

# Greyhound Guide

*“For the Love of the Greyhound”*



**HEART OF TEXAS GREYHOUND ADOPTION  
24430 CAMP SITE  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78264**

**(210) 621-0123**

**(210) 509-8224**

# INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on adopting a Greyhound. You may not realize it, but it is really a privilege to own one of these regal dogs.



The Greyhound is an intelligent, adaptable dog. Each has his own distinct personality and ability to adjust well to a new life as a companion. The Greyhound is raised with lots of litter mates and kennel companions to compete with. He now loves being center of attention!

This dramatic change in routine places a strain on the greyhound just as it would anyone. You must allow him time to adjust to his new surroundings. A quiet greyhound may become fretful. A good eater may become reluctant to eat. A perfectly housebroken one may have an accident. Give him time to become settled and do not press the panic button at any odd behavior during the first few days.

You will be surprised how quickly the Greyhound becomes attached to you, and what a difference your presence makes to him.

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# Chapter 1 - Out Of The Box

## Supplies

When you adopt your new Greyhound, you will be provided with a collar and 4 foot leash, your Greyhound's health records and rabies tag, and a Heart of Texas identification tag (which must be kept on your Greyhound at all times). There are also some items that you may want to consider getting. You should purchase these items either before you get your new family member or right after you get your pet. You can purchase these items at your local pet store or from catalog sales.

The items you WILL NEED are as follows:

- NAMETAG - Your name/address/phone is to be on an identification tag, in conjunction with the H.O.T. tag and phone number.
- TWO BOWLS -- One bowl for food and the other one for water. If you find your Greyhound eats so quickly that he chokes (and some do!) you may want to consider using a flat pan. This makes it harder for him to gulp it down as quickly
- A good quality DRY food – The food you chose should have no less than 21% protein and not less than 12% fat content. It is better not to feed a corn-based food. Corn has been known to develop allergies and hot-spots in some Greyhounds. Good meat-based foods, i.e. chicken and rice, lamb and rice, are available at your local pet store.
- Heartworm Preventative -- Heartguard Plus or Interceptor. These also guard against other intestinal parasites. All H.O.T. hounds MUST be kept on heartworm preventative year-round. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The price of heartworm preventative is far less expensive than heartworm treatment.  
HEARTWORMS KILL!
- Hound Grooming Glove or Dog Grooming Brush -- This will pull out your Greyhound's dead hair and reduce shedding.

The following is a list of items you may need or want to buy for your Greyhound:

- Extra-Large or giant crate-- At least 40" long, 27" wide and 30" high (Vari-Kennel 500 or Pet Porter are good choices.) Many hound owners use the crate as a training-aid, as a place to confine their Greyhound when they are out of the house for short periods of time (before they become comfortable with the Greyhound's behavior in their absence), and as a "safe haven" for the Greyhound. Many Greyhounds need this security, as they are used to being crated at the track.
- Dog Bed or Thick Quilt -- Something soft for your Greyhound to lie on.
- Dog Coat - Since Greyhounds have less than 5% body fat they may need a coat for winter. H.O.T. has handmade coats available for purchase. Not all Greyhounds need one, but it will come in very handy if you plan to walk your Greyhound often.
- Toys - Fleece chewmen, large stuffed squeaky toys and compressed rawhide bones are popular with Greyhounds. You will have a great deal of fun taking your Greyhound shopping to pick out a favorite. Your local thrift store is an excellent place to find "stuffies" for your Greyhound. Just make sure that the stuffing is fiberfill and not beads. Remove all removable eyes and launder first.
- Dog Biscuits

- Bones - All dogs, including Greyhounds have a need to chew. It satisfies a natural desire in them and helps relieve tension and anxiety. Dogs can become rather possessive over bones, so if you have more than one dog, watch that they do not start a fight over one. Raw knucklebones from the butcher are good. Chewing them will help remove tartar from the teeth. Gums may bleed for the first few times, but this will soon stop.  
NO pork bones (sharp)  
NO small bones from steaks (can lodge in the throat)  
NO small, round bones  
NO chicken or turkey bones (break into sharp fragments)
- Rawhides -- Make sure they are American beefhide, 9"-10" bone or larger, and processed without lime, bleach or arsenic which can make your dog sick. Please never leave your dog unattended with a rawhide as they could choke on a piece. We recommend the compressed rawhide bones.
- Cow Hooves - These are safer than rawhide and satisfy the chewing urge for some greyhounds. Make sure to replace these when they get small or your Greyhound may swallow it and choke. If your Greyhound is a hardy chewer, the hooves make break into tiny pieces - supervision is recommended.
- Pooper-Scooper or Plastic Bags - Use to pick up after your pet on your walks or in the yard. THIS IS THE LAW.
- Some Type of Enzyme Cleaning Solution – for cleaning up those “accident” spots or odors.

