



GREYHOUND FRIENDS OF NORTH CAROLINA
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NEW OWNER GUIDEBOOK

My greyhound's name: _____
Gotcha Day: _____ Birthdate: _____
Full racing name: _____
Left ear tattoo: _____ (National Greyhound Association litter ID #)
Right ear tattoo: _____ (month/last # of birth year/order of tattooing)
Color & markings: _____

Please enter the information below to have on hand. If you have questions or need help with your greyhound, refer to our website's Contacts page for additional member contact info.

Emergency Veterinarian
_____ (_____) _____ - _____

Veterinarian
_____ (_____) _____ - _____

My local animal control: _____

Police non-emergency number: _____

FINDING YOUR LOST GREYHOUND

<https://www.greyhoundfriends.com/2022/06/lost-greyhound-booklet/>

What to do if your greyhound is lost:

- Immediately do a quick search of the area. Use squawker, squeaky toy or treats to try and lure your dog out of hiding.
- Call another member of GFNC so they can round up other people to help you look.
- Contact local animal control and police to inform them of the missing dog. Give them the dog's name, description, tattoo numbers and tag numbers.
- Make up posters in bold letters saying **LOST GREYHOUND**. Include the dog's name, your home phone number and cell phone numbers that will be answered 24/7, and a description. Make lettering large enough to be visible to people in their cars.
- *Use the template on the next page and print on **bright color paper**.* When posting outdoors insert the flyer into a clear plastic sleeve from the bottom up to prevent weather damage and secure the bottom with a staple.
- The silhouette of the running greyhound on the template has better visibility than a photo.
- Place food and a crate by your house.
- After the first 24 hours increase your search and poster distribution area by several miles. Greyhounds can run far *fast*.
- Call the newspapers and place an ad in the lost/found section and post on Craigslist or similar sites.

Do not chase or yell at your greyhound as this will cause them to run in the opposite direction. Instead use a happy voice, offer to play, offer a treat and walk away to entice the dog to follow.

Never give up hope of finding your lost greyhound. Without enough posters up, the person who has seen your lost greyhound won't know who to notify. ***Please use the Lost Greyhound template on the next page.***

Preventing escapes is key:

- Never let your greyhound off a leash unless in a fenced area.
- Secure yard gates and exit doors at your home.
- Practice recall training in a fenced area using treats and a squawker or squeaky toy. No matter how your dog responds to recall training it is *never* a good idea for a greyhound to be off leash in an unfenced area.

LOST GREYHOUND

name

description



Please Don't Chase - ***Report any sightings***

() -

() -

Posters will be removed when this greyhound is found.

GREYHOUND CARE MANUAL

1. Congratulations on the adoption of your ex-racing greyhound!

Your greyhound, whether a racer for a month or for several years, is accustomed to a very regimented lifestyle. The schedule for feeding, turn-outs (bathroom breaks) and the rest is very strict in a racing kennel and consequently, the transition from professional racer to pet can be very confusing.

Your retired racer doesn't have the foggiest idea of what you expect from him. He has never been in a home, heard phones ring, seen a TV, heard doorbells or vacuum cleaners. Mirrors and sliding glass doors are a new experience, and stairs are a very scary new challenge.

Patience and encouragement on your part will do wonders in easing your new greyhound into his new environment. He will learn quickly, but he needs your help. This Greyhound Care Manual is designed to help ease that transition and help you to acquaint your greyhound to his new role in life -- being your best friend and companion. Your greyhound has been around many people and many, many other greyhounds all of its life. Now he/she will have to adjust to being without other dogs.

2. Supplies You Should Have

The following is a list of things you will need prior to your new greyhound coming home. Your greyhound will be provided with a martingale collar and track muzzle on his adoption day.

BOOKS

Read one of the books listed on the last page of this booklet. Learn about ex-racers and find out what to expect before you adopt and bring one home.

COLLAR

Always use a properly adjust martingale-type collar and leash when walking your dog in an unfenced area. *For greyhounds that pull on leash or shy greyhounds, a harness is recommended.* Your greyhound's head is smaller than his neck. This means that a greyhound can back out of a regular buckle-type collar. We require a martingale that will tighten up slightly when the dog pulls. If you need help call someone from our contact list and we'll be glad to assist.

- Start by placing the collar at the top of the neck just behind the ears.
- Pull up on the "D" ring. The slides to either side of the "D" ring should never touch.
- The slides should be two finger's width apart, no more.
- Periodically recheck the fit to ensure the slides haven't slipped or if your dog has lost/gained weight.
- Do not attach tags to the "D" as they can interfere with the martingale's cinching action.



LEASH

A standard leash is suitable, but **never use a flexi or retractable leash**. A greyhound can reach top speed in 2 strides and can easily yank a flexi or retractable leash out of your hand, or be seriously injured by a sudden stop.

NAME TAG

Buy a pet ID tag or tag collar even if you are getting your greyhound microchipped. It should be engraved/sewn with your dog's name, your name, address and cell phone number. This ensures that your greyhound can be identified if lost. Your greyhound will already have a Greyhound Friends of North Carolina ID tag and rabies tag when you bring him home. Always update the tags if you travel or move.

ASK GFNC TO HAVE YOUR GREYHOUND MICROCHIPPED OR HAVE YOUR VET IMPLANT IT

A microchip can help your greyhound be identified if he gets lost and/or loses his collar. Most animal shelters and hospitals have microchip scanners and will be able to identify your pet instantly. GFNC will insert a microchip at your request and you must register the microchip so the number will be associated with your name. Some companies may imply you need to pay a yearly fee. This is false.

CRATE (AND BABY GATES AS NEEDED)

The crate is used to ease the transition from racing dog to trusted pet. It should be used for the first few months, until you feel that the new greyhound has learned your house rules and can be trusted in your home unsupervised. Some greyhounds can't stand being crated while some love their crates and will continue to use them as a den to rest and get away from the hustle of busy family life.

