



Greyhound Pets of America/Greater Orlando

Adoption Manual

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1. The Greyhound's Background

To hasten the acclimation period, use this information about the Greyhound's background to give you insight into his/her temperament. Greyhounds and their mothers keep to a strict routine. The mother dog and her pups remain apart from the other dogs in a whelping house with outside 'runs' or exercise areas. After the pups are weaned, the mother returns to the regular holding area for brood-matrons to rest and then to breed again.

The pups go to the puppy building where they stay with other dogs their own age. Some farms 'pasture' pups in a large fenced area where they can romp and play together. They are handled extensively during this time. When they are three months old, their ears are tattooed. The right ear is the birth date, and the left ear is the litter registration number. The National Greyhound Association

records these numbers. The pups receive their racing names and a nickname or 'call name' at this time.

Good puppy care is one of the basics for a good racing dog. Being well bred and properly trained is also important. Some steps of the training program start at young ages, but most of their training takes place after the pup is almost mature, at 12 months. They learn to walk on the lead, wear a muzzle, stand while being groomed and examined, sleep in their crate without soiling it, and chase the lure. They visit the track and the starting box and learn that there is no fooling around on the track.

The training regimen is strict. These working dogs have long hours. They are up at dawn and 'turned out' for water and to relieve themselves. They eat, they rest, and then they go out again. They have an afternoon nap, evening exercise, and go to bed. At this stage, females exercise apart from the males. The dogs are handled and touched by people constantly.

Between 14 and 18 months of age, each dog's running style and potential shows. Some like to run at the rail, some run the outside, and some just run with the pack. The young immature racers learn strategy the hard way as they race with the older, more seasoned dogs. By now, some or all of the pups have been sold. When ready, they go to the big time. Greyhounds love to run. Chasing the lure around the track is how they get vanilla wafers and marshmallows. But what they love is running ahead of the pack. That is what they were bred to do.

Your Greyhound led a hard-working life. When it comes time to retire, it is understandable that your Greyhound now likes to lay and romp with stuffed animals and sleep most of the day. Greyhounds don't have much time for silly play and long naps when they are racing. The change from a racetrack environment to your household is stressful and confusing, but also exciting. It is your job to make the transition as easy and as comfortable as possible.

2. Preparations for Your New Pet

The Greyhound is an intelligent, adaptable dog. Each dog has a distinctive personality and the ability to adjust to life as a companion. Raised with littermates where they competed for attention, the Greyhound will now love to be the center of attention. Although well cared for as a racer, the retired Greyhound is longing for love and a soft, quiet place to lay its head.

- **Gather Supplies** – Purchase supplies such as a high quality food, an elevated feeder for food and water, toothbrush and special dog toothpaste, dog beds, marrow (soup) bones and play toys. As part of your adoption fee, you will receive a collar and leash, a special nubbed mitt for grooming, and other supplies.
- **Acquire a Crate** – A crate will help with housebreaking and to make your new pet feel more at ease. You will receive a loaner crate from GPA/GO for the first ten days. You will be asked to

You will be asked to leave a crate deposit. It is important that this crate is returned in a timely manner so that it may be used for the next placement.

- **Dog Proof the House** – Prepare your house for your new family member by removing any fragile knickknacks, checking your fencing for holes or weak spots, and placing clips or locks on your gates. You'll also want to check the latches and locks on screen doors and mark large windows and sliding glass doors with a band of tape for easy visibility.
- **Deter Counter Surfers and Garbage Diggers** – Clear your kitchen counter of any tempting treats and cover your waste container with a secure lid or place it inside a cabinet. This will solve problems before they ever become problems. Things in the garbage can be very harmful to your curious pet. Even something as common as aluminum foil can be fatal if consumed. A plastic grocery bag can be a suffocating menace.
- **Control the Night Environment** – Select his/her sleeping place. Our suggestion is in the master bedroom with the door closed. Place his/her bed next to yours. This suggestion serves several purposes. The dog can tell you if he/she needs to go out. It reassures the dog to sleep with others in the room. Remember, the Greyhound has never slept alone in its entire life. Also, the dog should not roam the house at night. Sleeping in your room means you know what's going on.
- **Find an Exercise Area** – Scout nearby parks for enclosed, safe, and suitable areas to exercise your new dog. Dog parks with small and large dogs running loose are a potentially hazardous situation.
- **Prepare Your Veterinarian** – Contact your veterinarian to alert them about your new family member. Set up an appointment to review your Greyhound's medical information and discuss ongoing health care programs. GPA/GO will recommend a veterinarian that is knowledgeable about the special needs of Greyhounds. See veterinarian insert.
- **Establish the House Rules** – Discuss Greyhound pet rules with all family members, particularly children. This will ensure an easy transition period. If you don't want the dog to get on the couch, decide now. Breaking a habit is much more difficult than training. After your Greyhound jumps on the couch or takes food from the table for the first time, he/she has immediately formed a new habit.
- **Strange Greyhound Behaviors** – Even if you claim to be an educated dog owner, you won't be prepared for the first time your Greyhound smiles at you. A smiling Greyhound pulls his lips back to show his teeth while wagging his tail furiously. It's a little scary at first, but then you can't help but laugh at your silly pet. Another unusual Greyhound trait is 'air snapping'. An excited Greyhound will click his teeth together in the air making a snapping sound. Both of these behaviors are common greetings once your Greyhound has become attached to you.



