



**GREYHOUNDS
AS PETS**



GAP ADOPTION GUIDE

Greyhounds as Pets NSW

www.gapnsw.com.au | gap@grnsw.com.au



Greyhounds As Pets NSW Limited is a not-for-profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW. The initiative was established for the purpose of humanely and ethically rehoming retiring and relinquished greyhounds. Greyhounds As Pets NSW provides greyhound racing owners and trainers with the opportunity to have suitable dogs re-homed. The program has been in operation since 2008 and has adoption facilities in the NSW Central Coast and in Western Sydney. Regional programs operate in the Central West, South Coast and Northern Rivers regions of NSW.

The dedicated team at Greyhounds As Pets are committed to finding you the perfect companion and are happy to provide advice and assistance throughout the journey.

LICENSING



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- Dr Elyssa Payne
- Dr Karen Dawson B.V.Sc.

Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Greyhound Behaviour	3
Anxiety in greyhounds	6
Behavioural signs of fear and anxiety	7
Settling in your new greyhound	8
Settling in – night-time	11
Encouraging appropriate behaviour	13
Strategies for unwanted behaviours	14
Punishment	16
Introducing a Greyhound into a Multi-dog household	17
Greyhound Body Language	18
Chase (or predatory) behaviour in greyhounds	20
Greyhound Stress Scale	22
Displacement Behaviours	23
Bite Reactivity	26
Normal Social Behaviour	27
Exercise	28
Walking on Lead	29
Greyhounds & Children	31
Cats & Other Animals	33
Helping Fearful and Anxious Dogs	36
Isolation and separation-related distress	37
Hoarding or Collecting Items	39
Behaviour Quiz	40
Basic Training	42
Recall training	42
Lying Down; Sit; Toilet Training	44
Crate Training	46
Stairs	47
Entertainment & Enrichment	48
Training Quiz	50
Greyhound Health	51
Feeding	52
Dental Health	53
Body Condition and Weight	54
Bloat or Gastric Torsion	55
Pannus	56
Worms, Fleas & Ticks	57
Preventatives	58
Safety	58
Health Quiz	59
Ownership and Responsibilities	60
NSW Laws	60
Muzzling Exemptions - Greenhounds	62
Responsibilities Quiz	63
Quiz Answers	63

Introduction

Congratulations on joining the growing number of lucky people devoted to this gentle and magnificent breed. You are providing a wonderful opportunity for your new dog as it starts the next chapter of its life.

Give your new greyhound every chance for success

Greyhounds make wonderful pets, but like any working dog, a period of transition is to be expected. A significant number of greyhounds may find the sudden change of environment distressing. It is important to recognise that rehoming is a stressful event for any dog, and especially so for greyhounds as many have had little to no exposure to life as a pet.

Fear, anxiety and social conflict (particularly towards smaller breeds of dog) are amongst the more frequently encountered behavioural problems for retiring greyhounds. You will be taking on the responsibility of caring for a dog undergoing an enormous adjustment in its lifestyle. It is critical that you have patience, understanding and a desire to help your greyhound learn what it needs to know about living as part of a domestic household.

This adoption guide can help by:

1. giving you an insight into the process of settling a new greyhound into your home.

We also recommend that you complete the online GAP Behaviour Module BEFORE you bring home your new family member. Contact GAP for a link to this online course.

2. providing you information to help you and your greyhound build a positive relationship.

This adoption guide is designed to give your new greyhound the best start in this new chapter of his or her life.

GREYHOUND BEHAVIOUR

From racing to couch-surfing

Greyhounds are often touted as the perfect dog: lazy, easy-to-handle and not in need of much space. While this may be true for some, this stereotype is misleading particularly for greyhounds that are retired from the racing industry.

The life of a racing greyhound typically involves being raised in a rural to semi-rural paddock environment for the early stages of their career, eventually being transitioned to living in racing kennels. Consequently, many of these dogs are not used to being in a domestic household, have had little to no exposure to other breeds of dog and are used to having other greyhounds around them most of the time.

In summary: many ex-racers have had upbringings and living environments that vastly differ from those of your average canine companion. This is the primary reason why we recommend being patient with your new greyhound: living in a home is a huge transition for most ex-racers.

Keeping things low-key will help your greyhound slowly learn all the great things about living with you and will ensure that you build a relationship built on trust and understanding. Good dogmanship is essential for setting these sensitive souls up for success and allowing them to grow into loving (mostly) couch potatoes.



Anxiety in greyhounds

Fear and anxiety is a negative emotional system that includes behaviours related to protection from threat and danger. While these behaviours are normal in many pets, the persistence of these emotional states (particularly in the absence of real threat) can result in the development of chronic behavioural issues and can impair a dog's overall health. These issues often result in breakdown of the dog-human relationship which may lead to return of greyhounds that don't settle well into their new home.

In particular, unsuccessful greyhound adoption is more likely if the dog has displayed unwanted behaviours: isolation distress, noisiness, aggression and difficulty getting along with children and existing pets. The desire to see immediate benefits when adopting and potentially the inability to accept the occurrence of behavioural issues, makes the return of ex-racing greyhounds highly likely in homes that aren't well prepared to work on gradually adjusting their new friend to its home.

Greyhounds are often noted as couch potatoes who can be perfectly suited to the busy urban lifestyle of apartments. While some greyhounds may thrive in such environments, these greyhounds often took quite some time to settle into their new lifestyle and the occurrence of undesirable behaviour (such as isolation distress) likely would have occurred along the way. As previously mentioned, the fear/anxiety emotional system exists to protect an animal (humans included!) from danger. How might a sudden change of environment from racing kennel to pet life be viewed by an animal with no suitable reference points for the new sights and sounds in their adoptive home? With fear and anxiety!

At GAP NSW we advocate minimising the fear and anxiety a newly adopted greyhound will experience by keeping its world small and exposing it to new things in a gradual and controlled fashion.

Greyhound Racing NSW is working with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) and industry participants to introduce early socialisation programs to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of greyhounds. Despite this, many dogs may come into the program with minimal exposure to a domestic life. So, some fear/anxiety (from both human and greyhound!) is to be expected when first settling into a home. To set you up for success, the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) team will endeavour to best match you with a greyhound that will be most likely to cope with your lifestyle and expectations. We will also provide you with as much information as possible to ensure your expectations are realistic.



Behavioural signs of fear and anxiety

Behaviours related to fear/anxiety (or other negative emotional systems) can fall under the following categories:

1. Avoidance

The greyhound removes itself from the trigger. This can involve, hiding, cowering, shifting away and escaping.

2. Inhibition

This often involves when escape is impossible and the dog can only gather information. It is characterised by a stiffening of the body, a glazed stare and apparent inaction. Freezing on lead is the most common example of inhibition in greyhounds.

3. Appeasement

This encompasses social behaviours designed to gather information from other social peers and minimise conflict. Such behaviours can include leaning, licking the face and a lowered body posture. In isolation, appeasement behaviour is quite normal for standard social interactions between dogs (or dogs and humans) but is indicative of a negative emotional state should these signs persist throughout an interaction and prevent normal functioning.

4. Repulsion

Also known as aggression - behaviours designed to make a trigger go away. These can include stiffening, growling, snarling, snapping and biting.

Greyhounds are also known as passive stress copers. This means early indications of stress and discomfort may be missed by us humans. These will occur more often than to be expected in normal interactions.

Such signs can include:

- Licking lips (often anxious dogs have pink staining around their muzzle)
- Yawning
- Freezing up or shutting down, non-responsive behaviour, refusing to walk on the leash
- Whining
- Hyper vigilance or scanning the environment
- Tail tucked low and tight
- Hiding
- Restlessness and difficulty relaxing
- Seeking constant proximity to adopter (commonly referred to as the Velcro dog)
- Destructive behaviour
- Collecting toys or household objects
- Lack of appetite
- Recurring or chronic diarrhoea
- Growling, snarling, snapping and (in extreme circumstances) biting

Settling your new greyhound

Your new greyhound doesn't know the house rules and likely doesn't know much about being in a domestic household. Some dogs respond to this by becoming quiet and withdrawn. Others will cope with the stress through excitable behaviour.

The most important thing that you can do for your new greyhound is build a predictable environment. It is easy to assume that your home will automatically feel comfortable for your new dog. The opposite is actually true. They have to learn to interpret the body postures, actions, words and wants of you, their new family while simultaneously trying to get used to life in a completely new environment. Other dogs get the opportunity to do this much earlier in life. Considering that many greyhounds have not had the 'leg up' that pet dogs have, the fact that so many of them successfully settle into homes is remarkable!



Often, a lack of understanding of what you want and communication inconsistencies in owner response can lead to conflict, fear/anxiety and uncertainty. This anxiety is heightened with the application of punishment (in behavioural science this is termed 'positive punishment') such as verbal reprimands, squirt bottles or physical corrections.

The key message here is that you should always reward good behaviour. This will not only help to strengthen the bond between you and your new greyhound, but will improve communication through predictability. Don't forget to tell them they are wonderful.





Dos and Don'ts

- ✓ Keep a good dog bed in the family and/or dining room, and show them where their bed is and reward them for going there. If your dog gets on the couch, lure them off the couch with food and give the treat to them in their bed.
- ✓ Reward with tasty treats and attention whenever your dog is doing something 'good', this can be investigating, resting calmly, allowing you to walk past. In the beginning the more you reward your dog the better!
- ✗ Don't leave 'forbidden' objects lying around the house. This will only encourage your dog to put them in their mouth. Instead, give them access to lots of appropriate toys.
- ✗ Don't wait for your dog to have a toileting accident. Help them get it right from the outset.
- ✗ Give them a very comfortable bed that is close to the family. If they don't have their own bed which is close to you when you are watching TV or eating dinner, they will assume they should sit on the couch with you.

PLEASE NOTE: you should not physically punish your dog or yell at them. They are new to your home and don't know what you want. Punishment will only serve to scare it and hinder your relationship development. The subsequent increase in fear/anxiety will often result in an exacerbation of the unwanted behaviours (e.g. whining or chewing) that annoyed you in the first place.

Settling in - early days

When you first bring your greyhound home the first few weeks can be very unsettling. This applies to any dog and greyhounds are no exception. Many greyhounds have never been entirely alone as they have more often than not had the constant company of other dogs in kennels. Knowing how to prepare and cope during this time can help you and your new housemate adjust.

Remember also...

Keep the initial arrival low key - although everyone will be excited (especially if children are part of the dog's new family) try to understand that your new greyhound needs time to settle into what is essentially a very different environment to anything it has ever been used to. This also means no adventures to the pet shop, dog park or big parties at home in the first few weeks. Keep their world small and introduce them to it slowly and calmly.

Greyhounds don't need a lot of space but they do need a safe area to retreat to. This can be:

- an enclosed garden or outside area with shelter and bedding
- a laundry or small room with a child gate so the dog can see out but cannot get access to the rest of the house (and other animals and children cannot get in); or
- a crate (see crate training as this is not appropriate for every dog and will take some time to implement)

Most people will provide a combination of the above and this works well too. While you may think that your greyhound will feel most comfortable near a couch, remember that particularly for those greyhounds that have always run in paddocks they may feel trapped, especially if they are in a small living area with TVs, ceiling fans, children playing nearby, banging pots and pans and possibly resident pets to contend with.

Keep in mind that your greyhound will usually be most familiar with an outdoor environment. In the initial 2-3 days it is most likely to feel comfortable outside and it can be brought inside to settle under supervision. Crate training and child gates are often used to manage behaviour but bear in mind that these devices can sometimes contribute to anxiety and frustration. Ensure that your greyhound is introduced to these carefully if you choose these management tools or they are recommended to you.

Make interactions low key as well. Avoid kissing and cuddling as some greyhounds may perceive these as threatening and generalise this fear to their new family. Quiet time (i.e. passively spending time together in each other's company) is the best way to become fast friends.

Give your greyhound time to explore and have time alone as well as with the family.

- During the day, direct your greyhound to its safe area and then drop some treats inside - make it something tasty that it wouldn't usually have access to (roast chicken, cheese or cooked beef are great options).
- Don't close or lock the door during this time - you just want him to associate moving to this area and settling calmly with good things.

- Do this 5-10 times during the day to ensure that your dog moves happily into that area and then receives a treat. In addition, you can 'secretly' place treats in this area throughout the day. You will find your greyhound will start to choose to go to this area and when you notice this happening make sure you praise him or her and provide further treats or toys.



Settling in - night time

- Ensure your greyhound has a bed in a quiet area of the house as well as access to an outdoor area (ideally with a bed there as well). This allows it to choose where it feels most comfortable (most will change from outdoors to indoors within the first couple of weeks!). Ensure the bed is not near doorways or high traffic areas of the house, away from noise (TVs and kitchen). You may like to use a crate with the door open or a bed with defined sides to give security.
- Always practice calling your greyhound off its bed for food rewards and also give it a treat for going to its bed, and periodically when it is lying on it as a reward for staying there.
- To further help settle your greyhound during the first nights, place some treats as well as its water bowl close to its sleeping area. This helps to make it feel more comfortable during the night.
- Leaving a light and radio/TV on and providing your greyhound with a soft toy may also help, although this will depend on how much exposure it has had to these things previously.

Try and give yourself an hour before you go to bed to help them settle. Read a book, or watch TV. Leave the room and then come back immediately. Repeat this and gradually allow longer periods of time. Always wait until it is settled on the bed (lying down) before you leave. When you go to bed, some dogs become anxious because all of a sudden you've disappeared and left them alone for many hours.

Some dogs will be restless or unsettled, particularly if their arrival was late in the day (so it has had less time to become accustomed to its surroundings), placing a crate or bedding near or in your bedroom where your greyhound can see you often helps it to settle. In the following days, set up a safe area as described above and follow the same process.

How to work with negative reactions...



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1. Allowing the dog to move away from the frightening object/situation (or assist the dog to relax by removing either it or the object from the room).