## Introducing Your Greyhound To Other Pets



Your Greyhound should get along well with other medium to large size dogs as he has had lots of socialization in the kennels. If you have cats, the Greyhound that H.O.T. recommended for you has been cat tested. Although your Greyhound may have been found to be compatible with small animals at his foster home, we recommend constant supervision initially as the reaction of your Greyhound to your small animal may evoke the a different response. We HIGHLY recommend that you follow the accompanying directions when introducing your Greyhound to your current pets.

- Muzzle - Please use the muzzle we have provided if you have small dogs and/or cats. Muzzling the Greyhound is NOT cruel. They have been wearing a muzzle for

as long as they have been wearing a collar. It is more cruel to your Greyhound to give him the opportunity to make a dreadful mistake such as grabbing or hurting a companion cat or dog causing the owner to get angry at the Greyhound. The Greyhound simply does not know better. Until you teach him to behave properly around the small animals, keep the muzzle on. The muzzle is a good training tool for those Greyhounds who may have a slight chewing problem.

- Dogs - Introduce your Greyhound to your other dog(s) on neutral territory. With leashes on, have them meet on the sidewalk or down the block from your home. Let them greet each other and then take them for a walk together. When you arrive back home, walk them around your property (leashes still on) and then bring them into the house.

- Cats - Introduce your Greyhound to your cat indoors with the Greyhound muzzled and leashed. *Hold the leash in your hand.* Leave the cat on the floor. Do not force your Greyhound to the cat and likewise for the cat.
- Birds - Do not allow your bird to fly loose in the house while your Greyhound is inside. Make certain your birdcage is secure. If your Greyhound should knock the cage over, you want to make sure he can not get it open.

Look for the following signs of possible aggression:

- Teeth clicking or snapping.
- Ears alert -- although by itself this merely could indicate curiosity.
- Fixed gaze or stare -- which cannot be broken even when you run your hand in front of the Greyhound's eyes.
- Trembling and/or lurching.

A Greyhound that accepts a cat indoors may not apply the same rules of behavior outdoors. Be very careful if you allow cat and Greyhound outside at the same time. Greyhounds are sight hounds and outside their instincts may take over. Greyhounds being the fastest breed of dog are fast enough to catch a cat. The cat may not even know the dog is after it until it is too late, as Greyhounds do not bark even while chasing. Always keep in mind that though your Greyhound may totally accept your cat, his acceptance may not apply to your neighbor's cat. The safety of your neighbor's cat or a stray passing through could be in jeopardy!

- Separation – H.O.T. recommends that your Greyhound and smaller members of your pet family be separated whenever they are not being supervised. Keep the dogs and/or cats separated when you are not at home or cannot supervise their interaction. Watch them carefully when they are interacting.
- No Chase - Never let your Greyhound chase any of your small animals, even in play. Play can turn to hunt in a flash and no cat or small dog is fast enough to get out of the way of a determined Greyhound.
- Feeding - Feed your cats/dogs in separate areas. You can feed your Greyhound in his/her crate. Always reinforce the pecking order in your house at feeding. The top animal or "alpha" should always be fed, or given treats, first. Then the second and so on  
...
- Cat Food and Litter Boxes - Greyhounds find cat food irresistible. Find a high place to keep the cat's food. Greyhounds also love the little snack logs they find in the litter box. This is a very nasty habit. Invest in a hooded cat box such as the Booda Box. You can even turn it toward a corner to give the cat more peace.

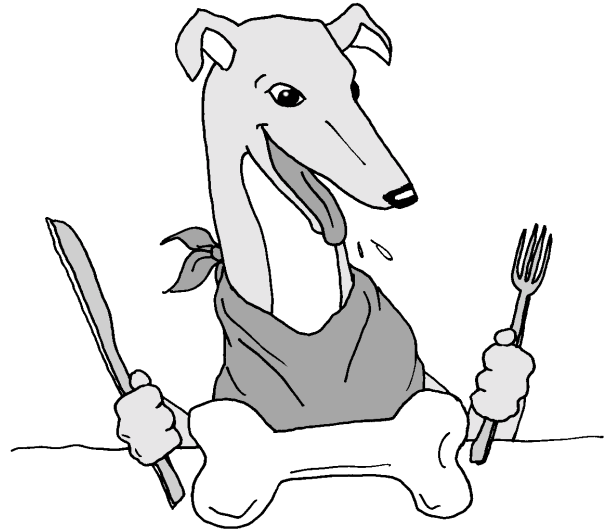
If you have any questions or are not sure if you are reading the warning signs correctly, please call H.O.T. immediately, and we will be happy to help work you and your Greyhound through this transition.

## **Feeding Your Greyhound**

When choosing a dog food, avoid any food that is red in color, has any parts to it that are the soft or moist type, any type that makes a gravy, and any food over 21% protein or 12% fat. There is a certain chemical in the red dye that greyhounds do not tolerate well. They get itchy skin, lack stool formation or have some behavior problems such as difficulty in being house broken or being too active. The amounts of salts, sugars, and chemical preservatives in the dog foods that are soft, moist or chewy would startle you. Aging Greyhounds cannot tolerate the unnecessary additives. This same reason applies to the gravy foods as well.