3. Training Your Greyhound

One of the main reasons Greyhounds make such wonderful pets is that they are easily trained. Retired racers believe that people are all knowing and all powerful, making you the natural choice to set the ground rules. Keeping your dog under this illusion will be a great benefit to your relationship. The role as leader or coach of your Greyhound is a serious responsibility. The messages you send will shape your dog's idea of the world. Here are a few tips that will make the training process go smoothly.

- **Establish Boundaries of Acceptability** – Outline ahead of time what is an acceptable and not acceptable behavior for your Greyhound and make sure all family members abide by the rules. Can he get on the furniture? Where can he sleep? Where can he eat? What will his treats consist of?
- **Be Consistent with Your Rules** – Don't allow them to do one thing today and not tomorrow. Simple training techniques and praise will work wonders with your Greyhound. Call or ask your GPA representative for suggestions.
- **Correct Ways to Reprimand** – In most instances, a firm, sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your Greyhound. If you are looking for an alternative, try a squirt bottle filled with water. A couple of squirts of water will make a Greyhound think twice before attempting the undesired behavior again. Once your Greyhound knows the family rules, another effective way to reprimand him/her is to firmly scold him/her and then totally ignore him/her for several minutes. Greyhounds crave attention and this approach will reinforce their guilt. Never, ever hit your Greyhound.
- **Do Not Reinforce Negative Behavior** – Remember that your dog will respond to your reaction, not your words. If he/she seems afraid of something new, and you cuddle and coo over him/her, your Greyhound will soon get the idea that he/she should react timidly to a new situation. Instead, try an upbeat tone, encourage your dog to try the new situation and reassure him/her by stroking his/her neck. Always praise your Greyhound when he/she has done something good.
- **New Experiences** – Be aware that home life is a new experience for your Greyhound and simple things like stairs, glass doors, and shiny floors may frighten him/her at first. Take the time to show your Greyhound that these new things are not a big deal and easily mastered. A swimming pool looks like another walking surface to the unknowing Greyhound and could become a hazard if you don't take precautions.
- **Be in Charge** – Throughout the dog's life, he/she has relied on someone to set boundaries for him/her. First his/her mother, then his/her trainer, now you. Your Greyhound is counting on you to tell him/her what is good and what is not good. Always remember, you are in charge, not the dog.

4. Feeding Your Pet

Your new Greyhound must adjust from the special high calorie, high protein racing diet that was required as a professional athlete to a top quality, well balanced pet diet. Be prepared for a little 'doggy gas' at first. Here are some mealtime dos and don'ts.

