

# **Hounds of the Heartland GPA/Central Oklahoma Greyhound Guide For New Dog Owners May 2010 (revised)**

This handbook has been written to help aid you, as a new Greyhound owner, with situations that might arise while you are introducing your adopted Greyhound to his new home.

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## **Hounds of the Heartland Membership**

Anyone who has adopted a Greyhound through Hounds of the Heartland is automatically a General Member of Hounds of the Heartland. HOH has its own bylaws separate from GPA National and if you are interested in reading them- just let us know!

## **Volunteering With Hounds of the Heartland**

There are a many ways that you as a new owner of a Greyhound can do to help Hounds of the Heartland such as walking/bathing, fostering, transporting and helping at events. If you want to be an active volunteer with HOH, we welcome you with open arms! Check out our volunteer opportunities on our website or ask a board member how you can help.

## **Greyhound History**

The Greyhound is an ancient breed dating back to the Pharaohs of ancient Egypt. They are the oldest, purebred dog still in existence today. Evidence of their origin goes back over 4,000 years. Paintings inside the tombs of the great Pyramids depicted Greyhounds. They were prized pets and hunting companions of many ancient peoples including the Egyptians, Arabs, Greeks, and Romans. The mythical Greek Goddess Diana is usually pictured with a greyhound at her side. In early Arabian culture, the birth of a Greyhound was cause for great celebrations and second only in importance to the birth of a son. They were the only dogs permitted to share an Arab's tent or ride atop his camel. They were also the only dogs mentioned by name in the King James Version of the Bible (Proverbs 30-29-31).

To be presented with a Greyhound was considered the most prized gift one could receive. Persians believed that the Greyhound was permitted in the next world to give information and evidence about mankind. It was the Egyptians who first raced Greyhounds for sport in open fields with a wild hare as quarry and no rules of the game except speed. In the Early Kingdom, Greyhounds were considered to possess divine powers. Greyhounds almost became extinct during the Middle Ages as famine and pestilence spread across the land. Men of the cloth saved them, and nobility claimed them as an exclusive right of theirs.

Greyhounds were bred as coursing dogs, with the ability to track its prey by sight rather than smell, spot a moving object up to half a mile away, sight game over huge expanses of open terrain and to run at great speeds over long distances in pursuit of their prey. Thus, the streamlined bodies and narrow heads to cut the wind, deep chests to allow for enlarged heart and lung capacity, long legs and well-muscled quarters to enable them to cover ground at speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. They possess keen intellect and seem intuitively connected to each other and their prey when coursing in an open field. Their sprinting ability enables them to expend an enormous amount of energy in a short period of time. They run at their fastest between 40 and 45 miles per hour. Their ability to blend

speed, coordination, and strategy has made them great hunters as well as racers. Like a forest of trees, Greyhounds are one of earth's valued treasures. Greyhounds probably came to England with the Gaelic peoples and quickly became popular with the nobility of the land. The Royal Houses kept and hunted with Greyhounds. The peasants also recognized the value of these dogs and their ability to catch small game. Many homesteads kept a Greyhound or two.

In 1014, King Canute instituted the Forest Laws, forbidding commoners to hunt with their Greyhounds on Royal Lands. Any peasant caught hunting in the Royal Forests would be fined and his Greyhound seized, lamed, or killed. These laws, in one form or another, remained in effect for hundreds of years, and the constant battles between the nobility and the commoners became known as the Greyhound Wars. This was the time when the white or parti-colored Greyhounds became associated with the nobility, and the solid colored dogs, with the common folk. The darker colored dogs were better camouflaged when they hunted in the forests and fields at dusk or early morning. The prejudice concerning the colors of Greyhounds continued down through the years and was still affecting the Greyhound as a show dog in the United States as late as the 1950's and 60's. The white and parti-colored Greyhounds were the ones who appeared most often in the show ring and did the most winning. Happily, today, this prejudice does not exist and although many owners and breeders prefer one color to another, success in the show ring is no longer controlled by the color of a Greyhound.

Coursing as a sport grew out of the Greyhounds' natural hunting abilities and tremendous speed and agility in the field. In England in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Landed Gentry, being the sporting folk that they were, formed coursing clubs and met on weekends to compete with their Greyhounds. The Waterloo Cup was one such contest, and it grew to become the premier coursing event in the world. At a coursing meet, several dogs are slipped (loosed) at the "Tally Ho!" signal of the Huntmaster and chase a hare until it is either caught or eludes the dogs. Each Greyhound in competition is judged on its speed, agility, ability to follow and turn the hare, and on the kill. As the British immigrated to America, they brought their Greyhounds with them and found them ideally suited to chase down rabbits that were interfering with their crops. This led to bets and wagers among the farmers as to who had the faster dog. In the early 1900's Oval Track Racing was developed and quickly grew in importance. This new greyhound activity became more popular than coursing, as it was contained within a smaller space, did not involve the killing of live game, and lent itself well as a spectator sport. In the last ten years there has been a tremendous grass roots movement in this country and abroad to adopt retired racers and place them in loving homes. This movement, accompanied as it has been by extensive media coverage, is placing thousands of Greyhounds into homes each year and adding greatly to the already well-established interest in the breed.

The Greyhound is one of the most aesthetically pleasing members of the dog world. Although he is not fluffy, cute and cuddly, he does seem to appeal to the "artist" in all of us. The Greyhound has appeared quite often in art through the

ages, depicted on tomb walls, ancient Greek and Roman pottery and statues, and in practically all tapestries depicting hunting scenes. He was used extensively in advertising and artwork of the Art Nouveau and Art Deco periods. Many ads in the 1930's, 40's, and 50's showed models accompanied by Greyhounds. Several different car manufacturers used the Greyhound in their advertising, as their logo, or as a hood ornament. Of course, America's best known bus line adopted the Greyhound not only as its logo, but as its name as well.

Our American General Custer was a big Greyhound fancier, President Lincoln had a Greyhound on his family coat-of-arms, John Barrymore, the famous actor, always kept his house full of Greyhounds as pets, and Bo Derek, the actress, has several retired racing Greyhounds, and is a great advocate of Greyhound Adoption programs.

The Greyhound's incredible elegance, grace and beauty attract those with a heightened sense of fashion and design. His power and speed interests those who move in the "fast lane". His muscular build and agility liken him to the athlete. His sporting nature and colorful history endear him to the outdoorsman and members of the "horsey set". His gentleness, devotion and sense of humor garner him a place in the hearts of all those who know and love him. The Greyhound was long considered dog Dom's "best kept secret". Now that the word is out, more and more people are adopting Greyhounds. Greyhound owners are an intensely loyal and supportive group who love their charges with a passion. There is definitely a great interest in the breed around the globe. After so many years of companionship with mankind, years filled with love, humor and admiration, but also, sadly, with cruelty, abuse and misuse, the Greyhound is finally realizing his due; a soft place on the couch of a family who adores him and a society who appreciates one of the most colorful, most beautiful dogs in existence today.

## **FAQ's:**

### **WHAT IS A RETIRED RACER?**

With a life span of up to 15 years, retirement comes early. Typically, they retire between the ages of 1 1/2 to 5 years. They are retired for various reasons but most are healthy, well behaved and make a wonderful addition to a family as a pet. Typically retired Greyhounds have a gentle nature. They are accustomed to being handled by many people, are kennel trained, love to go on walks on a leash and love to be petted. Males are generally between 65 and 85 pounds and measure 26 to 30 inches high and females are between 50 and 65 pounds and measure 23 to 26 inches high. Greyhounds come in many colors – brindle, black, brown, fawn or a combination of these colors.

