

2010

AUGUST 2010

Arizona Greyhound Adoption, Inc.

Making the world better a better place, one Greyhound at a time



Greyhound Adoption Manual

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In memory of Empire & Cricket

General Information

In the beginning

Your pet was born and raised for one purpose only – to be a racing Greyhound and to make money for his breeder, owner and trainer. Your pet is the product of a carefully selected breeding of sire and dame. He spent his puppy-hood with his mother and littermates in a “brood-bitch house”. After weaning, he lived with his siblings in long “run pens” to encourage his strength and development.

At the age of about twelve months, your pet made the transition from puppy to pup and was brought “inside” to begin his formal training as a racer. From that day forward, your pet lived in a crate or cage in a kennel with about thirty to forty other Greyhounds. His life became a highly regimented routine.

He spent the next few months trained to chase. Training began by chasing lures on a “whirly gig” on a training track (a miniature version of the pari-mutual track). On the mini track, he was trained first alone, then with two or three other Greyhounds. First by hand slipping and then sprinting from a starting box to chase a mechanical lure as fast as possible. All while negotiating flat turns, staying away from other racers and keeping his legs under control on the bottom of the track.

At about sixteen to twenty months of age, he began schooling on the real racetrack. First, he was again hand-slipped at about half the distance of the track and then schooled out of the starting box with two or three other Greyhounds. Finally, official schooling in non-betting races with other schooling Greyhounds takes place. His racing career began if he was able to run faster than the track’s established qualifying time and graduated to betting races.

Not all pups have the speed or ability to qualify for the pari-mutual racing. Others are unable to compete successfully even if they do qualify initially. Greyhound racing is a very tough sport that takes its toll on dogs in terms of torn muscles and broken bones. Very few Greyhounds are able to race successfully at major American tracks for even one year.



Fast fact: According to the National Greyhound Association 34,141 Greyhound pups were whelped in 2000 and the same year, about 18,000 Greyhounds were adopted out.

The racing owner of your pet made an investment of at least \$2,000.00 to raise him to track age. If your pet is over the age of three, he is probably a “track dog”. If he is two or younger, he probably was not able

to compete successfully. In either case, your dog's record on the track has little to do with how good a pet he makes – that is up to you.

AZgreyhounds, Inc. will inform you of any injuries your pet may have received on the track, providing that we are aware of any. We can assure you that your adopted Greyhound is a truly unique animal. A fact that will be reinforced by admirers every time your pet appears in public.

Into the heart and hands of AZgreyhounds. . .

Gary and Lorri Tracy organized the Tucson, Arizona-based Greyhound Adoption League (GAL) in 1985. Since that time, affiliate organizations have been started in Sierra Vista, AZ (1996), El Paso, TX (1997) Southern California (2000), Washington and Idaho. In 2004, Sierra Vista GAL incorporated as AZgreyhounds, a separate 501 c 3, non-profit organization, dedicated to the adoption of retired racing Greyhounds. AZgreyhounds is not affiliated with any other national adoption group or organization.

The National Greyhound Association requires that Greyhound tracks work with adoption agencies to find homes for Greyhounds when they leave the track. AZgreyhounds accepts adoptable Greyhounds from kennels and tracks in Arizona, Texas, and Nevada. These generally are those who have raced but have failed to finish as good as fourth in four consecutive starts, have never raced and failed to finish as good as third in seven consecutive starts, have raced and are now being retired from breeding or have sustained an injury that prevents further racing.

All Greyhounds entering the program are neutered or/spayed and their teeth cleaned. All vaccinations are normally updated with a 3 year Rabies and a 6-in-1 annual vaccination. Each dog is examined by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Arizona, and any medical conditions noted. The adoption fee for each Greyhound helps pay for the medical and care costs of all of our Greyhounds prior to adoption. Administrative costs of the organization are generally covered by a variety of fundraising events throughout the year.



Homecoming

Where am I?

From the moment you arrive home with your new pet, he will begin an entirely new life. The radical changes in his environment and expected behavior will require a period of adjustment, which can last for a few days or even several months. This is known as “separation anxiety” and is quite normal. All Greys will experience this in one way or another. Your Grey’s whole world has been turned upside down. Nevertheless, he is an intelligent and sensitive dog who is eager to please and be accepted. With attention, understanding, lots of love, a sense of humor, patience, patience, and more patience, the problems that may occur in the beginning can be minimized for you and him. Keep in mind that your new pet has lived his entire life with other dogs and not with people. Be reassuring while on the car ride home. Let him know that everything is going to be all right. When you arrive home, walk him around the yard in case he needs to relieve himself before going into the house. Give him plenty of time.

What is all of this?

Normally, you will be asked to bring any other dogs in your home to the adoption day to meet and ensure there are no issues with the Greyhound you want to adopt. When you arrive at home, it is best to keep your new Greyhound on his leash, and make a complete tour of your home and yard. Attempts at marking should be dealt with promptly by taking your new pet outside immediately. If your Greyhound successfully marks inside, consider purchasing *Nature’s Miracle* or a similar product and follow the instructions on the bottle. (These products break down the enzyme in the urine, and reduce the chances of future marking).

Except for his foster home, he has never been in a home, has never climbed stairs, negotiated a slippery floor, seen a mirror or glass door or window, or heard a telephone ring. The ceiling fan may look like some kind of monster that is going to fall on his head. Just as he was taught to race, you must teach your new companion to adapt to a new role in life. A GREYHOUND WILL DO EXACTLY WHAT YOU LET HIM DO! He has been told what to do and when to do it for most of his life. Now he looks to you to tell him what is right and what is wrong. Be consistent. If you do not want him on the furniture, do not allow him one time and then not the next. That will only serve to confuse him.

Chow Call

We recommend you feed your Greyhound a good quality dry dog food, such as *Pedigree, LAMS, or Purina One*. The better quality food you feed, the less you will have to pick up afterwards. You can supplement this with canned food, or vegetable or olive oil, to keep your hounds skin and coat from drying out. Hard treats, such as Milk Bones, or soup bones, will help keep teeth clean and breath fresher.

Up the stairs, down the stairs

Stairs may post a particular challenge. Coax your Grey slowly up the stairs until you have both reached the top. Give praise and words of encouragement along the way. Assist him down even more carefully as his first inclination may be to jump all the way down in a single bound. After a few days of assistance, he will be charging up and down the stairs in kamikaze fashion as though he has been doing it all his life.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

Full length mirrors and glass doors are special hazards. At best, a sore nose – at worst an injured pet. Greyhounds have never seen glass doors or mirrors, and do not understand that these are solid objects and can't be walked through. Place a few strips of masking tape or markers at the dog's eye level for the first week or so until they become familiar with such hazards.

Slipping and sliding

Tile and linoleum floors may cause feet to slip and slide. This can be a little scary for both of you. Water on these surfaces can make them particularly hazardous. Clean all spills up promptly and wipe dry. Putting down rubber-backed rugs can help your pet's traction. Like the stairs, he will soon learn to adjust to the floor surface.