- **DO feed your Greyhound the same measured amount twice a day.** Two to four cups of dry food (kibble) per meal, mixed with warm water is usually appropriate at first. You may need to reduce the amount after the first few weeks according to your dog's activity level and age. You should be able to *feel* the ribs, but only be able to *see* the outline of the last rib. Do not over feed your Greyhound. A fat Greyhound is an unhealthy Greyhound. You may mix in vegetables, boneless chicken, cottage cheese, yogurt, canned dog food to the kibble.
- **DO use a small chunk, 'high-quality' dry dog food.** Do not use generic dog food or grocery store food. Meat should be the first ingredient in the dog kibble. A poor grade food only allows for more waste product and less nutrition. Use senior food for dogs over six years of age.
- **DO leave your dog alone while feeding.** If you are using a crate, you should feed your dog in the crate. If you are not using a crate, pick a quiet corner of the room where he/she will not be disturbed. Do not feed more than one dog in one area. You should separate your dogs when feeding in order to monitor how much food each dog is eating. Separate feeding also helps avoid disputes over food. Food can be a major motivator in dog fights.
- **DO feed your dog at the same time every day.** Greyhounds like consistency.
- **DO let your dog out soon after feeding to relieve himself/herself.** Pick a feeding time that is convenient for this routine.
- **DO monitor your dog's eating habits.** It is not unusual for a new Greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. To encourage eating, you may want to substitute warm (low sodium) broth for water. This makes the dry kibble more appealing.
- **DO pick up any food not eaten after 20-30 minutes.** Repeat this routine at the next feeding and your Greyhound will quickly learn mealtime limitations.
- **DO watch for itchy, flaking skin.** Cold, dry weather can irritate a Greyhound's skin. You may add one or two teaspoons of vegetable, olive or flaxseed oil to your dog's food. Also, an Omega 3 Gelcap may be added to the food.
- **DON'T let your Greyhound eat everything in sight.** Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat anything. Unfortunately, everything doesn't quite agree with them. Despite what advertisers would have us believe, your Greyhound will be happiest with the same food every meal. Remember the kibble should still be the main source of food.
- **DON'T let your Greyhound exercise strenuously immediately after eating.** Allow 60 minutes after eating before strenuous exercise. All deep-chested dogs, including Greyhounds are susceptible to bloat, a condition that can be fatal. To help prevent this condition, elevate the dog's food and water dish.
- **DON'T be afraid to share your healthy treats.** If your new pet



expects you to share your banana as you slice it for your cereal, don't be surprised. Your Greyhound may have eaten bananas, apricots, pumpkin, applesauce, spinach, and even vanilla ice cream on a limited level as a racer. A cooked egg in their food, ½ cup of cooked vegetables, cottage cheese or yogurt once in a while is perfectly acceptable. If you notice your dog eating grass in the yard, add some greens or V-8 juice to their food.

- **DON'T ever feed your dog chocolate.** Reactions to this tempting sweet vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed your dog's heart rate, cause allergic reactions, and in some cases can be fatal.
- **DON'T feed your dog 'people shaped' treats.** Some dog treats, like miniature hot dogs or bacon, contain a lot of dyes and sugar. Stick to the basics of good quality hard biscuits.
- **DON'T feed your dog any food or treats containing red dye.** Also, NEVER give your dog any beef-basted chews, rawhide, pigs' ears, cow hooves.
- **DON'T feed your dog from the table.** This will only encourage bad habits that are hard to break. NEVER give fat from meat, corn, potatoes, onions, peas. NEVER give grapes or raisins as they are toxic.
- **DON'T leave alluring items on kitchen counters.** Greyhounds are curious by nature and may sample items left on the counter.
- **DON'T be alarmed by your Greyhound gulping down his/her meal.** Greyhounds generally 'bolt' their food without much, if any, chewing.

5. Kids and Dogs

Although, kids and dogs are everyone's favorite photographic subject, they present special problems for parents. Teaching the new Greyhound manners must go hand-in-hand with teaching the children manners around the new pet. Please keep in mind that you are dealing with a live, adult animal with all the accompanying instincts and needs. The Greyhound is one of the most easy-going breeds, but it is nonetheless just a dog. In order to establish a loving relationship between Greyhound and child, it is a wise idea to review the following ideas with the children.

- The Greyhound is not a toy. It deserves respect, personal space, and responsible care.
- No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. If the dog is sleeping, he/she needs rest. When he/she is ready to play, the dog will let you know. Remember, a Greyhound often sleeps with his/her eyes open.
- A Greyhound needs a place of his/her own to rest undisturbed. An open crate is an excellent choice, but off limits to children.
- Small children often want to express their affection for the Greyhound by hugging or clinging to the dog. Teach your children that this can be 'scary' for the dog and encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders or brushing instead.
- Tails and ears are private things, not play things.

