



Greyhound Pets of America

Tri-State Chapter

Adoption Manual

(Updated 10/19/2020)

Mailing Address:
PO Box 23101
Owensboro, KY 42304

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Welcome	2
GPA Tri-State Mission Statement	2
Bringing Home your New Pet	3
Commonly Asked Questions	3
About Those Tattoos	6
Greyhounds and Other Pets.....	7
Kids and Dogs	8
Feeding Your Pet	9
Housebreaking Hints	10
Training your Greyhound.....	11
Home Alone	11
Exercise	13
Grooming your Greyhound.....	14
Dental Care	16
Veterinary Care	16
Veterinarians	16

Welcome to the ever-growing and enthusiastic family of Greyhound owners!

While it has not been officially confirmed, we think that we are a pretty special group of people – Greyhounds have a way of bringing out the best in people! Your extended family will include other caring Greyhound owners who will gladly offer you support and friendship. Please contact your Local Representative with any questions you may have as your new Greyhound settles into your home.

Your new family member will undoubtedly give you hours of companionship, unconditional love, and devotion. The low maintenance, intelligence, relaxed demeanor, and beauty of these animals make them a unique family pet. It's okay to call them your kids, buy them special treats and toys, and look forward to rides in the car. It happens to all of us!

The success of our organization depends on the support we gather from people just like you! Help us spread the word about what wonderful pets our retired racers make!

GPA Tri-State Mission Statement

The primary objectives and purposes of GPA Tri-State are:

- To find responsible, loving homes for Greyhounds which fail to qualify or no longer qualify for the racetrack.
- To acquaint and educate the public of the desirability and responsibility of Greyhounds as pets.
- To inform the public of the availability of Greyhounds for adoption through our program.

Bringing Your New Pet Home

Bringing home a new pet is an exciting and rewarding experience. For the Greyhound, adjusting to the life of a pet from that of a racer can take some time. Following are a few suggestions to make the transition easier (some of the items discussed may or may not have already been learned depending on the foster home your grey came from):

- ☐ Once you get home, you should first offer your Greyhound a chance to relieve himself. Walk your dog back and forth in a small area until he does so.
- ☐ Allow the dog to explore his new home at his own speed, but always under your supervision. It will be much easier to establish good habits early than to correct bad ones later. It might be helpful to keep him on a leash for a while so you can keep a closer eye on things.
- ☐ Although your dog is used to living indoors, everything in your home is new to him. As he sniffs his way through the house, you can offer words of encouragement or discouragement.
- ☐ Your dog may not know stairs when you first bring him home. Start slowly at first taking him up and down two to three steps. On the way down, he may try to take all of the steps at once, so stay in front of him so he can only take one step at a time. With some patience, your dog will learn quickly and soon he will be climbing stairs like an old pro.
- Sliding glass doors and plate glass windows may be new to your dog. They may not realize they can't get through. Take care to introduce your dog to these obstacles by tapping on the glass to let them know it is there. You can also put tape or stickers on the glass at eye level.
- ☐ Mirrors are also a new experience for your dog. He may think his reflection is another dog and try to play with it or bark at it.
- ☐ Take precautions when cooking. Your stove and counters are at eye level and your dog will be curious about the food smells. When cooking or baking, your stove will become hot and your dog does not realize he will get burned.
- ☐ Verbal commands are generally enough to train your Greyhound. He will know by the tone of your voice what is acceptable and what is not.
- The first few days may be very stressful for your Greyhound. It is best to keep things quiet – delay the welcome home party for a week or two.
- ☐ It is not unusual for a new pet to refuse to eat for a day or two. He will probably drink more water than normal and consequently need to go out more often. Also, he will need more rest than normal.
- ☐ The change of diet and excitement of his new home may cause your new pet to have diarrhea. Should this occur, you can give your dog two Pepto Bismol caplets every 12 hours as needed for a few days (provided no health issue is known that would prohibit its use.) If it continues for more than a few days, consult your veterinarian as a stronger medication may be needed. If your dog ends up needing to see your veterinarian, be sure to let him/her know that you have given Pepto Bismol as it can affect certain test results.

The patterns you set in the first few days are the ones you will live with the rest of your Greyhound's life. If you do not want your grey on the furniture, do not break down at three a.m. and cuddle him on the couch!

☐ **Commonly Asked Questions**

☐ **What kind of pets do ex-racing Greyhounds make?**

Greyhounds in general are affectionate, friendly dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship and make terrific pets. Raised with their littermates, where they competed for

affection, Greyhounds love becoming the center of attention as household pets. Greyhounds do not usually make good watch dogs. Their friendly nature is not really very threatening.

❑ **Are Greyhounds good with children?**

The answer is both yes and no! Greyhounds are generally very tolerant of children, but remember they are canines. As with any breed of dog, small children must be taught respect for pets and must always be supervised when they are interacting with any dog. While we make every effort possible to match lifestyles to the personality of the Greyhound, the ultimate responsibility for a successful transition into the home rests with the human family members. This is not to say that they can't be tormented for long periods of time and still not growl or snap. Even a gentle Greyhound has its limits.

❑ **How are Greyhounds with other pets?**

Greyhounds are friendly by nature and typically socialize well as a result of encounters with other Greyhounds in the kennel. Other breeds, smaller dogs and especially cats may be unknown to a Greyhound and can require extra time and care to make a happy home for all. Seek advice from your Local Rep if you have any questions or concerns about proper introductions between cats/small pets and the new Greyhound.

❑ **How old are retired Greyhounds?**

The retired racers are usually between two and five years old.

❑ **What is the life expectancy of Greyhounds?**

These pure-bred athletes enjoy many years of good health. With proper care, they can have a life expectancy of 12 to 14 years or more.

❑ **Are ex-racing Greyhounds already housebroken?**

Frequently an adopted Greyhound is completely housebroken right from the start. In their kennel environment, they are "turned out" four or five times a day to relieve themselves. Therefore, racing Greyhounds are kennel-broken, which means they are trained to go outside and keep their kennels clean. Walk them and let them out in the fenced yard frequently at first, praise them enthusiastically every time they take care of "business" and they quickly learn that their new home is the place they keep clean and outside is where they go to relieve themselves. Keep an eye on them so you are sure to learn their "signal" that lets you know they need to go out (it can be very subtle like just standing at the door or staring at you). Greys have never had to tell anyone they needed to go out. At the track their handlers always took charge and put them outside several times a day. Some greys never learn to tell you they need to go out, so you take the initiative, keep track of time, and make sure your dog goes out every few hours. Using a crate, at least initially, is highly recommend.

❑ **How big do they get?**

Greyhound males generally stand 26 to 30 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 65 and 85 pounds. Females generally stand 23 to 26 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh 50 to 65 pounds.