Sweet dreams

Although some owners allow their dogs to sleep with them, others choose to crate their pets at night. If you choose to use a crate, make sure it is big enough. Place the crate in the bedroom with you to keep him from thinking that he is all alone in the world. It may help to leave a radio playing softly (this is also good for when you are away). If you choose not to use a crate, you may want to confine him to the bedroom with you at night for a while. That will stop any midnight prowling.

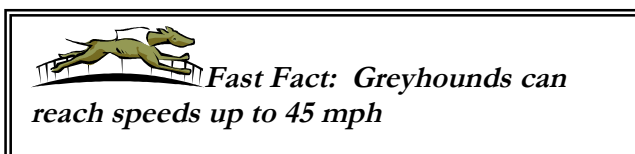
Hot and cold

Your Grey has lived in a temperature controlled environment since he was about one year old. Other than for turnouts and when racing, he was kept sheltered and warm (or cool). Greys have very little body fat and a sparse coat. Consequently, they do not tolerate cold or hot weather well at all. When the temperature drops below about 40 degrees, they begin to shiver and are uncomfortable. When the

temperature drops to freezing, they are subject to frostbite and hypothermia. Similarly, left in direct sunlight on very warm days they may suffer heat stroke and hypothermia.

Please, fence me in!

When outdoors, your Grey must always be in a completely enclosed area when not on a lead. The fencing should be no less than four feet high and the type that will not cause injury (such as barbed wire). Care should be taken that he cannot dig his way underneath (yes, some do dig). Do not tie your Grey to anything! Strangulation and even a broken neck may occur if he runs and hits the end of the tether.



Sink or swim

More the likely, he will sink. If you have an in-ground pool, covered or uncovered, have someone with your Grey at all times until you are both comfortable that he will avoid the pool. Greyhounds do not know that they can't walk on water. He will be dashing around the yard and suddenly – plop – right into the water, and will probably sink like a rock. You will have to jump in to save him (no kidding). Weather permitting, take him into the pool with you and teach him where the steps are so he can get out. Do this until you are both comfortable that he can get out. In some cases, he will never go near the pool again. Most breeds can swim, but they can also become tired and drown if they can't get out of the pool.



Greyhound Health

Choosing a Vet

When choosing a veterinarian, don't be afraid to ask questions. Unfortunately, there are vets who are not familiar with the needs of retired racing Greyhounds. Ask the vet that you are planning to use if he or she is familiar with sight hounds – Greyhounds in particular. If you are told that they are just like any other dogs – run, do not walk out the door. Occasionally a vet will charge their clients hundreds of dollars for treating a Greyhound for something that did not need treating at all. Things such as treatment for ringworm, when in fact it was only a “muzzle rub”, or treatment for a low thyroid count when it was within normal range to begin with. If you need help finding the right vet in your area, please let us know. We will be glad to recommend someone to you.



Fast fact: sight hounds are dogs that have traditionally been used to chase game by sight, rather than track game by smell.

Greyhound medicine

Greyhounds are a healthy breed of dog and with routine visits to your vet, should remain in good health throughout their 12 or more year life span. You can enhance his natural good health by providing a proper diet, exercise and preventative medical care.

AZgreyhounds requires all owners to keep their Grey inoculated against communicable canine diseases including rabies, distemper and parvovirus. Your Grey was given vaccinations for rabies and DHLPP before adoption. You will be given a certificate of rabies vaccination at the time of adoption, which you will take to the local animal control facility for the rabies “tag”. Some areas charge a city license fee. Your vet can advise you regarding when booster shots will be necessary. Keep in mind that although Greyhounds are a healthy breed, they are not excluded from any health problems that any other breed can have.

Greyhounds do not tolerate anesthetics or sedation well. They have relatively little body fat and are thus unable to absorb lipidsoluble thiobarbiturates to any significant degree. Such thiobarbiturates therefore remain systemically active for a greater period.

Consequently, Greyhounds are especially susceptible to hypothermia and hypotension while anesthetized with thiobarbiturates. Isoflurane is Greyhound safe when administered properly.

Valley Fever

Greyhounds that have spent time in the southwest or western United States may have been exposed to an insidious fungal disease known as Valley Fever. Clinical signs are variable and progressive. Symptoms may include:

Weight Loss

Limping or Lameness

Lethargy (not an easy one to tell since Greys are so lazy to begin with)

Coughing

A lesion that will not heal

Blindness

Neurological Disorders

The only sure way to tell if your pet has Valley Fever is with a blood test. It can strike any part of the body (brain, spine, etc.) and is not limited to canines. Many people have suffered with Valley Fever. A diagnostic test is able to determine whether an infected dog has a localized infection or if dissemination throughout the body has occurred. Since Valley Fever is not common in most parts of the country, some vets have never seen a case before. If your Grey is showing these symptoms and your vet has ruled out everything else and your Grey is not responding to treatments, please ask your vet to take a blood sample and have it tested for Valley Fever and all tick-borne diseases.

Treatment for Valley Fever is Nizoral or Sporonox, which can be purchased in Mexico at a fraction of the cost it would be in the United States. If you can't get to Mexico, please notify us. AZgreyhounds makes trips to Mexico for medicine once a month. Valley Fever can be deadly if not treated. Once diagnosed and treatment is given, the dog can live a very long and happy life with no problems.

Ouch!

Trauma or accidents are one of the greatest hazards. NEVER let your Grey off lead if there is a possibility of him running into traffic and being struck by a car. Greyhounds do not know that cars can injure them. Be alert for hazards in your home and vehicle as well.

Greyhounds are not familiar with their new environment and are sometimes injured when they try to run through glass patio doors, fall down stairs or slip on wet tile floors. Use common sense and try to see things as your new Grey sees them.

Be alert for possible hazards in open areas where he is permitted to run and play. Garden tools, broken fencing and even holes in the ground can cause injuries.

Greyhounds have been seriously injured and even killed from riding in the back of open trucks. NEVER put your Grey in the back of an open vehicle with or without you.

Be sure to keep household cleaners, solvents, antifreeze and other chemicals that can cause poisoning safely away from your pets.

In other words, all the stuff you were going to get around to putting away some day, you have a good reason to do it now. It is your job to make your Grey's new world as safe as possible for him.

Kiss my boo-boo . . . please?

Greyhounds have no protection of fur or fat from injuries. So they tend to seem more accident-prone. It is not uncommon to find scrapes, scratches or even gouges on your pet. It might be a good idea to have a topical spray for pets on hand. You can get this from your vet. They are not babies – but will do whatever it takes to get sympathy. If he has had a foot injury in the past, even though that injury has healed for months, he will still use it from time to time – usually when he is being scolded. Your vet should see any serious injuries.

Who has “bugs”?

External parasites can include ticks, fleas, and other bloodsucking insects. Ticks are small brown, black or reddish brown, flat and eight legged. They attach themselves to the skin with their mouths. Check especially in the folds of the ears and between the toes. If you should find a tick, remove it by grasping it near the head and carefully pulling it free. You can use a pair of tweezers or the braver of us use our fingernails. Ticks go about their business so quietly that they may go unnoticed unless you make a point to look for them. Ticks are an especially big problem in the southern and southwest states.