- It is important to reinforce to the dog that children are part of the 'human coaching team' not littermates. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that the child is still a person and must respond accordingly. For this reason, we strongly recommend that your Greyhound does not share your child's bed or bedroom.
- Outdoor games with your Greyhound should be closely supervised, especially initially and until both child and dog are fully trained.
- Instead of running and jumping with your new pet, have your child join you as you stand in place and happily encourage your dog to come to you. This provides exercise for the dog and reminds him that all people are in control, whether large or small.
- The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy – **SAFETY FIRST**. This applies to both the dog and the kids. **Do not** leave young children and dogs alone together! If you cannot supervise, separate your dog from the child!

6. Greyhounds and Other Pets

One basic philosophy will describe the way to handle this situation. You are in charge; the Greyhound is not. When introducing your Greyhound to other animals follow these simple rules.



Dogs and Greyhounds

- Introduce them on neutral ground. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing him/her to meet in an area neither pet 'owns'. For example, do not introduce the dogs in his/her yard or his/her house or his/her bed. Try introducing them a few blocks away from both of their territories.
- Have the dog act as a 'host' to the new Greyhound. After the initial sniffing, you should walk the dogs together for a short time and then bring them into the house together.
- Accept no signs of aggression. Any sign of growling or aggression should be met with a quick tug of the leash and a sharp 'NO!' Although Greyhounds are used to sharing attention, your other dog may feel jealous and need a little extra attention.

- Make use of basket muzzles when your dogs are exercising. In the heat of competition a Greyhound can become nippy, or if bumped hard you could be dealing with a full out combat. The muzzle prevents injury until the situation calms down, which in the case of the Greyhound does not take too long. But, remember the muzzle is not 100%. Supervision is the key.
- Always feed the dogs separately. Feeding together could create competitive feelings. Either feed in different areas of the house, or at different times.
- Do not leave them unsupervised in the yard together. Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out in the yard together. A playful romp could easily turn into a competition. Once you feel that they have accepted each other, you'll be in for a treat as you watch the two of them play. If your other dog is older or overweight, make sure he/she doesn't overdo it as he tries to keep up with his/her sleek new roommate.
- Special rules for tiny partners. If your other pet is a very small breed, you should supervise play situations closely, especially at first. Your Greyhound's playful chase and lunge could be too rough for a toy breed. You will need to teach the Greyhound how to play gently. Remember, you are in charge. Again use the muzzle for any introductions and until completely comfortable. Do not allow a small dog to torment your Greyhound. 'Every' dog has its limits, even the gentle Greyhound.

Cats and Greyhounds



Many Greyhounds have no problem making friends with cats and even grow to love their small companions. A few Greyhounds can be described as 'high prey' and they see the cat as something to be chased. It is important that you protect your cat until you are sure that your new Greyhound has no predatory feelings towards your cat. GPA has 'cat tested' your pet using the same procedure below, but you should follow the same steps again when you bring your Greyhound home.

- Shut the cat in one room while the Greyhound explores the house.
- Keep the dog on a leash and put the muzzle on.

- After the initial exploration, one adult should take the Greyhound on the leash while the other lets the cat out.
- You don't need to lead the dog, but you should follow him and be able to tug and correct sharply if he tries to dart for the cat.
- After the initial introduction, you may remove the leash, but keep the muzzle on until you feel confident. If your cat is familiar with dogs, this process usually goes quickly, especially if your Greyhound has been to 'cat school' in his adoption program. If your cat is older, or very shy, the process could take several weeks.
- The Greyhound should be crated when no one is home for the initial transition period.
- Cat food has an irresistible smell to dogs and should be placed in a high spot so that the greyhound cannot get to it.
- Litter boxes should be hooded and turned into a corner to ensure peace for the cat and no access for the dog. Keep a squirt bottle filled with water on hand, just in case.



7. Home Alone

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

- Greyhounds are not outdoor pets. **NEVER** leave your dog outdoors for extended periods of time, particularly in the winter and summer months. They have little body fat and do not react well to extreme heat or cold. They overheat and chill easily, and the extreme heat can kill them.
- **NEVER** tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain, or 'runner'. Greyhounds are not used to being tied to something stationary. They can get tangled up and injure themselves. They could also pull, wiggle, or chew their way loose. Greyhounds may forget that they are tied and take off running at their blazing speed resulting in a snapped neck when they hit the end of the line. These dogs can reach top speed in only three strides.
- All dog's including Greyhounds have a need to chew. It helps to relieve tension, boredom, and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large marrow (soup) bone for your dog to chew while you are away. Children should understand that this bone is strictly for the dog and not a toy to be taken away from the dog. Also, a toy or bone with a hollow cavity, such as a 'Kong', can be

filled with peanut butter for hours of entertainment as your dog tries to get to this healthy treat.