### **ARE GREYHOUNDS AGGRESSIVE?**

Most Greyhounds are docile in nature and are among the most gentle of breeds. They are the original "couch potatoes." They form a very strong bond with their human family and are eager to please. The muzzles that racers wear will protect their noses .and aid in determining the winner in a photo finish. Greyhounds do

not make good watchdogs. Some may bark if a stranger comes near but barking is usually out of excitement.

### **ARE GREYHOUNDS HOUSEBROKEN?**

Greyhounds are "kennel broken" which means they will not normally relieve themselves in their kennel. Greyhounds are accustomed to being let out four or five times each day so when your Greyhound is brought home to you this routine needs to be continued. They are very intelligent, sensitive dogs and very eager to please you. Once your routine is established you should have no trouble with accidents in your home.

### **ARE GREYHOUNDS INDOOR PETS?**

YES! Greyhounds must only live indoors. They cannot withstand temperature extremes due to their thin skin and low body fat. Greyhounds must never be chained or staked outside. They are highly social animals and must be with people. **GREYHOUNDS MUST ALWAYS BE ON A LEASH WHEN OUTDOORS EXCEPT WHEN IN A SECURE FENCED AREA.**

### **CAN I TRUST MY GREYHOUND OFF LEASH?**

NO! **OUT OF YOUR OWN FENCED SECURE AREA, GREYHOUNDS SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON A LEASH.** Greyhounds are sight hounds and can see clearly for a half mile. If they see something of interest, they can be gone in an instant. They have no knowledge of streets, cars or traffic. Greyhounds love to run, and within a secure fenced in area it is perfectly OK. Greyhounds enjoy walking or jogging, and are usually very well behaved on a leash.

### **HOW IMPORTANT IS EXERCISE FOR MY GREYHOUND?**

A Greyhound is an athlete like any other athlete. Greyhounds adapt well to life as a pet and need no more than a romp in the backyard and an occasional walk in the park to keep them fit.

### **WHAT ABOUT CHILDREN AND OTHER PETS?**

Greyhounds are patient, loving animals. All children should be taught to respect any dog, and never to bother a dog that is sleeping. Greyhounds have lived with other Greyhounds all their life and should quickly make friends with other dogs that you have. Cats and other small furry indoor animals can become a Greyhound's friend if the introductory period is closely supervised, however outdoors Greyhounds must be constantly supervised.

### **MUZZLING YOUR GREYHOUND**

Their racing instinct is based on a well-developed prey drive. When you have a group of Greyhounds together, especially strange ones, it is advisable to muzzle them to prevent accidental bites. Greyhounds are not dog aggressive, but when excited may nip at others. Don't let the muzzles lull you into a false sense of security. You must still monitor a group of muzzled Greyhounds since it's possible to catch ears through a muzzle and so on. Do note that muzzling is not

always required; it's simply a sensible precaution if you are dealing with CI group of Greyhounds.

To read more FAQs about greyhounds visit our FAQ page at <http://www.greyhoundpetsok.org/FAQ.aspx>

## **The Adjustment Period**

Helping your dog get adjusted is a very important part of the Greyhound adoption process and with patience; understanding and lots of love over the first few weeks and you'll find you have the most wonderful pet imaginable.

You may feel a little nervous about getting your Greyhound but he will probably be just as nervous as you. He may have never seen the inside of a car or house before, as he has spent his entire life in a kennel. He might whine, pant, move around a lot, have a drippy nose, sweaty paws, and start getting flaky skin and diarrhea. He may also have an accident on the floor but this is not unusual in a new home situation. Reassure him with a calm and soothing voice and with your actions, steady and slow. Plan to be at home with your dog for the first 2 or 3 days, as it will help him to adjust more quickly to his new environment. Scheduling a Friday or Saturday adoption might be a good idea. Greyhounds are very intelligent dogs and soon will grasp that he is now a member of the family and should quickly learn what is expected of him. **YOU JUST NEED TO BE PATIENT.**

It is important to remember that your Greyhound will not know what is "off limits" and what is "dangerous." Even though they are full grown dogs they act like new puppies as they have never been free to do things other than race then returned to a crate in their kennel. Spending a little time putting away things that a new pet might harm himself on will make his first impression of his new home positive. Be sure to introduce EVERY room in your house to your new Greyhound so he considers the whole house his kennel. This will let him know that this is his home and it is going to be safe here. As your Greyhound becomes more secure with his surroundings and starts to trust you, you'll see his personality emerging. He might steal your possessions and hide them, or smile at you when you come home, or start demanding to be let on all soft things. These signs mean you now have a bonafide member of your household. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT YOU CAN DO FOR BOTH YOU AND YOUR GREYHOUND IS SPEND TIME WITH HIM.** The more quality time you share, the stronger the bond will be between you. We recommend you keep your greyhound on a leash for the first 24-48 hours. This will allow you to bond with each other as well as keep an eye on him in the house and backyard.

### **Mirrors. Doors and Floors:**

Full-length mirrors may cause your pet to stare for hours at the mysterious dog on the other side of the mirror. Sliding glass patio doors can cause a sore nose when your Greyhound tries to walk through it. We suggest putting masking tape at eye level for several days. Hardwood and linoleum floors are also tricky for

Greyhounds to negotiate. Flushing toilets, TVs, refrigerators and more will provide you with lots of laughs at your Greyhound's expense.

### **Garbage:**

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

### **Counters/Tables:**

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

### **Sofas/Beds:**

If it is soft, your Greyhound will like it. Carpeting is a treat for your retired racer. A comfy sofa is even better! A good rule to enforce right from the start: if you don't want your dog on the couch, don't ever let him on it. He'll quickly learn to love the luxury of the cushions, and you'll never get him to stay off. If your Greyhound figures out the couch all by himself, and lounges on it while you aren't home, then we suggest you take an old blanket and cover the spot he's chosen prior to leaving the house. It really isn't the worst thing in the world. Provide your Greyhound with as soft a bed as possible. Greyhounds not only love comfort they actually require it, as they have virtually no padding on their elbows, and can develop problems such as fluid collection or calluses if left to sleep on hard surfaces. A nice, comfy bed is also a place that he knows he can call his own, to go to rest, relax, take a breather, chew a rawhide bone and not be bothered. Every dog needs a small spot to have all to himself. Check out [www.orvis.com](http://www.orvis.com), [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com) and [www.drsofostersmith.com](http://www.drsofostersmith.com) for some dog bedding ideas.

### **Stairs:**

Your Greyhound has never seen nor had to deal with stairs. Making things worse, his long, delicate legs are slow to negotiate the treacherous steps in your house. With a little help from you they can run up and down with no problem at all. Try showing them one paw at a time what they are supposed to do or you can start by carrying them almost to the top of the stairs, then put him down and allow him to climb the last few steps. Gradually increase the number of steps he climbs. Reverse the procedure for going down the stairs. They are quick to learn and become used to them pretty fast. DO NOT EVER FORCE your Greyhound up or down stairs by dragging him by the collar. If you do this he could become frightened and may try to jump all the way down and injure himself.

**Potty Accidents:**

Greyhounds by nature are very clean dogs but since your Greyhound has never been inside a house he might have an accident in the house. If he does, take him to the spot and give him a slight verbal reprimand and then take him outside and praise him when he goes there. Do not hit your dog or try to put his nose in the accident, as your dog will respond more quickly and positively to kindness. If your Greyhound is a male, he may attempt to lift his leg in a few places around the house to "mark his territory": especially if you already have a dog. Watch him carefully as he wanders around the house sniffing and try to catch him before he goes and take him outside to potty. Try to establish a bathroom routine. You will eventually be able to identify and respond to his 'signals' when he needs to be taken outside.