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2. Make a note of the things your dog seems to be fearful of and think of strategies to introduce them at a lower intensity. For example, seeing a muted TV versus seeing a TV with both visual and audio.

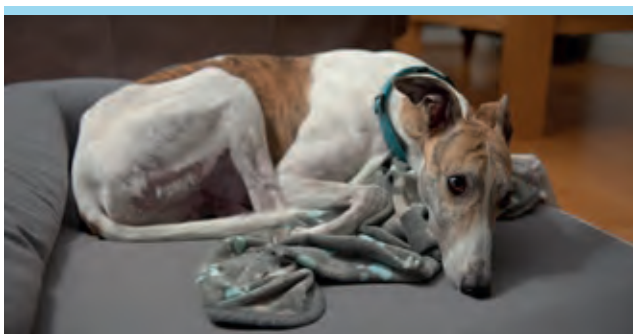
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3. Once everything has settled (this may be minutes, hours or days later) re-introduce your dog to the stimuli very gradually, safely and making the experience fun (using games and food rewards. Any investigative behaviours or curiosity shown by the dog should be rewarded with food, attention and perhaps a game (depending on what your greyhound likes most!))

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4. If, after 1 or 2 attempts, your dog is not improving (or your dog worsens at any stage), you may wish to seek some advice from our program, or canine behavioural trainers or veterinary behaviourists. The longer these problems persist, the harder they are to change.

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Encouraging appropriate behaviour

The best way to make your environment predictable for your new greyhound is to ensure that when it is doing something you like (see below) reward it with food, praise or toys that it likes. Close supervision helps with teaching your greyhound beneficial habits.

Simply put, whatever your greyhound finds 'good', it will continue and whatever it finds 'bad', it will avoid. A greyhound may find lots of attention uncomfortable to begin with, so it

may begin to practice escaping behaviours because it feels safer. This is where it is extremely important to pay attention to your greyhound's body language and behaviour and ensure that it is not overwhelmed beyond what it can cope with in its new environment. Find out what your individual greyhound 'likes' so you can use it as a reward for appropriate behaviour. Most greyhounds will find food more valuable than toys or praise, especially at the start of their transition to life as a pet.

Desirable Behaviours	How to promote or encourage
Call his name	Reward with treats every time to begin with when they look at you
Lying quietly in its bed/sleeping area.	Reward with treats every time we see this.
Chewing or playing with toys you have provided	Reward with gentle praise and play games with your dog providing you aren't taking them away while they are occupied!
Moving towards people in a friendly /non-boisterous manner	Reward with gentle scratching and dropping treats onto the ground.
Toileting in the right place	Reward with treats and verbal praise.

Discouraging unwanted behaviour

Fear and anxiety are a common cause of behavioural problems in most dogs, and greyhounds are no exception. While they are adjusting, it's common for a greyhound to experience some fear/anxiety as they encounter all the new things in their world.

Some common manifestations of fear and anxiety in greyhounds can include chewing, jumping up (on people) and restlessness.

The good news is that there are ways to work with your greyhound to reduce its discomfort and help it to learn alternative behaviours to calm themselves and have its needs met.

Strategies for unwanted behaviours

Chewing

Dogs explore the world with their nose and mouth. Like us, they can carry a lot of tension in their jaws when stressed. Greyhounds are likely to chew things to try to alleviate this stress and tension. It's important that you allow your greyhound to have an outlet to chew but your furniture shouldn't have to suffer! Here's how you can help:

1. Make sure your greyhound has plenty of appropriate items to chew such as specifically designed chew treats (such as shark cartilage) or toys (such as some Kong™ models).
2. Keep anything of yours that your greyhound might have fun chewing (such as shoes and rubbish bins) out of its reach.
3. If chewing on something inappropriate redirect your greyhound onto what you would like it to chew and reward this behaviour.

Jumping up

As human faces are situated higher up than a dog's, many greyhounds will jump as an attempt to gather social information from the humans they are meeting. While that may suit the greyhound, few people will enjoy the experience and many children could be knocked over or otherwise injured from an excited greeter. To combat this there are some strategies you can use to teach your greyhound an alternative to gather the information needed:

1. Dropping a few treats at your greyhound's feet as it approaches, before it gets the opportunity to jump. Reward your greyhound for keeping all four paws on the ground when meeting people.
 2. If your greyhound does jump up: turn your back, and once it has all paws on the ground, offer your hand for it to sniff, then reward this behaviour with treats.
 3. Train the above 'touch nose to hand' behaviour by rewarding your greyhound when it lightly touches its nose to your palm. Practice this exercise for a few minutes each day. This rewards an alternative greeting behaviour to jumping up.
 4. Make use of baby gates to help children interact with the greyhound safely, only allowing direct contact while both greyhound and child are calm.
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Restlessness

Many greyhounds will respond to sudden environmental changes by pacing, whinng and seem to have difficulty just settling or resting. Here are some ways to teach your greyhound to chill out:

1. Keep its world small, avoiding busy walks or other social trips until your greyhound is relaxed in its own home first.
2. Make your greyhound's bed is its safe space and reward it (with a treat) whenever it goes there. Any uncomfortable events (like nail trimming) should not be conducted anywhere near your greyhound's bed.
3. Use some strategies from the Entertainment section to encourage your greyhound to engage in low-key exploratory behaviour.



A Word on Punishment

From Dr. Karen Dawson

Many people might think they can only use positive reinforcement, but punishment can encompass anything from tapping a dog on the nose, telling it "NO", yelling, hitting, throwing noisy objects near it, yanking on the leash, grabbing it by the collar, using a spray bottles or citronella collars or more aversive and cruel items such as choke or shock collars.

As we have discussed already, most problematic behaviours in greyhounds are founded in fear, anxiety and the uncertainty of a novel environment. This is likely due in part to genetics, but mainly a lack of early and appropriate socialisation to the domestic environment. For many paddock-raised non-chasers, this includes people as well.

Therefore, they often come to us with a lack of understanding of what is required of them from us. They do amazingly well considering, but they do have to learn to interpret the body postures, actions, words and wants of their new owner whilst simultaneously trying to get used to life in the suburbs. Other dogs get the opportunity to do this much earlier in life.

A lack of understanding of what the owner wants and communication inconsistencies in how owners respond, including random punishment can lead to conflict anxiety and uncertainty in all dogs, but particularly greyhounds.

It is totally incorrect and cruel to suggest that these dogs require firmer leadership or a spritz of water in the face... Anxious greyhounds are already worried about the world, and instead of listening to them and protecting them, we just go and prove them right! Yep, bad things do happen.

Punishment does not give our pets any information about what to do, only what not to do. There are more ways to get something wrong than right, thus punishment is also a very ineffective training tool.



Introducing your greyhound into a multi-dog home

Introducing dogs to one another should always be done one at a time on lead and in a wide open area. If you have obtained your greyhound through GAP (or another rehoming organisations) you will usually have been given the opportunity for your current dog to help you 'choose' your next pet by checking to see if they get on well together. These meetings should be conducted with the greyhound wearing a wire muzzle and both dogs on lead.

If this has not happened initially, introduce them on neutral territory and away from other dogs (i.e. not an off-leash dog park). An unused sporting oval or quiet street is ideal. Begin with the dogs 30 metres apart with the handlers walking in the same direction. When the dogs are paying each other very little attention, gradually drift in towards one another a little as you continue walking. It helps to have the less confident dog trailing the other to allow them to gain information about the other in a low-stress way.

If the dogs get over excited, move apart again. When in the home, ensure that you always feed the dogs separately and that you carefully supervise the dogs' interactions for the first week or so. If you can't supervise them for a period, keep them physically separated. You might find that a crate may come in useful for this (see the 'Crate Training' section).

Remember that while they are learning to co-habit you may see anxiety in one or both of these dogs. Once they have met it can help to take your existing dog for a quick walk whilst the newcomer explores their new environment. Try and keep this first meeting relaxed and playful. Bring treats to reward both animals for good behaviour.

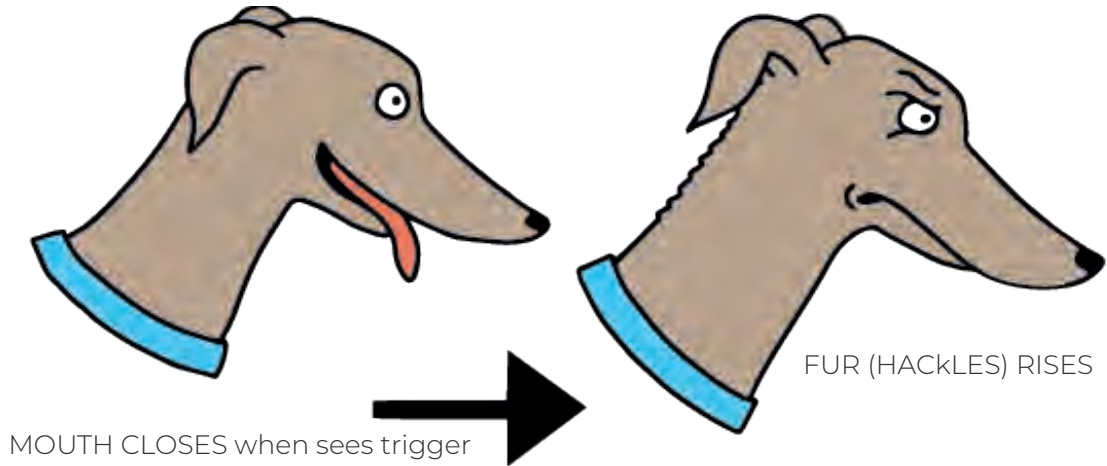
Initially ensure that any objects that either dog may compete for are kept hidden. This would include toys, chews (bones) and food.



Greyhound Body Language

Observe and Respond

Supervise dog introductions, your greyhound may have a negative reaction unless prompt, reduce or move away from the other dog (or trigger).



WHALE EYE quick turn of the head and freeze: eyes stay focused on the trigger

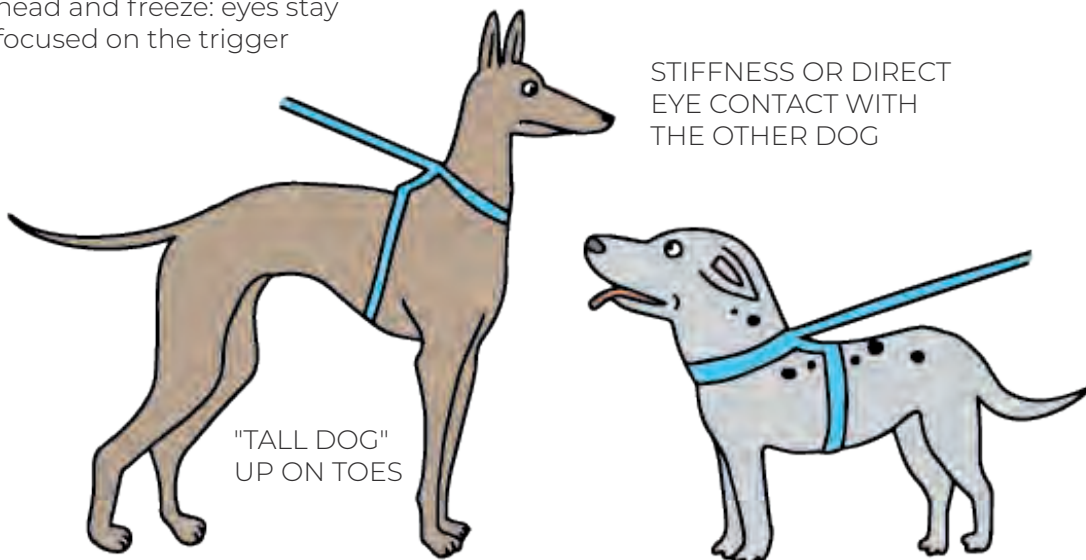


Image adapted from Grisha Stewart's Behavior Adjustment Training 2.0

- ✖ Punishment will cause further anxiety in the new addition (because you will be seen as an unpredictable and possibly threatening element in their environment). It can also be associated with the other dog and make the behaviour escalate.
- ✓ Always supervise your dogs whilst they explore the house and garden (and each other) together. If you see initial aggression distract them without punishment.
- ✓ Provide your new greyhound with their own area to chill out in if it needs to calm down.
- ✓ Feed your dogs separately (this includes physical and visual separation).
- ✓ Be very careful about letting your pets interact freely until you are sure that they enjoy one another's company and do not find interactions stressful.
- ✓ Pay close attention to your dog's behaviour and watch for chase behaviour (sometimes termed 'prey drive'- see the next topic) not just at the beginning, but for the first months and ongoing if necessary. This is more likely between dogs if there is a large size disparity between them.

Chase (or predatory) behaviour in greyhounds

Greyhounds belong to the sighthound group, thus they have been bred with a particular emphasis on the chase portion of the natural canine predatory sequence. Their vision has evolved differently to dogs with flatter faces (brachycephalic breeds such as pugs), with a tendency to focus on things in a straight line at a distance and a propensity to chase fast moving objects. However, every dog is an individual and the potential for a particular behaviour will depend on a combination of genetics, learning and the environment it finds itself in.

Predatory behaviour (which will be hereafter termed as chase behaviour) is normal; without it a dog would soon die of starvation. However, when the targets of this behaviour are not appropriate for the dog's home environment (such as smaller breeds of dogs or cats), this can be an issue for dog owners.

The predatory sequence

Different breeds have been bred with different parts of the sequence emphasised. For example, border collies have been bred with an emphasis on the staring portion of the sequence, which helps them with herding livestock. Some terriers have been bred with emphasis on the chase, grab and shake portions of the sequence which has made them historically skilled at eradicating rats.



Chase behaviour

Chase or hunting behaviour is one of the most misinterpreted aspects of a greyhound's personality. This is understandable given the huge variation between individual dogs with regards to frequency, intensity and even triggers for the behaviour.