The Greyhound's Crate

A big asset in this initial adjustment period is the crate. This portable cage provides the security your dog needs as well as protecting both the dog and your house from any damage.

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

For the first few days, leave the crate door open when you are present. Your Greyhound may be frightened by too much activity, noise, or strange surroundings and take comfort in the crate's safety.

Separation Anxiety

- One of the hardest things for your Greyhound to adjust to will be loneliness. This dog has lived its entire life with either littermates or kennelmates and people coming and going most of the day.
- Before you leave your dog for an extended period, you should practice leaving for short time intervals to develop trust that you will return. Build up to longer period of separation.

The Crate Game or First Separation

- Get your dog familiar with going into his crate. Command him/her with "Pooch, kennel up" or "Pooch, go to bed". You can toss a small dog biscuit in the crate if you like. If the dog balks, place one hand on his/her collar and one on his/her rump and gently shove. Close the door and tell your pet how good he/she is. About a minute later, open the door and praise him/her again.
- The next time or even a few minutes later, repeat the process. This time leave the room. Plan to hide for several minutes and then let your Greyhound out. This teaches him/her that you always come home.
- If your Greyhound acts up when crated, stomp into the room and tell your dog "to be quiet", then stomp out. After a few minutes of being quiet, praise him/her enthusiastically.
- Keep repeating this 'crate game' and extend into longer time spans. It's a good idea to pick

your keys up and go outdoors as if you were leaving for work and then listen to protests from the Greyhound.

- The crate will provide an escape for your dog if children are harassing your dog. Of course, the strictly enforced rule is that no one bothers the dog when he's in the crate. **NEVER** let your child crawl into an open crate after the dog. If you decide not to use a crate because someone is home most of the time, you should choose a 'centralized open room' to keep the dog in when you're gone. You may use baby gates to separate the dog from areas where he/she is presently not to go. You will need to practice the procedures just like the people using the crate. You can also muzzle the dog to protect your Greyhound and your furnishings. **NEVER** put a Greyhound in a closed room, as he/she will panic.
- Slowly wean the Greyhound out of the crate and into its new home. The Greyhound's reaction to its new surroundings will let you know when it ready to no longer need the crate.



8. Exercise

A popular myth about Greyhounds is that as ex-athletes, they require a lot of exercise. In reality, the Greyhound is a pretty lazy dog. However, we do recommend a certain amount of exercise, which is both good for the dog and you. Most Greyhound pets can be kept happy and healthy with a 10-minute daily walk. Although romping and running in a large fenced area is fun, it is not essential.

The most obvious and easiest exercise answer is in your own fenced backyard. The typical Greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished.

Care should be taken in introducing your new Greyhound to your yard or any new fenced area before turning him/her loose in it. This means a walk around the fence so that the dog can familiarize himself/herself with the boundaries. You also should let the dog investigate the hazards in your yard such as a barbecue pit or planter.

The first time your dog exercises in your yard off the leash should be in daylight and under an adult's supervision. You may need to restrict your dog's activity in a new area. Greyhounds have been conditioned for sprinting and may become so excited and interested by a new exercise area that they overdo it. They may even injure themselves by running into a fence or a tree until they are familiar with their new yard.

If you plan to use your Greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program you 'must' start slowly. Greyhounds are exercised 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. Remember, concrete or blacktop can get too hot for your pet's feet. Start your dog's regimen the same way you did yours, slowly. Walk or jog two or three blocks at first and then gradually increase.

*****Care should be taken during extreme temperatures.** Your dog is **VERY** susceptible to heat stroke, just as you are. During hot weather it is **NOT** advisable to let your Greyhound jog. Longer walks should be in the morning or evening. Remember Greyhounds have no fat layer or undercoat to protect them in either too hot or cold situations. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding. Cold weather presents other hazards for this desert breed. A warm-up blanket (coat) made for Greyhounds is an excellent idea for walking or jogging in temperatures in the fifties.

