers against the combined number of greyhounds estimated to be racing is 28,000; alive on breeding and training farms is 28,000 and greyhounds that have been adopted is 179,000. This indicates that more than 600,000 greyhounds have died in the 21-year period from 1986-2006.

On average, a revolving baseline of 1,000 dogs is required to sustain a mid-sized racetrack operation. New greyhounds are continually entering the system to replace greyhounds that grade-off due to injury, age or poor performance.

Between 1971-1990 the number of operating tracks nearly doubled to 56. This rapid expansion fueled a breeding frenzy that produced 450,000 greyhounds in the 1980's alone. Dog racing is a supply and demand business; as new tracks were built, increasing numbers of greyhounds were bred to supply them.

In 2006, 24,567 greyhounds were born. Of those, 22,951 entered the racing system. Approximately 14,800 graded-off greyhounds were rescued and adopted. An estimated 8,567 were killed. This number includes 1,616 farm culls and 6,951 retirees who were not rescued.

ONE AT A TIME

A friend of ours was walking down a deserted Mexican beach at sunset. As he walked along, he saw another man in the distance. As he grew nearer, he noticed that the local native kept leaning down, picking something up and throwing it out into the water. Time and again he kept hurling things out into the ocean.

As our friend approached even closer, he noticed that the man was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach and, one at a time, he was throwing them back into the water.

Our friend was puzzled. He approached the man and said, "Good evening, friend, I was wondering what you are doing." "I'm throwing these starfish back into the ocean. You see, it's low tide right now and all of these starfish have been washed up onto the shore. If I don't throw them back into the sea they'll die up here from lack of oxygen."

"I understand," my friend replied, "But there must be thousands of starfish on this beach. You can't possibly get to all of them. There are simply too many. And don't you realize this is probably happening on hundreds of beaches all up and down this coast. Can't you see that you can't possibly make a difference?"

The local native smiled, bent down and picked up yet another starfish, and then threw it back into the sea, he replied, "Made a difference to that one!"

THAT STARFISH COULD BE YOUR GREYHOUND

By Carl Canfield and Mark V. Hansen



Photo courtesy of the Katz Family