❑ **Why do Greyhounds wear muzzles? Is it because they are high-strung?**

Actually the Greyhound is a wonderfully unique creature blessed with both the ability to be very competitive while on the track, yet on the other hand, a very loving and docile companion, living to please a beloved owner. They wear muzzles while racing for two reasons: (1) to help racing officials determine the outcome of a photo-finish race and (2) to protect Greyhounds from injury during the excitement of the chase.

❑ **Why do Greyhounds need to be kept on a leash?**

Greyhounds are sight hounds and can spot a small animal or moving object as far as a half mile away. Many have extremely high prey drives and when focused on the chase, they will not respond to any verbal commands. They have no concept of roads/traffic and can become lost in seconds if they get too far away – it is just not worth risking your Greyhound's life, no matter how long you have had them.

A leash also assures your pet protection from disasters, such as barbed wire fencing, contact with wild animals, traps and poison. Greyhounds have no fear of cars and other hazards in our world and as history has proven, the Greyhound is an animal born to run. Greyhounds are accustomed to walking on a leash and enjoy the exercise, as well as the affection they receive from the people who pass by.

❑ **Do Greyhounds need a lot of exercise?**

Greyhounds are the fastest breed of dog but they are sprinters without a lot of endurance unless they are gradually built up to it. A retired racer is quite content to be a “couch potato” and spend most of the day sleeping. Exercising with walks and opportunities to run in the fenced yard are all that's required. Greyhounds cannot be allowed to run off-leash in an unfenced area.

• **Aren't all Greyhounds gray?**

Not at all – they are many colors – brindle, black, blue (gray), red, fawn or a combination of these colors and white. The name Greyhound is not derived from the color of the animal. The name originates from three possible sources. The ancient Greeks may have called Greyhounds “Greekhounds” or may have named them “Gazehounds,” since they relied on sight rather than smell in hunting. Thirdly, the name may be derived from the Latin “gre” or “gradus” meaning degree, which related to the principle and care in breeding.

❑ **Why are Greyhounds so streamlined?**

Greyhounds are like any other competitive athlete. During their racing career, they eat heartily (up to two pounds of meat per day), but burn off excess weight when they run. As a pet, they eat much less, typically around three to six cups of dry food a day depending on their size, activity level, etc.

❑ **What has the life of a racing Greyhound been like?**

Greyhounds spend most of their lives in the company of other dogs. When they are born, the average litter size is about eight pups. Young Greyhounds are given a lot of attention and handled as much as possible. As they approach their first birthday, their training begins and they are taught to chase a lure, eventually progressing to a racetrack. Track life is very routine – feeding in the morning, turnouts in the exercise yards to relieve themselves and retiring between races in individual kennel crates. Dogs can race every three to seven days and most racing kennels have about 60 dogs. Most Greyhounds have seen very little of the everyday world including houses, stairs, mirrors and cats, and have seldom, if ever, ridden in a car. The transition to living in a home requires some time.

❑ **What should I expect if I adopt a Greyhound?**

Expect a gentle, loving pet who, with a little time and patience, will be a great addition to your family. Because everything is brand new to the Greyhound, expect him to be somewhat confused and very curious. House manners have to be learned, but Greyhounds are very intelligent dogs and learn quickly. They have a head start after being in a foster home but they will most likely still go through an adjustment period when moving to a new home, new people, etc.

☐ **Does my dog need a special space in the house?**

In the kennel, your dog has always had its own kennel crate where he felt safe and secure. There are a number of ways to accomplish this in your house. Using a large crate or having a special bedding area during the first few weeks will help the Greyhound adjust at his own pace to the unaccustomed freedom of your house. Although many people feel uncomfortable about using a crate, Greyhounds are generally quite at home in them. Indeed, using a crate can provide for a completely successful transition by affording the dog actual physical security when left alone during the adjustment period and thus preventing any possible damage due to separation anxiety. It also can eliminate any temptation to investigate the garbage.

Another advantage to the crate is that Greyhounds, like other dogs, instinctively will not soil their own living space. This makes crate usage a very effective tool in the housebreaking process. Special note – a crate should never be used as punishment. If you scold your Greyhound and shove him into the crate, you will be teaching him to associate bad experiences with the crate and he will soon become very reluctant or even refuse to go in.

☐ **Why is routine important to a Greyhound?**

Because Greyhounds are used to having a daily routine in the racing kennel, they tend to feel more comfortable in unfamiliar situations, if a routine is established with regard to feeding, answering calls of nature and resting. In a home situation, until you have established a workable routine with your Greyhound, you will need to take more frequent trips outside to avoid accidents.

☐ **What about feeding?**

You will be given instructions on what your Grey has been eating while in foster care – generally between three and six cups of kibble per day (based on size/activity level of the individual) with warm water added. You can work towards feeding dry but need to do so by gradually reducing the amount of water stirred through. Wet is easier for them as the diet they are used to from their track days is very wet and they tend to get used to gulping their meals. Gulping dry kibble tends to make a dog gag and possibly throw their food up. You will also be given some of the food they have been on while in foster care. This will enable you to mix them over gradually to a new food if you choose to change brands/flavors. Your adoption rep can help you if you aren't familiar with how to go about a changeover (to avoid upset stomachs, etc.)

About those Tattoos

All racing Greyhounds born in the United States are registered with the National Greyhound Association (NGA) in Abilene, Kansas. To provide positive identification, they are tattooed in both ears when about 2 months old. The left ear is tattooed with the litter identification number assigned by the NGA. All littermates will have this number. The tattoo in the right ear tells the Greyhound's age. It consists of the numbers 1 through 12 for the months of the year, followed by the last digit of the year of birth. For example, 107 would indicate the Greyhound was born in October of 1997, while 66 would indicate June, 2016. To differentiate between Greyhounds in the same litter, the letters A, B, C, and so on follow the month and year. Therefore, Greyhounds in the same litter would all have the same tattoos as far as litter registration number, month and year, but would be differentiated from each other by a letter of the alphabet. Thus, no one can ever lie about a Greyhound's true age, nor can dogs be "switched" in a race as tattoos are checked prior to the start of each race.

True, the numbers representing years repeat after ten years, but it should be very easy to differentiate between a 12 year old Greyhound and a 2 year old. Other countries have different registration systems.

Microchipping

This is a method of permanently identifying pets which involves injecting a small microchip underneath the skin. This is done by your veterinarian or local animal control agency and can be a great aid in identifying a lost or found dog.

Greyhound Pets of America ID Tag

Every dog that is adopted is sent home with a Greyhound Pets of America ID tag attached to his collar. Please keep this tag on as it may help in finding your Greyhound should he get lost.