Greyhounds tend to bolt down their food. They take mouthfuls and swallow without chewing. If you are using a large chunk dog food your Greyhound may very well choke or vomit after eating. One way to combat this is to elevate the food dish. We recommend covering the dry kibble with water as it helps ease the food down your Greyhound's throat.

In retirement, your Greyhound does not need the ultra high protein foods. In fact, this has been found to be a source of problems, not only with Greyhounds but also with most breeds of dogs. The high protein/high fat dog foods are also high in calories. Calories provide energy and for the average pet who just lies around most of the day, these calories serve no useful purpose except to make him overweight or give him more energy than he has proper outlets to expend. Thus the dog expends his energy in unacceptable ways such as chewing, being too excitable or not being housebroken. With age, the excessive protein can also be hard on the Greyhound's kidneys. If you are having any of these types of problems, check the ingredient list on the dog food and consider changing it to something lower in protein and fat. The following are the guides for feeding:



- Strenuous Exercise -- There should be no strenuous exercise, 1 hour before and 1 hour after a meal. Strenuous exercise can induce bloat.
- Type of Food - Use a high quality dry dog food. You can add 1/2 cup cooked vegetables and a cooked egg once in a while. Buttermilk, cottage cheese or yogurt once a week will help keep the gut healthy. Vitamins, garlic, brewer's yeast, cod liver oil, Lipaderm or DermCaps will ensure a healthy dog with a nice shiny coat. Most Greyhounds have gas. If your Greyhound has more than you think is normal, try switching to a different food. Lamb and Rice formulas work very well.
- Feeding Balance - You may feed once or twice a day. If you choose to feed all of the food in the evening, you may want to give your Greyhound a couple of biscuits in the morning.
- Weight Feeding Guide -- Each brand and type of dog food has recommended feeding guides. Please read the bag of the type you chose and feed the amount recommended for the weight of your Greyhound. Usually 3 to 5 cups daily is sufficient.
- Gain Weight -- If your dog needs to gain weight, increase the amount of food by a quarter of a cup per feeding and observe for 2 to 3 weeks. The desired weight gain should take place.
- Lose Weight -- If your dog needs to lose weight, decrease the amount of food by a quarter of a cup per feeding and observe for 2 to 3 weeks until the dog reaches "fit" weight. Remember "Do not change the type of food just the amount."
- Table Scraps -- Never, but never feed the Greyhound off the table while you are eating. They will soon take your place in the chair. If you would like to feed table scraps, H.O.T. recommends reserving table scraps and putting them on the Greyhound's food. Only a small amount should be used at each feeding.
- Oil -- Greyhounds get dandruff easily. A tablespoon of corn or canola oil on their food at each meal will aid in keeping their skin moist and less flaky. However, sometimes this gives Greyhound excessive gas or diarrhea, so watch for this as well.

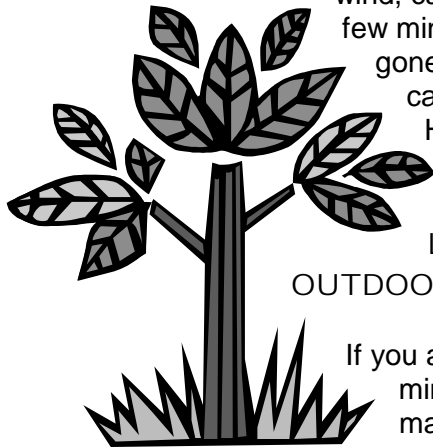
- Treats - Limit the number of doggie treats per day. Dogs like to get treats. They do not care how big or small the treat.
- Fresh Water -- Fresh water should be available at feeding times. Do not let your Greyhound drink excessively after eating. Drinking too much water too quickly can cause bloat. And remember - "What goes in must come out"!

If your highly refined Greyhound tends to engage in the practice of stool eating, your best solution of course is to keep the area clean. Also try moistening their normal feed with pineapple juice a couple of times each week. Canned green beans added to the food also work. You may have to also try a product called FORBID available at pet stores.

You should always be able to see a bit of rib (1 to 3) on a Greyhound. Also, there should be an area that indents between the ribs and tail. A Greyhound should never look like a sausage! Allowing your Greyhound to gain too much weight can create health problems. Their bone structure cannot support extra pounds. The more excess baggage a dog has to carry around, the less it wants to move and the chunkier it becomes.