Chase behaviour differs to inter-dog aggression in that the underlying emotional state is invariably positive. When a dog is fearful or anxious they are experiencing an unpleasant emotional state. So, dogs which show inter-dog aggression (or repulsion) are engaging in that behaviour in an effort to remove the other dog from the vicinity. Chase behaviour is adrenalin-fuelled and involves neurotransmitters such as dopamine. It therefore offers a neuro-chemical reward for the dog, increasing internal motivation for the behaviour with each opportunity to practice. So, when a greyhound is unsure of how to behave, they may naturally resort to the thing which has historically made them feel good: chasing and attempting to grab things.

When we make a decision to bring an animal such as a greyhound into our lives, we must understand and accept that a tendency to chase is very much a part of what they are. Therefore, we all must take appropriate steps to minimise the risks to other people and their own much loved family pets. Understanding risks and early warning signs is a very important part of owning a greyhound.

A greyhound allowed to chase small dogs around the park is a completely different scenario to one that remains under control on a lead. Even a successful Greenhound assess-

ment evaluates a single point in time. Greyhound status offers no guarantee of safety in all situations; this remains the responsibility of the owner. This is one reason why allowing your greyhound to play off-lead with other (particularly smaller) unknown dogs is not recommended.

Chase behaviour has variable thresholds too. Greyhounds can live harmoniously alongside one small dog, yet may not be reliable around other unfamiliar small dogs. Some greyhounds might get excited while playing with another dog and then instinctively revert to chasing it. Familiarity and former friendships may be forgotten in the heat of the moment. Individual differences aside, as the dog becomes more excited, the higher the risk it will be pushed over threshold. This is why off-leash environments may be more risky for some greyhounds. Management is the key to keep your greyhound and other pets safe and happy.

Chase behaviour is a normal sequence for a dog. It becomes problematic when the targets for this behaviour are other dogs or pets. Overcoming the issues associated with problematic chase behaviour, depends on numerous factors, including the severity of the behaviour, how often it is shown and for how long. Some dogs, may only begin to display this behaviour as they grow in confidence in their new home. If a dog has shown a tendency to fixate and/or attempt to chase other dogs/pets, this will require active management, particularly when out and about.

Do's

- ✓ Reward calm behaviour and tolerance when your greyhound sees other small dogs, cats and other animals.
- ✓ Take your greyhound away from a situation if it starts to get excited and emotionally reactive.
- ✓ Ensure that your greyhound is accustomed to wearing a muzzle when out and about.
- ✓ Use a harness with a martingale collar and ensure that there is a clip that joins them both together for extra safety and security.

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't punish or reprimand the staring behaviour as this should be used as an early indication of the desire to chase and an opportunity to leave the present situation.
- ✗ Don't assume that the dog will improve if it can get closer and inspect the animal, this is unsafe.
- ✗ Don't allow any play between dogs in the home and your greyhound to become an opportunity for the greyhound to chase/hunt the other dog.

Manage through prevention

Support your greyhound's safe development and emotional growth by putting in place measures to prevent fear and anxiety.

1. AVOID situations that you feel will be upsetting or stressful for your greyhound, choose quieter options and reward with food or toys (food is generally more valuable to greyhounds in these stages and once the dog can tolerate this slowly increase to more challenging environment).
2. AVOID people, dogs and places that have trigger signs of a negative emotional state in your greyhound. Make a note of them and gradually associate them with something positive. If you are not sure of how to do this refer to GAP NSW for assistance.
3. NEVER punish your greyhound for showing displacement behaviours. Remember that this is the dog communicating how it is feeling. If you punish a dog for growling, they will often escalate to a more intense behaviour (such as snarling or snapping) to try to meet its needs (usually this need is safety). Punishing your greyhound for growling is taking away its avenue to safely communicate its discomfort and you will have no forewarning.
4. ALWAYS understand the meaning of these gestures and encourage family members and friends to be aware. This will avoid the dog's last resort (aggression).

The following Stress Scale diagram (adapted from Grisha Stewart Behaviour Adjustment Training 2.0) can help you understand your greyhound's body language and recognise when to act.



Stress Scale

STAY ON THE BEACH

Stress level is analogous to a rising water level.

GREEN ZONE	BLUE ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	ORANGE ZONE	RED ZONE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loose body - soft mouth, ears - not avoiding trigger - sniffing ground - passing glances, easy to look away - exploring environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gathering information - arcs towards trigger - ears up - focused eyes - air-scenting - disengaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - arousal level is moderate but is decreasing - intent on trigger - disengages without help but takes more than 2 seconds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unable to disengage - stiff face & body - tail up & stiff - mouth closed - breathing faster - avoids trigger entirely - pickier about food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - over its head - fur up - barking - growling - lunging - biting

Support Scale

BE READY TO RESPOND

What you can do for your greyhound when its stress level rises.

IDEAL	OKAY	HELP AFTER	CALL AWAY	GET AWAY
Follow the dog. No prompt needed.	Wait for disengagement & follow your greyhound.	Prompt after disengagement, encourage back to shore. Shift weight.	Prompt right away. Move to 'dry land' & give reassurance (a pat or treat).	Call away & treat. If needed, use mime/real pulling to get to safety.

Adapted from Grisha Stewart BAT 2.0 <https://grishastewart.com/bat-overview/>

Displacement Behaviour

Early Signs of Stress

Like us, our greyhounds experience a wide range of emotions. When we observe our dogs carefully they will almost always give us a sign as to how they are feeling. As mentioned, greyhounds are passive stress copers and have subtle behaviours that tell us they are beginning to get overwhelmed. Usually these indicate their desire to end an interaction or remove themselves from a situation (with a person, a dog or even another species or environment) but these can be easily misunderstood by the humans.

These behaviours are also known as 'displacement behaviours'. These are normal behaviours that occur in an abnormal context or frequency, for example:

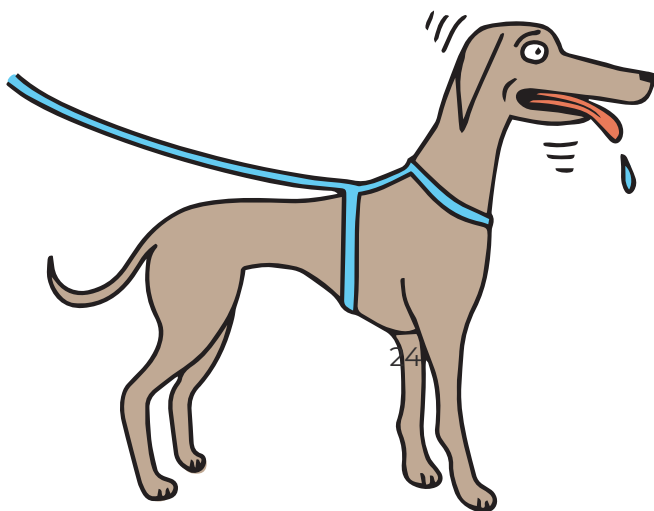
- Scratching
- Yawning
- Stretching
- Play bowing (outside of actual play)
- Licking or chewing at paws
- Lip licking
- Body shaking

When you see these behaviours it is a sign that your greyhound's emotional 'sink' is approaching full. Once it reaches overflow you are likely to see behaviours that indicate that your greyhound really is unable to cope. You may see this expressed as panic and attempts to escape (avoidance), aggression (repulsion), freezing (inhibition) or attempts to appease or exchange information with you (leaning, licking, rolling over).

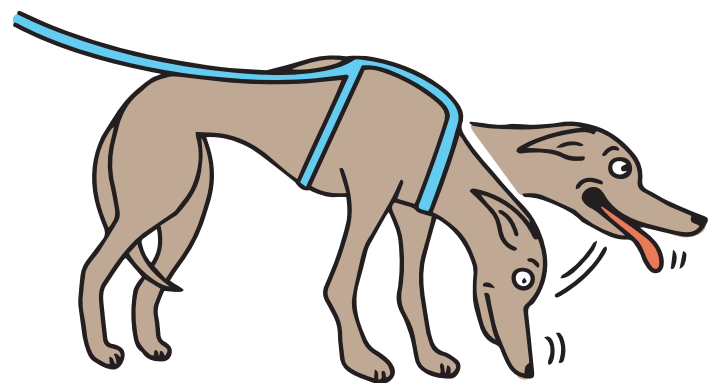
It is also important to remember that individual dogs will respond differently to stress. This will depend on their genetics, their past experience and the current situation they find themselves in. The hormones that are activated during stressful events will dissipate over many days providing there are no further events. This means that your dog may still be experiencing the after-effects of a stressful event long after the trigger itself is gone.

As a new greyhound owner setting your pet for success and ensuring prevention, particularly in first year, is your responsibility. Avoid situations that you feel will be upsetting or stressful for your greyhound, choose quieter options and reward calm behaviour where possible with food or toys. Once your greyhound shows signs of distress-tolerance and some emotional resilience to cope with and bounce back from minor events, you can slowly increase to more challenging environments e.g. dog cafes, busy outdoor areas.

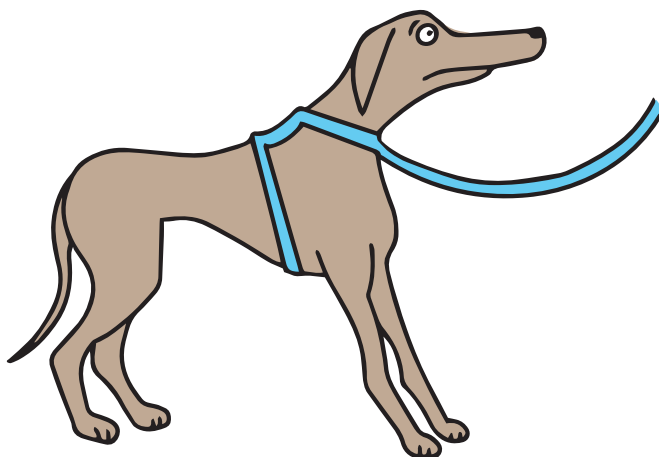
Displacement Behaviours - Early Signs of Stress