Greyhounds and Other Pets

One basic philosophy will describe the way to handle this situation: you are in charge, they are not. When introducing your Greyhound to other animals, follow these simple rules:

Dogs

- Introduce them on neutral ground. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing them to meet in an area your other pet doesn't "own" such as down the block from your house.
- After the initial sniffing, you should walk the dogs together for a short time and then bring them into the house together. This is almost like having your other dog act as a host to the new Greyhound.
- Although Greyhounds are used to sharing attention, your other dog may feel jealous and need a little extra attention.
- The dogs should be fed separately. Greyhounds are fed in their individual crates in the kennel which means they aren't faced with another dog trying to get into their bowl. This could be an area where a Grey may try to guard his resource, the food, so you need to supervise to avoid an altercation.
- Until you feel confident that all dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out in the yard together unsupervised.
- Once you feel that they have accepted each other, you will be in for a treat as you watch them play. If you have another dog who is older or overweight, make sure he doesn't overdo it trying to keep up with his sleek new roommate.
- If your other pet is a very small breed, you should supervise play situations closely, especially at first. Your Greyhound's playful chase and lunge could be too rough for a toy breed.
- The plastic turnout muzzle is a useful tool in safeguarding Greyhounds who play hard and also the little guys a Greyhound may be learning to live with. This is not a hardship for the Greyhound – they can eat and drink through the muzzle and are quite used to wearing them.

Cats

- If you are introducing your new Greyhound to a cat, you should shut the cat in one room as the Greyhound explores the house.

- ☐ After the initial exploration, one adult should take the Greyhound on his leash while the other gets the cat.
- ☐ Keep the dog on a leash and place the muzzle on.
- Whenever possible (i.e., you have a cooperative cat), it is best to have one person sit with the cat on his/her lap and the other walk the Greyhound up and let him sniff – they'll usually want to start at the back end like they do when meeting other dogs and that's a good thing. You want to keep the introduction calm. If the Greyhound is wound up, go for a walk until they settle down and try again. An overstimulated Greyhound and a cat who is running/jumping around the house is not a good combination – especially when trying to do introductions.
- ☐ After the initial introduction (which may involve more than one session), you may remove the leash, but should keep the muzzle on until you feel confident. If your cat is familiar with dogs, this process usually goes quickly.
- ☐ If your cat is older or very shy, the process could take several weeks.
- ☐ The Greyhound should be crated when no one is home.
- ☐ It is acceptable to have the Greyhound sleep with his muzzle on in the beginning to ensure no encounters happen in the middle of the night if the cat wanders into the bedroom.
- Cat food has an irresistible smell to dogs and should be placed in a high spot so that the Greyhound can't get to it.
- ☐ Litter boxes should be hooded and turned into a corner to ensure peace for the cat and no access for the dog.
- ☐ **Also keep on hand a squirt bottle full of water.** A squirt in the face can be an excellent deterrent should the Greyhound be too enthusiastic about chasing the kitty or smaller dogs.

Birds

- ☐ Introduction of the Greyhound to a caged bird follows the basic procedures above.
- A quick tug on the lead and/or collar accompanied by a stern "No!" will do wonders.
- Do not leave the Greyhound unattended in the room with a birdcage they can reach from the floor – it is sometimes very easy to tip over should they jump up to try and see what's inside.

Kids and Dogs

Although everyone's favorite photographic subject, kids and dogs present special problems for parents. Teaching the new Greyhound his manners must go hand-in-hand with teaching the children their manners around the new pet.

Please keep in mind that you are dealing with a live, adult animal with all the accompanying instincts and needs. The Greyhound is one of the most easy-going dog breeds, but is nonetheless still a dog.

In order to establish a loving relationship between Greyhound and child, it is a wise idea to review the following ideas and discuss them:

- The Greyhound is not a toy. He deserves respect and responsible care.
- No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name and make sure he's awake before touching any sleeping dog. Some dogs can sleep with their eyes open or partially open – make sure the dog has raised his head, wagged his tail or

something to show he has acknowledged you. If you're just going by the eyes, he very well could still be in dreamland and could startle.

- If the dog is sleeping, he needs rest. When he is ready to play, he'll let you know.
- A Greyhound needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed. A crate is an excellent choice. Make sure the entire family – especially children – understand that this is the Greyhound's personal space and when he's there, it is better to call him to you rather than plopping down on his bed - and they should **never** try to crawl into his crate with him.
- Small children often want to express their affection for their pets by hugging or clinging to them. Teach your children that this can be "scary" for the dog and encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders or brushing instead.
- Tails are private things, not play things.
- It is important to reinforce to your dog the idea that children are part of the "human coaching team," not littermates. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that the child is still a person and must respond accordingly. For this reason, we strongly recommend that your Greyhound does not share your child's bed or bedroom.
- Outdoor games with your Greyhound should be closely supervised, especially initially, and until both child and dog are fully trained.
- Instead of running and jumping with your new pet, have your child join you as you stand in place and happily encourage your dog to come to you, with each person taking a turn. This provides exercise for the dog and reminds him that he should respond to all people – large or small.
- The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy – **SAFETY FIRST**. This applies to both the dog and the kids. Do not leave young children and dogs alone together. If you cannot supervise for any length of time, take the extra few seconds to crate your dog or baby-gate the dog(s) and children in separate rooms.
- A must-read reference book for introducing children and dogs is: *Living With Kids and Dogs Without Losing Your Mind* by Colleen Pelar. This book goes into great detail on recognizing body language as signals that your pet may be uncomfortable in certain situations.

Feeding Your Pet

Your new Greyhound has had his diet adjusted from the special high calorie, high protein, racing diet he required as a professional athlete to a top quality, well-balanced, pet diet. Mealtime Do's and Don'ts follow:

- **DO** feed your Greyhound twice a day. Two to three cups of dry food (kibble), mixed with warm water (water optional) is usually appropriate for each meal. You may need to modify the amount after the first few weeks according to your dog's activity level and age or if you change brand/formula of kibble. You should be able to feel ribs and at least see the shadow of them (refer to weight handout in the adoption folder). Your Adoption Representative will give you guidelines based on what your new Greyhound has been used to in his foster home.
- **DO** use a small chunk, high-quality food (for suggestions, see the food handout included in the adoption packet or talk to your Adoption Representative).
- **DO** pick a quiet corner of the room for feeding.
- **DO** feed your dog as close to the same time every day as possible. Greyhounds like consistency.