## Your Greyhound and The Outdoors

Greyhounds, because they are sight hounds, can see far away up to a quarter-mile or more. The sight of a small animal (rabbit, squirrel, chipmunk, etc.), paper bag or leaves blowing in the wind, can send your Greyhound into a full run at 45 miles per hour. In a few minutes they can be a few miles away and not realize they are even gone. Also, unexpected noises, such as firecrackers, motorcycles, loud cars or trucks can also startle and panic the unleashed Greyhound. He may take off and become lost and/or get killed by a car.



The rule is "GREYHOUNDS SHOULD ALWAYS BE ON A LEASH OR IN A COMPLETELY FENCED AREA WHEN OUTDOORS!" THIS IS A CITY LAW.

If you are fencing your yard for your Greyhound, the fence should be a minimum of 4 feet. Greyhounds are not jumpers, but the exception may require a taller fence.

Take care in the beginning not to overdo extended jogging or walking on concrete until your Greyhound's muscles and pads become used to it. The Greyhound is a sprinter not an endurance runner, and in both cases the muscle involvement is different.

- NEVER leave your Greyhound (or any dog) unattended in a fenced yard unless you are home to keep an eye on him. Many are stolen, mistreated and/or sold to research labs.
- Greyhounds are HOUSEDOGS and should never be left out in hot or cold temperatures. Their short coat, lack of body fat and thin skin can cause them to overheat in summer and become chilled in winter. Greyhounds are very susceptible to heatstroke in the summer. We advise that you make or buy a heavy lined coat to use when the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- NEVER put a Greyhound on an overhead run or tie them out to a stake or a tree as they can take off running at 45 mph from a dead stop. A broken neck, leg or possibly death can result.
- If your Greyhound becomes overheated in the summer, do not allow too much water at one time. Give small amounts and add Gatorade mixed one to one with the water.

- Do not chase your Greyhound if he gets off the lead and will not come to you. Stop, bend down, call his name, and clap your hands. If he does not respond, turn and walk away still calling his name. Break into a slow run and he should respond. Make every effort to get him to come to you and do not reprimand him when he does. Running is a big game for him, and if he can get you to chase him this is even more fun!
- In retirement the Greyhound needs no more exercise than any other breed of dog. If you love to see him run, please do so in a fenced in area; but please do not overdo. Running during the adjustment period helps relieve stress. Long walks or jogging work just as well.
- Remember to gradually work your Greyhound up to distance running. They are only accustomed to running about 1/4 mile at a time.
- When you walk your Greyhound use the nylon safety collar and 4-foot leash you received from us.
- Some Greyhounds are not accustomed to doing their business on a lead and it may take a while for them to become used to this new system.

## Chapter 2 - The Straight-away

### The Adjustment Period

It is now time for you to go to work and turn this bewildered racer into a content and loving house pet. The adjustment period can last from a matter of day to a matter of a month or so, depending on the Greyhound. Sometimes they will be fretful, pant, whine, and pace. They may refuse to eat and drink. Be patient and kind. This will pass.



Full Length Mirrors: Greyhounds have been known to stare at themselves for long periods of time. The television is also interesting.

Glass Doors: "Ouch, my nose" is not uncommon. Show him the door. Gently press his nose against it. Pat it with your hand so he can see that it is solid. Decals or masking tape in an **X** can help make the glass visible.

Trash: Keep all trash under the counter with the cabinet door closed or in a very tightly covered container. Greyhounds are very clever at opening things when they want what is inside them.

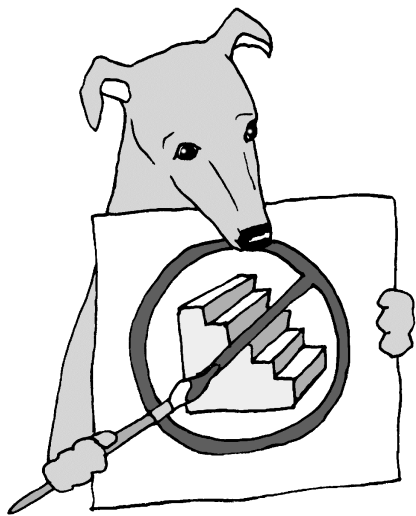
Window Blinds and Draperies: Always raise your blinds up or open the drapes so that your Greyhound can look out the window. When you leave him alone he will want to look for you out the window. If he cannot see out the window, then he will tear down the blinds or drapes so he can!

**NEVER CLOSE YOUR GREYHOUND IN A ROOM WITH THE DOOR CLOSED.** When you come home, you may find a hole in the wall or carpet scratched beyond repair. Use a baby gate if you plan to keep your Greyhound confined to one room while you are not home.

### Stairs

Teaching your Greyhound how to walk up and down stairs is really pretty easy. Remember that this is new to your dog and you have to be patient and persistent. Do not *force* your Greyhound up or down the stairs by dragging him by the collar. If pushed into doing the stairs, he may

become so frightened that he tries to jump all the way down and might break a leg. Encourage but do not coddle. Greyhounds can read our facial expressions so remain calm and smile them through this.



not slip on the steps.