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

*****NOTE OF CAUTION – exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for a 'DISASTER'.** The Greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. Something as small as a paper cup blowing across the street from the open park could mean your dog's death or your neighbor's cat may suddenly find himself mistaken for the lure. Once your pet is focused in on this moving object, he no longer hears you. He is running on pure instinct.

If your Greyhound gets off the lead and will not come to you, stop where you are, bend down, call his name, and clap your hands. If he does not respond, turn and walk away, still calling his name. Break into a slow run and he should respond. Make every effort to get him to come to you. Do not reprimand him when he does. Running is a big game for him, and if he can get you to chase him, this is even more fun. The use of a 'squawker' is highly recommended.

Most Greyhounds walk very well on a leash. If your pet starts to pull or freezes as he sees something on the horizon, 'pop' or 'snap' the leash to quickly tug the collar and give the command, 'heel' or 'let's go'. You can also stop moving entirely until the dog no longer pulls if he has a tendency to drag you along.

9. Grooming Your Greyhound

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

- If you do need to shampoo your dog, select a conditioning shampoo designed for animals from a good pet store or your veterinarian. Never use human shampoo. Even products as gentle as baby shampoo will seem harsh to your pet. An interesting alternative is Murphy's Oil Soap for wood floors. It is all natural, rinses quickly, and has a main ingredient of vegetable oil.
- Be sure to rinse, rinse, rinse after bathing. Any soapy residue left can be an irritant to your dog's sensitive skin
- Never use flea/tick preventative shampoo as they contain dangerous chemicals.
- Most of the year, a quick brushing with a grooming mitt in the morning will keep him looking great. During the spring and fall shedding, you may need to repeat this routine in the evening as well. A short nubbed rubber mitt (provided at adoption time) will aid in removing stubborn elements such as dead hair and dried mud.
- Once a week, you should inspect your pet's ears and clean his/hers gently with a cotton ball, a baby wipe, or a swab dipped in baby oil. Weekly ear cleansing with dog ear washes cleans ears deeper down in the ear safely.
- Most Greyhounds will need to have their teeth professionally cleaned on a regular basis. When you take your new pet for its first check up, have the veterinarian inspect his teeth. To maintain dental hygiene, your veterinarian will be happy to show you how to brush your Greyhound's teeth. Brush your dog's teeth 2 to 3 times a week with a soft child's toothbrush or finger brush using appropriate dog toothpaste, NOT human toothpaste.
- Greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Just lean over and bend each foot backwards, so they you can see the underside of the nail. If you're nervous about trimming the nails, ask your vet or local groomer to show you how much to trim. NEVER let the nails get too long as your Greyhound will not be able to walk properly, and it is also painful.
- **FLEA AND TICK CONTROL** is the one area that requires special effort on your part. Greyhounds are extremely sensitive to chemicals and pesticides. The use of a flea collar or medication, or even a grocery store flea spray could KILL your dog.

Greyhounds should be treated only with products containing PYRETHRIN as the active ingredient. *Program*, *Advantage*, and *Front Line Top Spot* are being used on Greyhounds with great results. **NEVER** use 'over the counter' products that say they do the same thing as Advantage or Frontline. They can KILL your Greyhound.

10. Unsafe Products and Drugs

DO NOT use these on or around a Greyhound.

- ALL flea collars, flea-killing medications, all long-lasting flea dips, Dursban, (chlorphrifos) insecticides, Dichlorvos (DDVP) insecticides, Methoxychlor (DDE), Malathion, or any other insecticides that end in 'thion

- Proban flea control tablets and oral liquid, Pro Spot 40, and Spotton (fenthion), topical systemic insecticide
- Filarbits Plus heartworm and hookworm preventive
- **NEVER** get the Pro-Heart six-month shot from your vet. It could prove fatal
- DNP, Task, Telmin/Telmintic, Vermiplex/Anaplex deworming drug
- **NEVER** use Hartz Blockade.
- Don't offer foods containing red dyes or beef-basted bones.

11. Special Information on Anesthesia

*****Certain types of anesthesia and ways of administering the drugs can kill your dog.** When your Greyhound was anesthetized for surgery, the veterinarian knew about their super sensitivity. Greyhounds need only 25% of a normal dose. This is because they are lacking certain enzymes, which break down the anesthesia in their systems. Administering anesthesia according to weight, which is the normal procedure, could be fatal for your dog. Discuss this with your veterinarian. GPA/GO will recommend a vet who is knowledgeable about the unique characteristics of Greyhounds and anesthesia.