- **DO** monitor your dog's eating habits. It is not unusual for a new Greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. To encourage eating, you may want to add a couple tablespoons of good quality canned food to the warm water poured over the dry food. Other acceptable treats in small quantities might be yogurt, cottage cheese, green beans, etc.
- **DO** pick up any food not eaten in 10-15 minutes and discard. Repeat this routine at the next feeding and your Greyhound will quickly learn mealtime limitations.
- **DO** elevate your Greyhound's food and water bowls for easier digestion.
- **DON'T** let your Greyhound eat everything in sight. Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat anything. Unfortunately, everything doesn't always agree with them. Despite what advertisers would have us believe, your Greyhound will be happiest with the same food for every meal. Adding a few healthy extras will keep him from getting bored, and will increase the nutrition he gets from the food.
- **DON'T** let your Greyhound strenuously exercise immediately after eating, allow at least 30 minutes before and after meals before running. All deep-chested dogs, including Greyhounds, are susceptible to bloat, a condition that can be fatal.
- **DON'T ever** feed your dog chocolate. Reactions to this tempting sweet vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed your dog's heart rate, cause allergic reactions and can be fatal.
- **DON'T** feed your dog "people shaped" treats like miniature hot dogs or bacon. These usually contain lots of dye and sugar. Stick to the basics of good quality biscuits.
- **DON'T** feed your Greyhound from the table. This will only encourage bad habits that will be hard to break. If you want to share a bit of grilled steak/chicken (not the fat), put it in his bowl or use it as a topping at his next meal.
- **DON'T** leave alluring items on kitchen counters. Greyhounds are curious by nature and may sample items left on the counter.
- **DON'T** be alarmed if your Greyhound gulps down his meal. Greyhounds generally "bolt" their food without much, if any, chewing. If you'd like to see your Greyhound eat more slowly, you can spread his kibble out on a cookie sheet, or feed him from a Bundt-type pan. Pouring water over the kibble will also help. There is a handout in the folder about a special type bowl available at most pet stores that will help slow down a fast eater.

Housebreaking Hints

The main difference between Greyhound hygiene habits and average pet habits is that at first, the Greyhound expects you to tell him when it is time to go. He has always expected his trainer to let him out into his yard on a schedule, unlike a pet puppy who is taught to scratch at the door to be let out. However, because your Greyhound is used to living indoors and going outdoors to relieve himself, adjusting to his new lifestyle is relatively easy. Do develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can.

The basics to keep in mind are:

- Out first thing in the morning
- Out after meals
- Out after naps
- Out before you leave
- Out before meals

It is important that you supervise your pet, especially at first. This gives you the opportunity to praise your dog for doing the right thing and also to keep an eye on him.

Training your Greyhound

One of the main reasons Greyhounds make such wonderful pets is that they are easily trainable. Retired racers believe that people are all knowing and all powerful, making you the natural choice to set the ground rules. Keeping your dog under this illusion will be a great benefit to your relationship!

The role as leader or coach of your Greyhound is a serious responsibility. The messages you send will shape your dog's idea of the world.

Outline ahead of time what is acceptable and not acceptable behavior for your Greyhound and make sure **all** family members abide by the rules:

Can he get on the furniture?
Where will he sleep?
Where will he eat?
What will be his treats?

- Be consistent. Don't allow him to do one thing one day and not the next.
- In most instances, a firm sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your Greyhound.
- Once your Greyhound knows the family rules, another effective way to reprimand him is to firmly scold him and then totally ignore him for several minutes. Greyhounds crave attention and this approach will reinforce your position, making the greyhound more inclined to remember and follow your rules.
- Remember that your dog will respond to your reaction, not your words. If he seems afraid of something new, and you cuddle and coo over him, he will quickly get the idea that he should react timidly to any situation. Instead, speak in an upbeat tone, encourage him to try the new situation, reassure him by stroking his neck and then leave him alone. The longer you drag out the attention, the more it reinforces the unwanted behavior. When you act in a confident manner, it will help to instill confidence in your Greyhound.
- Be aware that home life is a new experience for your Greyhound and simple things such as stairs, glass doors, dropping keys, shiny floors, etc., may startle him at first. While he may have learned about some of these things in his foster home, your home is new and different. Take the time to show him that these new things are no big deal and easily mastered.

Always praise your Greyhound when he has been good. Throughout the dog's life, he has relied on someone to set boundaries for him. First his mother, then his trainer, now you. He is counting on you to tell him what is good and what isn't.

Home Alone

Up until now, your Greyhound has led a very different life than that of a house pet. Even the most simple, common things in our everyday life can be completely foreign to a Greyhound and a little intimidating. A little patience and a lot of love will help you and your new pet make the adjustment. When leaving your new Greyhound home alone, remember: one of the hardest things for your Greyhound to adjust to will be loneliness. This dog has lived its entire life with either littermates or kennelmates and people coming and going most of the day.

- ☐ Never leave your dog outdoors. With their short hair and lack of body fat, Greyhounds are very susceptible to the cold and on the flip side, overheating can be life threatening for any dog.
- Never tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain or "runner" as Greyhounds are not used to being tied to something stationary. They can get tangled up and injure themselves, or will pull,

wiggle, or chew their way out. They also could forget they are tied, take off running at their blazing speed and snap their neck when they hit the end of the line.

- A big asset in this adjustment period is the crate. This portable “room” provides the security your dog needs as well as protecting both the dog and your house from each other while you’re getting to know him.
- Your pet is used to having its own crate in the kennel which provides a warm comfortable place with a blanket in which to sleep the day away. Using a crate is not cruel, it provides the sense of security your dog needs. A radio or TV will provide soothing background noises.
- The first few days you should use an old washable blanket or something similar. If you leave the crate door open while you’re home, you’ll probably be surprised at how often you find your Greyhound curled up sound asleep in the cozy “den”. Children and other pets should not be allowed to crawl in the crate with the Greyhound. If he is sleeping, call his name before reaching in to pet him. Never grab a dog by the collar and try to drag him out of a crate or off a bed or furniture. The easiest maneuver is to simply jingle their leash and you can bet they’ll come running.
- Before you leave your dog for an extended period, you should practice leaving for short time intervals and then build up.
- The first time, command him with “Kennel up” or “Go to bed.” You can toss a dog biscuit in the crate if you like. If the dog balks, place one hand on his collar and one on his rump and encourage him to go on in (don’t give up or you’ll be teaching him if he resists, he won’t have to go in). Close the door and tell him how good he is. About a minute later, open the door and praise him again.
- The next time (even a few minutes later) repeat the process, but this time leave the room. Plan to hide for several minutes and then let him out. This teaches him that you always come home.
- If your Greyhound acts up when crated, try ignoring the bad behavior. Many dogs will whine, cry or even bark a bit when first left in their crate but then quiet down quickly and relax until you get home. Should your Greyhound go beyond a reasonable couple of minutes, you need to work on correcting that behavior. You need to wait out their tantrum and then praise/reward the first few seconds of silence. If he starts up again, go back to ignoring him immediately. This may take a while of going back and forth but if you have patience and some will-power, you should be successful.
- Keep repeating this “crate game” extending to longer periods each time. It’s a good idea to put your coat on and go outdoors as if to work and then listen for protests from the porch. Make sure he can’t see you through the door or window – Greyhounds naturally want to be with their people so if he can see you, he may protest more than he normally would just because he knows you’re still there. If there is a problem, repeat your stomping performance.
- The crate will provide an escape for your dog if children are harassing him. Of course, the strictly enforced rule is that no one bothers the dog when he is in the crate – no one should crawl in there with him, tease him while he’s in there, etc.
- If you decide not to use a crate because someone is home most of the time, you should choose a room to keep the dog in when you are gone and use a babygate rather than closing the door (never lock a dog in the bathroom). You will need to practice just like the people using crates. GPA Tri-State will provide a turnout muzzle and show you how to put it on. It will help protect your dog and your furnishings (you will need to “doggie proof” the area and look for things the muzzle might catch on – knobs, hooks, etc.).
- All dogs, including Greyhounds, have a need to chew, it helps to relieve tension and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large pressed-rawhide bone or stuffed Kong (see the brochure in your adoption packet) for your dog to chew while you are away. Children should understand that this bone is strictly the dog’s, and not a toy to be taken away from the dog. Only leave out a