**Barking and Whining:**

Greyhounds are not barkers. If you have a barker, then you may have an insecure dog and he is barking because something has frightened him. Now, whining is another story. Greyhounds can communicate with you by whining. Whining to be let in, to eat, to play, and to get up on the bed. You name it and they'll talk to you about it. You will also find that you have a shadow. Your Greyhound will follow you everywhere you go--to the bathroom, to the kitchen, to the basement, to the door when you go out. They love to be around humans.

**Becoming A Statue:**

Greyhounds have a trait of stopping dead in their tracks and refusing to budge or look at you. This usually occurs when they are scared, nervous and don't know exactly what is wanted of them. The more insistent you get, the more insistent they get that they are not going anywhere. And they'll win. This most often happens when you are teaching them stairs, or trying to give them a bath in the tub. The best thing you can do is be very patient and wait them out, the whole time offering verbal encouragement and making it seem like what you are asking them to do is the most fun in the world. When you've tired of waiting and encouraging, then as a last resort just pick up the greyhound and move him to where you want him to be. (Don't lose your patience and yell, because you'll ruin whatever good you had accomplished.)

**Smiling:**

Some Greyhounds smile, and this causes people who don't know them to jump a mile back. They have a lot of long white teeth showing when they smile. My theory is they smile to ingratiate themselves to those around them. If you've got a smiler, it is really quite amusing and very harmless.

**Ears Back:**

Most Greyhounds keep their ears pinned back to their heads unless they hear a noise that causes their ears to straighten up. This is not a sign of aggression, they are just happy.

**Eating Grass:**



When your Greyhound is meandering around the yard, you'll see him eat grass. Let him. The grass provides a nutrient he feels he needs, and doesn't do him any harm. A few dogs will then vomit up the grass and whatever was in their stomach that was making them feel out of sorts. The majority of Greyhounds do not vomit after eating grass.

### **Bonding:**

These dogs seem to choose to have a relationship with you. They are very polite and friendly to everyone, but they learn to trust you. While other dogs seem to blindly trust, Greyhounds are uniquely independent, almost cat-like in the way they choose to bestow affection. The more you do with your dog, the more solid your relationship becomes. The more you touch, play with and love these dogs, the more you get in return. Once your dog feels comfortable with you, take him with you whenever you can. It helps in the bonding process. It also helps them to get the picture of their new world. They have never seen cars, grocery stores, etc. They are very sociable dogs and will be curious about everything.

Another thing that helps with the bonding process is the sleeping arrangements. Do not shut your Greyhound in a separate room to sleep. From his track days, he is used to sleeping with lots of other dogs, so he will much prefer to sleep in the same room with any member of the family (in the same bed, if you let him). He will feel more secure and is less likely to cry or cause damage during the first few weeks if you allow him this pleasure.

## **Separation Anxiety**

Remember that Greyhounds have been in the company of other dogs since birth. They have essentially never been left alone and they could depend on seeing one or more humans at least four times a day, like clockwork. Greyhounds can have what is called separation anxiety; especially if brought into a home with no other pets where the family is gone most of the day. A retired racer can be taught to accept being alone provided each family member, during the adjustment period, is patient and doesn't try to rush the process. Each dog responds differently, but in most instances they will learn to patiently await your return and suffer little or no anxiety.

**DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT LEAVING YOUR DOG OR RETURNING HOME.** Long, tearful good-byes increase his anxiety and teach him to dread your departures. A matter-of-fact goodbye, a pat on the head and instructions to 'watch the house' are sufficient. It is often helpful to leave a radio or TV on when leaving your Greyhound home alone. Plenty of toys and chews will keep him occupied and less apt to get into your things. Upon returning home, resist the urge to dance jigs around the house with your dog in a joyful reunion. In fact, as difficult as it may be, ignoring him for the first few minutes after you return will help reduce the eager anticipation that stimulates anxiety-related behavior.

It is a good idea to "childproof" your house before leaving your dog inside,

especially if you are not using a crate. Don't leave closet doors ajar and be sure no food is within reach on any counters. Put shoes away and remove any articles that may be conceived as "toys." Do leave a blanket or dog bed on the floor where the dog normally sleeps, or leave the crate door open. Some Greyhounds like the accessibility of their crate even when they are accustomed to their new home. Remember, the learning process can be very easy for some dogs, and not so easy for others, so BE PATIENT and you will be rewarded with a loyal, loving companion. Gradually expand the boundaries of your dog's freedom until he earns the privilege to have free run of the house.

## **Crate Training Your Greyhound**

It is extremely important to remember that your Greyhound has never been left alone before. Any well-behaved new pet may get scared when you leave to go to work, and he finds himself alone in the house for the very first time. Keep in mind that the Greyhound does not know you yet; he does not know that he can trust you to return later, he does not know that you plan to regularly feed him, take him outside, and give him love. Basically, he may worry that you're an unreliable person and take matters in his own hands.

Greyhounds at the track spend a great deal of time in crates and pens. During the stress of the transition into home life, your Greyhound will be more secure if he has an area to call his own. By providing your new dog with a crate or a pen, you are providing him with a place to go when he is frightened or overwhelmed by all the new and exciting things going on around him. It is important to place the crate or pen in an area of your home where your Greyhound will not feel isolated or left out. They will destroy the room in a heartbeat. Greyhounds are people oriented dogs that want to be with you.

**DO NOT EVER LOCK YOUR DOG IN A ROOM (BEDROOM, LAUNDRY ROOM) BY HIMSELF AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE CRATING/PENNING METHOD. A common misconception about crating or kenneling a dog is that it is cruel or "like putting him in prison." Dogs do not see it that way at all. Dogs are den animals by nature and a crate duplicates this den. Greyhounds adopted from the track are accustomed to living most of the time in a small, protected place they regard as their own. They are let out to exercise and relieve themselves at regular intervals throughout the day and then are returned to the crates, where they spend most of their time sleeping.**

Using a crate in the dog's new home will speed the transition, help the dog feel more secure and comfortable, and avoid the danger and hassle of a dog loose in unfamiliar surroundings when he is home alone. It is not cruel to crate a dog when he cannot be supervised. It is cruel to punish a dog that has been left alone in your house only to mess or destroy your property or hurt himself because he doesn't know better or is too anxious. Although retired racing Greyhounds are more accustomed to crates than are most other breeds; your Greyhound may initially resist the idea of being separated from you.

**Here are some tips to make his adjustment easier:**

Introduce the crate in a positive, non-threatening manner by leaving the door open when you are at home and letting him explore it on his own. You can put his favorite toy in the crate or even feed him in the crate so he associates the crate with a happy experience. Praise him whenever he goes into the crate.

If your dog barks in the crate, make him be quiet before letting him out. Don't reward barking with freedom.

When leaving your Greyhound in the crate for any period of time, put him in the crate 10-15 minutes before you leave. Say your good-byes way before putting him in the crate. When you are ready to leave, just walk out the door. On your return, don't immediately let your Greyhound out of the crate. Give him some time to realize that your coming and going is not the highlight of his day. It's best to treat the crate training as "no big deal." Desensitizing your Greyhound to the crate will be the best thing for him.

Make sure he has water if he is to be left for more than a brief period. If you freeze the water in his crate bowl ahead of time, he can get his needed fluid slowly, as it melts, while minimizing the chance of spillage.