- If your stairs are the open-backed type or very steep, please allow your Greyhound a little extra time to learn these.

- Let your Greyhound lean against your leg. Start at the bottom stair and grip the Greyhound's collar. You may need to put the Greyhound's front legs on the step.
- Start your walk up the steps still holding the collar. You can encourage your Greyhound by saying, "come on let's go up". If your Greyhound does not respond get behind and put the rear legs on a step. Slowly alternate the front and rear legs up the stairs.
- You are now at the top. Praise your Greyhound in a high pitch voice and let him relax for a few minutes.
- Grip the collar again and start down the same way.
- Praise again when you reach the bottom.
- Go through this up and down sequence at least one more time.
- If your stairs are not carpeted make sure your Greyhound's nails are as short as possible so they do

If you find that your Greyhound is not voluntarily following you up and down, repeat this exercise each day for the next few days. Within a short period of time your Greyhound will fly up and down the stairs.

## Housebreaking

Housebreaking is extremely important and can be very easy. The following is our attempt to explain housebreaking a few different ways, utilizing the same basic principles, to obtain the desired results. Do not hit your dog or try to put his nose in the accident, as your dog will respond more quickly and more positively to patience and kindness.

Greyhounds are routine-oriented and like to go out first thing in the morning, immediately after eating, in the afternoon, and before bedtime at night. Most are kennel-broken and will normally let you know when they want to go outside. If you get your Greyhound at the beginning of a weekend or vacation week, you should start by taking your Greyhound out every 2 - 4 hours. They normally can go 4 - 6 hours without a turn out if you are not at home. Let your pet out frequently during the first few days either on a leash or in a fenced area only. After the acclimation phase, your Greyhound should be able to go 8 - 10 hours without going out, but NEVER make him wait more than 10 hours. Also, when your Greyhound is home alone for extended periods of time, it may be a good idea to keep him confined to his crate or an area in your home that IF an accident occurs, it will do no damage to your flooring.

We stress very strongly that prevention is the best solution to any housebreaking problem. For the first few days it is a very good idea to walk or let your greyhound outside in a fenced yard more frequently than you ordinarily would, as often as every couple of hours.

- Punishment - Don't punish for accidents. A simple NO in a low-pitched voice is all that is needed. Make sure to clean the soiled area with a good enzyme product.

- Schedule - Keep to a regular feeding and walking schedule (even on the weekends). Through his schedule, the Greyhound will learn when his “potty times” are.

## Crate Training

The use of a crate gives your Greyhound a clear sense of where his special place is in the new home. It helps eliminate any temptation such as investigating the garbage when you are away, or strewing the dirty clothes in the middle of the living room, just to remind themselves of you while you are gone. Crating a dog is NOT cruel or unusual punishment.

With most of the Greyhounds we place in homes, the crate system works out for the best. Racing Greyhounds spend a good portion of their lives in their own kennel crate. Some Greyhounds do not particularly like their crate. Time and patience will be necessary during this time, as they may bark and whine. Use of a crate does not have to be a permanent thing. It can be used for the transition phase and if no longer needed after that, if you choose to keep it, leave the door open so that your Greyhound may use it as a place to go for some quiet time.

A crate is a good training tool. If your Greyhound does something which isn't acceptable behavior, putting him in his crate for a brief period with an explanation of what he did that wasn't acceptable can help curb the undesirable behavior.

AGAIN, never put your Greyhound in a closed room. We have known people who have tried to just isolate their Greyhound in a room behind a closed door. Greyhounds are very powerful and have been known to scratch through doors, scratch holes in walls, scratch holes through carpet, tear down blinds and drapes, shred everything in sight, etc. So basically the crate is your best method of preventing problems when you are away.

Older Greyhounds typically require the use of a crate for a lot less time than a younger one. Some Greyhounds will need the use of a crate permanently just to keep them out of trouble. Curiosity can kill a Greyhound and destroy a home.

Crate training is the most effective way to housebreak your Greyhound. Greyhounds are raised in crates and are very comfortable with them. The basic principle is that Greyhounds are very clean animals and *most* will not eliminate where they sleep. Therefore, if a Greyhound is in the crate it will not eliminate in either the crate or the house. The following are the basics of crate training:

- Crate Size - The appropriate size for most Greyhounds is at least 40" long, 27" wide and 30" high (Vari-Kennel 500 or Pet Porter).
- Location - Place your crate in a room that is familiar to your Greyhound. A remote location such as the basement or a room that is far away from family activity can make your Greyhound feel as if it has been abandoned.
- Rule - If you cannot watch your dog crate it. Do be alert and do not let your Greyhound out of your sight until you are confident he is housebroken.

The following two sections will take you through the fundamentals of housebreaking using a crate.