bone or Kong if the dog is the only dog in the house or if he is kept separated from other dogs. Leaving out food items with multiple dogs and no supervision can lead to a fight. **Never** leave rawhide in a crate with a dog. They get very sticky when chewed which can cause a choking hazard - dogs need access to water and should be supervised when they have rawhides.

Exercise

A popular myth about Greyhounds is that, as ex-athletes, they require a lot of exercise. In reality, the Greyhound is a pretty lazy hound. However, we do recommend a certain amount of exercise which, not only is good for your dog, but good for you as well.

- ☐ The most obvious and easiest answer is in your own fenced-in backyard. The typical Greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished.
- ☐ Care should be taken to introduce your new Greyhound to your yard or any new fenced area before turning him loose. This means a walk around the fence so that the dog can familiarize himself with the boundary.
- ☐ You also should let the dog investigate hazards in your yard such as a barbecue or planter.
- The first time your dog exercises in your yard off the leash should be in daylight and under an adult's supervision.
- You may need to restrict your dog's activity in a new area. Greyhounds have been conditioned for sprinting and may become so excited and interested by a new exercise area that they overdo and could overtax themselves.
- ☐ If you plan to use your Greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program, you should have an enthusiastic partner as long as you start slowly.
- Greyhounds exercised primarily on sand in their kennel situation, which means the pads on their feet are smooth and soft. A little time must be taken to build up the calluses needed to exercise with you on cement or blacktop. Start your dog's regimen the same way you did yours – slowly. Walk or jog two or three blocks at first and then gradually increase.
- ☐ Care should be taken during extreme temperatures. Your dog is susceptible to heat stroke, just as you are. During hot weather, it is wise to exercise early morning or late evening. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding.
- Cold weather presents other hazards for this desert breed. A warm-up blanket (coat) made for Greyhounds is an excellent idea for walking or jogging in winter. Check your dog's feet for snow packing which can split webs or cause ice cuts. It is also a good idea to swish the dog's feet in lukewarm water to rinse off salt and other ice melters after your walk.
- ☐ Be sure if you use an ice-melt product in the winter that you choose a brand that is non-toxic for pets as your dog will want to clean his feet when coming in from outside.
- ☐ Each dog is an individual with different activity levels. Generally, younger dogs enjoy higher activity than older dogs. If your dog has a medical problem that would indicate a restricted activity program, GPA Tri-State will advise you of those restrictions.
- ☐ Most Greyhound pets can be kept happy and healthy with a 10-minute walk daily.
- Most Greyhounds walk very well on a leash. If your pet starts to pull or freezes as he sees something on the horizon, gently tug the leash and give the command, "heel", "let's go" or something similar.
- **Note of caution – exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for disaster to happen and is completely against the adoption agreement made between you and GPA Tri-State.** The Greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and chase after anything that moves. Something as small as a paper cup blowing across the street

from the park could mean your dog's death. Once your pet has focused in on this moving object, he no longer hears you; he is running on pure instinct.

For those without a fenced yard

Be patient the first weeks. Greyhounds are used to eliminating in a fenced-in turnout pen, not on a leash. Some key points:

- ☐ Take the dog outside often (at least 6-7 times a day initially, you will gradually decrease to going out 4-5 times a day).
- ☐ Praise the dog every time he urinates or defecates outside.
- ☐ Let the dog take his time smelling the ground, trees, etc. Give male dogs some vertical objects to smell and urinate on.
- Some dogs tend to be a little shy with you so close by. If so, try attaching a second leash or purchase a 10' training leash to allow the dog to get farther away from you. (Be careful to avoid letting him get tangled in the leash.) NEVER USE A RETRACTABLE LEASH!! They are proven to be dangerous to both the dog and the person holding the other end!
- ☐ Avoid distractions like busy traffic, kids playing or other dogs.
- After your dog has taken care of business, don't quickly rush him inside, doing so teaches him that when he eliminates he goes back in, so he will hold it until he is ready to go in (which usually is longer than the dog walker had in mind). Allow him to walk around for another minute or two; this will encourage him to go as soon as he gets outside.

Grooming your Greyhound

One of the nicest features of your pet Greyhound is that he is virtually permanently pressed. Grooming needs are minimal and take just a few minutes a day:

- Your Greyhound should only be bathed when soiled. Greyhounds have little oil in their skin so have little "doggy odor" and rarely need a bath.
- If you do need to shampoo, select a conditioning shampoo designed for animals from a good pet supply store or your veterinarian. (If it's safe for puppies, it's generally safe for a Grey.)
- Be sure to rinse, rinse, rinse after bathing. Any soapy residue left can be an irritant to your dog's sensitive skin (watch those deep pockets in their paws, legs, arm pits – lots of dirt and suds can hide in there and cause irritation).
- ☐ Most of the year, a quick brushing with a soft bristle brush once a day or rubbing him down with a hound glove will keep him looking great. During the spring and fall shedding weeks, you may need to repeat this routine more often.
- ☐ A short nubbed rubber mitt will aid in removing more stubborn elements such as dead hair and dried mud.
- Along with regular veterinary needs, your Greyhound will have had a dental prior to adoption. When you take your new pet for his first checkup, have the veterinarian inspect his teeth. To maintain dental hygiene, your veterinarian or Local Representative will be happy to show you how to brush your Greyhound's teeth (learning to do this regularly on your own is much easier and less expensive than having the vet do it once a year – plus it's easier on your Greyhound because they don't have to be sedated).
- ☐ Greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Just lean over and bend each foot backwards, so that you can see the underside of the nail. If you are nervous about trimming the nails, ask you vet, local groomer, or Local Rep to show you how much to trim.

Dental Care

Although Greyhounds are generally a healthy breed, they appear to be susceptible to dental problems. This may be in part due to their diet when at the track and to their conformation. We would like to address the most common problem: periodontal disease, and offer ways to prevent it.