Crating a dog should not be used as a substitute for housebreaking or addressing destructive behavior. However, there are times, especially when the dog is new to the home environment, when crating is not only appropriate but humane. There is no need for the crate to be a permanent thing but it can make transition to your home easier.

## **Training Your Dog**

Don't expect him to learn anything unless he's properly trained. They are not mind readers. The Golden Rule "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" applies to dogs and training. Never treat a dog in a way that you wouldn't like to be treated yourself. The most important thing to keep in mind is that you need to bond with your dog. Your dog **MUST LEARN** to trust you. Your dog will learn to watch you for an appropriate response when there are other things going on around you. Your dog will learn specific behaviors that are good, and which result in reward and praise. The more time you spend with your dog, the better. Start praising your Greyhound from the moment he comes home with you. **NEVER** hit your Greyhound. He cannot understand why someone would hurt him

Patience, when you are training your dog, is very important. Just like people, some dogs are smarter than others. Some learn fast, some take a long time before they "get it", but if you just keep working with your dog, he will learn. Many owners wonder about the value of professional obedience training, especially if their dog only stays home with the family. The advantages are many. Obedience training strengthens the owner-dog bond and reinforces desirable behavior. A

dog that knows what is expected of him is a long way along the road to being a good pet. A trained dog is much more acceptable in many situations, even visiting. Training could also save your dog's life. In an emergency, it is important that your dog will listen to you.

## **Meeting Other Animals**

Your Greyhound should get along well with other dogs as he has had lots of "socialization" experience in the racing kennel. We have successfully placed Greyhounds into homes with other dogs, cats, birds, and even rabbits. If you now have a pet at home, your present pet and your new Greyhound may well become the best of friends. **BUT BE CAREFUL AT FIRST!** The introduction and the first few days of co-habitation are critical. All of nature is telling the Greyhound that the cat would be fun to chase, and would make a delightful breakfast. All you have to do is tell the Greyhound that both of these are bad ideas. Initially introduce your new Greyhound to other dogs, with both on leashes, outside before entering your home so they are on neutral territory as there may be some jealousy of the newcomer. Let them first sniff each other. Dogs can tell a lot about each other from their scent. Let them have plenty of time to get the full doggy bouquet. A lot more sniffing will occur. If you see either dog's hackles rise, move them apart. Gradually they will establish which one is dominant, and they will probably become friends.

Your new Greyhound may have never seen another breed of dog, he may not recognize a small, longhaired dog as a canine, and his instinct may tell him to give chase. It is quite simple to teach your Greyhound not to chase little dogs. Start by putting a leash and a muzzle on your Greyhound. (GPA has muzzles that you can borrow or purchase.) Allow the dogs to meet and thoroughly sniff each other. Once your Greyhound sees and smells other dogs he will recognize that canines also come in small packages. Muzzling your Greyhound is **NOT** cruel. He is accustomed to wearing one while racing.

Additionally, your new Greyhound will have never seen a cat, or a hamster, or a parrot, etc., therefore, he will probably want to chase these family pets, too. Again, put a leash and muzzle on your Greyhound before allowing any introductions. When your Greyhound and your "other" pet are introduced, encourage your Greyhound to ignore the "other" pet. If your Greyhound tries to give chase, correct him by quietly, and firmly, saying, "No! Off limits." When your Greyhound chooses to ignore your other pet, give him lots of praise. Greyhounds learn quickly, but you may need to repeat this lesson several times. Continue to put a muzzle on your Greyhound when he is around your other pets, until you are certain he will no longer give chase.

Signs of trouble are when the dog actively lunges at small pets, barks or growls or is just too interested. A certain degree of interest is normal. They are sight hounds, after all, and they respond to visual stimuli. But "too much interest" is when they literally can't take their eyes off the pet; they begin to crouch down as

if to spring forward or they whine in the direction of where they last saw the pet. Should you see any of these signs, keep the muzzle on and keep the dog on a leash, and under no circumstances should you leave them alone together. Most Greyhounds are just fine with small pets. Even the ones, who aren't, initially, can usually be trained into complying. There are a few for whom the racing instinct is just too strong. Sometimes the dog may have to be returned and placed in another home where there will be no temptation.

## **Kids and Greyhounds**

Most Greyhounds have never been around children and therefore have no reason to dislike them. The real question is: "Does your child/children know how to behave with animals?" If the dog believes that it is higher in the pack than the children, he could nip, bite or bark at the kids. Children have to be taught how to interact with the dog properly, to respect the dog's personal space, cage, food, etc. Kids by nature love animals and think nothing of running up and trying to hug a strange dog. Even though we know that Greyhounds are big and lovable, parents and kids do not. To make it more safe for children around our Greyhounds, lets look at a few tips to insure a safe visit with them and that no nasty bites occur.

### **Always Make Sure That Kids Ask:**

Before a child even approaches a dog, the child must ask permission. Even if you say it is ok to pet your Greyhound, the parent should determine that the owner has the dog under control.

### **Approaching A Dog:**

A child should never put his or her face near a dog's face or reach over a dog's head to pet it. The child should let the dog sniff his or her hand, then pet the dog under the chin or on the chest, or reach under the dog's head to scratch its ears.

### **Sudden Jerks:**

A child will frequently reach out to pet a dog, get a little nervous and jerk the hand away. From a dog's perspective, sometimes that quick movement has just turned the child's hand into prey.

### **Petting A Dog:**

A dog can feel surrounded and overwhelmed when more than one child is fondling it. It might be better to have one person pet a dog at a time. Greyhounds love attention but some can get a little skittish about handling so make sure that you have the situation under as much control as is possible.

### **Interrupting a Dog While Eating or Sleeping:**

Consider the needs of the dog and respect those needs. In other words don't try to take away his food or bone. LITERALLY- LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE as Greyhounds can sleep with their eyes open and when startled can snap at a person.

**Teasing:**

Don't put your dog in a position to snap back by pretending to give him toys or food and then snatch them back and keep repeating this act. You are not amused when this happens to you and neither is a dog.

**Wrestling With A Dog:**

Every parent knows what happens when roughhousing between kids gets out of control, someone ends up hurt. The same thing can happen when roughhousing between a child and a dog. Make sure that your child knows how to play with a dog, gently.

**Dog Walking:**

A 40 lb. child cannot safely take a 60 lb. dog for a walk and especially not by themselves. If they want to take part in walking your Greyhound then you as the parent should be there with them and let the child only hold onto the lead if you have a good hold on it yourself. Remember there is a joyful bond between children and dogs but that one serious physical incident can cause irreparable damage to that relationship. "Childproofing Your Dog" by Brian Kilcommons is a good reference book for Greyhounds living with children.

**Pack Mentality**

All dogs have a pack mentality. In Greyhounds it has been part of their genes for thousands of years, so they just can't ignore it. This pack mentality impacts the owner as well. Dogs expect to be a leader in its pack (e.g. the family). The vast majority of dogs will accept you as their leader if you prove yourself a good leader, otherwise they'll take over the role themselves. Be firm and fair. Note that the Alpha dog should not dominate, you should lead in your relationship with your Greyhound.

Dogs want to be with their pack. Your family is the dog's pack, so if you keep your dog away, separated from the pack, it will complain and generally be dissatisfied. It is important to study your own attitude when you have a dog. It must be positive, how would you want to be treated if you were a dog? Although it is a rare occurrence, once in a while your new family pet thinks that he is the Alpha of their new, pack.

\*The Alpha is the pack leader

\*Dogs are generally packing animals

\*Greyhounds are no exception!