Borrow or buy an extra-large wire or plastic dog crate. **Not crating your greyhound may be the single biggest mistake you will make.** Also consider purchasing a few baby gates to create a dog safe area or room for your new greyhound.

If you are crating your greyhound for hours at a time during the day, it is not advisable to crate your greyhound all night too. After your greyhound is housebroken and well behaved in the house, you may try transitioning to part time crating or using a baby gate.

Baby gates are an inexpensive and very useful way to keep your newly adopted greyhound confined to a dog proofed safe area or room of your home during the house breaking period or while you are temporarily away from the home. Until your new greyhound is house trained and reliable home alone, it's easier to crate or buy a few baby gates than it is to buy new carpet. It keeps your greyhound and home safe.

FOOD

Buy high quality dry dog kibble that lists meat as the first ingredient: Nutro, NutroMax, ProPlan, Eukanuba, PetSmart's Authority, Iams and other premium dog kibble. Do not feed grocery store brands such as Kibbles & Bits, Old Roy, Beneful, etc. Grocery store brands tend to be full of sugar, corn, and fillers that can cause a greyhound to have constant diarrhea, gas, and weight gain. Do not feed cooked bones. Do not leave your greyhound alone with rawhide chews as they can be a choking hazard. You can also call your local GFNC contact if you have questions about food.

RAISED FEEDER WITH BOWLS

Greyhounds are very tall and can eat their food more easily from a raised food dish (12" to 16" high). These can be bought online or at local pet supply stores. Or you can easily make one by just putting the food and water bowls on an over turned bucket, or on a bench or storage tub. As your greyhound ages, it becomes much more difficult for him/her to bend over to eat from bowls located on the floor.

DOG BED OR BLANKET

Buy a thick cushioned dog bed. You can use a folded blanket, comforter, or a folded sleeping bag. Since a greyhound has very little body fat, they require a thick, soft, padded bed in order to avoid getting pressure sores and to be comfortable on the floor. Even if you have carpeted floors, get a dog bed. Avoid beds with cedar filling. Keep your greyhound comfortable when traveling or on outings by bringing a bed along for them too.

COAT

Buy a coat made specifically for greyhounds. A greyhound's lack of significant body fat causes them to chill very easily. If you need a coat, your greyhound should have a coat on. Note that a large or extralarge dog coat that is not made specifically for a greyhound's body shape (deep chest) will likely NOT fit your greyhound.

TOYS

Buy some soft dog toys. Greyhound's prefer plush fleece toys and most just go wild for the squeaky ones. Avoid toys with plastic eyes or other parts that can be chewed off and swallowed.

POOPER SCOOPER

You will need a way to clean up your yard and/or after your dog on walks. You can get a pooper scooper, use plastic grocery bags, or you can buy small bags with a dispenser specifically designed for picking up waste. Be a good dog ambassador - always clean up after your dogs on walks.

HEARTWORM PREVENTION

Heartworm is transmitted to dogs through the bite of an infected mosquito. Due to the mild winters here, heartworm preventative MUST be given year round as prescribed by your veterinarian.

FLEA & TICK PREVENTION

Before using any chemical flea and tick preventives it is important to know that greyhounds can have toxic (fatal) reactions to some of the commonly used insecticides that are safe for other breeds of dogs. Seresto flea/tick collars are the only safe flea/tick collar for a greyhound, check with your veterinarian before any treatment/product is initiated for your greyhound.

3. Your Greyhound Comes Home...Now What Do You Do?

Before the big day, purchase the supplies above, check your fencing and especially your gates. Most greyhound owners place padlocks on their gates to be sure they are not left open by the meter reader, kids, lawn service workers, the wind, etc. The easiest way to lose your greyhound is by someone leaving the gate open or leaving a door ajar. You must be diligent regarding keeping all of your gates shut when you let your greyhound out into your yard.

Greyhounds need order and are extremely routine oriented. We recommend that you work out your house rules and dog-care schedule in advance among the human members of your household. Who will let the dog out into the fenced yard or walk the dog first thing in the morning? Who will feed him in the

morning and at night? Will your greyhound be allowed on the couch or beds? Will he be crated or baby gated?

The Car Ride Home

Greyhounds are usually good travelers. They have only ridden in transport trucks and will be nervous at first, but will normally settle right down when the car ride begins. It is a good idea to plan on two adults to bring your new greyhound home. An over enthusiastic greyhound, who decides to help the car driver by jumping in your lap, could be a problem. Do not bring the crate. Bring a blanket or comforter for him to lie on. Leash up before opening doors to exit.

4. Arriving Home - Begin Housebreaking

On arriving home with your new greyhound and before he enters the house for the first time, leash walk him (even in a fenced yard) outside for at least 10-15 minutes or until he relieves himself. Let him get familiar by sniffing and becoming acquainted with all the smells associated with your yard. The combination of the car ride home, coupled with all the excitement of a new family and home will cause him to have to relieve himself more often. So give him plenty of opportunities in the beginning. If you have a special place in your yard you wish him to use for urination and elimination, encourage him to go in that area and then praise him when he does.

If your new greyhound is a male, he will most likely want to mark his new territory, especially if he detects there are or have been dogs living here previously. This is his way of making himself at home and should only occur outside. Females often exhibit marking behavior too.

Keep him on leash when entering your home. A male may still mark a doorway, plant or furniture when he first walks in your home. This is out of nervousness (or he may smell remnants of another dog), so it is best to keep him on the leash when first bringing him inside. If he starts to lift his leg on something, give him a short pull on the leash and tell him "No", and he should stop immediately. Then take him outside and when he relieves himself, give him tons of praise. A female greyhound may try to mark in your home too, and they give even less indicator signals that they are about to squat.