Tick-borne Diseases

The four main tick-borne diseases that all pet owners should be aware of are Canine Ehrlichiosis (also known as tick fever); Canine Babesiosis; Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF) and Lyme disease. They are typically transmitted by tick bites and travel through the dog's blood stream. Some dogs may be silent asymptomatic carriers of one of these diseases and actually appear perfectly healthy with virtually no symptoms. Unfortunately, the symptoms for all four are very similar, and they can only be diagnosed through a blood test. But if your pet is experiencing the following, and everything else has been ruled out, ask your vet to do a blood screening for tick-borne diseases and Valley Fever.

High Fever

Depression or Lethargy

Anemia

Diarrhea or Constipation

Loss of Appetite or Weight

Vomiting

Unusual Bleeding (nose; skin hemorrhage)

Swollen Legs or Lymph Nodes

Nervous System Disorders (stiff joints; stiff gait; head tilt; seizures)

Pale Gums and/or Inner Eye Membranes

THESE SYMPTOMS ALONE DO NOT MEAN THAT YOUR DOG HAS A TICK-BORNE DISEASE! You know your pet, and you will be able to tell when there is a real problem. As with Valley Fever, these diseases do not go away by themselves. If left untreated, they are deadly. But, with proper treatment, there is no reason for any pet to die from a tick-borne disease. Just as with Valley Fever, a dog can live a very long and happy life after treatment. Treatments can include a series of Tetracycline (or their derivatives), Amoxicillin, or Doxycycline. Your vet should know which antibiotic is the best. All of these treatments are relatively inexpensive.

Mites

Dogs may sometimes be affected with mites, which are tiny spider like creatures. You can't see them move, but they are usually found in your Grey's ears. You can kill the mites by washing the affected areas with a cotton ball dipped in a little alcohol. Be careful not to go down into the ear too far. There are specific medications for mites that are available. If in doubt, have your vet check your pet's ears.

Fleas

Fleas can be a big problem as well. Especially if your pet has been exposed to other animals or surroundings that have fleas. Fleas are blood-sucking insects with six legs and an ability to jump far distances. Like ticks, they can carry diseases that can spread from pet to pet and pet to human. The bites of fleas will cause redness and itching on the skin. Your pet will scratch and nibble at his skin with his front teeth trying to "flea" from himself. If you discover fleas on your pet, first give him a good bath (following the directions on the bottle). After his bath and he is dry, he can be sprayed or dusted with a commercial product. Always remember to use only Greyhound-safe products. Pay special attention to the legs, feet, in-between the toes, groin area, neck and behind the ears. Many preparations will only kill adult fleas. You should repeat after seven days to remove nits (eggs), which were laid in the fur. You can also use a "flea comb" which you should be able to find at your pet supply store. If re-infestation occurs, repeat the process. You will also need to treat all pets, bedding, your home and yard.

NEVER use a flea collar on any Greyhound! Do not use any internal preparation designed to kill fleas unless you know that it is Greyhound safe. Do not rely on store clerks to know which products will be safe for your Grey. Be careful when using all flea and tick products excessively or over long periods as toxic reactions may occur. Greyhounds do not tolerate pesticides well, and some could prove to be toxic or even fatal. Should you have any questions, please call your AZgreyhounds representative.



Fast fact: Lemon Joy liquid dish soap for bathing is a Greyhound-friendly flea deterrent.

We have heard from people that have had their Grey for a long time without any fleas or ticks that suddenly they are finding them, but they have been nowhere that they could have gotten them. A stray cat infested with fleas and ticks can wander through your yard. Or the pets next door to you may have them. Sometimes it seems that they even fall from the sky. If they do show up; again, you must treat your pet (or pets), bedding, your house and yard, and again in seven days. You can take the flea collar that you are NOT going to put on your Grey, and cut about three inches off and put it in your vacuum bag. Throw the bag away after you have vacuumed.

Worms. . .yuck!

Your Grey has been given worm medication before adoption, but internal parasites are common in all pets. Left untreated, internal parasites can have a serious adverse impact on your dog's general health. Such parasites can include tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms and pinworms. From time to time, you should examine your pet's stool for evidence of worms.

Tapeworms, alive or dead, or tapeworm segments look like grains of rice and may or may not show movement and are found on the outside of the stool. Roundworms look like their name implies and usually appear in clusters of adult specimens up to six inches long and normally show movement. Pinworms are more difficult to find, but can sometimes be seen about the anal opening when they emerge to lay their eggs.

One indication of possible infestation by worms is weight loss despite no reduction in his appetite or food intake. Rectal itching causing regular biting or licking of the anal area can also be an indication. If you suspect that he may have worms, you should provide your vet with a fresh stool sample in a sealed plastic bag. Some vets will provide you with a small convenient container for this purpose.

If infestation is confirmed, the parasite will be identified and your vet will treat your pet with an oral worming medication. You should not attempt to worm your pet without the advice of your vet, as wormers are not only toxic to parasites, they can also be toxic to your dog if not administered properly. Over-worming can result in your dog becoming ill or worse. Since worming medications only kill adult parasites, your vet will probably give you a second wormer with instructions to administer it in ten days to two weeks. Re-infestation can quickly recur if your pet continues to be exposed to parasites. The risk can be reduced if you collect and dispose of stools at least once a week. If you have more than one dog, or if your yard is small, you may need to go on "poop patrol" several times a week.

My tummy hurts!

Sporadic vomiting may sometimes occur. This is usually the result of vigorous exercise too soon after eating; drinking too much water too quickly or the ingestion of grass, bone fragments or foreign objects. Vomiting should not be a major concern unless it continues without apparent cause or if there is blood in the vomit. If there is blood, contact your vet right away.

Diarrhea can present a special challenge to the owner of any pet. This problem is usually diet related, but can be triggered by stress, disease, worms or a change in environment. Aside from being unpleasant for you and your pet, if left untreated, it can result in dehydration and even death. This does not mean that you should run to the vet at the first sign of loose bowels. Should your Grey suffer diarrhea, let him out frequently, as he will be unable to control his bowels very well. Stop feeding regular food immediately. Make sure he has plenty of fresh water to drink. Begin feeding plain cooked rice with some cooked ground beef or chicken in it

or plain yogurt. You should try to determine the cause and correct it. OTC anti-diarrhea medicines such as Immodium A-D or Kaopectate can be administered in the child size dosage. Do not use this for loose bowels, only diarrhea. If the stool does not firm up the second day, consult your vet.

Excuse me!

Greyhounds are as notorious for “Greyhound gas” as they are for getting up and leaving you in the room with the results of their effort. A tablespoon of plain yogurt everyday will help keep it under control.

Monkey butt

Your new Grey may have little or no hair on his thighs, tail or nose. This is common. Bald thighs and tail are from life in a crate. Hair loss on the nose is from the muzzle. It is not ringworm or mange. Most often, the hair will grow back. Try using an ointment that contains vitamin E.