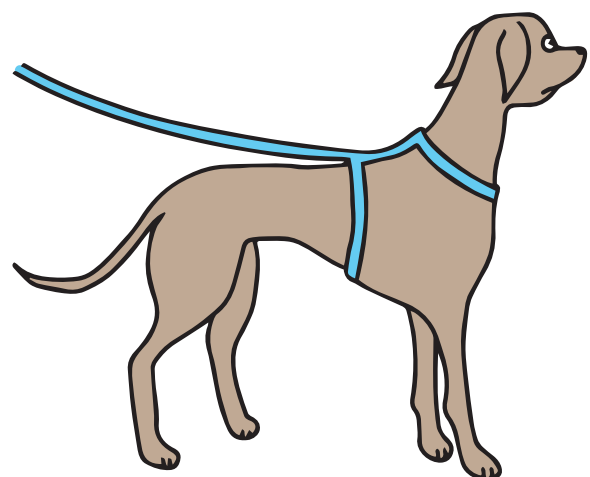
DRY PANTING



FRANTIC SNIFFING



REFUSING TO
MOVE FORWARD

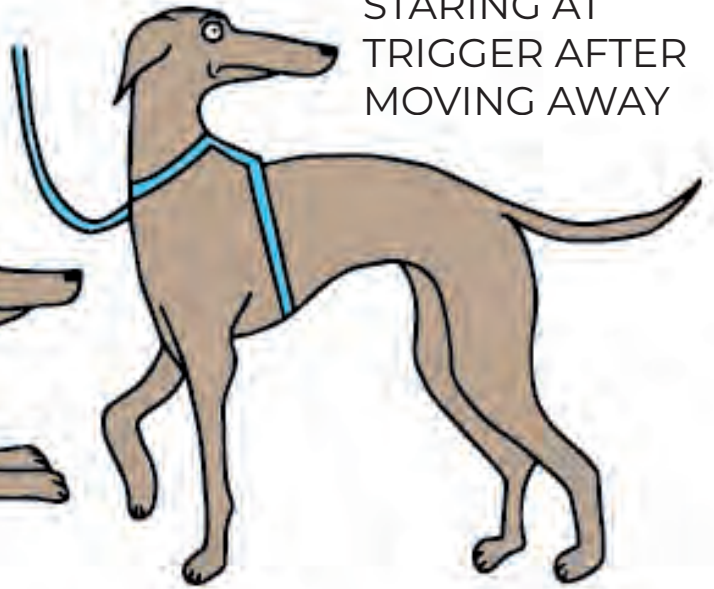


LOOKING AWAY
FROM THE TRIGGER

CROUCHED, SHIVERING/
TREMBLING, WORRIED FACE



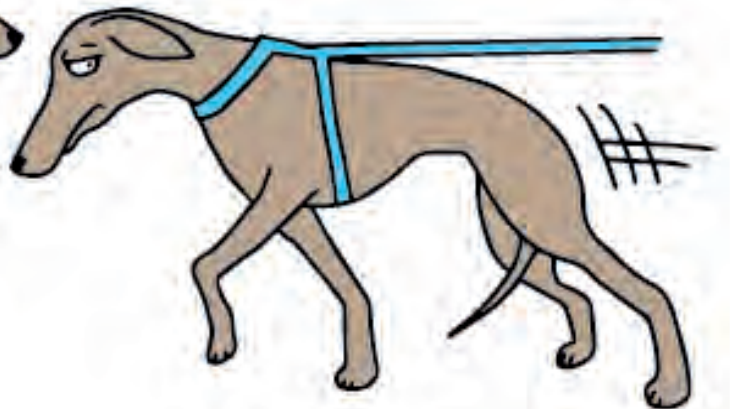
STARING AT
TRIGGER AFTER
MOVING AWAY



DANDRUFF AND
SHEDDING



FLEEING FROM TRIGGER



SWEATY
FEET



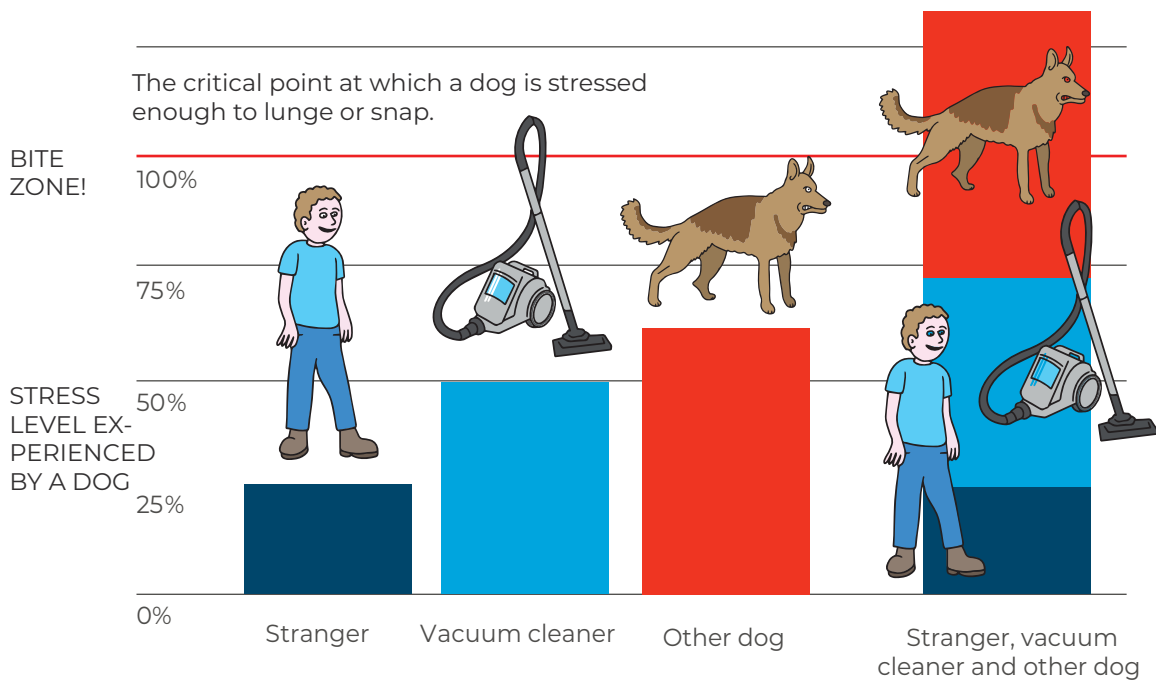
SCANNING AROUND
FOR DANGER



BARKING AND
LUNGING

Image adapted from "Signs of Stress"
Behavior Adjustment Training 2.0,
Grisha Stewart.

BITE REACTIVITY CHART



A dog's emotional resilience determines how intense its reaction will be to certain triggers. Depending on the individual, different dogs will have varying degrees of tolerance to different stressors. When stressors are presented simultaneously, the effect on the dog is additive and likely to result in repulsion behaviours, including biting.



As soon as you recognise fear or anxiety - take action before it progresses into a bite.

Be aware that all dogs have a "bite threshold" which is the individual's level of tolerance for certain stressors. For example, a dog may stay in its bed while the carpet around it is being vacuumed, interact calmly with a stranger on lead and tolerate the presence of an unknown dog it meets on the street. However, in the event that all three stressors are present in a confined space (such as a living room), the dog snaps.

The most common reason why a dog lunges or snaps is fear. It's not necessarily fear brought on by a history of abuse or neglect but can be brought about by stress and uncertainty. Every adopted household will have some 'stressors' (different people, things and situations) which are completely novel for a dog and may elicit an initial (or sustained) fear response, even from very well-socialised dogs. By observing your dog's body language you can respond in a way that is both sensitive to your greyhound's needs while keeping people and other animals safe.

Normal Social Behaviour



As stated, racing greyhounds have usually only ever seen other greyhounds and are often not accustomed to other breeds of dog. It is vital to continue to allow your greyhound to gradually interact with dogs outside of the home. Allow your greyhound to gradually meet different breeds of varying looks and sizes. Start with gentle walks in suburban areas to get your greyhound used to seeing and passing by different dogs. Slowly graduate to walking near dog-friendly areas to eventually entering when you are confident that your greyhound is comfortable. If you are confident enough and believe your greyhound wants to interact in a friendly manner toward another dog that it has seen, please refer to the "Introducing dogs" section.

If you are having difficulties socialising your greyhound, you are not sure where to start or you simply want to be around other greyhound owners

for support, there are plenty of greyhound support groups online.

What is considered as normal dog behaviour in response to the previously mentioned situations may include:

- Curving (not approaching other dog head on)
- Head lowering
- Bottom sniffing
- Soft eyes (meaning the muscles around the face and eyes will look relaxed)
- Low- medium height wagging tail (usually wagging in loose arcs)
- Play bowing
- General relaxed body language
- Able to be easily distracted ble to explore environment and take breaks from interaction

EXERCISE

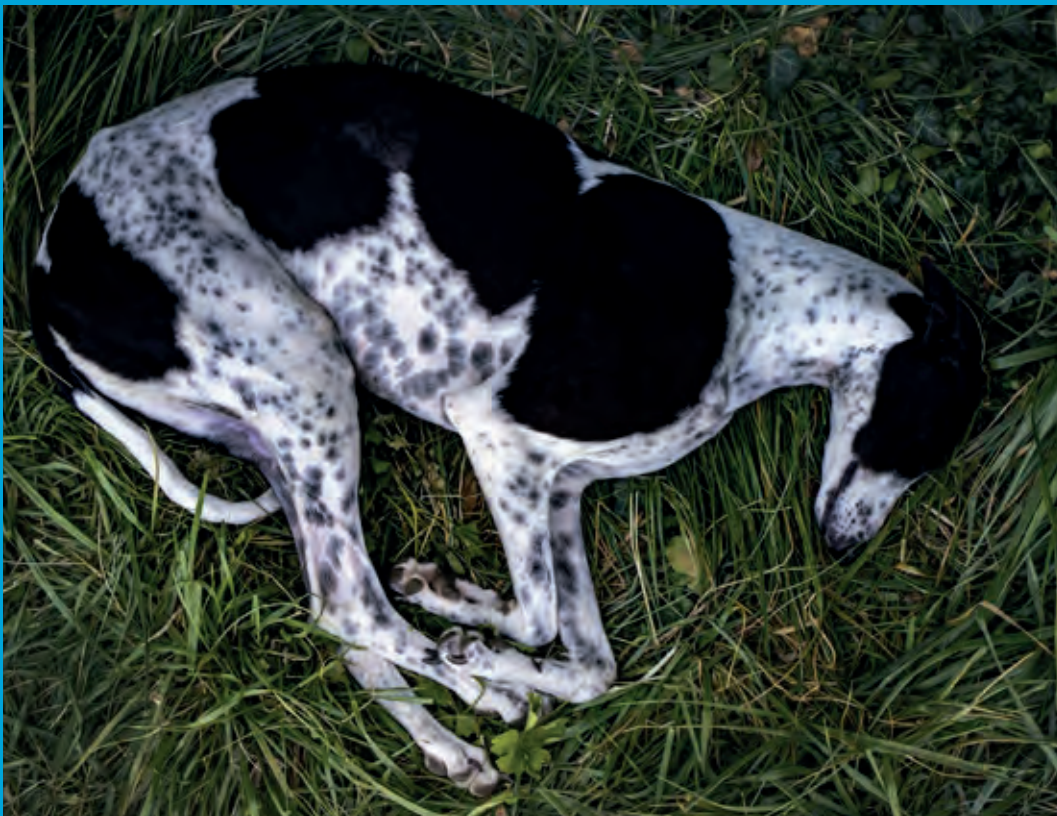
Despite the fact that greyhounds have an athletic physique, they are short distance sprinters as opposed to marathon runners. Consequently, they do not require nearly as much exercise as you might expect. A walk on lead each day (for 15-20 minutes, once or twice a day) is usually sufficient to keep them happy and healthy. In the case of younger or more active dogs, they may need a little more than this (approximately 2 x 20-30 minute walks).

As greyhounds are not endurance dogs, they are not the ideal pet if you are an avid, long-distance jogger who wants company on your trip. However, most greyhounds will build up stamina over time if started out slowly, but they will still tire much more readily than other dog breeds. This is what makes greyhounds such great (and sometimes lazy) pets!

Greyhounds tend to be affected adversely by temperature extremes, so heat and humidity during exercise should be avoided by limiting it to the cooler parts of the day or evening.

We highly recommend that greyhounds are exercised on lead at all times in public places as these dogs often have little to no recall ability due to being selectively bred to run towards something in the distance (the coming back part was not bred for!). They can also do serious damage to themselves should they be allowed off-lead and encounter posts, sticks or fences at speed.

Free running can help a dog express natural behaviour, but this should only be done in an enclosed and safe area. For most greyhounds, having a small gallop around a backyard is more than enough free running time!



Walking on Lead

Going for a walk gives you greyhound a chance to explore the world with their nose and allows us, as the walkers, to get some much needed exercise and fresh air.

Some ex-racing greyhounds will have had plenty of leash experience while others (typically those that didn't race) might find the leash walking experience as completely new. So, walking on a lead should be introduced to every dog gradually and only at a level that the greyhound is comfortable with. Some dogs will take to walking on the beach within a couple of weeks in a home whereas others will prefer just wandering in the front garden for a while at first. Every dog is unique. When walking a greyhound it's important to be aware of its body language so you know when to take it home and to keep a firm hold on the lead in case of sudden changes.

It is important to recognise that dogs pulling suddenly or freezing on lead isn't a lack of 'manners' or the dog being 'stubborn'. Rather these behaviours are often the result of a negative emotional state (fear/anxiety) or in some cases, unfamiliarity with walking on a lead. Walking on lead is best viewed as a cooperative exercise

as opposed to the human enforcing their will onto the dog; both parties have a better time that way!

It is important to note that a greyhound who is prone to undesirable chase behaviour, may have seemingly desirable leash manners until something of interest presents itself and your greyhound wants to pursue it. Dogs that prove challenging on the lead and want to pull excessively may be a good candidates for the addition of a walking harness. Dogs that pull often benefit from front-attaching harnesses that help redirect the dog's momentum when they rush forward. Harnesses are readily available at pet supply shops.

It is important to note that, like any breed, there is a level of unpredictability therefore it is important to always have a firm, conscious and sensible (i.e. not wrapped around the arm or held too loosely) grip on the lead.

It always helps to end walks on a positive note, so it's best to keep these outings short at first.



Walking on a harness



Using a cloth, martingale collar to attach a lead



We recommend the martingale style of collars which are the safest for greyhounds, as when the dog pulls in any direction the collar tightens slightly to the neck of the dog and they are unable to slip out of the collar.



It's a good strategy to bring some treats when walking your greyhound so you can reward calm behaviour and use them to navigate out of situations where your dog is unsure.



Automatically extending/retracting leads are not recommended for greyhounds, as they can quickly take off after something and injure themselves on nearby obstacles or when the lead comes to full extension and rapidly halts their journey.



Leash corrections or tightening or jerking the lead in response to undesirable behaviour is NOT recommended as this typically worsens the dog's fear or anxiety and can exacerbate the behaviour the person is trying to correct.

NOTE: Greyhounds should ALWAYS be under the effective control of the owner (or a responsible person over 16 years of age).

Greyhounds and Children



Some of us have been lucky enough to experience a loving relationship with a dog during our childhood. To obtain such a relationship, children need to learn to respect their dog and be taught to recognise dog behaviour and body language.

Some ex-racers have not met a child until they leave the racing kennels. It takes time and patience from both parties to build a relationship. To them, children may be noisy, active and unpredictable creatures.

GREYHOUND RULES

The whole family should use the following "Greyhound Rules":

1. Please don't cuddle me or hug me especially around my neck
2. Please don't kiss me or rub your face into mine
3. Please don't approach me when I am lying down, especially when I'm sleeping.
4. Call me over when I am awake.
5. Please don't approach me when I am eating.
6. Please don't tease me, or play roughly by pushing me or grabbing my nose, face area or legs.

It must also be stressed that regardless of how long you have known your new family member or how good either the dog or child is, they should NEVER be left alone unsupervised. Incidents between dogs and children often come about when adults become complacent and neglect to remember the importance of supervision.

Always reiterate the Greyhound Rules to your child(ren). Ensure that they understand that some areas such as beds and crates are off-limits to them. If your greyhound is in its bed or crate, or even just laying on the floor, this is 'out of bounds'. This ensures that your dog can retreat.

Encouraging more passive interactions (e.g. everyone sitting quietly together in a room) will help your greyhound gather information about your child(ren) in a stress-free environment.

If you see your greyhound:

- yawning
- blinking
- lip licking
- turning their head away
- showing the white part of their eye

Stop the interaction and ask the children to give your greyhound time to recover.

Reward both child and greyhound when they are quiet when they are together. It is important to teach the child to stand still if it gets a fright and play 'statues'. The child should stand still, turn his/her back to the greyhound and cross his/her arms whenever you say 'statues'. Then, if your greyhound jumps up and inadvertently gives your child a fright, your child will know what to do to discourage this behaviour in the future.

Discourage loud and boisterous play between dogs and children. We suggest that the child does not roll around on the floor while playing with your greyhound. Playing fetch or hide and seek are fun and controlled games. Never allow a child (or children) to lay on your greyhound. Rolling or laying on your greyhound's feet or tail could cause it to snap. This is not aggression it's a normal reaction to pain.



Introducing your Greyhound to Cats & Other Animals

At GAP NSW, we pride ourselves on gathering a comprehensive behavioural history on greyhounds in our care, to best match them to their future homes. For homes with cats, we ensure to only put forward dogs that have demonstrated success (that is, sociable and relaxed behaviour) towards the cats at our adoption centres. Note: these successes only demonstrate that the dog is unlikely to engage in chase behaviour towards cats in a controlled environment. This is by no means a guarantee that the dog would never chase a cat (as chasing is a normal and natural behaviour for any dog), particularly in an unpredictable or uncontrolled environment.