The Umbilical Cord Method

Your new greyhound cannot make a mess or have an accident in your house if you watch him closely by keeping them in the same room you are in. The first day you bring your greyhound home, use a 4-6 foot leash and attach one end to your belt loop on your pants and the other end to your greyhound's martingale collar. This is called the umbilical cord method and is successful because your dog cannot do anything or go anywhere in your home without you knowing about it. During this first day or two, you are able to safely show your new greyhound your home, introduce him to the house rules, and successfully reinforce housebreaking rules.

Use common sense

Don't allow your greyhound to feel overwhelmed or to get into situations that might be dangerous to him. Talk to him in a calm friendly manner and encourage, don't force. Correct him, but don't punish. Tomorrow is another day, and after a good rest, he will probably wake up refreshed, tail wagging, and ready for new adventures. Give him more crate time the first two days so he has a chance to settle in slowly - even feed him in his crate to have the feel of the kennel for a few days. For the first few days, frequent crating in and out while you are home will be crucial to establishing confidence when you leave home and also protects your current pets or small children.

Feed in the crate the first few days, however, do not leave food in the crate. This will help with food aggression, plus give them a similar routine as the kennel. When out of the crate the first few days, you might put the greyhound on a leash. This helps relieve stress as they adjust and allows you the ability to prevent accidents in the house.

Music may help relieve stress as they are used to it at the track kennel. Take your dog outside each time he comes out of the crate. This is a programmed habit from kennel life. Be patient and loving to your new greyhound - they can sense anger and impatience.

Spend Time with Your Greyhound

Take some time off work or try and arrange the arrival of your new greyhound for a weekend (or both). The more time you spend with your new greyhound in the beginning, the shorter his break-in period will be. Your greyhound will be stressed and will look to you for reassurance by following you around from room to room. He also needs to spend the first few days with you in order to learn to trust you, get on your schedule and start to learn the house rules. Practice "alone training" (see page 13).

When your greyhound arrives he will be excited, and most likely anxious, about his new home. This stress can take the form of panting and pacing, housebreaking accidents and/or gastric upset in the form of gas, vomiting or diarrhea. Your new greyhound may seem a little homesick for the dogs and staff at the kennel, or act nervous. He is not sure what is going to happen to him next. He feels like a guest in your home - is he allowed on the furniture? How should he tell you he needs to go out? It is very confusing for him in the beginning. Limit new stimulation by not inviting relatives or friends to meet him just yet. He will need time to rest and digest all these new experiences.

5. Introducing Your Greyhound to Other Dogs and children: Greyhounds and Other Dogs

We request that all human and canine family members participate in the selection of one of our greyhounds. For the adoption to work, everyone must be in agreement including your other dogs.

The meeting between dogs may have gone wonderfully initially, but now you are bringing another dog into your current dog's home. Introductions and the first few days are critical. It is wise to introduce your current dog(s) one at a time, on neutral territory, and have both on leads. Do not let them out in the yard alone together until they are comfortable with one another. This can take a few days. Always keep a watchful eye as they test their place in the pack.

Once in your home, your current dog may not be comfortable initially with the presence of the new greyhound and make his displeasure known in a number of ways, including: marking, housebreaking accidents, and sudden possessiveness to toys he used to not care about (but doesn't want the new greyhound to have.) The current dog may act jealous and a little insecure about his place in your family's pack. Your current dog will need reassurance during this time, but should not be permitted to misbehave or treat your new greyhound poorly. While it may be hard on you to watch either or both dogs being insecure during this transition period, don't be tempted to spoil either dog. Let them work out who will be the leader and who will be follower between themselves. Do not leave your new greyhound and current dog alone unattended unless they are crated, baby-gated apart, or are both muzzled until the dogs have become comfortable with each other. This is vital to the safety of all the dogs in your home.

Greyhounds and Children

All family members should have participated in the selection of your newly adopted greyhound and those introductions have already been successfully made. It is not unusual for kids to get bitten or nipped if they rush up screaming at the dog and try to pet him roughly. He has no idea what the child's intentions are and has not yet become relaxed in his new environment.

Teach your children and any others that will come into contact with your new greyhound how to properly behave around the dog, and never allow them to mistreat or harass the dog at any time. Small children often want to express their affection for the pet greyhound by patting/slapping the top of the dog's head, hugging or clinging on the dog. Though greyhounds will endure all sorts of irritating treatment initially, in silence, their limits will be reached and they may growl, bark or even snap.

Greyhounds never intend to do harm, but if the child's body is in the path of their snap, harm could unintentionally occur. They'll also start avoiding your children and will cringe when children approach. Teach your children the correct way to interact with a greyhound by gently stroking the neck and side of the shoulders or gently brushing instead. Enforce that tails, ears and mouths are private things, not play things.

Never leave small children alone with a greyhound. If you can't watch them, crate or baby-gate your greyhound. Greyhounds are not accustomed to being awakened by touch. At the track/kennel, they wake up to a door opening, a light being turned on and the sound of the other dogs. Teach the children that ***dog beds and crates are off limits. Do not wake the dog when he is sleeping.*** Some greyhounds sleep with their eyes open. If a greyhound has sleep aggression – which is a reaction/reflex - this may end up in a very bad bite. ***Call to the dog first to make sure they are awake before touching.***

Do not let young or inexperienced children play with your greyhound (or any dog) unsupervised. New human introductions should also be one at a time, preferably on leash for extra control should it be needed. Let your greyhound take the initiative to greet the new person or child. He may want to sniff the person first, before any gentle petting is done. Take your cues from your new greyhound. How comfortable does he appear with all of this extra attention? Many greyhounds are real hams and love to be the center of attention. For them, the more the merrier with new people. Others may be a bit more overwhelmed with their new situation.

Greyhounds and Cats

Even though we cat test all greyhounds who are placed in adoptive homes with cats, there are no guarantees when it comes to dogs and cats living peacefully together. We recommend keeping your cat from the greyhound for a day or two. When letting your new greyhound meet your feline pack for the first time, keep your greyhound muzzled on leash and under your complete control. You want your greyhound to get the point that the cat is a member of your pack and not fun to chase or otherwise harass or harm. You may need to hold or even leash your cat during these introductions. Being a greyhound, he will most likely want to chase the cat if she runs, but occasionally, a stronger prey drive may make the greyhound more cat aggressive.