12. Special Information on Heartworms

You are given your first month's dose of approved heartworm preventative for your Greyhound. Then you are to go to your veterinarian and purchase a supply. **Heartgard Plus** and **Interceptor** are recommended. **NEVER** use the Pro-Heart Six Shot! Your Greyhound 'must' be kept on a monthly Heartworm preventative for the rest of its life.

Canine Heartworm Disease continues to be a common problem. It is spread by the ordinary mosquito and can be found wherever mosquitoes breed. In theory, the best way to prevent heartworm is to keep your dog from being bitten by a mosquito. Unfortunately, mosquito control can never be 100% effective. Greyhound skin is thin and they do not have a thick coat, so a mosquito can bite them very easily.

How does a dog get Heartworms?

- Infected mosquitoes deposit Heartworm larvae into the dog's bloodstream.
- Larvae migrate to body tissue where they continue to mature.
- Young adults migrate to the blood vessels of the heart and lungs.
- Mature females release microfilariae into the blood where they are picked up by other mosquitoes.

What happens when a dog gets Heartworms?

- Adult worms live in the pulmonary arteries and right side of the heart.
- Worms entwined about the heart valves interfere with the mechanics of the heart. In time, this extra burden causes right-side heart failure.
- Worms that form clumps in the anterior and posterior vena cava cause a disorder called vena cava syndrome. Signs of acute liver failure develop. They include jaundice, blood in the stool, swelling of the abdomen, and anemia. Collapse and death can occur within three days.

What are the signs of Heartworms?

Dogs can harbor heartworms for several years before showing signs. These signs vary according to the number of worms, duration of infection, and immune response of the host.

- Soft, deep cough
- Shortness of breath
- Intolerance to exercise
- The dog will tire easily.
- Appear unusually weak and listless
- Loose condition
- May bring up bloody sputum
- Chronic weight loss
- Labored breathing at rest
- The ribs become prominent and the chest starts to bulge.
- Congestive heart failure and vena cava syndrome are signs of advanced disease.
- Acute pulmonary thromboembolism can lead to collapse and death.

There is treatment for a dog with Heartworm, however it is very risky for the dog. There are serious side effects, and it is very expensive.

PREVENTION IS YOUR BEST TREATMENT!

13. Emergency Phone Numbers

VETERINARY INFORMATION

GREYHOUNDS HAVE SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS, ESPECIALLY IN RELATIONSHIP TO **ANESTHESIA**. THE LIFE OF YOUR GREYHOUND DEPENDS ON THE COMPETENCE OF THE VETERINARIAN YOU SELECT.

IF A VET IS NOT INCLUDED ON THIS LIST, PLEASE INTERVIEW HIM/HER PRIOR TO BRINGING YOUR GREYHOUND INTO THAT OFFICE.

USE THE ADOPTING THE RACING GREYHOUND BOOK AS YOUR GUIDE IN REGARD TO THE SAFE AGENTS USED FOR ANESTHESIA. DO **NOT** USE A VET WHO DOES NOT HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE OR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GREYHOUNDS, NO MATTER HOW 'NICE' HE/SHE MAY BE. BE SURE THEY TREAT MANY GREYHOUNDS IN THEIR PRACTICES, NOT JUST A FEW! IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU ARE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE GPA OFFICE AT 407-332-4754.

VETERINARY EMERGENCY CLINICS

WEEKNIGHTS: 6:00 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M.

WEEKENDS: SATURDAY, NOON THROUGH MONDAY

HOLIDAYS: 24 HOURS

- 195 CONCORD DRIVE, **CASSELBERRY**, FL 32707, 407-644-4449
- 2080 PRINCIPAL ROW, **ORLANDO**, FL 32837, 407-438-4449
- 33040 PROFESSIONAL DRIVE, **LEESBURG**, FL 34788, 352-728-4440

HUMAN POISON CONTROL

THERE IS NO CHARGE – THEY WILL ANSWER CANINE QUESTIONS
1-800-282-3171

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER

1-888-426-4435

www.aspca.org/apcc

THERE IS A \$50 CHARGE PER CALL