## Greyhounds Like Routine

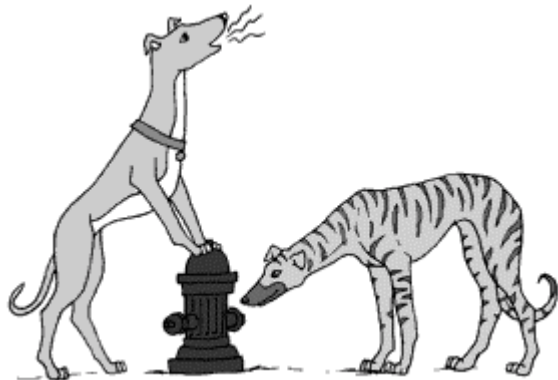
- Feed at set times and walk your Greyhound at set times. Initially, do not vary your schedule, even on the weekends. At a minimum, your Greyhound should be walked first

thing in the morning, first thing when you arrive home, last thing before you go to bed and immediately after eating.

- Feed the same food all the time. Do not vary the diet; do not feed an overabundance of between meal snacks (limit it to 2 small treats a day).
- Watch your Greyhound's stool. If it is too loose, cut back on the amount of food by ¼ cup per feeding until it becomes firm. You can also try adding cooked rice to the food.
- Take your Greyhound out on a regular schedule. Walk in a small area where you want your Greyhound to go to the bathroom. All dogs like to relieve themselves in familiar surroundings. Limit bathroom walks to 10 - 15 minutes so your Greyhound can understand what you expect of him. Save the long walks for recreation time. After your Greyhound goes "potty" - PRAISE!
- If your Greyhound does not relieve himself outside, confine it to its crate for another 30 minutes and then take him back outside. If your Greyhound still does not relieve himself then confine again for another 30 minutes. Remember to limit your bathroom walks to 10 - 15 minutes.
- Once your Greyhound does urinate and defecate outside, you can give him some freedom in the house. Keep an eye on him until you are confident that your Greyhound is completely housebroken. Do not let your Greyhound out of your sight. If you cannot watch your Greyhound, crate it, until you are sure he is completely "potty trained".
- If you catch your Greyhound in the act of an accident, loudly say "NO!" or "STOP!" - clip on his leash and take him immediately outside to his toilet area. When your Greyhound finishes: PRAISE!
- Clean the accident area with an effective cleanser to remove the scent of urine or stool from the carpet or floor. We recommend any good enzyme cleaning solution.
- If you are having trouble house training your Greyhound, make sure that he is not sick. Worms or urinary tract infections are easily cured but can interfere with housebreaking!

## Greyhound Body Language For "I Need To Go Outside"

Greyhounds usually tell you when they have to go outside. Sometimes we are not able to recognize the signs. Some of the signs are as follows:



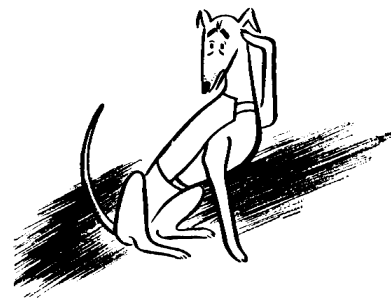
- Pacing
- Walking in circles
- Walking to the door and looking back at you
- Standing by the door
- Listlessness
- Barking

When your dog indicates a need to go outside, **Respond Immediately**; do not wait for the next television commercial.

## Still Not Housebroken?

Having trouble with accidents in the house? Review this checklist carefully and see if there is something you are not doing. Call us if you need more information or advice.

1. Are you keeping your pet confined when not at home and within your sight when you are at home?
2. Are you limiting the "bathroom" walks to 10 - 15 minutes?
3. Are you walking after meals and at the appropriate times?
4. Are you feeding your Greyhound at the same time every day, measuring his/her food with a measuring cup to ensure accuracy, not overfeeding, keeping snacks to a minimum, and not giving table scraps?
5. Is everyone in the family cooperating with the housebreaking effort?
6. Are you adding to your Greyhound's confusion by punishing him?
7. Are you certain your Greyhound is not sick and needs to be examined by a veterinarian? (Worms or urinary tract infections are easily cured but can interfere with housebreaking.)
8. Are you removing the scent of your Greyhound's urine and/or stool from the affected area?
9. If you have a fenced yard, are you going outside with your Greyhound so that you know whether or not he has relieved himself?
10. Are you praising your Greyhound when it eliminates outside?



## Separation Anxiety

Depending on the foster situation your Greyhound just moved from, this might be the first time that he has been away from his Greyhound friends. This can produce a condition termed *Separation Anxiety*. Some of the signs your Greyhound will exhibit are: constant panting, pacing, restlessness, crying, loss of appetite, housebreaking problems and barking in his crate. In most cases, these symptoms disappear within a couple of days as your Greyhound begins accepting you and the family as his new pack.

We have seen cases where a Greyhound continued having problems with separation anxiety. These Greyhounds have for whatever reason needed another Greyhound in the home.