Given the speeds at which greyhounds are capable of moving, chasing a cat is something that an owner would have difficulty interrupting. For this reason, the following section has been developed to assist you with the safe introduction of your pets.

It is important that dog and cat introductions are undertaken slowly and carefully.

Your greyhound should first be introduced to cats through a see-through barrier such as a glass sliding door or gate. Attention should be paid to your greyhound's body language, level of fixation on the cat (i.e. can its attention be called away, does your greyhound keep reverting its attention back to the cat, etc.). All cat introductions should be conducted by a minimum of two people to ensure that the greyhound can be observed head-on.

This dog has a tense body, pricked ears and is staring hard at the cats. It would not be safe to progress to an indoor meeting with this dog without significant improvement.



Indoor Introduction

To progress to having an indoor introduction, your greyhound should successfully display the following behind the barrier:

- Dog appears to be soft in the face, no hard staring and mouth/jaw open and relaxed
- Ears neutral or quickly return to neutral after being pricked on initial sighting of cat
- Dog's attention can be called away from the cat (i.e. through verbal prompting or treats) and the dog does not immediately return to staring at the cat
- No displays of frustration (such as whining, barking or keeping pace with the cat's movements)

If the dog does not display chase behaviour or displays mild staring with the ability to disengage (and is able to remain disengaged), the cat assessment can be progressed to the dog being on lead in the presence of a cat indoors.

Note: if your greyhound displays discomfort or stress in indoor environments then this should be worked on prior to any indoor animal introductions. If your greyhound has never encountered a cat indoors before, a basket muzzle should be used for safety.



Start at a safe distance with your greyhound muzzled.

The dog should be allowed to view the cat from the doorway and the level of fixation observed. If the dog displays any chase behaviour in this context, the introduction should be ceased immediately. If the dog appears to be fearful or avoidant of the cat then the introduction should be ceased and a less intense introduction conducted later (i.e. through a barrier again).

This dog is very stiff and cannot be called away easily from the cat. This dog appears too interested and tense around the cat to progress to further meetings, especially off lead meetings.



If no chase behaviour or avoidance observed, the dog can be permitted to approach the cat(s). If the dog appears soft and gentle with the cat, being able to sniff and disengage easily when prompted, then this should be considered a success. Subsequent meetings can be conducted with the greyhound wearing a wire muzzle. The greyhound should be kept on-lead when around the cat for a considerable period. of time, with off-lead interactions only permitted for brief periods when both cat and greyhound appear calm and relaxed.

Other Animals



If your greyhound is regarded as “cat tolerant” this gives no guarantee that it will be safe around other small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and birds as they are all different. They should always be kept separate and under supervision at all times. A small animal can be under extreme stress just by being in the presence of a dog even if they are safe in their cage or enclosure.

If you live around horses, cattle and sheep, it may be a good idea to introduce your greyhound to the livestock so it can get used to them but always do so in a safe controlled environment, i.e. dog on lead with a fence in between. Allowing your greyhound off-lead where it might follow its natural instinct to chase livestock could not only result in injury to your greyhound and/or the livestock but may get you into trouble with the livestock owner and possibly the law.

Helping fearful or anxious dogs

As discussed, almost all greyhounds will experience some fear/anxiety when settling into their adoptive homes. To mitigate this, adopters should first seek to educate themselves on the behavioural indications of fear and anxiety. This information can then be used to slowly and gradually expose the dogs to potential triggers. For example, a greyhound that freezes during its first week in care would benefit from a period of no walks, then progress to short walks in quiet areas with opportunities for sniffing and exploration.

There can be a desire to want to throw some dogs in the metaphorical 'deep end' by exposing them to things that elicit fear at a level that induces fear, particularly if we, as humans, know the trigger is not threatening. This practice is known as flooding and often results in the worsening of the behaviour by inducing inhibition (learned helplessness) and/or aggression (repulsion behaviour). Both of these outcomes are detrimental to the dog-human bond and will only hinder the dog's progress in their home.

Dogs that are fearful towards a particular trigger should only be exposed to these triggers at an intensity that does not elicit a fear or stress response. The intensity should only then be increased when the dog is calm and relaxed (see below diagram). Dogs with significant fear/anxiety should only be exposed to their triggers under the supervision of a veterinary behaviourist and in conjunction with a medical treatment plan.

For dogs that display significant anxiety with limited recovery over time and/or a more generalised anxiety

with no discernible trigger, further intervention is required. These dogs benefit most in quiet homes that can afford them the space they need to investigate the domestic world at their own pace. These homes often do not have young children, so a level of unpredictable human interaction and noise can be avoided.

Interventions such as Adaptil collars or diffusers can help lower your greyhound's anxiety and settle it into its new routine. Other products such as the compound Zylkene can reduce the behavioural signs of anxiety. Please seek further information on these products through your veterinarian.

Dogs that experience significant (i.e. not proportionate to their environment) fear or anxiety in their adoptive home should be referred to a veterinary behaviourist for diagnosis and treatment. Some of these dogs may require behavioural medication and lifelong management to set them up for success in their home. These medications may vary in their dose and usage, but all function to improve a dog's quality of life in its home. While sometimes stigmatised, behavioural medication is not a last resort designed to sedate or numb a dog. Behavioural medication is an affordable treatment for the concerning medical condition, in this case, anxiety.

The GAP NSW team can provide you with resources on behavioural modification, environmental optimisation and/or training techniques to help your greyhound with fear/anxiety further settle into their home. If you believe your greyhound could benefit from further support, please contact the rehabilitation team at gapbehaviour@grnsw.com.au.

Isolation and Separation-related Distress

Separation anxiety is a fairly common condition in which a dog shows significant signs of fear or anxiety when they are left at home alone or are physically separated from a loved one. A dog with separation anxiety is not able to be relaxed and comfortable unless a specific person is present. This can occur in such a way that the dog is fine being left alone with one or two people, yet no one else. However, more commonly there is one individual in particular that is the main focus for the dog, who appears to feel significant distress when they can't access that person. The term separation anxiety, also known as separation-related distress, has become quite well known and people tend to incorrectly refer to any distress related to a dog being alone as 'separation anxiety'. In reality, separation anxiety or separation-related distress is a clinical disorder that usually requires consultation with a veterinary behaviourist for accurate diagnosis.

Why is it important to understand the difference between separation anxiety and isolation distress?

Many dogs that are reported by their owners, as having separation anxiety, are in fact displaying isolation distress. This refers to a dog displaying significant signs of fear or anxiety when completely alone but not when some kind of social support is present. This social support can often be human or canine, although sometimes it does need to be an individual that the greyhound is familiar with.

It is often the case that the distress a dog is experiencing when alone is mislabelled, because the term 'separation distress or anxiety' is more commonly known than isolation distress. This presents an issue when approaching how to manage the distress.

For separation anxiety cases it is often best to seek veterinary attention and if possible to appropriately medicate the dog as directed by a veterinarian to improve the dog's emotional state and capacity to learn. If one and only one person is able to keep the dog from being distressed, then these cases are often the most difficult to manage and require a combination of training and medication.

On the other hand when it comes to isolation distress there are multiple ways of mitigating the anxiety and stress that arises; using a neighbour, friend, family member to mind the dog when it would otherwise be alone or even pairing the dog with a canine companion, and implementing behavioural modification techniques to build up the dog's resilience and increase its capacity to cope when alone. As a last resort, the dog can be rehomed to someone whose lifestyle means the dog will rarely be left alone e.g. retirees or casual workers.

It's important to remember that each dog is an individual and separation anxiety or isolation distress will vary from case to case.

Separation distress or anxiety

Signs of either separation anxiety or isolation distress may include:

- Destruction
- Vocalization (whining, howling or barking)
- Elimination (toileting inside)
- Shadowing or following owner very closely
- Excessive greeting upon owner's return
- Showing anxiety when owner shows signs of imminent departure (e.g. picking up keys)
- Disinterest in eating when alone
- Behavioural signs of depression (such as general sadness, decreased energy, etc.)
- Drooling excessively
- Vomiting or diarrhoea

Greyhounds with separation anxiety

Dogs suspected to have separation anxiety should be referred to a veterinarian with experience in behaviour for diagnosis and formulation of a treatment plan.

GAP NSW can provide additional support to you by working in conjunction with the vet and their suggested treatment plans.

Greyhounds with isolation distress

For dogs displaying mild signs of distress, GAP NSW have several resources to assist adopters with helping these dogs settle into their routine. Such plans can involve:

1. Building emotional resilience (GAP NSW handout)
2. Behavioural training plans from GAP NSW Behaviour Specialists.

Working with dogs who are distressed does NOT involve leaving them alone in the hope that the animal learns to 'deal' with it. Rather, behaviour modification and training aims to improve the dog's resilience, provide choice and work at their own pace.

Some greyhounds may show isolation distress in some environments, but not others. For example, some dogs may show no signs of distress when living with another dog (with owners that work full-time), but show significant distress if living as a single dog and left alone for any amount of time. As such, it is important that we match greyhounds to homes that best meet their needs as individuals. Sometimes this information is revealed after the dog has been adopted. In these situations the greyhound will have a better quality of life in a different type of home. An adopter who finds themselves in such a situation shouldn't feel upset, but should think of it as a positive in that they are now helping that greyhound find a home to thrive in and that suits them best.



Getting help...

Some adopters may also be willing to help dogs showing isolation distress by adopting a second, more confident greyhound. This can provide constant social support and ease the burden off the adopter, but may not work for every dog.

GAP NSW can provide advice on whether your dog may benefit from canine social support. Greyhounds displaying moderate to severe signs of isolation distress should also be referred to a veterinarian with further training in behaviour for initial examination and diagnosis. GAP NSW can then work in conjunction with the proposed treatment plan.

GAP NSW can develop rehabilitation or management plans based on knowledge of the greyhound's history in our care and foster care, as well as their adoptive homes.



Hoarding or Collecting Items

Some greyhounds will accumulate quite impressive piles of toys, household items and other possessions that they appear to seek out and collect during the day. It is important to understand that this is NOT a dangerous form of resource guarding but it is a strategy the dog has developed to help it feel comfortable in their new environment.

If the behaviour is not harmful or destructive, it shouldn't be discouraged or be of undue concern. The best approach is to manage it by keeping precious items out of reach.

Be particularly careful to keep items such as remotes and glasses in a safe 'dog-proof' place. Whilst it can be worrying and concerning (especially if you cannot find the items) it's important that you don't chastise your greyhound for this. Reprimanding will only cause it further anxiety when it is attempting to increase its feelings of comfort and safety in its new environment. If your greyhound has grabbed something that you don't want it to have, call it to you and reward this recall with a few yummy treats, retrieve the item only once the greyhound is occupied.



BEHAVIOUR QUIZ

Tick the boxes that represent the best answer to the following questions.

1. The best way to set your greyhound up for success is to do the following during the first few days (choose 1):
 - a. Keep its world small and its environment predictable.
 - b. Take it for 2-hour long walk each day to tire it out.
 - c. Ignore your greyhound until it 'gets over' being anxious.
 - d. Expose it to stressful environments immediately – such as crowded pedestrian areas, high traffic streets and off-lead dog parks.
2. What is the most common reason why a greyhound might be initially uncomfortable in a domestic household? Choose one:
 - a. It was 'babied' in its last home.
 - b. It hasn't had much early life exposure to these environments.
 - c. It is not uncomfortable, it trying to get more attention.
 - d. It suffered animal abuse.
3. Which of the following are signs of anxiety? Choose all that apply:

a. Lip licking	f. Yawning
b. Following you all the time	g. Excessive panting
c. Diarrhoea	h. Panting/Salivation
d. Muscle trembling	i. Not settling
e. Decreased appetite	j. Vomiting
4. What behaviours would you expect to see in a positive social interaction between dogs? (Choose 1)
 - a. Stiff body language, and frequent staring
 - b. Salivating, whining and approaching in a direct trajectory
 - c. Soft body language, curving movements and bottom sniffing
 - d. Growling and snapping with hackles up.
5. Greyhounds have been bred with an emphasis on chase behaviour
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Which of the following are signs of the predatory sequence? (Choose all that apply.)

a. Stalking	d. Salivating
b. Fixated stare	e. Snapping/grabbing
c. Barking	f. Rolling around on the ground
7. Which of the below would be considered normal behaviours when your greyhound meets another dog? Choose all that apply:

a. Play bowing	d. Friendly interest
b. Soft eyes	e. Bottom sniffing
c. Head lowering	f. Low-medium height wagging tail

BASIC TRAINING

Training your Greyhound

Basic training is great for building stronger bonds with your greyhound and gives it mental stimulation. Dogs learn something every time they interact with us or their environment. It also helps when both dog and human learn how to communicate with each other.

The principle behind all training is that:

- Your greyhound will continue performing behaviours which result in a good outcome (i.e. it is rewarded).
- Your greyhound will cease performing behaviours that do not result in rewards.

We can therefore alter our greyhound's behaviour by rewarding those behaviours that we like. This now makes the behaviours we like also the ones that 'pay off' for the greyhound so it now wants to perform these more often - everyone wins!

To make this easier, make a list of behaviours you want your dog to perform. These might include:

- Lying on its bed.
- Being quiet.
- Toileting in the right place.
- Staying out of the kitchen whilst you are cooking.

All of these behaviours should be rewarded with treats and praise.



Recall Training

This exercise is fun, but it also has a very practical application further down the track for when you teach your dog to come to you. Since "come" is so important, we thoroughly recommend that you spend considerable time playing this game with your greyhound in lots of different places at home (make sure they are safe places though). This should only be taught in a home environment, strictly no off-leash parks or public unfenced areas. Greyhounds are sighthounds that can switch into chase mode quickly and are one of the fastest land animals. Therefore recall should not be relied upon at any time.