If he tries to dart for the cat, firmly correct your greyhound with a "NO" and a quick pull of his leash. Don't unmuzzle or unleash him around your cat until you feel comfortable with their interactions. Very often the cat has a word or two to say, and emerges as a pretty bold and tough character. Be very careful at first and never leave the cat and the greyhound loose together in the house. Chances are once

the cat can leave your meeting room you will not see her for several days until SHE is ready to accept your greyhound.

You will need to rethink how you feed your cat, so that your new greyhound will not eat her food (which is irresistible to greyhounds). Some greyhounds tend to love to eat cat poop out of the litter box. Place the litter box up high or in a room which is blocked by a baby gate about 8 inches off the floor so the cat can go under but not the greyhound.

Although your greyhound may have totally accepted your cat while in the house, this does not apply when your greyhound sees your cat or a neighbor's cat outside. If a cat and a greyhound get into a fight, the cat will lose the fight and may be killed. If your greyhound gets scratched by a cat, especially an outside cat, an infection could result.

6. Adjusting To His New Life Can We Change His Name?

If you want to, it's fine. Your new greyhound will learn his new name quickly if it's consistently used for a week or so. Don't start using different nick names just yet until he learns his new name first. It is in no way traumatic to the greyhound to change his name. So if you want to, just do it.

Can He Sleep/Stay Outside?

No! Greyhounds are strictly indoor house dogs. They have very thin, short coats and little body fat to insulate them from heat or cold. Greyhounds are ill-equipped for life out-of-doors. Inclement weather (hot or cold) cannot be tolerated for long periods of time. That doesn't mean that greyhounds don't enjoy being outside with their owners. In fact, most greyhounds love to jump around in fresh snow and will not complain about going out in most kinds of weather.

It is up to the owner to use common sense. In the winter when it's cold and you and your greyhound will be outside for longer than 20 minutes, put a winter coat on your greyhound. In the summer when it is very warm or hot, walk your greyhound in the early morning or evening when the pavement and air temps have cooled down. Bring water for you and your dog. If it is hot enough that you have to use the air-conditioner or open the windows of your car, then it is too hot for your greyhound to be outside for a long time and **never** leave your greyhound in the car in hot weather.

Sleeping Arrangements

We strongly suggest having your greyhound sleep in the bedroom with you, as he has never slept alone in his entire life. Being in the bedroom with you will be reassuring and you will know if/when your greyhound is distressed or needs to go out during the night. Place his crate next to your bed, or put his dog bed on the floor next to the bed and use a baby gate to block him from leaving your bedroom, or just close the bedroom door to be sure he stays in there with you and is not roaming around your house. The first few nights he may cry a bit, but as soon as he learns to trust you and that he is a part of your family, he will sleep like a baby. Greyhounds normally sleep 16 -18 hours a day. If your new greyhound is made to sleep in a room alone, he will most likely panic, cry or even howl in fear.

Stairs

Your greyhound has probably never seen nor had to use stairs before, so you have to teach him to climb them. Never try to pull or force him up the stairs by yanking on his leash from above. Greyhounds have a tendency to freeze and not move when they are afraid or overwhelmed.

Instead, stand behind him and move one paw at a time to the next step, first his two front paws and then the back two paws. By this time most greyhounds are actually leaning back onto your legs. If he does not shift his weight forward after you have moved his back two paws up to the next step, then use your leg to lift his rump up to the next step and his back two paws will follow. Go slowly, step by step. Give lots of praise and never force him.

To get your greyhound back down the stairs, you can attach his leash and gently go down the stairs or just hold his collar and quickly guide him down the stairs. Do this at least 2 or 3 times so he doesn't think he can jump down the whole flight of stairs. Greyhounds catch on fast and are able to navigate stairs by themselves in a few days. Their body shape makes it easier for a greyhound to take the stairs fast, the slower they go, the harder it is. If he gets stuck in the middle of going up the stairs and not know how to get started again. just go to your greyhound and take hold of his collar and get him moving up again.

Mirrors

Your greyhound may spend hours looking at himself in any mirrors at his eye level. He has no idea who the other greyhound is, or why he keeps staring back. It may take several days before your greyhound is able to understand how a mirror works.

Sliding Glass Doors

Sliding glass doors can be a very real danger for your new greyhound because he does not see it as being solid, and may *run through it at full speed before you can get it open*. Keep window views blocked by closed curtains or place stickers, decals or masking tape at the greyhound's eye level on all glass doors or windows.

Entry/Exit Doors

Anytime you or anyone (adult or especially a child) enters or exits your home through the front, back or garage door, you must be very careful not to let your greyhound slip out the door to an unfenced area. These dogs have been trained to react to doors swinging open by running right through them. Never answer your door without either baby-gating your greyhound in another room or have someone hold his collar firmly. Teach all family members and friends to open doors slowly and carefully so your greyhound will not escape. Greyhounds are notorious for ignoring your calls to come back when they are excited and running. Be very careful not to let your greyhound slip out the doors to your home to unfenced or dangerous areas. They will run with such focus they will not notice the dangers around them.

Home Training and Discipline

For the first week or so, your greyhound may be very quiet and extraordinarily controlled and good. His full personality usually appears four to eight weeks later after he has figured out the house rules, the schedule, and the personalities of his new family. At this time, he may start testing out his position in the pack order, and may regress to puppyhood behaviors or pushy behaviors.

If you have allowed your greyhound to get on the couch or your bed and they refuse to get off, do not pull on the collar. Instead, leash your dog to guide him down.

A greyhound can reach items left on countertops. Dog-proof your home by removing items within reach, such as remote controls, glasses, medications, power cords, books, shoes, etc. If you don't want items to get damaged, keep them out of reach.