Rub in a small amount about three times a week for about a month or so. A&D is good. Or you can break open a vitamin E capsule and apply the same way. Greyhounds normally have thyroid levels lower than other breeds. The most over diagnosed disease in Greyhounds today is hypothyroidism. Greyhounds have a normal thyroid level that is lower than the reference ranges used for other breeds. You should not start your Greyhound on supplementation for hypothyroidism unless your Greyhound is showing clinical signs of the disease, for example hair loss, lethargy, or weight gain (despite exercise and appropriate feeding) and a full thyroid panel has been run (T4, fT4 by equilibrium dialysis, TSH, etc. Many veterinarians will falsely interpret the lack of hair on Greyhound thighs as a clinical sign of hypothyroidism. This hair loss is not commonly caused by hypothyroidism (although hair may grow with supplementation). If your veterinarian recommends thyroid supplementation, be sure that they have read or are aware of the journal articles listed at the end of this packet and that the appropriate clinical signs of hypothyroidism are truly present. There are some truly hypothyroid Greyhounds out there... just not very many! (Greyhound Adoption of Ohio, Inc. by Dr. William E. Feeman III, DVM)

And so on

Though it is normal for your Grey to spend nearly the entire day napping, he should be eager to play or go for a walk with very little encouragement. He should have a good appetite and eat with relish, although some may turn into “munchers” after being in a home for a while. His coat should be smooth and shiny, and his eyes clear and bright. He should be happy, inquisitive and eager for all the love and attention he can command.

His temperature should fall within a range of 101 degrees Fahrenheit to 102 degrees Fahrenheit. And yes, he should have a cold, wet drippy nose. After you have owned your Grey for a while, you will become sensitive to his appearance and behavior. You will eventually become aware of those subtle changes in your pet that can signal a health problem. Sound scary and overwhelming? Well, its not. Use common sense and all will be well.

Greyhound Behavior

Me and my shadow

Perhaps the most endearing quality of almost every Greyhound is the strong bond they form with those who care for them. Greyhounds have long been totally dependent upon their human caretakers. From the time he was “brought inside” as a pup, he has relied upon this trainer for his every need. He relied on the trainer to arrive at the same time every day, seven days a week. Feeding and turnouts only varied on the days that the dog had to race. This routine may sound boring, but to a racer, it signifies security and assurance.

Not only was your pet’s environment confining and his daily schedule routine, he had to compete for even a moment of his trainer’s attention. Being only one of 30 to 40 racers in a kennel, he anxiously waited for a pat on the head or a word spoken only to him from the moment he heard the trainer’s key in the lock. There is a LOT of work to be done in a racing kennel everyday, and little time exists for a trainer to spend with any individual racer.

Now, in a short period, your Grey is no longer confined to a crate, subject to a kennel routine or competing for attention (unless you have more than one Greyhound). He can roam your yard and home. He can “sunbathe”, play or rest and go out whenever he wants. But most importantly, he has your love, company and attention. That is one of the reasons you will probably find your Grey reluctant to let you out of his sight. He may fear that if he cannot see you that you no longer exist. That when you are away, unlike his trainer, you may never return. So, he may follow you from room to room like a shadow, wagging his tail when you glance his way or speak to him. Soon you will have more than a pet, you will have a loyal, lifelong friend and companion. There probably is no other breed that bonds with his family more closely than a Greyhound.

Greyhounds are polite and friendly to everyone, but it is you that they trust. They are uniquely catlike in the way they choose to bestow their affections. The more you hug, rub, play with and love these dogs, the more you get in return.

Counters and tables – fair game?

As you introduce your Grey to your home, you will also have to teach him a new concept – that not all food he will see and smell is for him. He will need to learn the difference between his food and your food. Kitchen counters and dining tables happen to be at nose level for most Greyhounds.

Remember he has been raised in a kennel, where every time he smelled food, it was his. Your Grey has not been taught proper manners yet when it comes to food on the counter. A sharp “NO” (never strike your Grey!) when he shows interest is enough to deter him. At least when you are around. However, a temptation such as a steak defrosting within reach might be too much to ask for.

Home alone

Dog proof your home initially. Keep windows unobstructed from knickknacks and blinds. Your Grey will go to the windows first to look for you. If there are objects or blinds in the way, they could be broken or even eaten, when he gets anxious. When you leave him alone, he may whimper, cry, or bark. Worse, he may chew on furniture or other household items or rearrange your house. He may even relieve himself on the floor or carpet. These actions are efforts to express his unhappiness at being denied your company and attention. This will usually pass with time as he learns that you will be coming back home. This is not to say that every Greyhound will turn into a demon every time you close the door behind you.

Start by leaving for a few minutes. Go to the mailbox, say hello to your neighbor, and check your yard for weeds, anywhere that your Grey cannot see you. Each time you do this, increase the amount of time you are gone. Drive around the block, gas up your car or visit next door. Do this several times a day if possible. Increase the amount of time you are gone each time. Then vary the amount of time. This is not a mean trick to play on your dog. It teaches him that you will be coming back.

Feeding the chow hound

Your Grey may seem nervous when he is eating. He is just worried that someone is going to come take his food away. He will eventually realize the food is his and he can eat it at his own leisure and in peace. He may also be very sloppy initially. You'll find more on the floor than in his bowl. But he will usually clean up after himself. Eventually, better manners will prevail.

Your new pet has been fed a racing diet since he was brought into the kennel. This diet consisted of raw meat; principally lean ground beef, mixed with dry kibble and sometimes cooked vegetables. As an active racer, he was fed several pounds of this diet once each morning. Vitamins were added and hormones were used to prevent the females from coming into heat. As a pet, however, your Grey's dietary needs will be quite different. Many adoptive owners prefer their Grey add a few pounds so they will not have that “starved” look. If possible, AZgreyhounds will inform you of the racing weight of your Grey. Females will drop a few pounds when they are spayed. When you take your Grey into your vet have him weighed. Make a note of that weight. Then every month or so, weigh him again on the same scales. This will enable you to keep a check on his weight and not let him get too heavy.



Fast Fact: At proper retired weight, a Greyhound will have a sleek look, with few vertebrae visible, one or two ribs showing just slightly and hip bones showing slightly

AZgreyhounds can offer recommendations regarding the type and amount of food to give, at least initially. A good quality, dry food at about four cups total a day is a starting point. A quality name brand food such *Pedigree*, *LAMS*, *Pedigree One* or *Bountiful* is likely to be the best nutritional value in the end. Avoid foods that contain artificial colors, those that make “gravy” when water is added, those that are soft or moist and those that have large chunks.

At least at first you will want to add some canned food and water. Racing Greyhounds are given a limited amount of time to eat and will therefore bolt down their food without much chewing. He always has been given soft foods and dry kibble alone may irritate his throat. “Wetting” his food will help him swallow and slow him down a bit. This will help prevent him from “coughing” his food back up. Most owners prefer to feed twice a day rather than just once. A feeding in the morning and one just before the family eats dinner seems to work well for most households. Remember it is always easier and less traumatic to gain weight than it is to lose it.

Always try to feed as close as possible to the same times everyday. If you feed late at night, you may be getting up in the middle of the night to let the dog out to potty. Also, raising his food and water bowls about twelve inches off the floor will make it easier for him to eat and drink.

If you have more than one dog, separate their food bowls while they are eating so there will be no quarrels and each will be able to finish his own meal at his own pace. A Grey just out of the kennel can finish his own food, lick his bowl clean and have most of your other dog’s food gone faster than you could think possible.