Step 1: Hide & Seek

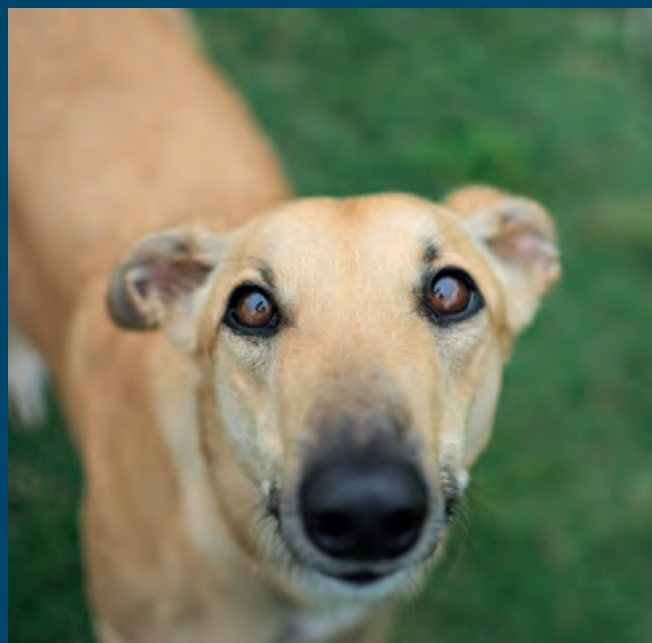
Start in one room (or a hall way) and call your greyhound's name, when it comes towards you, reward with a treat. This game is best played between 2 or more people, each one taking it in turns to call the dog, (however it is possible to play the game with one person). Play this game in one room or area until you are sure your greyhound understands that it is to go to the person calling it. When this happens, spread out further (maybe to different rooms) and start the game again, calling in turn and rewarding when your greyhound goes to the right person. When your greyhound is confident in this, you can gradually increase the difficulty of your hiding places. After you have called your greyhound, reward it and have someone else call your dog. While your greyhound is occupied with finding that person, you can change your hiding position to keep the game going.

Step 2: Come

Now that you have been playing hide and seek for a few days, 'come' should be easier. This is just an extension of hide and seek, that we can move outside. Call your greyhound between members of your family. Start close together and gradually move further apart. When your greyhound goes to the person who has called, reward lavishly. The person rewarding can also practice lightly touching the greyhound's collar during this reward to get your greyhound used to this sort of contact. In time the rewarding person can lightly grab the greyhound's collar. This means that should you ever be in a situation, your greyhound won't suddenly jerk away if you reach out for its collar. Once the behaviour is reliable you can add in the word "come" or "here" (it doesn't matter, just make sure you say the same thing each time).

Step 3: Introduce Distractions

You might like to introduce some distractions when you ask your greyhound to come. Remember not to call your greyhound while it is playing or looking busy. Try to call at a time when you think it is most likely to come back. This is setting your greyhound up to succeed so it doesn't learn that your cues are fine to ignore. This will also give you lots of opportunities to reward it. Remember, the more often you can reward your greyhound for the behaviour you want (i.e. coming back) the faster it will learn. You may also want to make use of 'jackpots' (large amounts of food given when your greyhound does something particularly good) for running (rather than walking) back to you.



Further Training

Down & Sit

Given their unique body shape, greyhounds naturally move into a down position in a different manner from most dogs. Consequently, the traditional way of teaching 'Down' (luring the dog down from a sit with a treat) is not very useful for many greyhound owners. Indeed, this makes teaching 'Sit' a difficult task as the position is uncomfortable and, in some cases, impossible for greyhounds to achieve.

Some greyhounds can be lured into a 'Down' from standing via a food lure where you hold a treat in your hand and lower it from the dog's nose to their toes, encouraging the dog to change position as they follow the food, then rewarding it with that treat once its chest touches the ground.

Lying Down

With greyhounds, it is often easier to start with the dog lying down, then coax it into a sitting position with a treat luring its nose up (and very slightly backwards – just so they don't stand up).



However, the luring method is often confusing for many greyhounds, particularly those that are newly adopted. As such, the better strategy is capturing the lying down behaviour. This means rewarding the dog whenever it performs the behaviour of its own accord. This is useful because the behaviour is the dog's choice, making it easier for the behaviour to become more of a habit for the dog i.e. the dog chooses to lay down more often because historically good things have happened whilst doing it. Having comfy bedding around and calling the greyhound to it will help to increase the odds of your dog laying down.

Then, when our greyhound does sit, say the word "Sit!" and lavish it with pats, praise and treats.

Toileting

As greyhounds are unfamiliar with indoor living, you will need to spend some time teaching them where the appropriate places are to toilet at their new home.

In order to avoid toilet training accidents from occurring, it is essential that dogs are given lots of help and information to teach them where they are to toilet. You also need to ensure that your greyhound is given sufficient opportunity to toilet in that area. After all, humans don't automat-

ically know where the bathroom is in a strange house until they've been shown. Greyhounds are the same, but may need to be shown many times before they get it right all the time.

Once a dog learns to toilet in the wrong place, it quickly becomes a habit that can be difficult to break. Conversely, each opportunity your dog gets to toilet in the right place is an opportunity for it to learn the right thing and form a good habit.

Preventing Mistakes

1. As soon as you get your greyhound home, take it straight out to where you want it to toilet. It may have had a long car journey and you won't know when it last toileted.

2. Watch your greyhound – if you see it circling, sniffing or become restless, take to its toileting place immediately.

3. Use common sense – if you know your greyhound hasn't eliminated for several hours i.e. during the evening or while you've been out, take it out immediately for an opportunity to relieve itself.

4. Put your greyhound on lead and stand with it while it toilets to prevent it from becoming distracted.

5. If your greyhound doesn't toilet, you can try walking in circles, starting at about 3-metre diameter and gradually making the circles smaller and tighter (to replicate a dog's sniffing and toileting behaviour).

6. Prevent your greyhound from going into rooms unsupervised. Keep doors closed or restrict areas with the use of baby gates. You may also like to use a crate to confine your greyhound when it is asleep or when you can't supervise, e.g. while you're bathing the kids. To make use of a crate, read the 'crate training' section of this guide.

7. If you live in an apartment, you may like to create a toileting area if you have outdoor access (for example on a balcony). It is less overwhelming if your greyhound can choose to go to a nearby site when it feels comfortable in its surroundings, rather than having to accompany you out of the apartment to an appropriate tree or grassed area. Initially this may cause anxiety, which will mean that it might 'hold it in' and then is likely to toilet when it gets back to your apartment where it feels more secure.

NOTE: whenever your greyhound toilets in the right place, reward it with pats, praise and treats as soon as it has toileted. There is no point giving your greyhound a treat when it comes back inside. If you do that, you are rewarding it for the returning to the apartment, not toileting in the correct spot.

When Accidents Happen

Do not punish your greyhound for toileting in the wrong place! This is crucial. If you yell at, smack or chastise your dog, it will believe it is being punished for what it is doing (i.e. toileting) not where it is doing it. This will make your greyhound reluctant to toilet in front of you for fear of punishment.



Soak up whatever you can with paper towel and then clean up using an enzyme-based cleaner from your vet or pet shop. Alternatively, Biozet (laundry powder) can be diluted and used in a similar manner. Do not use common household ammonia based cleaners which attracts dogs back to that area to toilet again. Remember, when a dog urinates, there is often a large volume that soaks in and under the carpet so you need to use a considerable amount of product to cover the area completely.

Things to consider if an accident occurs...

Have you changed your greyhound's meal times? By changing the time of day when your dog eats, you will also change the time of day when it needs to eliminate. If your dog is unable to make it through the night without toileting, try moving dinner forward or backwards to change the pattern. Alternatively, you can try feeding a larger proportion of your dog's meal in the morning and less at night or feeding a portion at lunchtime.

If you have had your greyhound for some time and accidents begin to happen out of the blue, the first point of call would be a vet check-up to rule out any underlying causes such as urinary tract infections or incontinence.

Crate Training

Having a safe space to return to in times of uncertainty is a great way to improve a greyhound's confidence in a home. Many greyhounds have been previously housed in racing kennels, so they are quite used to having their own bedtime space. Now, as a pet, your greyhound will also benefit from having a small and cosy safe haven that it can snuggle up in.

A crate also facilitates interactions between your greyhound and children/other pets and also provides your greyhound with a safe, bedtime area into which you can place him at night. This helps with housetraining as most dogs are unlikely to soil the area where they sleep. As retired greyhounds have experience in racing kennels, they are used to not being disturbed once asleep, a crate helps to keep this consistent.

However, it is important that your greyhound is given the opportunity to explore this new area at its own pace. It's vital that it wants to enter this area (rather than being forced). Placing food, toys and treats into the crate can make it more appealing to enter and explore. Once your greyhound is comfortable with entering its new crate, you can gradually accustom it to having the door closed for increasing periods of time.

It is very important your greyhound is placed in its crate with the door closed for no more than about 4 hours at a time (except at night when it can generally remain in there for up to 9 hours but only once it is used to the routine). It is also important that your greyhound's crate not be used for punishment. Your greyhound should only associate good things with its crate and it should be a safe haven from everything else going on in the household.

If you think your greyhound might not cope or will be over-excited in certain situations such as when there are guests, small children or tradesmen in the house, you can tuck your greyhound in its crate ahead of time with an occupying treat like a stuffed Kong and then let it out later when things have settled.



Stairs

Stairs are a common source of concern for some greyhounds. Most greyhound properties are flat, so many dogs have never had to negotiate more than one step at a time. Stairs are also a challenge for greyhounds because of their physique. Their long legs and small feet can make them feel unsteady especially on slippery stairs. In addition to this, their deep chest means most of their weight is forward from their waist. This means that, when coming down stairs, all of their considerable weight is unevenly balanced and over their front feet (making them feel as though they will fall forwards). Consequently, many greyhounds will balk at stairs and/or try to rush them (jumping down a whole flight).

Because of the dangers associated with them rushing stairs (such as broken legs), it is important that we help them learn to navigate these new structures.

Going Down

Going down can be more challenging because of the position of your greyhound's weight.

Have your greyhound on-lead and be equipped with several treats. Stabilising your dog's chest with one hand can help it to feel secure, providing it is familiar with this kind of handling. Again, a harness might assist in supporting your dog's forward weight (so it doesn't feel as though it will fall forwards).

Gradually make your way down the stairs, one step at a time. Don't try to physically move your dog's feet when going down as this reduced stability will make your dog even more worried. Place treats on each step to give the dog the opportunity to recognise and take each step at a time.

Move down the stairs in a zig-zag pattern using the whole width of the flight so your dog is not looking straight down, rather it is looking and moving on a diagonal which is less steep and scary and gives it more space on which to place its feet. Do not allow your dog to rush down the stairs or lose its balance as it may injure itself or get a terrible fright (making the whole process more difficult next time).

Only do 1-3 repetitions each time and finish on a good note. So, if your dog does really well on a set, don't push your luck by trying to repeat it. Dogs seem to improve at tasks when they are given the opportunity to go away and think about their progress. The next time you come to repeat the activity your greyhound may have improved significantly and gained additional confidence.

Going Up

It's best to start with a short and easy flight of stairs (concrete or carpeted) on which the treads are widely spaced. Have your greyhound on lead and be equipped with several treats. Place a treat on the first two steps and walk up as you go, taking care to not pull your dog, keep the lead loose. If your greyhound navigates the first two stairs, reward and then practice going down.

If the above is successful then more steps can be attempted on subsequent sessions. Make sure to end on a positive note, ideally before the greyhound is 'over it'.

If the above strategy doesn't work it can help to carry your greyhound partway up the stairs so it only has to do the second last step itself. For this to be successful your greyhound needs to be conditioned to enjoy being carried (reward provided consistently when carried) otherwise it can be overwhelmed by this exercise.

Entertainment

Being able to engage in natural behaviour is an important component of an individual's welfare. For dogs, this typically means the ability to engage in natural foraging behaviours such as sniffing out food, chewing, digging and licking. This is known as environmental optimisation and is sometimes termed as enrichment. All greyhounds will benefit from some environmental enrichment, but the type will depend on the individual greyhound's personality and how it is settling into your home.

As with everything else that your greyhound encounters, introduce everything gradually and ensure that your dog has a positive experience. Some greyhounds will not show any interest and others will be very enthusiastic. If you notice your greyhound is avoiding or afraid of any enrichment, recognise that it is likely to be overwhelmed and take some steps to make its world smaller (not bigger) while it continues to acclimatise to its new environment.

Kongs are cylindrical rubber dog toys in which you place your dog's food or treats. It is important that when you first give Kongs to your dog that they are very easy. Food should easily fall out. A good mixture for this is 80% dog food and 20% treats.

This encourages your greyhound to be engaged in chewing and licking behaviour which has a calming effect as well as allowing the dog to expend some mental energy. As your greyhound gets better at extracting food from the Kong, you can increase the level of difficulty, including canned fish, yoghurt, wet food, roast chicken and eventually freezing the contents to make it even more challenging. However, if you make this toy too challenging in the early stages, your greyhound will lose interest in it quickly.



"Mina gets stuck into her Kong" Image by Susan McKeon
www.flickr.com/photos/susanmckeo/n/6327995153/

Enrichment



1. Puzzle toys – Similar to Kongs, the objective is for your greyhound to interact with the toy in such a way to extract the food. These can vary in difficulty and most greyhounds will do best on the more simple puzzles (i.e. the dog has to slide a single tile) compared to the complex puzzles. Again, these should be tailored to promote enjoyment as opposed to frustration, if you notice your dog getting frustrated, it may be best to transition to Kongs or scatter feeds.

2. Scatter feeds – This involves using a portion of the dog's food in the yard as opposed to giving the dog's complete meals in a bowl. Initially it's best to scatter it in a reasonably small area (approximately 1m x 1m). As your dog learns how to use his nose to find kibble in the grass, you can scatter the food further.