Bonding with Your Greyhound

Occasionally new greyhound adopters do not want to discipline their greyhound because they think the dog was abused or that he won't love/bond with them if they discipline him. Unfortunately, these are the adoptions that tend to have serious problems several months down the road. Greyhounds are more aware of pack order than other pure breeds because they are raised/kept with their littermates until they are 12-18 months old.

A shy, timid dog becomes more relaxed knowing that he has nothing to worry about sensing that his owner is in charge of all things. He should not be pushed to do things as this will increase his timidity. In the beginning you might want to train your new greyhound to do something easy like "wait", instead of trying to tackle the sometimes more difficult "sit" command. Because of his huge muscles in his rump, the "sit" position is generally not a common position your greyhound will take on his own.

Use Baby or Dog Gates

After your new greyhound successfully graduates from the umbilical cord method and has been reliable, use a few baby/dog gates to easily restrict him to dog proof/dog safe rooms in your home. Make sure your greyhound earns his house roaming privileges. Racing greyhounds are "kennel broken" which means they know to keep their sleeping areas (crates) clean and to relieve themselves outside. This knowledge is usually readily transferred to their new adoptive homes, but he must be taught that your home is now his sleeping quarters to be kept clean. If your greyhound has a few accidents, it does not necessarily mean he is not housebroken. He is used to someone coming to the kennel at regular intervals during the day and letting him outside in a fenced-in yard to relieve himself. He has never had to tell anyone that he wants to go outside. Given time he will learn to tell you.

Get Your Greyhound on a Schedule

Develop and use a consistent daily routine for feeding, exercising, and bathroom duties. Greyhounds are creatures of habit. If you do the same things in the same way and in the same order, he will settle in more quickly and learn what is expected of him and when. For example, walk your new greyhound or let him out in the fenced yard as soon as you rise in the mornings. Feed him in the morning after a short walk or bathroom break in the yard. Give him one more chance to relieve himself about 30 minutes after breakfast and again before you go to work.

If you work all day 8+ hours, then either come home at lunch time to let your greyhound outside, or have a responsible friend/neighbor come to your home to let your greyhound go outside to relieve himself around the middle of the day. Gradually over several weeks, you can build them up to several hours before they must go outside. Upon returning home from work, he should get an immediate bathroom break and exercise. Do NOT wait, let him out as soon as you walk in the door. He will need another bathroom break anywhere from 30 minutes to a few hours after his evening meal, depending on his age. He should be given at least one more potty break right before you go to bed for the evening.

7. Feeding Time - When and How Much?

Greyhounds should be lean. A general rule of thumb is you should be able to see a slight definition of the last two ribs when at the right weight.

Establish a feeding schedule that will be as consistent as possible. We recommend two feedings (morning and evening). Put the food bowl out where you wish him to eat and leave it there for 15-30 minutes. At the end of that time, remove the bowl and any uneaten food. This teaches your greyhound when and where mealtime occurs, and that he is expected to eat at this time. Free feeding

(leaving food out at all times) encourages housebreaking accidents since he may be nibbling constantly, and if two dogs are present, you cannot monitor how much each dog is eating. Other dogs should be fed away from the new greyhound to prevent fights over food. You can feed them in the same room, but use opposite corners, putting the dominant dog's bowl down first. This is usually the resident dog on the first few nights but that situation may change over time. You should remain in the room during feedings to monitor the pack behavior. Make sure that each dog sticks to his own bowl. Stay vigilant over feeding time for a couple of months until the pack positions are worked out.

Premium dog kibble has less by-products, more usable nutrients, less fillers and will actually reduce the amount of poop your dog produces and thus reduce the amount you need to feed them, and the time you have to spend scooping up your yard. You may need to try a few different brands until you find one that works well for your greyhound. You will know when you have found the correct kibble because your greyhound will not have gas, loose stools or other tummy upsets.

You can start by feeding 3 cups per day for females and 4 cups per day for males. Feed half in the morning and the other half at night. Add warm water to the kibble. Try to feed at the same times each day. A half hour to 1 hour after feeding, let your greyhound go outside to relieve himself. Doing this will help your greyhound get on a regular daily schedule for eating and outdoor bathroom breaks and thus speed the house breaking training too.

Yogurt with live acidophilus cultures can be added to aid digestion and help alleviate gas. A teaspoon of canned pumpkin - not pie filling - can add fiber. Oils, such as olive, flax seed and other Omega 3 fatty acids help with dry skin. Prozyme is another additive that can aid in digestion and prevent of gas.

NEVER give your dog chocolate, grapes, raisins, or onions. They are poisonous and can be DEADLY ! The artificial sweetener Xylitol, commonly found in sugar-free chewing gum, can be deadly as well.

Diarrhea or loose stools can indicate stress, sudden changes in diet, dietary indiscretion and parasites, to name a few. If unresolved it can be a serious medical emergency. Feel free to call someone on your contact list or consult with your veterinarian if you're not sure.

Don't Let Them Steal Your Food Off Your Plate or Counter Tops

To keep a nosy greyhound from stealing items and food off of your counter tops, remove anything that would possibly be within reach because he will get to it. Be consistent, never feed food from the table or your plate. Keep your greyhound from getting into trouble or possible harm by keeping your kitchen garbage can out of his way, under the sink or in the garage.

8. Leaving Your Greyhound Home Alone. To Crate or Gate? That is The Question.

Initially, your new greyhound may have varying degrees of separation anxiety when you leave him. Crating the dog in the beginning will eliminate accidents, most chewing destruction, and any other mischievous activity that may be rooted in nervousness and insecurity. A crate can provide a place where the dog feels safe in your absence. Crating a greyhound for more than 9 hours is not recommended. Using baby gates allows your greyhound to be in a familiar place with familiar things without being totally confined. If the area of confinement is too large, however, you may begin to have problems with housebreaking accidents. Never confine your greyhound behind a closed door.