Sometimes Greyhounds become so attached to *their people* that they become anxious when left alone. This is usually evident by household destruction or inappropriate elimination. The crate can really help prevent these problems. Although, we have had Greyhounds try to destroy their crate trying to get out. Muzzles worn inside the crate can help with this problem.

Hopefully, you will not experience any of these separation anxiety problems with your new Greyhound. But be aware that it does happen. Be patient with your Greyhound, he can not help being distressed in your absence. Be consistent with your routine, this helps the Greyhound adjust easier. Praise your Greyhound. Positive reinforcement gives your Greyhound the confidence to tolerate longer periods alone. NEVER punish your Greyhound as this makes him even more anxious because he does not connect the punishment with the undesirable behavior. When your Greyhound is alone in your home, leave on a radio or T.V. for "company."



## Your Greyhound and Children

Greyhounds are one of the best breeds at coexisting with children. Gentle, affectionate and even-tempered, the

Greyhound is great with kids. However, even the docile Greyhound has its limits. Children who have not been taught how to handle pets or who are simply not old enough to understand, have been known to pull tails, bite ears, poke eyes and sit upon the back of a Greyhound. Two things can happen if a child mistreats a dog. The dog may at some point become fed up and defend itself, or the dog will become afraid of the child. The Greyhound is no exception. Prevention is best. Please teach your children how to treat this gentle, loving creature and protect your Greyhound from overbearing children. Above all else, **NEVER LEAVE A CHILD AND ANY DOG TOGETHER UNATTENDED.** *Anything is possible at anytime with any dog!*

Most Greyhounds have never been around children and therefore have no reason to dislike them. The more appropriate question is: "Does your child/children know how to behave with animals?"

The following are some simple rules to ensure a happy relationship:

- **LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE** - Do not jump on or even pet a sleeping Greyhound. Some Greyhounds sleep with their eyes open. When a sleeping Greyhound is startled, it may growl or come up with teeth before it is fully awake and realizes that the culprit is its best friend. If you must wake your sleeping Greyhound, call its name and have it walk to you.
- **Privacy and Quiet** -- All dogs are entitled to privacy and quiet when they eat and sleep. Children must be instructed to not bother your Greyhound during its "quiet" times. This has to be consistently enforced.
- **Food** - Do not let your child take away your Greyhound's food or interfere with its mealtime in any way. You may want to feed your Greyhound in its crate to avoid a problem.
- **Bones** - Do not let your child take a bone away from your Greyhound. If the children do not understand the idea that this bone is strictly your Greyhound's and not a toy to be taken away, then do not let your Greyhound have a rawhide or any type of bone while the children are around.
- **Hanging On** - Do not let the child hang on the dog's neck or climb on its back. Greyhounds can be injured or feel threatened.
- **Door Boltting** - Make sure you have a hold of your Greyhound by the collar before any door is opened to let your child's friends in/out of your house.
- **Open Doors and Gates** - Be extremely cautious about leaving doors and gates open (this goes for car doors also). Greyhounds move so quickly that they will be out the door and down the street in a blink of the eye. Teach your children and their friends about the importance of keeping doors and gates closed at all times.
- **Kindness** - A child old enough to have any dog is old enough to treat it with kindness.
- **Crate** - Do not let your children crawl into the Greyhound's crate. Privacy is important. Initially, we recommend that you utilize the crate when your children are actively playing. It is also a good idea to use the crate when children have friends over to play. This way your new Greyhound has a chance to experience and become used to children while in the safety and security of his/her crate. You will find the crate to be invaluable to keep your Greyhound and children separated when you cannot be there to supervise their interaction. Just as you would never leave a toddler or infant alone unsupervised, children of any age and any dog should never be left alone unsupervised.
- **Movement** – Greyhounds do not understand the meaning of a child or children rushing, crawling, running up to it or trying kiss or hug it, when it is lying down (even if it is awake!). A Greyhound may choose to get up and walk away, do nothing, growl, or it

may even snap or bite. Greyhounds sometimes sleep with their eyes open so it is very difficult to tell if one is asleep or awake.

Greyhounds often steal children's stuffed toys. This is a compliment to the child, as the Greyhound wants to have something with them that smell like the child. Sometimes the Greyhound will take other toys such as plastic ones that seem to be irresistible to chew. Use a sharp verbal reprimand to teach the Greyhound what is not appropriate chewing material.

Parents who feel their children are too young to be taught how to treat an animal properly should wait until the children are older before they bring a pet into their home.