House training

It’s potty time! Racing Greyhounds are not housebroken. But they are “kennel broken”. Meaning that they will not soil the place where they lie and sleep if they can avoid it. In the racing kennel, your pet was turned out four times a day to relieve himself, always at the same times of the day. For the first few days, you will need to let him out frequently. The change of environment, general excitement, nervousness, and the consistent availability of drinking water will cause him to need to urinate more often than usual. Always give lots of praise when he empties his bladder or bowels outside. Before long, you will be able to reduce the number of turnouts. Greyhounds are truly creatures of habit and have unfailing biological clocks. Letting him out on a regular schedule will reduce the number of “accidents” which may occur. Some may be reluctant to relieve themselves when on a lead. Time and patience will usually overcome this idiosyncrasy.

Be sure to give him plenty of time to “finish”. Try not to distract him while he is in the process of doing his “duty”.

During the first few days at home, a few accidents are inevitable. If you are present when the accident occurs, immediately take him aside and admonish him with harsh words and a finger wagging in his face. NEVER STRIKE YOUR GREYHOUND OR TRY TO PUT HIS FACE INTO THE EXCREMENT!! These often-used methods have proven to be ineffective and self-defeating. Rather, scold him and take him outside so that the message will be clear. Try not to wait for your Grey to signal you that he must relieve himself. Greyhounds are used to relieving themselves when they are turned out by their trainer and have no idea how to communicate the need to go out in the beginning.

Some signals are universal in most dogs, including restlessness, circling, pacing, panting and sniffing about the floor. Those signals often indicate that it is time to go outside. Be sure to clean any area that an accident has occurred thoroughly with a solution of Pine-sol and water or vinegar and water so that your pet will not sense the need to return to that spot at another time.

Nervousness may also increase the intake of water and is another reason for letting him out more frequently.

With a little patience and sensitivity, your new Grey will soon be completely house-trained. If accidents occur after you have had your Grey for a while, the underlying cause may be that something has changed in your home that may have stressed or confused him. Or, it may be due to something physical such as a urinary infection, in which case you will need to consult your vet.

Stuff Happens

Accidents happen. We strongly recommend the use of an enzyme breaker on urine and feces stains. Even though you can't see or smell where the accident occurred, other critters will, and will attempt to "mark" the same spots. These products consist of natural enzymes that turn organic stains and odor causing materials into a liquid that you simply wipe away. They eliminate stains and odors from pet accidents permanently--even urine odors other products fail to remove--with no perfume cover-up. For use on carpets, floors, furniture, clothing, cages, litter boxes, bird cages, and all pet living and sleeping areas. Restores color and luster to floors, carpets, and upholstery. Typical ingredients include water, natural enzymes, isopropyl alcohol, natural citrus scent. The most common product is *Nature's Miracle*, and is available at most pet stores and vets.

Greyhounds and Children (two and four legged kids)

The Greyhound is an inherently gentle breed which truly enjoys the company of people and most children. Indeed, the greatest concern might be for the Greyhound should the family include small children. Greys are even-tempered and long-suffering. But, like everything else, they do have a cut-off point where enough is enough. As the newest member of your family, your Grey will hold a special fascination for your younger children. The child may be tempted to pull on the Grey's tail, bite his ears or worse.

Though your Grey may endure such treatment in silence, his limits may eventually be exceeded and he may growl, bark or even snap. More than likely, he will come to fear the child and withdraw from the child's presence. This means he will probably be without your presence also. Obviously, either situation is undesirable and can be avoided by teaching your children the importance of being kind and gentle with their new companion. You will thereby foster a special bond between your Grey and your child that will last a lifetime.

Nonetheless, a couple of precautions for kids are worth mention. Never leave any large breed of dog alone with an infant. Never let kids crawl or jump on a sleeping dog. Never try to take a bone, treat or toy away from your Grey. You should also be careful when placing a hand between him and his food bowl. It will probably take longer to teach the child than it will to teach the Greyhound.

Greyhounds, like any other large breed, can be formidable when frightened or harassed. Treated gently and with the respect he deserves, you should not have to worry about him in the company of children.

Greyhounds and other pets

Greyhounds are a very social breed because they are used to living in the company of other dogs. They spend their young puppy-hood in runs with their littermates and then brought inside a kennel with up to forty other Greys. As a result, most are suitable for the owner of more than one pet dog. In fact, some Greys do not like being the only dog in the family. But, there are some breeds that should not be kept with Greyhounds. We cannot place a Greyhound with another breed that has a tendency to be aggressive. That would be asking for the possibility of an injured Greyhound.

Not everything small and furry is a lure

Cats and other little household pets such as small dogs, ferrets and even birds are quite a different story. For countless generations, the Greyhound has been bred and trained to chase and catch small animals. The “chase” is as much a part of your Grey as is his body and soul. It is simply asking too much of your pet that he be immediately able to distinguish between the small family pet and the lures he was taught to pursue. For this reason, **YOU MUST TAKE GREAT CARE** when introducing your Grey to your other small pets.

Always make the introduction of cats to your Grey indoors, and after your Grey has had time to become familiar with you and his new surroundings. During the first introduction, someone should hold your Grey on his lead very close to his collar while someone else holds the cat. Keep the cat below the level of the dog’s head. Bring the cat slowly toward your Grey (this will require someone to crawl across the floor).

Talk softly, praise and be reassuring. If your Grey attempts to jump at the cat, say “NO!” in a very sharp voice. When close enough pet the cat and let your Grey sniff your hand. When you have moved closer, hold the cat in one arm and pet the dog with the other hand. Bring the cat close enough for your Grey to be able to sniff it. Do not try to rush through this! Make this introduction without the kids running around or the TV blasting. Other pets should be out of the room.

This **MUST** be done with a muzzle on! AZgreyhounds will provide you a muzzle for this purpose. The muzzle is to eliminate any possibility of an accident during the first encounter with your cat. Use the same basic procedure with your small dogs. Whenever possible, we will advise you as to which Greyhounds have been “kitty tested” and are more likely to be suitable to live with cats or small dogs. Remember, when you let go of your cat after the introduction, if the cat takes off running, your Grey may want to chase after it. If he does, sharply say “NO!” Do not leave your Grey alone with any small pet until you feel comfortable that all is well.

Even though your Grey learns to love and respect your kitty, a stray cat in your yard is quite a while different thing. Not only is the neighbor’s cat a stranger it is also an intruder in your pet’s territory. Similar introductions can be done with other small household pets. Be sure that you do not let those pets run or fly around loose near your Grey until you are quite certain that he understands the house rules. Do not invite a needless tragedy.

If you do not have a cat or other small furry creature in your home, you may have chosen a Greyhound that did not pass the kitty test. You will be told if your new pet was screened and the results. If you decide to bring in a cat or other small animal into your home later on, please do it with caution.