In cases of extreme separation anxiety, consult with your veterinarian about medications that can help.

Start "Alone Training" your New Greyhound.

Alone Training makes a huge difference in how your new greyhound will feel and act when left home alone. Start by either placing your greyhound in his crate or place your greyhound in a dog-safe room with a baby gate. Now act like you are really leaving by picking up your keys, putting on your coat, etc. It is very important to NOT say goodbye or talk to your greyhound when you leave. Just calmly leave like it is no big deal. Leave for 3-5 minutes, being sure to come back into your home before the dog starts to whine or becomes stressed out. When coming back into your home you must totally ignore your greyhound for a few minutes. Do NOT talk or pet your greyhound for at least 2-3 minutes. This tells the dog that your coming and going is nothing to get excited about. When your greyhound has calmed down and his attention is NOT on you, then pet him, in a calm voice tell him "good dog" and give a small treat for being calm.

Gradually increase the time your greyhound is left alone by a few more minutes each time and practice leaving at different times during the day and night. Keep doing Alone Training until you are able to leave your greyhound alone for at least 30 minutes. Generally, if your greyhound is fine with being left alone for 30-50 minutes then he will likely be OK for longer periods of time. Statistically, if a dog is going to have a bout of separation anxiety it will usually happen within the first 30-50 minutes of being left alone.

If your greyhound has an accident, chews up something or demonstrates signs of true separation anxiety while alone, do NOT scold him as it will only make your dog more anxious. Clean up the mess and start at the very beginning of Alone Training. Alone Training can take a few days, weeks, or up to a few months depending on the individual dog.

As training progresses, each day when you return home, very calmly say "hello" and if all is in order, praise the dog for being good while you were away. Take him outside immediately so he can relieve himself and then play a bit with him out there. It is not fair to get upset with the dog if he has an accident, but was left home alone for 10+ hours. How long can you hold it? Be realistic and consistent in your expectations and demands on your dog and you will have a happy well-adjusted companion.

Anti-Anxiety Remedies for Dogs

There are now many safe over the counter anti-anxiety remedies which can help calm your dog so that Alone Training can be productive, such as Bach's Rescue Remedy. Each time you leave your greyhound confined, whether to a gated area or crate, make sure the dog knows he is a good boy. When you leave home give your greyhound a Kong toy filled with frozen peanut butter, cream cheese, or try one of the many Kong recipes listed at the KongCompany.com website. It will become a special treat he looks forward to receiving at that time. Leave the radio or TV on. Canine Lullabies CD will also relieve stress.

15 Tips for Separation Anxiety from the Greytalk Forums

1. Invest in a Kong or two (at pet stores), it will become your best friend. Fill the Kong with goodies- dog cookies, etc and seal with peanut butter, cream cheese, or plain yogurt. Give your dog the Kong every time you leave him/her alone and pick it up again as soon as you get home. You can even freeze the Kong so that it lasts longer. Your dog will learn to associate your departure with getting a yummy treat. It took some time, but Harry now gets excited when he is left alone- because he knows he's getting a treat!

2. If you crate your dog, do not crate only when you leave him/her alone. Crate your dog while you are in the room watching television, cleaning, or doing whatever. You may want to even consider feeding your dog in the crate. Give treats in the crate. If you only crate when leaving your dog home alone, she/he will learn to associate the crate with being home alone- not what you want! Make the crate a positive place to be.

3. Do not, do not, do not make a big deal out of coming and going. If you spend a lot of time loving on your dog before leaving or when you first arrive home, s/he will get excited and think it's a big deal. You want your dog to learn that you leaving or getting home is nothing to be excited about. Before you leave, ignore your dog for about 15 minutes. Do not give attention, pet, etc right before you leave. Also, when you get home, ignore your dog for about 10 - 15 minutes. I know this can seem really mean, but it is best for your dog in the long run. In addition, it is probably a good idea to act neutral as well when your dog is going along with you so s/he continue to think departures are no big deal.

4. Obedience class can help build confidence a lot. We took an 8 week class over the summer and the instructors were pretty surprised by how Harry really came out of his shell and quit cowering behind me. And hey, it can't hurt to have a dog who knows how to sit and stay! Make sure you practice at home as well. Practicing commands can be a nice way of bonding with your dog, increasing confidence, and tiring him/her out before you leave!

5. Does your dog try to be in constant proximity of you? It may seem cute and sweet but do not encourage it. Harry used to have some part of his body always touching mine. Made it pretty difficult to even go to the bathroom! Gradually work on putting some physical distance between you and your dog- scoot away on the couch or sit in a different chair. If your dog constantly has to be touching you, how will you make it to work? Harry used to follow me up and down the stairs constantly- he couldn't be alone in a room for even a few seconds! (This may not be unusual when your dog first arrives, but when it continues, it can be a problem). Work on this as well- go to the bathroom alone and shut the door all the way, go upstairs, etc. Work on being out of sight of your dog, increasing the amount of time you are in different rooms from each other.

6. Where does your dog sleep? If she/he sleeps in your bed, you might want to consider a doggie bed. Put your dog's bed next to yours or in the same room and encourage the dog to sleep there. (I know this is hard, especially during winter since greyhounds sure are warm!)

7. Does your dog have problems with defecating or urinating in the house or crate? This was the part of Harry's separation anxiety that stuck around the longest. Nothing seemed to work. I moved his bed to the area (right in front of the door) where he kept pooping. He would just go on top of his bed and finally ruined the bed. What helped the most was to

feed him in this spot and keep his dishes there. It's a pain since it's right near the door, but it was SO worth it! Make sure you clean the area as best as you can so there is no remaining smell to encourage future peeing or pooping. Take the dog out of the room while you clean (and light some candles for your own benefit!). Also, make sure you have learned your dog's schedule and when he/she needs to actually go (usually about 20 minutes or so after eating, if you feed commercial kibble) and give him/her opportunity to go.