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

Plan to keep a balance from the beginning. Don't cater to every whim every time. In the long run, it's better for your pet and you, especially if you help to develop

an Alpha! Remember you have a new family member not a houseguest! This breed responds well to verbal discipline. Don't overcompensate for their behavior because they are in a new setting. Start off with your rules and teach them to abide by the rules. Occasionally new Greyhound pet owners fear reprimanding their pet because they think the dog won't like them any more. Throughout the dog's life, it has relied on someone to set boundaries for it. First its mother laid down the law, and the puppy quickly learned that as long as he followed the rules, life was great.

The leadership role was transferred to humans, of course, as your Greyhound left his litter and began his training. Although he was exposed to lots of new experiences and places, there was one constant factor he could rely on: there was always someone to tell him what was good and what wasn't. Every dog needs this reassurance. A dog without a leader quickly becomes a bratty, overbearing animal that no one wants to live with and therefore the dog suffers without the one thing he needs most, acceptance and a place in the pack. Your pet doesn't need to act like a robot, but it does need to know that it can count on you to be in charge. If you want your dog to sleep on your bed, that's fine, as long as he knows this is a privilege, not a right. You need to control the situation; the dog doesn't. You invite the dog up, and he stays until you tell him to get off. The first tiny growl as you roll over would be met with an immediate shove off the bed, a reprimand, and no more bed privileges for the night. You're in charge, and he's not.

## **Exercise/Playing**

### **Exercise:**

One of the questions you'll be asked most often is "how can you give your Greyhound enough exercise, they must need a lot?" Once you live with a Greyhound you'll know the truth-they are one big couch potato. Some dogs are accustomed to running up to three days at the racetrack. They are bred and trained to run, so up to this point it's been their greatest pleasure. The change from race track to house is exciting, but also confusing to your new Greyhound. The most obvious and easiest answer is in your own backyard. The first time your dog exercises in your yard, off the leash, should be in the daylight and under an adult's supervision.

Walk him around the fence so that he can familiarize himself with the boundaries. You should also let him investigate hazards in your yard such as barbecues, planters and swimming pools. The typical Greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished. It is not essential to run or walk them for very long. **REMEMBER THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE LOCKS ON YOUR FENCE GATES SO THAT YOUR GREYHOUND DOES NOT GET OUT OF YOUR YARD AND GET LOST OR HURT. GREYHOUNDS SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON A LEAD OR IN A COMPLETELY FENCED IN AREA WHEN OUTDOORS.** If you want to play ball with your Greyhound or let him run off lead, take him to a **TOTALLY FENCED** area such as an athletic field, before releasing him.

Exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for a disaster to happen. Your Greyhound might be entirely devoted to you and never leave your side at home, but you must remember that Greyhounds are the product of centuries of specialized breeding to produce a lightning fast hunter. The Greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. Greyhounds are sight hounds, which means if something catches their eye they may take off after it and become so focused in on this moving object and no longer hear you if you call to them. He is running on pure instinct. A driver does not expect to see a 45-mph Greyhound blur crossing in front of their car. It is not worth your dog's life to take chances.

We are not talking about your Greyhound being disobedient. This explosive hunting run is pure instinct. You would not expect a bloodhound not to sniff, so please don't expect a Greyhound not to run. Greyhounds are "sprinters" and do not naturally have great endurance reserves. Therefore, if you want to take your dog running with you, be sure to work up to longer distances slowly. Dogs can acquire the same ailments that afflict human athletes, so be careful not to overdue the frequency or duration of strenuous exercise. If you plan to use your Greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program, you should have an enthusiastic partner as long as you start slowly and use a little common sense.

Greyhounds exercise primarily on sand in their kennel situation, which means the pads on their feet are smooth and soft. A little time must be taken to build up the calluses needed to exercise with you on cement or blacktop. During the summer the blacktop becomes extremely hot, and may burn his pads. Start your dog's regimen the same way you did yours - slowly. Walk or jog 2 or 3 blocks at first and then gradually increase. Care should be taken during extreme temperatures. Your dog is susceptible to heat stroke, just as you are. During hot weather it is wise to exercise early and easier. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding and that he has plenty of water. Cold weather presents other hazards for this desert breed. A warm-up blanket (coat) made for Greyhounds is an excellent idea for walking or jogging in winter.

Each dog is an individual with different activity levels. Generally younger dogs enjoy higher activity levels. If your dog has a medical problem that would indicate a restricted activity program, the adoption staff will advise you of those restrictions. Greyhounds sweat through their paws and nose. If your Greyhound has overexerted himself while running, hosing down his feet only will help him get cool quicker.

### **Playing:**

Your Greyhound may not know how to play because no one has ever taught him or shown him how. It's your job to teach him to play and it can be the funniest job you will ever have. Give him a box or basket of toys that are only his. Let him pick and choose when he wants, and see how quickly he learns how to play. You may not get to see the Silly side of your Greyhound for a while. He will probably not



feel like letting his puppy personality out until he feels quite secure. When you see the classic bottom up, front end down pose bouncing in front of you, you'll know it's time to play. Running and playing are important to your Greyhound's well being. Discover the joy he feels by joining in with him.

## **Diet and Feeding**

Some Greyhounds may seem nervous when eating. They are just worried that someone else is going to come and take their food. Also, they may be very sloppy initially. You'll sometimes find more food on the floor than what is in the bowl. Eventually better manners will prevail. During their racing careers, Greyhounds are fed a high energy diet to help them perform at their peak. In retirement as a house pet, your new Greyhound won't need the volume of food nor the added meat. It is suggested that you feed your Greyhound a high-quality food such as Iams, Science Diet, Nutro, Nature's Recipe, etc, which you can purchase at a pet food store.

Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat everything, which unfortunately does not always quite agree with them. Greyhounds have sensitive digestive systems. Changes in their diet may cause diarrhea. Also too many table scraps is not necessarily a good idea. Rice and vegetables are suggested as an appetizer. Your dog should be fed at least twice a day. The adoption staff will tell you the amount your dog has been eating. You may need to modify the amount after the first few weeks according to your dog's activity level and age. You should be able to feel ribs, but not see them. Some Greyhounds are successfully free fed, which means you can leave dry food out in their dish 24 hours a day and they eat when they are hungry. It is not unusual for a new Greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. The addition of a good quality canned food can be added to the dry food to tantalize him. ELEVATED DOG FOOD BOWLS work well with Greyhounds as they have a long way to bend over and can develop neck problems.

Your Greyhound may have eaten bananas, apricots, pumpkin, applesauce, spinach, and even vanilla ice cream on a limited level as a racer. Don't be surprised if your pet expects you to share your banana as you slice it for your cereal. We don't expect you to be completely perfect. When selecting snacks for your pet, choose good quality basics, such as natural biscuits. Avoid treats that contain lots of dye and sugar, or are high in fat. CHOCOLATE IS DANGEROUS. Reactions vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed your dog's heart rate and can cause allergic reactions.

## **Grooming**

Grooming is a very important, and often overlooked, part of caring for a dog. Grooming your Greyhound will give you the chance to spend quality time with him and will give you the opportunity to detect potential health problems before they become serious as you can check for cuts, bumps, irritations, etc.

**Hair:**

One of the nicest features of your Greyhound is that he doesn't have a lot of hair and this makes him easy to care for. A quick brushing with a grooming mitt and/or soft brush a few times a week will remove dead hairs and stimulate coat growth. Male dogs usually shed their coat once a year and female dogs usually shed their coat twice a year. Brushing your dog more frequently when he is shedding will speed-up this process.