Some signs of periodontal disease include breath odor, red or inflamed gums, gums that bleed easily, loose or missing teeth, or a painful mouth. One of the earliest signs of dental problems is the formation of dental tartar (calculus). Dental tartar is that yellow to brown deposit on the tooth surface. It is composed of bacteria, plaque and food debris literally cemented onto the tooth. If not removed, it continues to accumulate, eventually migrating down between the tooth, gum and bone that hold the tooth in place. Left untreated, the tooth root can become infected and/or the tooth falls out due to the weak attachment between the tooth and bone. Either situation is not comfortable for your Greyhound.

Once the dental tartar has formed, the only effective way to remove it is by ultrasonically scaling and polishing the teeth. The key is to prevent the formation of tartar in the first place. The first step to preventing periodontal disease is getting in the habit of examining your Greyhound's mouth and teeth. Simply lift the upper lip out of the way to expose the teeth. The next step is learning how to "brush" your pet's teeth. To start with, we recommend using a moistened cloth wrapped around your index finger, a washcloth or piece of gauze works well for this, gently lift the upper lip and begin wiping the teeth. We recommend doing this 2-3 times a week, although everyday would be best, using just the moistened cloth for 2-3 weeks. After your pet is used to having its teeth wiped, we recommend dabbing a small amount of a pet toothpaste onto the cloth and wipe the teeth with the paste. Your veterinarian or a pet supply store can supply you with the appropriate toothpaste. Do not use human toothpaste as it may cause vomiting. If everything is going well, you can graduate to a baby toothbrush and brush the teeth using the toothpaste as you would a small child. Start slowly and do not go beyond your pet's point of comfort. Build up to approximately 15 seconds of brushing per side.

If you have any questions or concerns about your pet's dental hygiene, please consult your veterinarian. They should be able to demonstrate how to brush your Greyhound's teeth as well as provide recommendations for any needed dental care.

Veterinary Care

In general, Greyhounds are a very healthy breed with none of the inherited health problems commonly found in other large breeds.

Prior to your adoption, your Greyhound was spayed or neutered, checked for heartworm and parasites, and had its vaccinations updated if needed. All foster Greyhounds are provided with monthly heartworm preventative and flea/tick preventative (as needed) until they are adopted. GPA Tri-State will give you a copy of your Grey's health records and the dates of this care. Please take this to your veterinarian so that your Greyhound's file can be established.

Following are a few things you will want to do to help your Greyhound lead a long and healthy life:

- Heartworm prevention will be one of the most important things you can do for your Greyhound. We recommend one of the chewable, monthly, preventative tablets. Your Greyhound has been on this preventative as a foster and you will need to continue after you adopt. Be sure to plan ahead and talk to your veterinarian before your dog is due for their next dose so you don't miss any. Many families prefer to continue year round plans, while others find returning to the clinic each spring to have their dog re-checked and re-started on the medication, is better for them. (Note: there are additional benefits that go along with most heartworm medications – other types of internal parasites are kept in check as well.)

- Annual check-ups should be planned near the anniversary of your adoption. This will serve as a good reminder to renew your local dog license as well, if your city or county requires it. During your annual visit, discuss with your vet your dog's needs for vaccinations and whether a yearly schedule or an extended one should be followed. Just like you, your Greyhound needs to visit their veterinarian at least annually for general checkups; however, to avoid overvaccination, you should ask for a 3-year rabies and distemper/parvo combo.
- Before allowing your dog to be anesthetized or tranquilized, be sure your veterinarian is familiar with the procedures and dosages appropriate for a Greyhound. Because Greyhounds have so much muscle bulk and so little fat, these drugs react more powerfully on them. The normal dose of anesthetic for another breed of dog of the same weight could be fatal to your Greyhound. Based on your dog's general health and/or age, bloodwork may be recommended prior to any procedure requiring anesthesia.

Annual Health Checklist

- ☐ Annual Physical Examination
- ☐ Heartworm Check / Continue Heartworm Preventative
- ☐ Fecal Check
- ☐ Dental Exam / Dental Cleaning as Needed

Veterinarians

We are very fortunate to have the support of local veterinarians. They donate many hours and money to help ensure the health and welfare of Greyhounds. Because they see more Greyhounds than the average veterinarian, they have become familiar with some of their medical and behavioral idiosyncrasies. We would like to recommend that you patronize one of the caring veterinary hospitals on our program. By giving them your business, you are saying **Thank you** for their support of GPA Tri-State.

Your local GPA Tri-State Representative can provide recommendations on veterinarians in your area that support GPA Tri-State and/or see some of our adopted Greyhounds in their practice so we know they are familiar with them.

GREYHOUND BLOODWORK

Susan Hartenhoff
Vis a Vis
Image courtesy Barewalls.com

Suzanne Stack, DVM

NOTE

The information contained within is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to diagnose or provide a treatment plan for your Greyhound. If your Greyhound is exhibiting signs of illness, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

CBC = Complete Blood Count

RBC = Red Blood Cells

Hgb = Hemoglobin

PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume / Hematocrit

WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets

NORMAL VALUES FOR:

Greyhounds

RBC: 7.4 - 9.0

Hgb: 19.0 - 21.5

PCV: 55 - 65

Other Dogs

5.5 - 8.5

12.0 - 18.0

37 - 55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV / HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference. Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia - a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction - in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's - low 40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's - low 40's is an anemic greyhound. Here in Arizona, a greyhound PCV < 50 is a red flag to check for Ehrlichia.

WBC

Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5

Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

Platelets

Greyhound: 80,000 - 200,000

Other dog: 150,000 - 400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Confounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated globulin and total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.

Chem Panel

T.P. = Total Protein

Globulin

Creatinine

T4

NORMAL VALUES FOR:

T.P.

Greyhound: 4.5 - 6.2

Other dog: 5.4 - 7.8

Globulin

Greyhound: 2.1 - 3.2

Other dog: 2.8 - 4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal - T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

Creatinine

Greyhounds: .8 - 1.6

Other dogs: .0 - 1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values up to 1.6 times as high as the top of the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.

T4

Greyhounds: .5 - 3.6 (mean 1.47+/- .63)

Other dogs: 1.52 - 3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds - 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs - so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

Urinalysis

And lastly, the good news - greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

Sources

M.R. Herron, DVM, ACVS, Clinical Pathology of the Racing Greyhound , 1991.

C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, ACVIM, "Managing Thrombocytopenia in Dogs & Cats," Veterinary Medicine, May 1999.

J.Steiss, DVM, W. Brewer, DVM, E.Welles, DVM, J. Wright, DVM, "Hematologic & Serum Biochemical Reference Values in Retired Greyhounds," Compendium on Continuing Education, March 2000.