Exercise

The exercise requirements of a retired racer are no different from those of other dogs. Walks two or three times a week is good for your Grey as well as you. If you run or jog, you will find that your Grey will make a wonderful companion after conditioning. Greyhounds are sprinters on the track, not endurance dogs. It takes a little time to build them up to distances. Generally speaking, the younger the dog, the more exercise he will need. As he becomes older, he may become a little reluctant to go for very long walks or to sprint and run without a good incentive. When your Grey reaches senior citizenship, go for shorter slower walks. Do not risk injury by forcing him to go faster or further than he is able.

Do not exercise your Grey right after feeding. Do people run a marathon on a full stomach? Vigorous exercise right after eating can result in a condition called bloat in a dog. Bloat can cause death before it can be diagnosed and medical treatment given.

Because your Grey has been on soft surfaces, the pads of his feet are very soft. Going short distances in the beginning will help toughen them up. Keep a check on his pads. How soon his pads will toughen up depends on how often he walks on hard surfaces.

One of the questions asked most often is “Don’t Greyhounds need a lot of exercise and room to run?” Once you live with a Greyhound, you will know the truth. We are not kidding when we say they are 40 mph couch potatoes.

Greyhounds **MUST** be on leash whenever they are outside of a fenced area. What type of leash is used isn’t normally a question. We **STRONGLY** recommend against the use of retractable leads. Concerns exist that if a Greyhound spots prey, your Greyhound will take off at an extreme rate of speed, and when the retractable lead extends itself, two events will occur: the owner will be unable to maintain control of the leash, and/or the retractable portion of the leash will disintegrate. In either case, your Greyhound will no longer be under your control. Please reconsider using these types of leads for the safety of your Greyhound.

The living statue

From time to time a Greyhound will stop dead in his tracks and refuse to budge or even to look at you. This usually happens when he is scared or nervous or does not know exactly what you want of him. The more insistent you get, the more insistent he gets that he is not going anywhere. He will win the battle of wills if you let him.

Most often this will occur when it is bath time (and he will know) or when you are half way through the door at the vet’s office. If you try to wait him out, you will be standing there a very long time. Do not try to drag him. You will not win that one either. Try using encouraging words and make it seem like what you want him to do will be the most fun in the world. Never yell or lose your patience or temper. That will only make it worse.

If encouragement and time does not work, go to plan B – the wheelbarrow walk. Do this by placing your forearm around the back of your Grey’s thighs, lifting gently while moving him forward. This can be done

while keeping the door to the vet's office open with your backside, holding the lead, collar and everything else with one hand, and doing the wheelbarrow walk with the other arm. It is not as hard as it sounds, and it will amaze and delight those around you. Once you get him where you want him to be, praise him, get excited, and be happy. He will soon learn that it was not such a big deal after all.

Who walks whom?

You must ALWAYS keep your Grey on lead whenever he is outdoors in an area in which you have no control. This is particularly important when that environment may have hazards such as vehicular traffic or other dogs running loose that might injure your pet if he were not on his lead.

Your Grey may need a little practice walking with you quietly and without straining. Before retirement, the lead meant "track time!" which was very exciting for him. If he starts to pull while on lead, pop or snap the lead to quickly jerk the collar and give him the appropriate command. Take care not to do this too roughly.

Even the best mannered Grey can become startled and bolt. If this does happen, try not to yell and scream. This will serve to scare him even more. This is the reason for the safety collar (commonly known as a Martingale or humane collar). Since a Greyhound's neck is bigger than his head, he may back out or slip a collar made for other breeds. A sturdy nylon or leather lead about six feet long with your hand inserted through the loop is the surest protection you can give your pet during walks.

I'm hot!

On hot days your Grey can become overheated just like you can. At the worst he can suffer convulsions, heat stroke or kidney damage and at the least, heaving sides, heavy panting, vomiting and wooziness while standing. You will need to "walk him down" slowly and douse his feet with water. Don't let him gulp down a lot of water fast because he could choke and vomit it back up. Do not feed him until he has cooled off and rested. You can offer fresh water in small amounts. Again, use common sense. If it is too hot for you, then it is too hot for him.

Grooming

Greyhounds are indoor pets and are generally very clean. They have very little doggy odor even when wet. Their coats are very light and short, so shedding is not much of a problem. A good brushing with a soft brush or hound glove will take care of any loose hair. Because they have very little natural skin oil, a teaspoon of vegetable oil in their food once a day can aid in keeping a shiny coat and reduce the amount of dandruff resulting from dry skin. Adjust the amount of oil to fit your Grey's needs.

Tail Tales

Greyhound tails break easily, and many a happy hound with a wagging tail has broken it by hitting a wall or corner. Closing doors are also tail busters. Prevention is easier than mending. Tails are also a barometer to the dog's feelings. Although you should consider the Grey's entire body language, generally the lower the tail, the less happy it is. When the tail droops straight down and does not move, he is probably feeling neutral about things. The tail between the legs means fright, nervousness, and can be the

signature of the uncertain newly adopted dog. This position may occur long after the adoption in the shy Greyhound. A wagging tail held low means the dog needs comfort and is being submissive.

Ears to ya!

You will never cease to be amazed at the number of positions a Greyhound's ears can take, and the number of names you will hear for each of them! The average Greyhound has ears that hug the head for aerodynamic reasons. If a Greyhound's ears are straight up or out, they are said to be at full sail or tulip positing. This is normally when it is listening to something. When a Greyhound holds its ears back tightly to the head, it is showing its normal ear position. Often one ear will even go one direction and the other ear goes in a different direction and position! You will have lots of fun coming up with your own names for Greyhound ears.

Teeth Snapping and Clicking

And variations of this are known as "nitting." No, your Greyhound is not trying to nip at you and rip your flesh; he is telling you how happy he is to be with you. Sometimes, it means "How about a cookie?" or "Let's go!" And, if he clicks or snaps at your hair or throat, it means "I love you." The click/snap is actually a replacement for the lick; you will find that most of these dogs are not lickers. Sometimes they yelp, bark, or make throaty noises while clicking.

Living la vida loca

The “look”

All Greyhounds will give you the “look” at some point in time. For whatever reason, they think you need the “look”. You will know it when you see it. Sometimes it will be accompanied by a deep sigh.

A lift up

Getting in and out of cars is a new experience for your Grey. It can be a little scary for him at first. With a little practice, he will be a pro in no time. But, he knows he can just give you the “look” and you will help him.

Anything lazier?

Nope. However, it takes very little encouragement to get him up and playing.

Up close and personal

Being greeted with two front feet on your chest? This is not a good thing. Fortunately, not many Greys do this. If you do find dog feet growing out of your chest, push him down and back firmly and tell him NO! Do be prepared for a lot of tail wagging and happy dancing. It is worth mentioning that the most dangerous part of a Greyhound is his tail. It can wag as hard and almost as fast as he can run.

Barking?

You bet they can, and it will get your attention real fast. However, they do not usually bark. That would require more energy. Some may talk to you though. You might even imagine that you can hear real words (????). If you have other dogs that bark, so will your Grey. They learn habits from other dogs – both good and bad. It will usually take something major to get a Grey up and barking, however.

Jumping?

Of course they can. But it is the rare one that does. And we don't tell them that it is possible. Jumping would, again, require energy.

Digging?