**Bath:**

Your Greyhound only needs to be bathed when soiled, like if he decides to doze on poop. Otherwise, he's fine just being brushed. Greyhounds have very little oil in their skin and have little "doggy odor." If you do need to shampoo, select one that is an all-natural and mild conditioning. An alternative to bathing is to wet a washcloth with warm water and ring it out and use the cloth to wipe down your dog. This will give his coat a shine, and is much quicker than a bath. Whenever you do bathe your Greyhound, be sure to dry him completely so that he does not get chilly.

**Nails:**

Greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Lean over and bend each foot backwards so that you can see the underside of the nail. A dog with properly trimmed nails is less likely to tear a nail or dislocate a toe. Greyhound toes and nails are longer than the average dog, but will still need to be clipped. You may want to have styptic powder on hand just in case you cause his nail to bleed. If you don't want to or don't know how to clip toenails, ask your veterinarian or local grooming shop to do it.

**Teeth:**

Greyhounds can have bad teeth when they come off the track as they've been fed a lot of soft food that tends to cause tartar to build up on their teeth. Your greyhound's teeth will be initially cleaned upon adoption by a vet. Brushing them regularly can help them stay clean and healthy. Bad breath is a normally a sign of mouth problems, so check with your vet when this occurs. Chew bones are good for helping to keep plaque off their teeth.

**Ears:**

You should inspect your pet's ears at least once a week and clean gently with a cotton ball and baby oil if needed. Do not use peroxide, as it can cause damage to your dog's eardrums.

## **Medical**

### **Anesthesia of Greyhounds:**

Greyhounds' livers metabolize toxins out of their bloodstream more slowly than other dogs of comparable size, so it is possible for harmful concentrations of these toxins to develop. Also Greyhounds have a very low percentage of body fat in proportion to their size. Thus Greyhounds are very sensitive to certain medications, including anesthesia. **MAKE SURE THAT YOUR VET IS AWARE OF THE SPECIAL ANESTHESIA REQUIREMENTS FOR GREYHOUNDS BEFORE THEY UNDERGO ANY KIND OF SURGERY. GREYHOUNDS MUST BE ANESTHETIZED USING ISOFLORANE.**

### **Post Operative Care:**

#### **What to expect after your Greyhound has been spayed/neutered prior to adoption:**

- Your Greyhound may be groggy for the first few days after surgery. Each day the dog will get better.
- Expect that your Greyhound will need to go to the bathroom more frequently for a few days.
- He may vomit the first night from the anesthesia. Nothing is wrong unless it continues for a few days.
- Anesthesia may cause coughing.
- He may be tender and sore for a few days.

#### **There are some do's and don'ts that are suggested:**

##### **DO:**

- Give him a small amount of water the first night as too much might make him vomit.
- Check the incision every day for the first week. If it is red and/or inflamed call your veterinarian.
- Go to the veterinarian for suture removal if the sutures are not the dissolvable type.
- Rest and relaxation leads to a successful recovery.

##### **Don't:**

- Let him jump or run for the first two weeks if you can control him. If he must go up and down from a high place, lift him up and place him gently down.
- Feed your Greyhound the first night as he may vomit the food.
- Give him a bath for at least two weeks following surgery.
- Let him lick or chew on the stitches. If this happens, use a muzzle.

### **Hypothyroidism:**

Many Greyhounds have low or low-normal levels of thyroid. Symptoms may include: hair loss (on rear, tail and neck), darkening of the skin, dry or scaly coat or hair, and lethargy. A full coat should not automatically be ruled-out from checking the thyroid level if other symptoms are present. Some behavior problems have been associated with low thyroid levels. These include: separation anxiety, housebreaking issues (not related to bladder or kidney infections); shy or timid and destructive tendencies. A simple T4 blood test by your vet can be very

helpful in diagnosing this condition. Untreated hypothyroidism can have serious long-term effects. Check with your vet if symptoms occur.

### **Heartworm Disease:**

Mosquitoes transmit heartworm disease by biting an infected dog, then passing the infection on to other dogs they bite. Microfilaria ("baby heartworms") travel in the blood stream and the adult form lives in the dog's heart. The adult form can be up to 14 inches in length, causing heart and lung damage. Symptoms include: coughing, sluggishness, rapid tiring, and labored breathing. Diagnosis is made with a blood sample. Treatment can be dangerous and costly. Monthly preventatives work by killing the baby heartworms before they reach the heart. Dogs must be tested for existing infections before beginning preventative measures.

### **Bloat:**

As with other deep chested breeds; Greyhounds are prone to bloat, or torsion. Bloat is a life threatening disease where the stomach flips over. Immediate medical attention is required. Symptoms include distended abdomen, repeated unproductive vomiting, pacing and restlessness. If you see any of these signs get your dog to the vet immediately.

### **Scars:**

This is common with greyhounds as they have thin skin and may have banged into other Greyhounds on the track, or scratched themselves on a fence, etc. In time, your Greyhound's hair will grow and cover most scars.

### **Wounds:**

Greyhounds have no protection of fur or fat for injuries, so it may seem that they are more accident prone but this is not true and they will still run and play even with an injury. Keep an eye on them when they are running and playing hard. You can handle small wounds with bentadyne or an antibiotic ointment. Of course you should take your Greyhound to the vet for big wounds and small ones if they don't heal fast.

### **Bald Spots:**

This is not a skin problem. Due to the greyhound's diet on the track and being kept in a crate the hair is rubbed away. With the feeding of a good healthful dry dog food, this hair should start to grow back in 8-12 weeks. Prozyme will speed up hair growth.

### **Bursars or swollen elbows:**

Greyhounds have very little body fat and almost no padding on their joints. If they are forced to lie on hard surfaces for prolonged periods of time fluid may accumulate, your veterinarian can drain this fluid easily. A soft quilt or dog bed will keep this from recurring.

### **Diarrhea/Loose Stool:**

Diarrhea can happen with any dog. Some of the common causes of diarrhea are table scraps, cat food, stress, grass and garbage picking. All of these are controllable and care should be taken to avoid in the future. The following is a simple schedule, HOH recommends to combat loose stool I normal diarrhea:

- Withhold food for 12 hours and never limit the water intake.
  - Give your dog either Imodium or regular strength Pepto Bismo at the child dosage once.
  - Cook white rice and mix with cottage cheese ( 50-50)
1. After everything has cooled, make a mixture of 1 cup of rice to ½ ration of your dog's regular food for each feeding (twice a day). The mixture should be served at room temperature. The amount of food can be increased if the diarrhea stops.
  2. Once the dog has had three consecutive days of firm stool you can begin to introduce more of their regular food into the mixture. The introduction should be gradual (Typically no increases over ½ cup regular food).

Note: If the diarrhea does not slow down, does not stop after three days, or you see blood in the stool contact your veterinarian immediately!!!

### **Deadly Heat:**

When the temperature and humidity are high, take special precautions with your greyhounds. If it's too hot for you to be outside for long periods of time, it's definitely too hot for them. If you have to walk your dog during the day, stick to short potty walks. If you live in a house without air-conditioning, and have the windows open with fans running, and your dog is lying around panting, it's too hot to go outside for more than a very short walk. Take short walks in the early morning or late evening. Some dogs are more sensitive to the sun. Black greyhounds will feel the heat more than those with lighter colored coats. Greyhounds can also get sunburned. They have very short, thin coats, and as we all know, some of them have bald spots! Many greyhounds enjoy cooling off by walking or lying in a shallow pool of water. Kiddie pools work real well to let them cool off in.