M. Bloomberg, DVM, MS, "Thyroid Function of the Racing Greyhound," University of Florida, 1987.

D. Bruyette, DVM, ACVIM, Veterinary Information Network, 2001

Trust - A Deadly Disease

There is a deadly disease stalking your dog. A hideous, stealthy thing just waiting its chance to steal your beloved friend. It is not a new disease, or one for which there inoculations. The disease is called trust.

You knew before you ever took your Greyhound home that it could not be trusted. The people who provided you with this precious animal warned you, drummed it into your head. A newly rescued racer may steal off counters, destroy something expensive, chase cats, and must never be allowed off his lead!

When the big day finally arrived, heeding the sage advice, you escorted your dog to his new home, properly collared and tagged, the lead held tightly in your hand. At home the house was "doggie proofed." Everything of value was stored in the spare bedroom, garbage stowed on top of the refrigerator, cats separated, and a gate placed across the door to the living room. All windows and doors had been properly secured and signs placed in strategic points reminding all to "CLOSE THE DOOR"

Soon it becomes second nature to make sure the door closes a second after it was opened and that it really latched. "DON'T LET THE DOG OUT" is your second most verbalized expression. (The first is NO!) You worry and fuss constantly, terrified that your darling will get out and a disaster will surely follow. Your friends comment about who you love most, your family or the dog. You know that to relax your vigil for a moment might lose him to you forever.

And so the weeks and months pass, with your Greyhound becoming more civilized every day, and the seeds of trust are planted. It seems that each new day brings less mischief, less breakage. Almost before you know it your racer has turned into an elegant, dignified friend.

Now that he is a more reliable, sedate companion, you take him more places. No longer does he chew the steering wheel when left in the car. And darned if that cake wasn't still on the counter this morning. And, oh yes, wasn't that the cat he was sleeping with so cozily on your pillow last night? At this point you are beginning to become infected, the disease is spreading its roots deep into your mind.

And then one of your friends suggests obedience. You shake your head and remind her that your dog might run away if allowed off the lead, but you are reassured when she promises the events are held in a fenced area. And, wonder of wonders, he did not run away, but came every time you called him!

All winter long you go to weekly obedience classes. After a time you even let him run loose from the car to the house when you get home. Why not, he always runs straight to the door, dancing a frenzy of joy and waits to be let in. Remember, he comes every time he is called. **You know he is the exception that proves the rule.** (And sometimes, late at night, you even let him slip out the front door to go potty and then right back in.) At this point the disease has taken hold, waiting only for the right time and place to rear its ugly head.

Years pass--it is hard to remember why you ever worried so much when he was new. He would never think of running out the door left open while you bring in the packages from the car. It would be beneath his dignity to jump out the window of the car while you run into the convenience store. And when you take him for those wonderful long walks at dawn, it only takes one whistle to send him racing back to you in a burst of speed when the walk comes too close to the highway. (He still gets into the garbage, but nobody is perfect.)

This is the time the disease has waited for so patiently. Sometimes it only has to wait a year or two, **but often it takes much longer.**

He spies the neighbor dog across the street, and suddenly forgets everything he ever knew about not slipping outdoors, jumping out windows, or coming when called due to traffic. Perhaps it was only a paper fluttering in the breeze, or even just the sheer joy of running--

Stopped in an instant. Stilled forever--your heart is broken at the sight of his still beautiful body. The disease is trust. The final outcome, hit by a car.

Every morning my dog Shah bounced around off his lead exploring. Every morning for seven years he came back when he was called. He was perfectly obedient, perfectly trustworthy. He died fourteen hours after being hit by a car. Please do not risk your friend and your heart. Save the trust for things that do not matter.

I would like to offer two additional accounts about the dangers of an unfenced area.

This first account is really a basic tragic accident, due to an improperly fitting collar. The owners actually had the dog on a lead, but unfortunately were using only a flat buckle collar on the dog. The dog became frightened at something, and just backed out of her collar. She took off away from them at top speed. Before they could manage to even get close to catching up to her, she had run out onto a road, and was instantly killed by a car. This is one of the reasons we advise using a halter while walking your Greyhound in an unfenced area.

The second account involves too much trust and a lack of common sense. The owners lived somewhat out in the country. Their home was surrounded by woods and they were well off any major roadway. They had their new Greyhound about three weeks, when I got the phone call that I hate the most, "Our Greyhound is lost!" I knew these owners did not have a fenced yard, but they had sworn they would keep the dog on a lead when taken outdoors. Upon further questioning, I discovered that they quit using the lead after about the first week. The weather had gotten cold, and so early in the mornings they would simply turn her out the back door, wait for her to "do her business," then call her back in. "she ALWAYS came when she was called," the woman lamented to me. They felt it was safe enough to allow her off the lead for just short bits of time, as they didn't live near a high traffic road, and she had never ventured into the woods before. Unfortunately, the little Greyhound DID bound off into the woods this particular morning. Perhaps she heard a squirrel rustling in some nearby leaves, or smelled a rabbit, but whatever the reason, she had taken off into the woods, and they could not find her. Our hopes of finding her safe and sound faded a little more with each passing day, and no sign of the pretty little female Greyhound.

After several weeks, our worst fears were confirmed. We got a call from a very nice man, who had been walking through the woods with his son when they discovered the still, cold body of a small, dead Greyhound. He got our number off her collar ID tag. She was found many, many miles from her home.

Why did she run off this time when she had been so reliable before? Why didn't she come racing back as she always had when her family called for her? Who knows? What we do know is that ultimately dogs will be dogs. No matter how much or how long you train and teach your dog, there may come a point where their instincts will win over learned behavior. Please don't be fooled into a false sense of security with your Greyhound.

Take the time, make that little extra effort, to ensure your Greyhound will be safe.

Remember, they are depending on you.

In case your greyhound or any other pet gets into something poisonous, here is the place to call for the fastest, quickest advice.

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL

1-888-426-4435

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

ASPCA ANIMAL POISON CONTROL CENTER HOTLINE

As the premier animal poison control center in North America, the APCC is your best resource for any animal poison-related emergency, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. If you think that your pet may have ingested a potentially poisonous substance, make the call that can make all the difference: **(888) 426-4435. A \$65 consultation fee may be applied to your credit card.**

Be ready with the following information:

- The species, breed, age, sex, weight and number of animals involved.
- The animal's symptoms.
- Information regarding the exposure, including the agent (if known), the amount of the agent involved and the time elapsed since the time of exposure.
- Have the product container/packaging available for reference.

Please note: If your animal is having seizures, losing consciousness, is unconscious or is having difficulty breathing, telephone ahead and bring your pet immediately to your local veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic. If necessary, he or she may call the APCC.

1. Go to the link below and type KY455 in the Shelter Login box.

<https://www.homeagain.com/chipfurkeeps/home.jsp>

Shelter Login: KY455

2. You will see this header. The name Spirit's Homestretch, Inc. is correct. Click on "For Pet Parents" in the blue stripe near the top of the page.