Well, they do have two front feet that can be used as shovels and two back feet to throw the dirt between. But not many do. If you do have a digger, try to see if there is a reason. Is he digging up rocks and eating them? If so, he may be missing some mineral or vitamin from his system. A vitamin and mineral supplement will help. If he is digging just for the fun of it, try filling in the hole and putting chicken wire on top of it.

Nose dripping?

I hope so. It's supposed to.

Walks with head down?

He is a sight hound. He is looking at things his level.

Grazing in the grass?

Let him. Grass provides a nutrient he feels he needs and it will not do him any harm. The worst that can happen is that he will vomit up the grass along with whatever it was making him feel out of sorts.

Will not sit?

Most will not. They can, but it is not comfortable for them. Better to work on "down" instead.

Crotch sniffer?

Big time. Besides counter tops, other dog's behinds, new things, and anything that could possibly be food, Greys approach people at right about crotch level, so that is where he is going to sniff. Small dogs sniff ankles and shins because that is as far as they can reach. Your Grey is not being bad, just friendly.

Let sleeping dogs lie

Greyhounds are easily startled when asleep, and may even wake up snapping at the offender. Advise children and strangers to give them their space while they are catching up on their beauty rest.

Stepping Out

The occasion may arise when you will have to go out of town, but you do not want to kennel your Greyhound. Assuming you have found the "perfect" pet sitter for your perfect Greyhound, here are some things to consider:

You need to provide:

- The phone number of where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- The phone number of a neighbor or good friend in the area who can help in case of an emergency.
- Your veterinarian's name, phone number, hours, address and the name the animal's file is kept under, and also if there are any veterinarians you prefer NOT to see your animal.
- The phone number of AZgreyhounds in case there are any questions.
- Other phone numbers you may want to include are: police, fire department (they are who you call for the removal of animals in an area like killer bees or javelinas), animal control, and who you use for your heating/cooling repairs.
- Written instructions of the daily routine and any habits or rituals your greyhounds are use to and any medications they are on.
- Show amounts of medications, and write down how often given. Show and/or have the sitter give the medication during a run through of the house so they can practice.
- Include on the paper YOUR home phone number and address, just because they are at your home doesn't mean they know that information.

- If you have multiple dogs it may be a good idea to write down the dogs names and how to identify them. In our home, each dog has a different color collar for easy identification.
- Show them where you keep you Greyhound first aid kit (A copy of the recommended supplies is in your adoption folder).
- There is also a Pet Care Instruction sheet available in your adoption folder.
- Your house sitter should know how to clean a wound and bandage it.
- Warn the sitter if your dog(s) have a sensitive stomach or any allergies.

The person house sitting should come over prior to your leaving to walk through the house, learn where everything is and how everything works. Let the person try opening the front door with your key, have them feed the animal while you are there to ensure they know where the food is kept and how much to feed the hounds. Have them read the instructions and ask questions. If possible, leave some cash in an envelope in case something were to run out so the house sitter does not have to pay for it out of their own pocket. Make sure your sitter knows not to leave the front door open because of bolting and to keep all food out of reach, especially chocolate! If the house sitter is going to be staying during the nights, it would courteous to leave a nicely stocked pantry and to perhaps even find out their drink of preference and leave it for them. If they are going to be staying in your home, show them how to operate your television or radio or any other electronic device. Warn them about any strange noises they might hear like an air purifier turning on or ice maker crunching out ice. Show them where the spare dog food or medications are kept. If there is a window that does not work, or a light switch you have to turn on a certain way to get it to work, tell them about it before hand.

If you are taking your dog to someone else's home to be sat, make sure you bring:

- A blanket or dog bed from home
- A toy or something special they like to have with them
- Your dog's food, plus some extra just in case
- A baggie with your dog's favorite treats
- Any medication your dog may be on
- Here again, warn them if your dog has a sensitive tummy or allergies

You may also want to include a letter of your dog's routine, so that the sitter can include some of your dog's daily activities while staying there.

Crating

We won't debate the case for and against crating your Greyhound, but ***PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, if you crate ALWAYS REMOVE YOUR GREYHOUND'S COLLAR BEFORE PLACING HIM IN THE CRATE!***

4th of July Safety Precautions

Along with all the other safety messages you probably get regarding fireworks, drinking & driving, and swimming pools, let us add one more for your four legged friends.

Many of your Greyhounds may have never experienced the 4th of July in a home before. Fireworks, combined with the projected early arrival of monsoons and thunderstorms can be a terrifying experience for our kidz. Among the things you may want to consider doing:

- please ensure collars and tags are on,
- check your yard for gates and holes that may be used to “escape” the noise,
- keep the telephone numbers for Animal Control and the Police Depart/Sheriffs Department handy,
- If your Greyhound does escape, do not hesitate to call us!

If your hound does experience severe anxiety during the monsoon season, there are several solutions available that are quite effective. You may purchase Valerian Root and/or St. John's Wort over the counter in most drug stores or GNC. You can also check out AZMIRA (www.azmira.com) for “calmatives.” Please avoid using sedatives, as the after affects are often worse than the original problem.

Please have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

Have we covered everything?

No way!

Have we scared you half to death?

Probably. But don't worry. Relax, be happy. Just remember to give the newest member of your family a chance. Patience, love, patience, understanding, patience, attention, patience, a good sense of humor, patience, a big heart, patience, common sense and more patience will over come any difficulties you may encounter the first few days. A year from now you will be wondering if your sweetie really was any trouble in the beginning. Anyone who brings a new pet into the home is going to have problems. Understanding the life of a racer will help you cope and see his position, and we hope this handbook will aid in the process. He usually just doesn't understand. Without you teaching him, he does not know if he is being bad. There are no bad Greyhounds, just bad owners.

A Blast from the past . .

Where they have been

The origin of the Greyhound is deeply rooting in ancient history. In fact, murals and paintings of dogs very similar to today's Greyhound existed more than 4,000 years ago. From the beginning, the Greyhound was held in high regard in the Middle East and throughout Europe. Their pictures were etched on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs. Pharaohs rated them first among animals, both as pets and hunters. The Arabs so admired the physical attributes and speed of the Greyhound that it was the only god permitted to share their tents and ride atop their camels. In early Arabian culture, the birth of a Greyhound ranked second only in importance to the birth of a son.

In Persia, Rome and Greece, the Greyhound enjoyed similar stature and is the only canine mentioned by name in the Holy Scripture (Proverbs 30:29 – 31).

In the middle ages, priests saved Greyhounds from extinction. Again, the nobility claimed them as an exclusive right.

Their link with nobility was established in 1014 when King Canute of England enacted the forest laws, which state that only noblemen could own or hunt with Greyhounds.

Shakespeare and Chaucer immortalized them in their literature. Today, even Stephen King has managed to use the word Greyhound in some of his stories (from the bus line, to the name of a high school team).

Greyhounds were introduced to America in the 1800's to help farmers control the jackrabbit population. Racing soon began as the result of popular neighborhood competitions.



Fast Fact: Today, tracks consist of 5/16, 3/8, 7/16 and 9/16-mile courses. There are 48 Greyhound tracks in 15 states (plus one in Mexico). Greyhound racing is also found in many other countries, including Great Britain, Ireland and Australia.