8. The window blinds or curtains can be important to consider. I used to always leave the blinds open, thinking it would reassure Dempsey to see outside. Although this does work for some dogs, it was not for Harry. As soon as I started leaving the blinds closed, he did better. Now, if he wants to see outside, he peaks around the edge of the blinds. I live in an apartment building and the windows face the parking lot. With people constantly coming and going, I think it was just too much excitement for him!

9. Do not be afraid to ask your vet about medication. Harry was on Clomicalm for about 5 months. One month's supply is about \$35. After about 4 months, I cut the dose in half and after another month, he was completely off of it. He showed no side effects whatsoever from the Clomicalm. If you do decide to use this medication, expect up to a month or two to see effects. If Clomicalm doesn't work, there are other medications available. Rescue Remedy is another thing to consider and is safe as well (available at GNC). Our holistic vet gave us a combination of Bach remedies and this seemed to help as well. If you are not satisfied by the response from your vet, go on to another one!

10. Try leaving a piece of clothing that you have recently worn with your dog. Your scent may help to keep him/her calm. Favorite stuffed

animals may also help calm your dog. Even an old shoe might help. Harry loves to carry shoes around and sleeps with his nose in them (gross, I know, but he doesn't chew!).

11. Exercise!! Increase your dog's amount of exercise- a tired dog is a sleeping dog! And exercise is good for you, too! I know that in the morning, it can be difficult to increase exercise do the best you can-get up 20 minutes earlier. (Here is where obedience classes help, you can just practice commands as extra exercise!).

12. Are there cues that signal your departures? Mess with these. Carry your keys around and jingle them, carry your purse around, put your shoes on, put some make-up on (but don't leave!). I sometimes shower at night and sometimes in the morning- just to confuse Harry. I put my make-up on at work and don't blow dry my hair very often. Dog's pick up on these cues and try to predict when you'll be leaving. Harry used to sit on the couch with pure panic on his face when I got out of the shower in the mornings (and it wasn't from the towel on my head!)

13. Leave the TV or radio on when you leave your dog behind-they always had a radio going at the track kennel. The noise can help keep outside noises at a minimum and also be comforting to your dog. I quickly learned that Harry didn't like being alone in the dark (weird dog) so I leave a light or TV on when I go somewhere at night.

14. I make sure that the volume on my answering machine is off when I leave. When I am home and it goes off, Harry gets excited. It is probably confusing to dogs to hear their owner's voice, but not be able to find him/her!

15. Does your dog like toys? Leave several out each day, but vary them day to day so he/she gets different one each day.

9. Greyhound Hygiene & Health Care Bathing your greyhound

Grooming needs are minimal. Greyhounds have very little oil in their skin thus have very little doggie odor. A bath every 6 months is more than sufficient to keep your greyhound clean. When bathing your greyhound, be sure to only use lukewarm water. If you use very warm to hot water, your greyhound may faint or get wobbly. It's helpful to have a second person help you when giving a bath. The second person can help keep the dog from jumping out of the bathtub and also prop up your greyhound when/if he starts to get wobbly in the knees. Never use cold outside tap water to bathe a greyhound, even in the summer. Greyhounds do not have enough body fat to regulate their body temperature in hot or cold water, so be careful not to overheat or chill your greyhound. Use a gentle conditioning dog shampoo and rinse to remove soapy residue that may cause skin irritation. Since greyhounds have very thin fur coats and sensitive thin skin use a very soft bristle brush that will not scratch his skin. Zoom Grooms are soft rubber and also massage the skin.

Cleaning Their Ears

Clean their ears once a month with a cotton ball dampened with mineral oil or hydrogen peroxide. Never use cotton swabs in a dog's ear, as you can injure the ear drum or canal.

Brushing teeth

Buy dog toothpaste and a dog tooth brush. Never use human toothpaste for your dog. Chicken and beef flavored dog toothpaste is much easier for a greyhound to accept. Greyhounds tend to have periodontal and dental problems and many lose teeth if you do not have them professionally cleaned by a vet once every year or two. All GFNC greyhounds have their teeth professionally cleaned & scaled by a vet before they go home. To keep those teeth healthy and clean, brush them on a daily basis or at least every other day.

Trimming Their Nails

Most greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Bend each foot under, so that you can see the underside of the nail and trim off a little bit at a time. You can also use a hand-held Dremel grinding tool- the most pain free way to keep their greyhound's nails short and smooth. If you use a Dremel, be aware that holding the grinding tool down on a section of toe nail for too long a time can cause a build-up of heat from the friction. Whatever method you use, trim a little bit off your greyhound's nail tips every month, then you don't have to worry about over grown nails or causing the dog to bleed the next time you trim. Ask your vet or local dog groomer to show you where the quick is, how much to trim and what method works best. Have some styptic powder like Kwik Stop or corn starch on hand to stop any minor bleeding.

Flea, heartworm and tick control

Chemicals commonly found in flea collars and commercial flea preventatives can, in a greyhound, cause nausea, convulsions and death. Seresto flea/tick collars are the only brand safe for greyhounds.

Generally considered safe for greyhounds: Heartguard, HeartguardPLus, Advantage-Multi, Interceptor, Sentinel, Trifexis, Comfortis, Adams Flea & Tick Spray, Frontline, FrontlinePlus, Advantage, and K9Advantix.

Do NOT use: Zodiac products, Blockade, Raid, Proban, Breakthru, Vectra, Spot On or Biospot.

Check with your veterinarian to see which products are most effective in your area and appropriate for your greyhound.

Deworming should only be done by the testing and direction of your veterinarian.

Vaccinations

Prior to your adoption your greyhound was spayed or neutered, received a vet check-up, had its teeth cleaned, and had vaccinations updated. The health sheet from our vet will give you the exact dates of this care.

