

## CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE APPLYING FOR A RETIRED RACING GREYHOUND

(Please read this list and consider whether you can realistically accommodate. Thank you!)

- Latest figures show that it can cost up to \$2000 per year to own a dog. Are you comfortable with whatever expenses your grey may incur? (Vet visits, monthly wormer/flea treatments, food, etc.)
- Some people think that greyhounds don't shed; they do. If you or a family member has allergies to pet hair, a greyhound might not work for you.
- Note that retired racing greyhounds have spent their entire lives within a huge pack of dogs and have never been "alone" without that company. Your grey will want to be with you all the time, so you cannot leave them in a room by themselves and expect them to be very happy. We recommend a crate in your bedroom for nighttime peace and quiet. If you don't have room for a large crate, talk to us about alternatives for their transition.
- Greyhounds have never been "touched" while eating or sleeping. Feeding in their crate is what they're used to; we suggest you keep doing that, at least temporarily. Also, when sleeping outside of the crate, note that a greyhound might "startle" awake and growl or snap. This does not mean they don't like you; only that you startled them. Accommodate by moving their bed out of the way or making noise when you enter the room so that you are sure they have heard you.
- Do not ever, ever, ever use a retractable leash for your greyhound. There are many stories out there of greys with broken legs after they have lunged free, and the leash got caught. Not only that, but if they lunge or take off, you will not be able to hold the handle; you may be pulled down or lose control of your dog.
- Always use collars specifically designed for sighthounds: Martingale collars. When you get your greyhound, we will provide you with a free leash and collar and help you properly fit them. We also have Martingale harnesses that we recommend if you plan to walk your greyhound in public. Some are startled by bicycles, motorcycles, unpredictable children, etc. A harness gives you another way to control the situation.
- Greyhounds cannot be tied outside alone. If they run to the end of their tie-out, they can have serious neck injuries. Best not to invite disaster.
- Keep your greyhound in the house only; not in a garage or basement. They are people dogs and need to be a full member of your family.
- We require that you keep your greyhound licensed according to your state or municipal regulations. In addition, we provide you with an ID tag that identifies your grey as a Nittany Greyhound and is linked to you by a number. Another ID tag with your info on it is recommended.
- We recommend an Air Tag or other appropriate tracking device, just in case your grey gets away from you. It seldom works to chase them.

--We also recommend a safety clip for the car. These clip into the seat belt clip, then to the leash so that if the dog jumps out the door, they won't be able to run.

--If you are expecting any significant life changes in the next year, please let us know so we can advise you about what would be best for a grey (baby, job change, moving, etc.).

--If you are going to be out of the house for more than 5 hours, note that you will need to accommodate a mid-day turnout or doggie day care or dog-walker.

--If you have inside steps and they are bare or open-backed, please consider covering them. Greyhounds have never had to do stairs, and that can be scary for them. Covering the steps helps them have a better footing. See our YouTube Channel for tips about how to teach your greyhound to do steps safely.

--Don't presume greyhounds can swim. If you have a pool, it needs to be protected. A greyhound may accidentally fall in the pool, not knowing that water is not solid. They can easily drown.