Greyhound Adoption Program

Can I do anything to help?

By adopting, you already have. But if you would like to do more. . . tell your friends about AZgreyhounds and how they can adopt a retired racing Greyhound. One of the hardest things for us to overcome is the lack of public awareness. So get the word out. We will even give you some of our brochures and cards to hand out if you like. It can be a satisfying experience to know that you have been a part of finding a home for yet another homeless former racer.

As an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, we operate on a very small budget – usually zero. We are totally dependent on donations for everything. Our biggest expenditure is for veterinary care. But it does not end there. Everything costs money: transporting the Greys from Tucson to this area, long distance phone calls, postage, printing, copies, and not to mention food. Even this handbook that you are now reading costs money. In other words, we beg so the dogs do not have to.

There are wonderful people out there without whose support we couldn't do this at all. We are forever grateful to them.

So hold your head up high and be proud when someone stops you while you are out with your Grey and asks you “What kind of dog is that?” or “Is that really one of those Greyhounds?” or “How can I get one?” Then tell them about your exceptional Grey, and let them know how they can contact AZgreyhounds for more information.

In closing

All of us at AZgreyhounds sincerely believe that you will enjoy your new pet. You are now a part of a small but growing number of people who consider themselves fortunate to have a Greyhound in their lives. You will quickly discover how truly unique Greyhounds are.

Please remember the commitment that you made that if you should ever be unable to provide for your Greyhound, you will return him to AZgreyhounds so that we can find him another good home.

We will be contacting you from time to time to see how your Grey and you are getting along, mostly in the first couple of weeks. It is important that we know you are both doing well. It is not that we do not trust you; we just have to make sure there are no little problems that could turn into big problems. Please take a few minutes to speak with us. We promise not to take up but a few minutes of your time, unless you want to tell us

all about the wonders of your new Grey. If we leave a message, please return our call. And of course, if you have any questions, please feel free to call us.

As an adoptive Greyhound owner, not only do you have the best pet there is, you also have become a member of the AZgreyhounds family. We try to send out newsletters a couple times a year to keep you updated on what is new and any upcoming Greyhound events. And we always love pictures of the “kids” for our family album. If you think one Greyhound is fun, why not try two? Or three?

AZgreyhounds Contact Information

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Greyhound Publications

This is by no means a comprehensive list of Greyhound-related publications, but several well-tested and valuable resources that are available:

- CG Magazine is a quarterly publication that costs \$20.00 a year. The Greyhound Project, P.O. Box 358 Marblehead, MA 01945-0358. Their web page is <http://www.adopt-a-Greyhound.org/cgmagazine>.
- Adopting the Racing Greyhound, 2nd Ed. By Cynthia A. Branigan. Suggested price is \$12.95.
- The Reign of the Greyhound. By Cynthia A. Branigan. Suggested price is \$16.49.
- Living with a Greyhound. By Cynthia Branigan. Suggested price is \$10.17.
- Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies. By Lee Livingood. Suggested price is \$10.87
- Greyhound Tales. By Nora Star. Suggested price is \$10.85.

Glossary Greyhound Racing Terms

Across the Board: A win, place and show wager on a particular Greyhound.

Advance wagering: Wagers that are accepted on a race later during a performance or on a future performance

AGC: American Greyhound Council. Inc. a non-profit group jointly supported by American Greyhound Track Operators Association members and National Greyhound Association members, the purpose of which is to provide for the betterment of the welfare of racing Greyhounds and the Greyhound industry.

AGTOA: American Greyhound Track Operators Association, a non-profit corporation comprised of owners and operators of Greyhound racetracks.

Backstretch: A straightaway on the far side of the racetrack.

Bertillon Card: A Greyhound's identification card that lists 56 physical identifying points for every registered racing Greyhound.

Blanket (Race Blanket): A covering for a Greyhound bearing a number and color corresponding to its post position.

Box: The post position the Greyhound will be racing from or the starting box itself. Also describes a wager involving the inclusion of a combination of Greyhounds in a race.

Calls: The position of each Greyhound at specific points around the track during a race.

Career record: A series of five numbers indicating, in order, a Greyhound's total number of starts, followed by first place, second place, third place and fourth-place finishes. Often preceded by an abbreviation showing the track at which the starts were recorded.

Chart: A record of each race showing finish, calls, odds and comments describing each racer's performance.

Daily Double: A wagering term describing the selection of the first place finishers in consecutive designated races.

Dam: The mother of a Greyhound.

Dead heat: An exact tie between two or more Greyhounds in a single race.

Escape turn: The turn or curve at which the mechanical lure disappears after the race is over.

Grading system: Method of assuring Greyhounds compete against racers of similar caliber: grades are assigned according to performance, with the top grade being "A" or "AA".

In the money: A first, second or third-place finish.

Interference: Intentional and unusual physical contact which obstructs or impedes the running of another Greyhound as determined by the judges. After being called for interference, a Greyhound must run in two schooling (non-wagering) races before racing in an official race.

Kennel: A business that cares for and races Greyhounds under contract with one or more tracks.

Leadout: A handler employed by the track whose job includes parading racers in front of the public and placing them in the starting box before a race.

Length: The margin equal to the length of one Greyhound. Used to denote how far ahead or behind each Greyhound is during or after a race. Measuring speed, each length is computed to represent about 7/100ths of a second.

Lure: The mechanical device attached to an arm and electrically driven around the racing oval.

Maiden: Any Greyhound that has not won an official race and is less than 2 years old.

Mutual Handle: The amount of money wagered on a day or evening's races.

Muzzle: A wire, leather or plastic device, with a white tip, which is fitted over the Greyhound's mouth and jaws and used to aid in photo finishes.

NGA: National Greyhound Association made up of Greyhound owners, breeders, trainers and others: recognized as a registry for racing Greyhounds in the United States.

Nose: The slimmest margin of victory.

Paddock: The area of lockout kennels, scales and inspection area.

Pari-Mutual: Means "betting among ourselves." Type of wagering system at Greyhound, thoroughbred, harness and jai alai facilities.

Place: A wagering term describing the Greyhound finishing second in a race.

Post: A Greyhound's post position or starting box number.

Post time: The starting time of the race.

Quiniela: A wagering term describing the two Greyhounds finishing first and second in either order.

Schooling race: An unofficial training or qualifying race with no wagering allowed

Scratch: Withdrawal of a Greyhound from a race.

Show: A wagering term describing the Greyhound finishing third in a race.

Sire: The father of a Greyhound.

Superfecta: A wagering term describing the first four Greyhounds crossing the finish line in exact order.

Takeout: The money taken from the betting pool to be divided among the track, the state and the operators.

Tattoos: An identification number placed inside the right and left ear of a registered racing Greyhound.

Totalisator machine: A computerized system that records amounts wagered, prints tickets for bettors and calculates odds.

Tote board: A board which displays odds and payoffs.

Trifecta: A wagering term describing the first three Greyhounds crossing the finish line in exact order.

Wheel: A wagering term describing the selection of a Greyhound to win, place or show combined with every other Greyhound in the race.

Win: A wagering term describing the first Greyhound across the finish line.

Wire: The finish line for the race