3. Ice blocks – Freezing treats or toys in a large block of ice is a great way to get your dog to both calm and cool down, especially in summer. To add additional interest to the task you can flavour the ice with diluted chicken or beef stock or puppy milk. The more treats you add to the ice, the more easily the iceblock will crumble. To increase the difficulty, reduce the number of treats, or increase the size of the iceblocks.

4. Paddling pools – the same children's paddling pools can be filled with water and treats (including some fruit and vegies) thrown into it for your greyhound to catch and eat throughout the day. Please be aware that this shouldn't be used if you have young children living in or visiting the house as it can pose a drowning hazard. An alternative to pools can be digging pits – if your greyhound loves to dig, you can purchase a hard-sided children's paddling pool. Treats or toys can be hidden in the sand to encourage your greyhound to dig in this particular place and not others.

TRAINING QUIZ

Tick the boxes that represent the best answer to the following questions.

1. We can alter our greyhound's behaviour by _____ behaviours that we do like.
 - a. rewarding
 - b. ignoring
 - c. punishing
 - d. demonstrating
2. What is the best way to introduce your greyhound to a crate? (Choose 1)
 - a. Give it treats for going inside and leaving the door open at first.
 - b. Push it into the crate and leaving it there for four hours.
 - c. Sleeping in the crate with it.
 - d. Show it a picture of a crated dog.
3. Greyhounds do not need toilet training in a new home, they will already know where to go to the toilet:
 - a. True
 - b. False
4. What are some of the signs your greyhound may need to go the toilet? Choose all that apply.
 - a. Sniffing
 - b. Looking for an exit
 - c. Restless behaviour
 - d. Whining
5. Stairs are a common source of concern for greyhounds.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. If your greyhound jumps up on you, what is the best approach to dealing with it?
 - a. Scold it, it will know it's wrong and stop it in future
 - b. Spray it with a squirt bottle
 - c. Stand over the greyhound, to show it who is boss.
 - d. Turn your back when the dog jumps and reward it for an alternative behaviour (e.g. touching its nose to your hand instead)
7. How should you reward your greyhound in training or when it does something you want to encourage? (Choose all that apply):
 - a. Food
 - b. Pats and praise
 - c. Toys and games
 - d. A written letter of commendation
8. It is easier to teach a greyhound to sit by starting from the 'down' position:
 - a. True
 - b. False
9. Using punishment to train your greyhound can lead to conflict and anxiety in your new pet. Which of the following are considered punishment in training? Choose all that apply:
 - a. Tapping the dog's nose
 - b. Smacking your dog
 - c. Throwing a noisy object near the dog to startle it
 - d. Telling it 'no' in a loud voice
 - e. Squirtting water at the dog

GREYHOUND HEALTH

The most common breed ailments for greyhounds are digestion-related, they can be susceptible to bloat. They can also be prone to some forms of bone cancer.

Greyhounds can often suffer from plaque and dental disease, especially if their diet and maintenance of their teeth is insufficient. Your greyhound will come to you having recently had a scale and polish of their teeth and can usually be easily maintained with regular long-lasting chews (like deer antlers or shark cartilage) or tooth brushing (providing the greyhound has been trained to enjoy this).

Greyhounds can suffer a genetic eye condition called Pannus (developing between the ages of 2-5 years). See 'continuing care' section for more information.

Bald thigh syndrome is common in greyhounds as they naturally have a low thyroid level. Unless particularly predominant or indicated by blood tests, no intervention is required.

Greyhounds are known to have the occasional toe problem, in particular corns.

Greyhounds can have sensitivity to certain drugs (including some flea treatments) and anaesthetics.





Feeding

Your greyhound will be happiest if fed twice a day (morning and evening) in roughly equal amounts. For the average greyhound, 2-2.5 cups of a well-balanced, quality dry food along with 400-600 grams (give or take) of quality meat (of a pet variety) is sufficient per day. Whilst under our care, GAP greyhounds are fed a diet of nutritionally balanced premium-kibble. Fresh mince is provided as a high value treat. They also get regular sardines and chewing treats such as raw bones.

Plenty of water should be freely available to dogs at all times to assist with digestion and temperature regulation.

You can add 'extras' to improve palatability and prevent boredom, although for most greyhounds the addition of water in combination with the fresh meat is yummy enough. Some greyhounds are accustomed to eating vegetables, pasta, rice and the like cooked up into a 'stew'. You can also include, partially cooked eggs, a small amount of milk, raw or cooked meat and raw bones especially if your greyhound is having trouble eating whilst it settles in, provide these in moderation. Partially cooked eggs and boneless fish (such as sardines) are generally loved by greyhounds and are wonderful for their coats. These extras or the meat from a BBQ chicken (make sure there are no

bones) are great tools to help encourage your greyhound to eat over the first few weeks. Any major changes to a greyhound's diet should be made slowly or in small amounts to prevent upsetting the gastrointestinal tract.

If you are having difficulty getting your greyhound to eat, you can try changing the amount of water that you use to moisten the food and/or add some stock to make it more palatable. You may like to try exercising your dog at different times of the day (to stimulate their appetite) or try different types of meat (chicken, beef, turkey or kangaroo etc.). For some dogs their appetite will improve if the meat is cooked before feeding. It is important to be persistent in offering the bowl of food, giving them 5-10 minutes to show interest, if no interest shown, place in fridge and offer it the next meal time in the same way. They will eat when they are hungry and if you begin to offer different types of food (such as BBQ chicken or rump steak) they will expect this each time and not want to eat the kibble. If you think your greyhound is losing weight and its appetite is not returning, please contact us or your veterinarian.

Certain food should never be given to dogs. These include raw or cooked onion (can cause blood disorders), chocolate (contains a toxin even in

Dental Health



Raw bones can be offered regularly to help maintain healthy teeth and gums. No cooked bones of any type should be fed. Cooking renders the bone indigestible, often resulting in splintering or impaction in the gut. Raw chicken bones, tend to be best, and rarely seem to cause gastric upset. Chicken carcasses can be bought at most poultry outlets relatively inexpensively.

Other products can be purchased to stimulate chewing such as deer antlers, shark cartilage and even vegetarian forms of common treats like pig's ears. It's best to use the things your greyhound responds best to, both digestively and emotionally!

Emergencies and Veterinary Care

Greyhounds have a unique physiology that distinguishes them from many other breeds of dog. They can have sensitivity to certain drugs and anaesthetics. It is recommended that you take your greyhound to a vet who is familiar with the breed. You may also want to consider taking out pet insurance for your new friend which will help with covering any unexpected vet trips!

It is advisable to have up-to-date contact details of your closest or local veterinarian as well as the contact details of after-hours veterinary services in your area, in an easily identifiable area such as on the fridge or next to the phone. In the case of an emergency (such as bloat, dog bite, tick or other poisoning, suspected broken bones etc.), please take your greyhound to the closest veterinarian immediately (after hours if necessary).

Physiology

Greyhounds have a larger heart and higher blood pressure than other breeds of dog.

Their blood is extra rich in oxygen carrying red blood cells and they have about 4% more blood than other dogs. The special qualities of their blood makes greyhounds highly valued as canine blood donors. For more information about the lifesaving opportunity of canine blood donation visit www.sashvets.com/blood-donor-hero (Links to an external site.) or call the Small Animal Specialist Hospital (SASH, Sydney or Tuggerah) on (02) 9889 0289.

Their body weight is on 16% fat which is less than half the amount of other dog breeds of similar size. The high percentage of fast-twitch muscle fibres in their bodies aids speed, not endurance.

Body Condition and Weight

A greyhound is a naturally lean, athletic animal, especially during their racing careers and this physique should be respected in retirement also. It is acceptable and recommended that a greyhound is allowed to put on some weight and 'let down' in retirement and be a few kilos heavier than its racing weight.

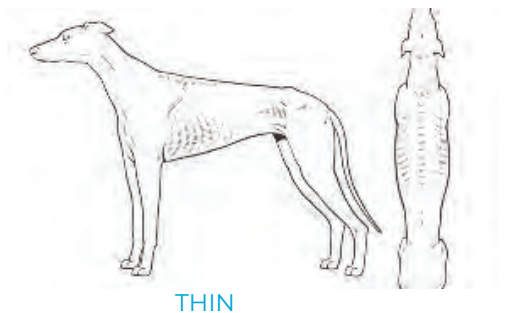
Your greyhound should never be allowed to 'get fat'...yes greyhounds can get fat! A greyhound in ideal 'retirement condition' is a few kilo's heavier than its racing weight, has the last rib or two defined without being prominent and where the tips of the hip bones can just be noticed (again without them being bulging or prominent). When you look at your greyhound from above, you should still be able to make out a slight waist and not a 'plank-like' back. If not kept amply warm, greyhounds can quickly lose weight and condition. A winter coat is recommended when temperatures fall below approximately 15 degrees Celsius. Winter coats will often be available through Greyhounds as Pets, so speak with staff about availability.



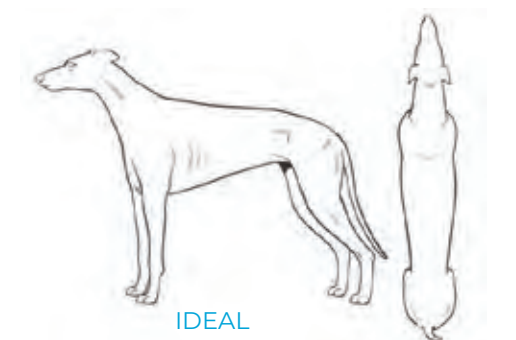
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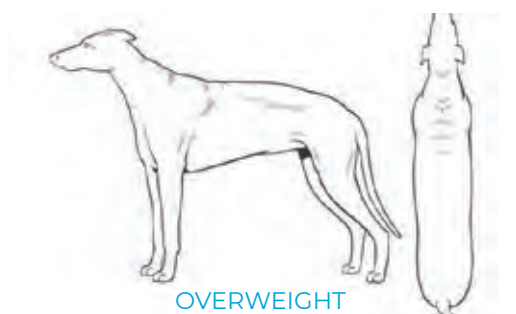
EMACIATED



THIN



IDEAL



OVERWEIGHT



OBESE

Body condition guide from 'How To Know If Your Greyhound Is At A Proper Weight' from Greyhound Racing Victoria www.grv.org.au

Bloat or Gastric Torsion

Bloat is a medical disorder which tends to be more prevalent in large dogs with deep chests, such as the greyhound. Bloat can result in death as the dog's breathing becomes inhibited from having a twist in their gut.

Possible symptoms of bloat include:

- Restlessness
- Swollen stomach
- Heaving with occasional vomiting
- Shortness of breath
- Passing of larger than normal amount of faeces and gas (often within a few hours of eating)

If your greyhound shows such signs, this is a medical emergency and the dog should be taken to a vet immediately (regardless of the time). You should also call your vet before leaving home or whilst you are on route to ensure that they can prepare for your arrival. Many dogs with this condition die within 1-2 hours of showing signs so it is crucial that veterinary attention is sought immediately.

Prevention is better than treatment, and there are several management strategies that can drastically reduce the possibility of your greyhound developing bloat.

The management strategies for the prevention of bloat are:

- Do not feed large amounts of food in one session. Instead, spread smaller meals out over the course of the day (i.e. a breakfast and dinner rather than just one big meal).
- Do not exercise your greyhound $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour before eating or $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours after eating.
- Ensure that water is readily available at all times (so they can have small amounts throughout the day) and to avoid your dog gulping large amounts in a single session.
- Know who your local and after hours vets are so that you can contact them quickly in an emergency.
- If your dog is a rapid eater, use special bowls that are designed to allow your dog to eat at a safer pace and prevent it gulping up large amount of food and air while it eats.

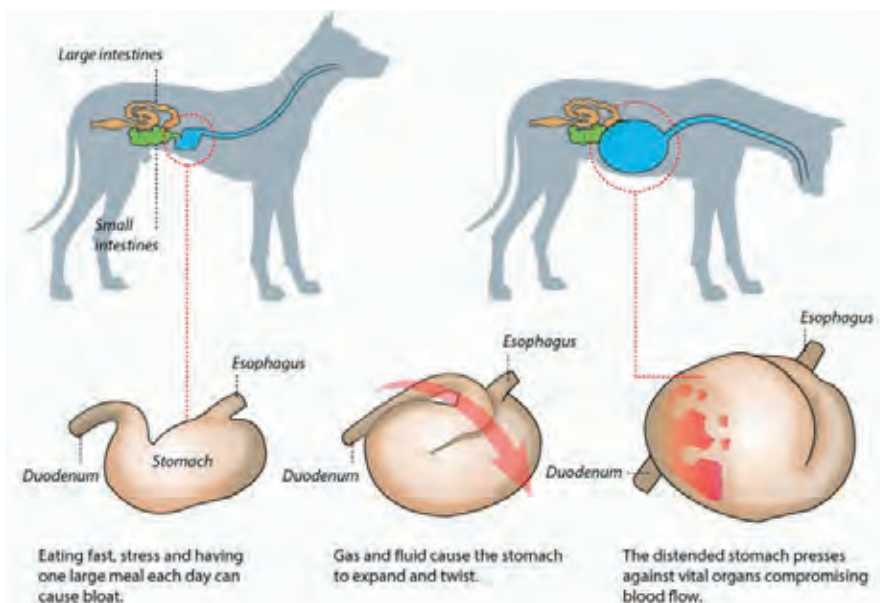


Image from www.friendshiphospital.com/friendship-news/dogs-and-bloat/

Pannus

Pannus is a disorder that affects the eye of some greyhounds, and will eventually lead to blindness if not managed. It usually onsets between 2-5 years of age and generally doesn't appear after such time. It is not painful in its early stages, causes no discharge from the eye, and may be hard to see unless you look closely at your greyhound's eyes in good light. If it is not diagnosed or treated, the disease progresses, slowly covering the clear part of the eye (the 'cornea') until the dog can no longer see in severe cases.

Pannus is seen most commonly in German shepherd dogs, but is also found in collies, poodles, dachshunds and greyhounds. There may be a genetic component associated with the occurrence of Pannus, with certain families and lines within a breed more severely affected, but environmental factors such as UV light also play a part in the development of the disease.