### **Heat Stroke:**

Be aware of the early signs of heat stroke and take quick action. Symptoms to watch for are: rapid, hard breathing, reddened gums, enlarged tongue, muscle tremors, weakness and collapse. This is a medical emergency and your Grey needs to be cooled down immediately and taken to a vet. Get your dog into a cool area, soak towels in cold water, and wrap these around the dog. If possible, put about six inches of cold water in the bath tub, stand the dog in the cold water and pour cold water over it's entire body. If, after approximately 5-10 minutes, you don't see a change for the better, get the dog to the veterinarian immediately. Dogs can progress from mild heat stroke to severe quickly. If you see blood spots on the gums and what looks like bruising on the inside of the thighs, get to the veterinarian's immediately! Do not continue and try to treat the dog. Grab a wet towel to wrap the dog in if it's available and get moving! You may want to restrict their outdoor activities when the temperature gets too hot.

## **Fleas:**

**DO NOT EVER USE A FLEA COLLAR OR FLEA DIPS ON YOUR GREYHOUND.**

If you discover fleas on your Greyhound, you must be careful in how you deal with them. Greyhounds are extremely sensitive to pesticides and chemicals because their liver/kidneys are not able to filter out the toxins very fast and they continue to build up and eventually can kill him. If you need to use a flea shampoo, use any natural organic flea shampoo. Your vet can recommend one. Combining flea shampoos with a flea comb is a good natural way to get rid of fleas. Since fleas spend most of their life off the dog, you may have more success in treating your house instead of your dog.

If you chose to bomb your home; select a bug bomb that will kill both fleas and their eggs. When you bomb your house, remove yourself and all pets from the house for the day. Then air your home thoroughly before re-entering and wash all items that your Greyhound will come in contact with (bedding, toys, food bowls, etc.). Cedar chips are a natural flea repellent, so you can stuff your dog's bed with cedar chips which will not only repel fleas but makes his bed and the whole room smell delightful. There are also monthly preventative applications of Frontline and Advantage or Revo, which you may get through your vet.

## **Yard, Household Chemicals and Paint:**

All can be fatal to Greyhounds. Do not allow your Greyhound to walk on any chemically treated areas in your yard. Many harsh household detergents and chemicals are used in connection with house cleaning and home remodeling. Make sure that they are kept in an enclosed cabinet so your Greyhound cannot get into them. If he does ingest chemicals, give him hydrogen peroxide to induce vomiting and then get him to your veterinarian. Exposure to oil base paints can cause a variety of reactions in your dog. If you are painting your home, it is best to arrange to safely have your Greyhound elsewhere but if this is not possible place him in a safe and well ventilated area of the house away from the fumes.

## **Caring For Your Senior Pet**

What signs should we look for in our senior pet? As your pet ages a number of degenerative changes occur in almost all body systems. It is important that you note any of the following symptoms and bring them to the attention of your veterinarian. These include changes in appetite or water consumption, changes in body weight (weight gain or weight loss), or decreases in apparent vision or hearing. It is also important to look for changes in your pet's behavior. Typical abnormal behavioral signs seen in elderly dogs include confusion or disorientation, decreased activity, changes in the sleep/wake cycle, loss of houstraining and decreased interest in you or their environment. We can frequently help dogs that are demonstrating these types of abnormalities; so pet owners are encouraged to keep us informed of any problems. Your pet's hair/coat and skin should also be examined to look for any new lumps or growths that develop. Bring these to the attention of your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Dental disease is also a problem in the senior pet so routine good oral examinations, if possible, are a great way to help prevent tooth loss and fight bad breath and oral infections.

### **What can my veterinarian do to help our family care for a senior pet?**

The most important thing your veterinarian will want to do is obtain a very thorough history and perform a physical examination on your pet on a regular basis. Unlike the situation during your pet's early years, your veterinarian will want to see your senior pet at least every 6 months. This makes sense based on the rate at which our pets age relative to how we age. Your veterinarian may also want to take blood tests and a urinalysis at least once a year, and perhaps perform radiographs (x-rays) to help establish some baseline information and then as time passes to look for or monitor any problems that may arise.

Your veterinarian will also be looking for any signs of gum or dental disease and recommend routine dental care both at home and at the hospital. Any suspicious growths or lumps will also be noted and biopsied-and/or-removed. Your veterinarian will also be keeping a detailed medical record of all your pet's health problems and a record of all the medications your pet is taking to make sure that your pet receives excellent quality care. Your veterinarian may also provide you with a senior care checklist for your pet. This list can be used to help you monitor your pet's health through his or her senior years. Some physical and behavioral changes can be subtle and it is always a good idea to keep records of any changes for both you and the veterinarian. Your careful observation will assist us greatly in helping you provide the best possible care for your pet!

As the aging process continues you may also need to consult with your veterinarian about such things as pain management. Conditions like arthritis are very common disorders in older pets. Newer medications are now available which are both safe and effective in the management of a number of chronic senior health problems and your veterinarian will keep you updated on these developments. The goal of senior care is simple, we want to help you maintain the highest possible quality of life for your pet and thereby enhance the bond we all share. Together, you and your veterinarian can help make the senior years the most rewarding years for you and your pet to share with each other.

## **Traveling With Your Greyhound**

There are several websites that can give you a lot of good information on places that accept your pets. They are [www.petswelcome.com](http://www.petswelcome.com) , [www.dogfriendly.com](http://www.dogfriendly.com), [www.petvacations.com](http://www.petvacations.com) , [www.travelpets.com](http://www.travelpets.com). AAA also has a book that you can purchase for \$10.95 that has all hotel/motels that take dogs.

### **Loose vs. Contained**

Car safety is an important consideration for dog owners. There are several options for ensuring the safety of our beloved Greyhounds:

### **1) Barriers:**

Barriers are generally available in adjustable sizes in multiple styles. There are metal barriers that attach with vertical pressure points to the floor and the roof of the car. There are other barriers that attach to the windows with suction cups. There are also barriers made of netting or webbing. Whichever style you choose, take care to attach the barriers as securely as possible according to the directions provided by the manufacturer. Barriers are advantageous because they are relatively inexpensive, readily available, and do adequately segregate the dogs from the passenger area, which is an important safety consideration.

### **2) Canine Seatbelts:**

Canine seatbelts consist of a harness designed to minimize compression to the chest, through which the car's seatbelt is fastened. They are generally considered safer than barriers, because they keep the dog in place in case of accident with the same efficiency as a seat-belted human. They are also relatively inexpensive, readily available, easily removable and allow a place for as many dogs as there are seatbelts.

### **3) Crates:**

Crating dogs in an appropriate- sized vehicle, such as a mini or cargo van, is a safe way for them to travel. Plastic crates such as The Vari-Kennel made by Daskocil and the Furrari work well as do General Cage, Midwest Cage, or Kennel Aire, which are wire crates. Wire crates often come in more appropriate sizes to maximize usage of space inside the vehicle, but many people do not consider them as safe as a plastic crate. Generally a crate should be big enough for the dog to stand up, turn around, and lie down again. Crates should also be securely fastened within the vehicle, as a flying crate can be a dangerous projectile in the case of accident. Bungee cords work nicely to secure the crates. Another option, particularly if one is mechanically inclined, is to rig the existing seatbelts.

## **Lost Greyhounds**

GPA can help, but only if you call us. We will work with you to organize a search. According to the GPA Adoption Contract, that you signed, it states that you are to call GPA if your Greyhound is missing. The main thing is to stay calm. As soon as you notice your Greyhound is gone: Call the GPA 800 number 1-800-366-1472, AND your HOH Placement Representative. Give them the following information:

- Your Name
- Where you are located (street address, city and state)
- Phone number including area code
- When and where the dog got out
- Is the dog wearing a collar, tag numbers (GPA, license) If you do not have numbers, we can check the GPA database.
- Your Greyhounds name and color
- Get in your car or start walking and slowly cruise around your neighborhood looking for your missing Greyhound, working your way in widening circles outward from your home. Normally a loose Greyhound does not go more than a mile from home within the first 24 to 48 hours.



