**GETTING** **READY** **FOR YOUR NEW GREYHOUND**

**RECOMMENDED READING:**

Adopting the Racing Greyhound by Cynthia Branagan; Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies by Lee Livingood. For homes with young children we recommend Childproofing Your Dog by Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson.

**NOTE: Check the edition of the book you purchase; some older editions contain outdated information. Please ask us if clarification needed.**

**INTERNET RESOURCE:**

Adopt-a-greyhound.org is a long-trusted source of basic information.

**LEASH AND COLLAR:**

You’ll want to use only a martingale collar and 4-6-ft leash (martingale collar and leash provided as part of our adoption package).

**Regular buckle collars may not be used** as a greyhound’s head and neck are almost exactly the same size. Regular collars slip easily over their heads. *Use of proper leash/collar ensures your greyhound’s safety.*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Before crating your greyhound be sure to remove his/her martingale collar. Greyhounds have been injured/choked to death when their collars have become entangled in their crates.

**ID TAGS:**

Purchase a tag with your dog’s name, your name and address, and telephone number(s). Place this on the ring with the BGA tag. **ALWAYS KEEP BOTH ID TAGS ON YOUR DOG AT ALL TIMES.**

**CRATES:**

We recommend that you purchase a crate. Your greyhound has always lived in one, so it is very familiar and comfortable for him/her. It can be used to make the transition from racer to retirement easier. If unsure about when to use the crate, a general guideline is, if you can’t watch the dog, crate him/her. For the first 2 weeks crate your dog every time you leave the house, especially if you work all day and the dog will be alone (we will discuss length of time in crate with you prior to adoption). This will help your hound become familiar with the family routine. When you feel your greyhound is adjusting, put him/her in the crate and leave the door unlatched. This gives your dog a choice. After a couple of weeks of using the “open door policy,” you may be able to eliminate the crate. (Don’t be surprised if your greyhound wants the crate to remain.)

**FOOD/WATER BOWLS**

You’ll need one bowl for food and at least one bowl for water (large bowls). There are varying thoughts whether greyhounds do better with elevated feeders/water bowls. Please discuss with your adoption reps.

**DOG FOOD:**

The foster family or BGA will provide you with a small amount of “transition food” and discuss how to switch your dog to a food of your choosing. Decide ahead of time what you will be feeding. Your adoption reps will be happy to help with this if you desire.

During the first 1-2 weeks as your dog is transitioning to a new diet, he/she may develop diarrhea. Call your adoption reps for suggestions on how to treat.

**DOG** **BEDS**/**QUILTS**:

You will need to provide something soft for your greyhound to lie on in every room where your dog will be. NOTE: Purchase or use washable items. Thick quilts are a greyt option to start with.

**TOYS**:

Some greyhounds love toys; others don’t care as much. Some advise toys without a squeaker, as that emulates an animal in distress and may bring out higher prey drive. That is a personal choice. Greyhounds who love toys do prefer fleece toys to toss around.

**TREATS**:

Greyhounds love treats just as any breed. BE CAREFUL with any rawhide-type chews. NEVER leave your hound alone with a rawhide or crate him/her with a rawhide. They can easily choke to death.

**PICKUP BAGS** **FOR** **WALKS**:

Greyhound humans are greyt neighbors.

**ENZYMATIC** **CLEANER**:

Nature’s Miracle, Simple Solution, etc.

**DOG** **TOOTHBRUSH**/**TOOTHPASTE**:

Ask adoption reps for suggestions.

**GROOMING** **MITT**:

A rubber glove or a brush filled with “bumps” works best on a greyhound’s coat. Helps reduce shedding.

**NAIL** **TRIMMERS**:

If you are uncomfortable or your hound is a bit wary, your vet’s office can do this for you. Some hounds are not bothered at all, some are more skittish. Keep Styptic on hand if you do it yourself.

**COAT**:

If you have a greyhound you’ll need to have a coat for your dog. BGA has coats available for purchase that are very good for our unpredictable Kentucky weather and can be layered for fluctuating temperatures.

**MUZZLE**:

Provided as part of the adoption package.

**HOUSE** **RULES**:

Review the rules with your children prior to your greyhound coming home. Remind them when the greyhound is sleeping or resting on a bed, eating anything, or in the crate, do not bother the dog. Children should never approach the greyhound, instead wait for the hound to approach the child. In this way the greyhound is letting you and your child know that he/she is comfortable by asking for attention.

**HOUSE** **PREPARATION**:

Remove any fragile knickknacks that could easily be knocked over or broken by a happy and wagging tail.

Clear kitchen counters of any treats that you might leave out to remove any temptation to start “counter surfing.”

Cover your waste container in the kitchen with a secure lid or store it away behind the cabinet door.

Some greyhounds can open cabinet doors and certain types of latch doors. Be on the lookout for this in the event you need to use childproof latches on some doors.

Consider shutting bathroom doors to remove temptation to explore garbage cans. Close lids on commodes.

Remove electrical cords or keep out of sight where your greyhound will be lying to remove temptation. If bored, your dog may start chewing on the cord.

**VETERINARIAN** **APPOINTMENT**:

Set up an appointment with your veterinarian to have a well dog check-up so that your vet can meet your greyhound. This is an opportunity to discuss the special needs of greyhound anesthesia with your veterinarian. Don’t wait until your greyhound becomes ill or an emergency arises for the first introduction. It is very important that you feel comfortable with your vet and that your vet has an understanding and knowledge of the special needs greyhounds have.

Choose a vet who has worked with greyhounds. Do not be afraid to come right out and ask:

* How much experience do you have with greyhounds?
* How many greyhounds do you treat in your practice?
* Are you familiar with the recommended guidelines for using anesthesia with greyhounds?
* Are you familiar with the differences in bloodwork for greyhounds versus other breeds?

**FENCE**/**LATCHES**:

Check your fence for holes or weak spots and repair them before you bring your greyhound home. Purchase clips for all your gates so that your greyhound cannot open them. Always keep your gates latched.

**SLIDING** **GLASS** **DOORS**:

Place static cling decals or large X with masking tape at dog’s eye level on any large windows or sliding glass doors so your greyhound does not run through the glass until he or she learns that this is a hard surface.

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