Find a Greyhound Savvy Vet

Before allowing your greyhound to be anesthetized or tranquilized for any reason, please be sure your veterinarian is experienced or at least familiar with the safe procedures and dosages appropriate for a greyhound. Don't hesitate to ask your vet what precautions they utilize for greyhounds. If he/she is not or does not seem interested in the topic or your concern, *then find another vet* with experience with greyhounds. *It could make the difference between life and death for your greyhound.* **Please ask us to help you find a greyhound knowledgeable vet in your area.**

Your vet should also be knowledgeable of the differences in a greyhound's blood work test values and other breeds. If your vet is not familiar with this, our vet will be glad to discuss this with him. A **Greyhounds Are Different** medical reference card is available (contact a GFNC volunteer for this information). You can refer to Dr. Suzanne Stack's website (<http://www.greythealth.com/blood.html>) which contains detailed information on greyhound-specific tests and conditions.

We have included the name and phone number of the veterinarian who spayed or neutered your greyhound on your dog's paper work. Please insist that your vet contact this vet if there are any questions.

10. Exercising Your Greyhound How Much Do They Need?

In the home environment your greyhound, an outstanding athlete on the race track, may become a regular couch potato. Like any dog, they need regular exercise to maintain their good health. A completely fenced back yard makes a nice play area for your greyhound, and a brisk walk on lead a couple times a week is much enjoyed and highly recommended.

The use of electric fences, underground fences and staking out are prohibited.

Greyhounds love to play with their new family members, although it may take a little while for your greyhound to show his silly side. Greyhounds really like soft stuffed animals that squeak, with buttons, eyes or anything that could be swallowed by your hound removed for safety. Playing with your greyhound is fun for both of you and great exercise too. Take your cues from your greyhound, and when you see the classic "play bow" with his bottom up and front end down pose bouncing in front of you, you'll know it is time to play!

We do not recommend dog parks for your retired racer. These have been proven to be unsafe for greyhounds. Greyhound-only playgroups may be available in your area, check with your adoption representative.

Always Keep Them on Leash when Outside

Exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely fenced in could cost your greyhound his life. Your greyhound may be entirely devoted to you and never leave your side at home, but they are bred to be a 45 mph racer with exceptional eye sight. It may be something as simple as a leaf blowing by or a small animal or piece of trash rolling down the road, and your always loyal greyhound's reflex reaction has him off and running as fast as a horse at full gallop. They are not street wise and no car or bus could stop in time. *Your greyhound's life is not a risk worth taking.*

11. Be Patient and Consistent

Your greyhound needs more than just love; he needs you to be very patient, very consistent with his schedule and your demands, and gentle but firm with his training. Use positive reinforcement and lots of praise when he's good. When mistakes are made, correct him only when you actually witness it happening, and praise him when he modifies his behavior.

12. Greyhounds and those pesky cuts and scrapes

Greyhounds have very thin skin and very often come up with little scrapes and cuts. Many can be treated at home. If you answer yes to any of these questions, you should see a vet:

1. Is the cut actively bleeding (not is there blood present, but if you clean the blood up, does more run down the leg)?
2. Is there ripped muscle or tissue? You will know if you see it.
3. Does your greyhound appear to be in pain or distressed by the injury?
4. Is the cut more than an inch in length? A lot of movement can make it tear more.
5. Does the cut smell or is swelling developing?

If you answer "no" to all these questions: Clean the scrape with a cotton ball soaked in hydrogen peroxide. Do not use hydrogen peroxide after the initial cleaning as it can destroy tissue. Use a clean water rinse instead. Apply Triple Antibiotic ointment 2-3 times a day for 4-5 days or until a scab forms. EMT Gel will facilitate healing. Cover the area with a sock or t-shirt to prevent licking.

A Word About Advice

Undoubtedly you will get a lot of advice - good and bad - from other greyhound adopters. Read and research as much as you can to prepare yourself. Understand that sometimes you may need to try more than one approach to a problem because every greyhound is an individual.

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Our goal is to make sure these dogs never have to be uprooted again. We want to help you troubleshoot any problems sooner rather than later.

Perhaps the most important thing you could do is to contact us if you have questions, no matter how small you perceive them to be.

Call the adoption coordinator nearest to you, or the contact numbers on our website.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Dr. Susan Stack's site provides the most complete medical references and is a must-read for you and your vet. Visit www.greythealth.com

To learn about your dog's life at the greyhound track, go behind the scenes in a photo essay by Rachel Houge: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dazzleme/sets/72157627145032411/> Clicking on a picture will pop up text that will explain each photo.

Greyhound Health information can be found at www.greyhoundhealthinitiative.org including contact information for Dr. Couto, DVM (known as THE DOCTOR for greyhounds).

At www.greyhoundfriends.com click on **Adopt** for more adopter resources.

GreyTalk's **message board** is a great resource for greyhound lovers around the world. It is filled with humorous stories, advice on medical situations and behavior. Non-members can view some of the topic sections. Register to view them all at www.greytalk.com If your email server is not accepted for registration, click on Support at the top of their page and submit a request.

Look up your dog's racing history and family tree at www.greyhound-data.com

We don't just love **donations**, we need them! Help us continue to provide medical care and find homes for other greyhounds. Visit www.greyhoundfriends.com and click on the **Support** tab.

Recommended reading:

- Adopting the Racing Greyhound (3rd edition) - by Cynthia A. Branigan
- Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies - by Lee Livingood
- Greyhounds: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual - by D. Caroline Coile
- The Dog Who Loved Too Much - by Nicholas H. Dodman
- I'll be Home Soon: How to Treat Separation Anxiety - by Patricia McConnell
- Childproofing Your Dog: A Complete Guide to Preparing Your Dog for the Children in Your Life - by Sarah Wilson
- How To Be the Leader of the Pack & Have Your Dog Love You For It - by Patricia B. McConnell Ph.D. (booklet)

Find us on Facebook as *Greyhound Friends of North Carolina*