In the beginning you may only notice that the edge of the cornea seems more pigmented (coloured) than before – kind of like 'freckles' developing near the edge of the eye – or there may be a hazy/greyish colour to the edge of the clear part of the eye.



Chronic superficial keratitis in a dog. This is an atypical appearance as the blood vessels are extending from the nasal instead of the temporal limbus. Image from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:-Canine_ pannus.JPG

It has also been described as having an "oil-slick" or textured appearance creeping over the eye. Generally the disease will occur in both eyes, starting at about the same time, but the lesions do not necessarily look the same.

As the disease progresses, Pannus lesions may simply look like brown pigment 'growing' onto the eye surface, or it may appear more inflamed with a 'greyish-pink' colour (which is the eye's version of scar tissue). If you look closely, you might even see small blood vessels growing onto the eye surface. The colour change to the clear part of the eye starts at the outside edges and spreads in until the entire eye surface is covered, leaving no clear window for light to enter the eye – making the dog blind.

Regular check-ups with your veterinarian or one more experienced with greyhound health will help pick up the condition early. Pannus is very easily managed and relatively inexpensive with the medicated eye drops being very easy to administer. So, don't hesitate to adopt a greyhound with Pannus.

Intestinal Worms, Heart Worms and Fleas

Dogs require regular worming and flea control in order to remain in good health and to prevent some types of worms being passed on to humans and their environment. There are multiple products available on the market that control intestinal worms and/or heart worms, as well as combination medications that in some cases also control fleas and mites.

They come in various forms ranging from tablets and palatable chews to topical applications (often applied to the back of the neck) and medicated collars. An annual heartworm injection is also available. If you have any questions about flea or worm control, please contact GAP NSW or your veterinarian.

Ticks

There are three main types of ticks that affect dogs; the brown dog tick, the bush tick and the paralysis tick. The first two can prove carriers for a range of infectious agents, but rarely cause fatalities.

The paralysis tick is a deadly parasite found in many areas in and around Sydney and New South Wales. They are at their peak from October through to April, however, can be present at any time of year. As the Greyhound has a short coat, ticks may be obvious upon inspection. Check and feel your dog daily for ticks (which look like blue or grey lumps ranging in size from a few millimetres to approximately 1.5cm on your dog). Ticks can be anywhere on your dog and it is recommended that you check the head, ears, gums, neck, under the collar, body, 'armpits', between their toes, along and under their tail – basically everywhere!

If you find a brown or bush tick, the best course of action is to remove it immediately (if possible). Tick removing devices are available inexpensively for purchase from veterinarians, pet and produce supply stores, and make removing ticks straightforward. If you can't remove the paralysis tick properly using a device, please take the dog to the vet as a matter of urgency to have it removed. If you have removed the tick but your greyhound is already suffering the effects, or begins to show symptoms once the tick/s is removed, get it to the vet without delay.

Signs of tick poisoning include:

- Unsteadiness on their feet particularly in its hind limbs
- A dry cough
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Change in its "bark" i.e. unusual sounding bark

If you notice any of these signs (even if you've already removed the tick) it is imperative that you get your greyhound to the vet immediately! Tick poisoning can lead to death in a matter of hours. If you suspect tick poisoning or you are unsure, please err on the side of caution and seek veterinary advice straight away. Multiple products are available on the market to assist in preventing ticks, however nothing can be guaranteed and it is crucial that you check your greyhound daily for ticks, particularly during the peak period. Examples of such products include 'spot on' treatments, chewable tablets and tick collars.

Preventatives

There are a range of products on the market that cover the main parasites such ticks, fleas, heartworm and/or intestinal worms. Make sure you choose a product/s which provide full coverage. Be aware that products have different durations of efficacy, (1, 3 or 12-months), so make a note and set a reminder for these so your greyhound remains protected.

Some of these products include Advocate, Heartworm vaccination (done by your vet), Advantix, Nexgard, Comfortis, Sentinel Spectrum, Panoramis, Drontal, Preventic collar, Seresto collar and Bravecto, each covering different parasites for various amounts of time.

There are products that cover all, fleas, ticks and worms. They are Nexgard Spectra and the Big 5, both a chewable tablet that is given monthly (30 days).

It is easy to be overwhelmed by the types and numbers of products available for preventing and treating internal and external parasites. Your greyhound will come to you with one month's supply of flea, heartworm and intestinal worming treatment. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your veterinarian.

Safety Issues - House and Yard

Around the house we often keep many products that are potentially toxic to our pets. Ensuring that these products are out of reach and locked away is crucial. Poisons and hazards can come in many forms. They may include:

- Drowning (never leave dogs in and around swimming pools unsupervised)
- Hills hoist (the handle should be tied into the upright position to prevent your dog running into it)
- Building material and rubble which may lacerate your greyhound
- Stakes and other obstacles that greyhounds can run into
- Holes in the ground and other trip hazards
- Fertiliser – Rat bait – Snail bait
- Cleaning products (generally from bathroom and shower cupboards but also garages)
- Antifreeze
- Paint
- Nail polish and remover
- Shoe polish
- Matches
- Chocolate (or cocoa mulch)
- Onions or garlic (causes anaemia)
- Avocado (the leaves, fruit, seeds and bark contain a toxin dangerous to dogs)
- Grapes and raisins (these can cause kidney failure)
- Dental floss, string and other elongated objects (gets stuck in the gut and severs it)
- Drugs and medications (including pain killers, contraceptive pill, vitamins and some herbs)
- Asthma inhalers (they might look like a fun toy but can be fatal)
- Moderate size objects (like corn cobs) that get stuck in the gut
- Poisonous plants (see your local vet or nursery for common plants of concern)

HEALTH QUIZ

Tick the boxes that represent the best answer to the following questions.

- How often should your greyhound be fed?
 - Once a day
 - Three times a day
 - Roughly twice a day
 - Once a week
- It is a good idea to feed greyhounds cooked bones?
 - True
 - False
- It is essential your greyhound has access to clean, fresh _____ at all times?
 - Water
 - Bones
 - Milk
 - Raw meat
- Greyhounds never get fat, no matter how much you feed them
 - True
 - False
- What is important to make sure your greyhound is wearing when it is under approximately 15 degrees?
 - A warm coat
 - A bed
 - Hot food
 - A muzzle
- Which of the following symptoms could indicate bloat – a condition that is often seen in large dogs with deep chests like greyhounds? (Tick all that apply.)
 - Restlessness
 - Shortness of breath
 - Passing larger amounts of faeces and gas within hours of eating
 - Swollen stomach
 - Attempting to vomit
- What is Pannus?
 - An eye disorder that affects some greyhounds and leads to blindness if not managed
 - A type of greyhound food
 - A greyhound coat colour
 - An intestinal worm
- Which of the following intestinal worms do dogs get unless they are regularly controlled with _____ worming treatment?
 - Roundworms
 - Whipworms
 - All of these
 - Hookworms
 - Tapeworms
- Which of the following symptoms may indicate tick poisoning, which needs to be seen by a vet immediately?
 - A dry cough
 - Diarrhoea
 - Lethargy
 - Unsteadiness in the hind legs
 - Vomiting
 - All these indicate tick poisoning
- The best place you can go to get advice on preventative healthcare for your greyhound is:
 - The internet
 - From your friends
 - Your vet
 - Your greyhound – presence of symptoms.

OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

What laws apply to me?

In NSW you have a right to own a dog but with RIGHTS come RESPONSIBILITIES. Legislation and regulations relating to animals also apply greyhounds. The Companion Animals Act 1998 regulates the responsible ownership of companion animals in New South Wales.

Identification

The Companion Animals Act sets down the main requirements for dog owners, such as microchipping. All pet dogs 6 months and older must be registered on the NSW Pet Registry. Registration is done once and is valid for the lifetime of the pet. If a pet greyhound changes owners, there is no need to register the pet again or pay an additional registration fee.

You can change the ownership of a dog by 'claiming the pet' and updating its registration details on the NSW Pet Registry. GAP will provide you with this paperwork.

It is a good idea to include a secondary contact and to remember to update your details when ever your address or phone number changes to ensure your dog is able to be returned safely to you if they ever get lost.

All dogs registered on the NSW Pet Registry require a microchip. The microchip contains a unique 15-digit number which helps in identification if the animal is lost or stolen. GAP greyhounds will be microchipped and GAP will provide this number to you.

When in public places, dogs must wear collars identifying the dog's name and address or phone number of the dog's owner. The animal must also be attached to an adequate chain, cord or leash but is exempt if being exhibited at a show, engaging in obedience trials, secured in a cage or vehicle, or is in an approved off-leash area. See Section on Greenhounds.

Waste

Dog owners must pick up and dispose of the dog's faeces immediately.



Safety & Security

Dog owners must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the dog from escaping from the property in which it is being kept. For the purposes of this requirement, "owner" includes any person who is for the time being in charge of the dog.

You are responsible for ensuring that your dog does not harm or threaten any other person or animal. This means that you must be able to control your dog both in public AND on your own property.

As an owner of a dog you must also make sure that your greyhound is not causing a nuisance whether by consistently barking, escaping or interfering with other peoples property.

The legal liability for any injury caused by a dog can ultimately be held against the animal's owner. If your dog injures someone as a result of not being appropriately restrained, whether in a public place or even in your home, the victim may be entitled to legal recourse against you, either under legislation or in some cases common law rules of negligence. An owner can also be found to be negligent where a dog escapes, runs onto a road and causes a traffic accident.

No person should have more than 4 greyhounds in his/her control in a public place.

Prohibited Areas

Dogs, with the exception of assistance animals, are prohibited from the following areas (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled.)

- (a) children's play areas;
- (b) food preparation/consumption areas, although it should be noted that recent amendments to the Act now permit pet owners to take their pets to outdoor cafés provided that the café owner allows this, the animal is restrained (unless it is a designated off leash area), remains on the ground in the outdoor area at all times and is not fed;
- (c) recreation areas in which dogs are expressly prohibited;
- (d) public bathing areas where dogs are expressly prohibited;
- (e) school grounds, child care centres;
- (f) shopping areas where dogs are expressly prohibited; and
- (g) wildlife protection areas where dogs are expressly prohibited. No person may have more than four dogs under his/her control at any one time in any public area.



Muzzling Exemptions for Off-lead Areas



Previously in NSW, all pet greyhounds were required to wear a muzzle in public unless exempted by an approved retraining program. From 1 July 2019, this legal requirement no longer applies to pet greyhounds registered on the NSW Pet Registry website. However, like all dog breeds, greyhounds must remain on a leash. If you plan to take your greyhound off-leash in designated dog areas, you should have a Greenhound muzzle exemption.

Greenhounds is the approved program in NSW to facilitate the muzzling exemptions for retired racing and pet greyhounds in off-leash designated dog areas. Greenhounds is the sole NSW body authorised to manage and issue green collars under the Companion Animal Regulations. A greyhound still requires a muzzle in a specified off-leash dog area if it has not completed the Greenhounds program.

For more information go to www.greenhounds.com.au



Greenhounds do not have to wear a muzzle when they are in designated off-leash dog areas but must be under the control of a responsible person. These greyhounds must also wear a special “Greenhound collar” to identify them as muzzle-exempt. The Greenhound collar has been designed to be easily identifiable by the public and council staff.

All Greenhounds have passed an approved re-training program, are microchipped, lifetime registered with council and de-sexed.

Take extra care in off-leash areas as greyhounds can reach incredible speeds. Running at high-speed increases the probability & severity of a physical injury. Other smaller dogs can also be hurt from collisions and boisterous play.

RESPONSIBILITIES QUIZ

Tick the boxes that represent the best answer to the following questions.

- Which NSW legislation applies to keeping a greyhound? (Tick any that apply.)
 - Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (POCTA)
 - Companion Animals Act 1998
 - Domestic Animals Act
 - Livestock Disease Control
 - Greyhound Racing Act 2017
- Tick the correct greyhound requirements for microchipping.
 - All greyhounds for the first time with local council
 - Only greyhound puppies need to be microchipped
 - All greyhounds registered to race are microchipped, so I don't need to microchip them
 - Each and every time a greyhound moves to a new owner it needs to be done again.
- Which of the following areas are all dogs (except guide dogs) prohibited?
 - Children's play areas
 - Recreation areas that prohibit dogs
 - Wildlife protection areas
 - Food preparation areas
 - Public bathing areas
 - School grounds and child care centres
- A greyhound in a public place ____ (Tick any that apply.)
 - Must wear a collar with its name and owner's contact details.
 - Must be attached to a leash.
 - Must wear a muzzle unless exemption status has been achieved.
 - Must have its faeces disposed of immediately.
- There are serious consequences, including fines, loss of rights or jail for not complying with relevant laws with regards to dog ownership:
 - True
 - False

QUIZ ANSWERS

BEHAVIOUR

1. a 2. b 3. a-j 4. c
5. a 6. a-e 7. a-f
8. b 9. a 10. b 11. a
12. a-f 13. c 16. b

TRAINING

1. a 2. a 3. b 4. a-d
5. a 6. d. 7. a-c 8.
a 9. a-e

HEALTH

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. b 5.
a. 6. a-d 7. a 8. e
9. f 10. c

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. a, b, e 2. a 3. a-f
4. a, b, d 5. a

Further Reading

- Separation Anxiety in Dogs: Next Generation Treatment Protocols and Practices, Malena DeMartini-Price
- Canine Enrichment for the Real World: Making It A Part of Your Dog's Daily Life, Allie Bender & Emily Strong
- Behavior Adjustment Training 2.0, Grisha Stewart



GREYHOUNDS AS PETS



CONNECT
WITH
US!

Meet our
greyhounds!

Greyhounds As Pets NSW
Adoption Centres: Western Sydney & Wyee
Regional Programs: Central West, Northern
Rivers and South Coast



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gap@grnsw.com.au



1800 696 377