If you see your dog, DO NOT CHASE HIM, stand still, crouch down and call his name or walk slowly toward him calling his name and talking to him softly. Tell your neighbors and everyone that you run into that your Greyhound is missing. Take with you:

- Your cell phone if you have one. Make sure that you give the number to the person that you called to help you look for your Greyhound.
- Your other Greyhounds or dogs that are familiar with your missing dog.
- A lead and collar
- Treats (bribery is an acceptable ploy to entice your dog back to you) or a favorite toy or both.
- A 'predator' call if you have one. GPA has these for sale and several of us have them on hand to use in searches.
- Take water with you in the car if it's hot or your dog has been missing for some time
- Blankets or towels if it's cold, wet weather.
- Basic first aid supplies.
- Put up posters. Use a color picture of your dog and make up a flyer/poster, then post them around the neighborhood.
- Call animal control in your area, file a lost dog report, and then call them every day to see if they have found your Greyhound.

**\*NEVER GIVE UP!\***

### **Things to Remember:**

- Keep their collars with ID tags on them at all times.
- Place locks or signs on your fence gates so they are not left open accidently.
- Keep your fences in good repair.
- Learn basic body-blocking to keep you Greyhound from bolting out an open door.

## **Miscellaneous Items**

### **Greyhound's Bill of Rights**

1. We have the right to be full members of your family. We thrive on social interaction, praise, and love.
2. We have the right to stimulation. We need new games, new toys, new experiences, and new smells to be happy.
3. We have the right to regular exercise. Without it, we could become hyper, sluggish, or fat.
4. We have the right to have fun. We enjoy acting like clowns now and then; don't expect us to be predicable all the time.
5. We have the right to qualified health care. Please stay good friends with our vet.
6. We have the right to a good diet. Like some people, we don't know what's best for us. We depend on you.
7. We have the right not to be rejected because of your expectations that we be great show dogs or show cats, watchdogs, hunters, or babysitters.

8. We have the right to receive proper training. Otherwise, our good relationship could be marred by confusion and strife and we could become dangerous to ourselves and others.
9. We have the right to guidance and correction based on understanding and compassion, rather than abuse.
10. We have the right to live with dignity and to die with dignity when the time comes.

### **Greyhound Owner's Ten Commandments**

1. Thou shall love and care for thy Greyhound as long as ye both shall live.
2. Thou shall keep thy Greyhound as an indoor pet.
3. Thou shall keep ID on thy Greyhound at all times.
4. Thou shall discipline thy Greyhound with a Firm voice, not a heavy hand.
5. Thou shall provide thy Greyhound with cool water, healthy food and a soft bed.
6. Thou shall keep thy Greyhound securely leashed when not in a safely enclosed area.
7. Thou shall find a veterinarian who understands the special needs of thy Greyhound with anesthesia.
8. Thou shall use caution with the types of shampoos and flea products as certain chemicals are toxic to thy Greyhound.
9. Thou shall call freely upon a HoH Representative if thou ever hast questions about thy Greyhound.
10. Thou shall rejoice that thou made the wise decision of adopting an ex-racing Greyhound.

### **A Story of Trust: A Deadly Disease**

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waits its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there are inoculations. The disease is called TRUST. You knew before you ever took your Greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people, who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly rescued racer may steal off counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats, and must never be allowed off his lead! When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR". Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is NO!)

You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about whom you love most,

your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever. And so the weeks and months pass, with your Greyhound becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less mischief, less breakage. Almost before you know it your racer has turned into an elegant, dignified friend. Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car; and darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected; the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind. And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. After a time you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. Remember that he comes every time he is called. You know he is the exception that proves the rule. (And sometimes, late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.) At this point the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head. Years pass and it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, but often it takes much longer. He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running. Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever, your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome hit by a car. Every morning my dog Shah bounced around off his lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

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I would like to offer two additional accounts about the dangers of an unfenced area. This first account is really a basic tragic accident, due to an improperly fitting collar. The owners actually had the dog on a lead, but unfortunately were using only a flat buckle collar on the dog. The dog became frightened at

something, and just backed out of her collar. She took off away from them at top speed. Before they could manage to even get close to catching up to her, she had run out onto a road, and was instantly killed by a car. This is one of the reasons we advise using a halter while walking your Greyhound in an unfenced area. The second account involves too much trust and a lack of common sense. The owners lived somewhat out in the country. Woods surrounded their home and they were well off any major roadway. They had their new Greyhound about three weeks, when I got the phone call that I hate the most, "Our Greyhound is lost!" I knew these owners did not have a fenced yard, but they had sworn they would keep the dog on a lead when taken outdoors. Upon further questioning, I discovered that they quit using the lead after about the first week. The weather had gotten cold, and so early "in the mornings they would simply turn her out the back door, wait for her to "do her business," then call her back in. "she ALWAYS came when she was called," the woman lamented to me. They felt it was safe enough to allow her off the lead for just short bits of time, as they didn't live near a high traffic road, and she had never ventured into the woods before. Unfortunately, the little Greyhound DID bound off into the woods this particular morning.

Perhaps she heard a squirrel rustling in some nearby leaves, or smelled a rabbit, but whatever the reason, she had taken off into the woods, and they could not find her. Our hopes of finding her safe and sound faded a little more with each passing day, and no sign of the pretty little female Greyhound. After several weeks, our worst fears were confirmed. We got a call from a very nice man, who had been walking through the woods with his son when they discovered the still, cold body of a small, dead Greyhound. He got our number off her collar ID tag. She was found many, many miles from her home. Why did she run off this time when she had been so reliable before? Why didn't she come racing back as she always had when her family called for her? Who knows? What we do know is that ultimately dogs will be dogs. No matter how much or how long you train and teach your dog, there may come a point where their instincts will win over teamed behavior.

Please don't be fooled into a false sense of security with your Greyhound. Take the time make that little extra effort, to ensure your Greyhound will be safe. REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE DEPENDING ON YOU.

### **A Happy End**

The greatest thing I've ever known,  
Someone came and took me home.  
Away from the track; hope I'll never go back!  
Like a nightmare in my memory, my future looked black.  
Then I was adopted and my life spared.  
I thank God everyday that someone cared;  
'Cause this must be heaven, I'm a winner this time,  
Got a ball, a bone, and a bed all mine.  
And I'm crazy about my family.  
Devoted, you might say.  
Like a shadow beside them,  
You can bet I want to stay!  
And I'm special too; they call me "sweetheart."  
And they hug and kiss me and tell me I'm smart.  
Even dreams are peaceful now; no stress or strife.  
And I run for fun, instead of running for my life!

### **Cookie Cutter Dog Biscuits**

2 ½ Cup Whole Wheat Flour  
¼ Cup Milk  
1 Egg  
½ tsp Garlic  
¼ Cup Wheat Germ  
1 Tbsp Water Butter  
1 Tbsp Molasses  
1 ¼ tsp Salt  
3 Tbsp Water

Dissolve the yeast in warm water. Separately mix flour, garlic, wheat germ and salt. Then cut in butter. Stir in eggs, molasses and milk. Mix in yeast mixture. Roll dough ½ inch thick and cut into shapes and put on an un-greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for about 20 minutes. Cool overnight.