3. On the next page click on the yellow "Enroll in HomeAgain" box.



4. Fill in your enrollment information, then click "Continue".

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required.

Pet Owner Contact Information:

First Name: *
Last Name: *
Address Line 1: *
Address Line 2:
City: *
State: * --- Select ---
Zip: *
Phone Number 1: * ext.
Phone Number 2: ext.
E-Mail Address:
Confirm E-Mail Address:

Alternate Contact Information:

First Name:
Last Name:
Phone Number 1: ext.
Phone Number 2: ext.

Pet Information:

Pet's Name: *
Microchip #: *
Confirm Microchip #: *
Species: SELECT
Breed: SELECT
Primary Color:
Secondary Color:
Birthday: -- -- -- --
Is your pet male or female? ☐ Male ☐ Female

Pet Information:

UPLOAD A PHOTO ►

Continue

5. The next page is where you confirmation information you entered.
6. The following page is where you enter payment information for your \$10.99 fee.
7. Your pet is now registered **forever** with HomeAgain. You may receive an annual reminder that your pet's membership is renewable for a fee, but that is optional. The "renewal" fee gives you additional benefits, but it is **not** required for HomeAgain to keep your pet's information in their database. After your initial \$10.99 payment you do not have to pay anything further.

<https://www.myogga.org/2019/02/hookworms-and-racing-greyhounds-by-jennifer-ng-dvm/>

[HOME](#) [ABOUT](#) [GATHERINGS](#) [VOLUNTEER](#) [BLOG](#) [ADOPTION FORM](#) [CONTACT US](#)

[DONATE](#)

Home - Greyhound Racing - Hookworms and Racing Greyhounds by Jennifer Ng, DVM

HOOKWORMS AND RACING GREYHOUNDS BY JENNIFER NG, DVM

HOOKWORMS AND RACING GREYHOUNDS BY JENNIFER NG, DVM (COLUMBIA, SC) JANUARY 2019

In the past few years, the greyhound community has been recognizing an increasing problem with persistent hookworms. The issue was initially noticed by adoption groups as the majority of retiring greyhounds from Florida started arriving with hookworms, despite routine deworming at racing kennels, and some were getting sick with g-i signs. The stress of the transportation and transition from track to home life likely resulted in the onset of clinical signs and increased worm burden in dogs that were asymptomatic in the stable, familiar environment of the track.



Hookworms can be difficult to completely clear because of a phenomenon called larval leak. Some of the immature larva go dormant in the tissues outside the intestinal tract. These larva can stay inactive for long periods of time, and they often don't become active again until the number of worms in the intestines drop. So when the dog is dewormed, those dormant larva reemerge and reinfest the intestines, and the whole cycle starts over again. Because the hookworm life cycle takes 2-3 weeks to complete, the way to treat larval leak is to deworm every 2 weeks.

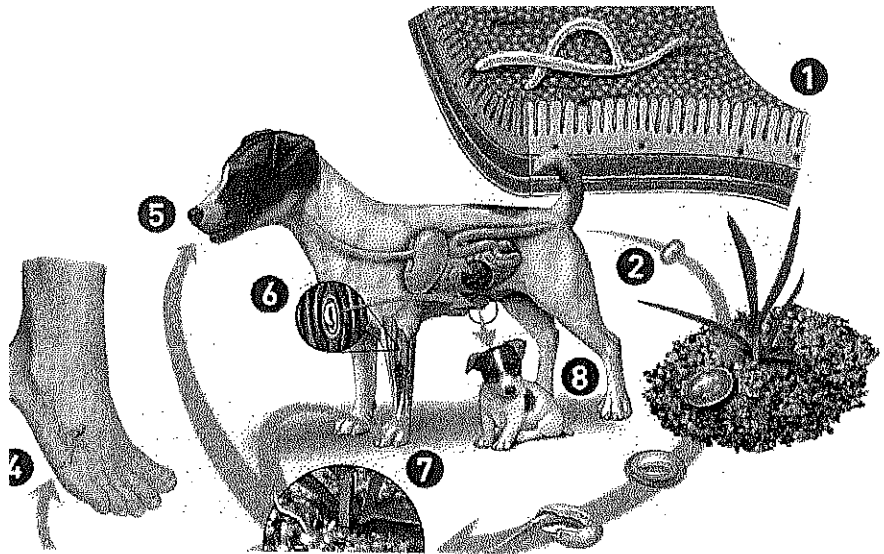
In addition to larval leak, it seems that some of the hookworms are also becoming resistant to the common dewormers. Racing greyhound breeders in Florida began to notice problems with hookworms even while deworming puppies with the standard, veterinarian-recommended products and protocols. This suspected combination of larval leak and possible resistance make it very difficult to eliminate hookworm infestations.

TREATMENT

After trying various combinations of dewormers and protocols over the past 2-3 years, I have had good results with using monthly Advantage Multi, along with a standard dewormer given in the middle of the month between doses of Advantage Multi. For the standard dewormer, I usually use Drontal Plus (or compounded equivalent), or a 5-day course of Panacur (fenbendazole) with a dose of pyrantel pamoate given on the last day. Add the pyrantel for added effect because it works synergistically with fenbendazole. For dogs that are asymptomatic for the hookworms, I will often just treat with monthly Advantage Multi and only add another dewormer if the dog develops diarrhea or other g-i signs.

Even with an effective protocol, because of larval leak, it can take 6-8 months or more before the hookworm infestation can be fully eliminated. Often, even getting one or two negative fecal flotation results doesn't mean the dog is clear. I usually recommend continuing monthly Advantage Multi until a minimum of 2-3 negative results on fecals done several weeks apart. The Idexx fecal antigen may be more accurate, but it would still be prudent to continue Advantage Multi for a few more months past a negative result.

** A note on a couple other hookworm treatment protocols that have been shared and discussed on various groups. I would not recommend using Advantage Multi every 2 weeks as described in what is called the “prison protocol”. With monthly administration of Advantage Multi, the active ingredient of moxidectin reaches steady state in the bloodstream after the 3rd dose. Steady state means that there is an effective amount of the medication in the blood constantly, so it provides continuous deworming activity, and there is no need to administer it more frequently. Using Advantage Multi every 2 weeks, especially for an extended period of time, will result in blood levels of moxidectin that are significantly higher than what has been proven to be safe in the product approval studies.



There are also some people who advocate the use of the horse dewormers Quest or Quest Plus, which contain moxidectin, the same active ingredient as Advantage Multi. While I understand the practical need for this when managing large populations of dogs, such as on greyhound farms or racing kennels, I would not recommend this for pet greyhounds. There is no established oral dose of moxidectin in dogs, so we do not know what is safe and effective for hookworms. Sticking with the approved product, Advantage Multi, is preferable.