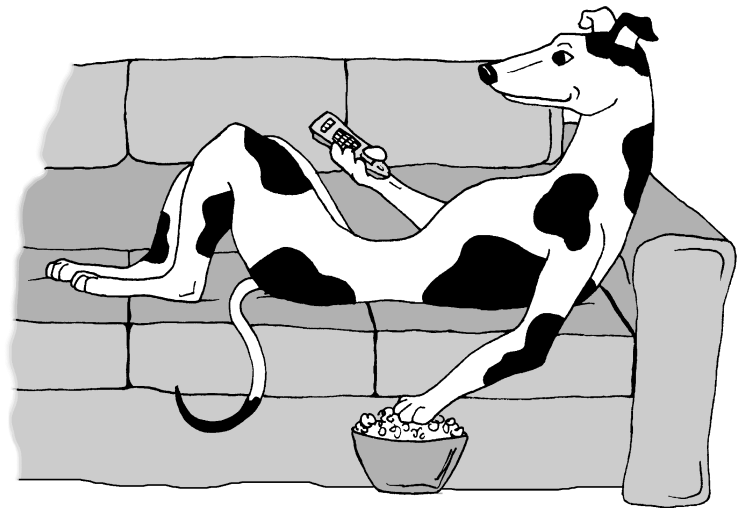
The above suggestions apply to all dog/people relationships regardless of age.

## Houndproof Your Home

Greyhounds love soft things; stuffed toys, shag rugs, rolls of toilet paper, paper towels and especially the nice soft sofa or bed -- they are the greatest! A good rule: If you do not want your Greyhound on the bed or furniture, do not ever allow it. Allow him his own chair, couch, bed or rug. Do not shut your Greyhound away from you at night. Allow him his own place beside your bed. He wants to be near you, even better, in the bed with you!

Greyhounds can reach high places, such as your kitchen counter, with very little effort. Be sure to place breakables or potentially harmful items out of the reach of your Greyhound, including your dinner! Remember your Greyhound is a *dog* and some things are just too tempting even for him. Never leave breakable items, food or potentially poisonous items on low tables or counters when your Greyhound is unattended.

Greyhounds are also known to be interior decorators. They will move pillows, stuffed animals, and the like, from one place to another. They may even take books off your shelves. Greyhounds also like to rearrange their own beds (we call this nesting). Expect them to turn around from between 3 and 50 times in the process of getting comfortable to lie down! If you do not want your Greyhound on your couch or bed, let him know that immediately. Gently tell your Greyhound "NO", clip on their leash and remove them from the furniture. Take him to his own resting area.



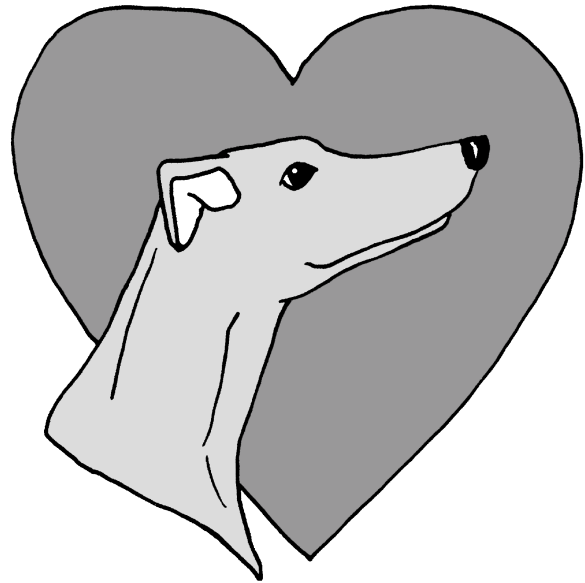
## Veterinary Care

Heart of Texas Greyhound Adoption has had your Greyhound neutered/spayed, teeth cleaned and provided its initial one-year inoculations for rabies and distemper. Your Greyhound has also been fecal tested and, if needed, wormed, heartworm tested and given its first monthly heartworm preventive. You have been given the veterinarian records for your Greyhound, or they will be mailed to you shortly. Your veterinarian may need to call the H.O.T. veterinarian to verify the heartworm test was negative even after presenting your Greyhound's verification of a negative heartworm test.

One thing you MAY notice when you get your Greyhound home, is tapeworms. Tapeworms look like rice in your Greyhound's stool. Tapeworms are hard to detect in a stool sample, unless they happen to be cycling at the particular time the sample is taken and read. In Texas, the chances of a retired racer having tapeworms is close to 100%, so H.O.T. has done an initial treatment on your Greyhound. If after a week or so, you still notice active tapeworms in your Greyhounds stool, an additional treatment will have to be given by your family veterinarian.

At your annual veterinarian visit, in addition to a routine checkup, your Greyhound should receive:

- Rabies Vaccine - A rabies shot will need to be given every year. It is mandatory in Texas that all dogs are given yearly rabies shot and licensed.
- Distemper - A combination shot for distemper and other viral diseases.
- Heartworm - Your vet will test your Greyhound annually and, if negative, will allow you to purchase another year's supply of heartworm preventative.



A couple of things, you and your veterinarian may notice about your Greyhound:

- Scars - These are common with Greyhounds as they have thin skin and may have banged into another Greyhound on the track, or scratched themselves on a fence, etc. In time, your Greyhound's hair will grow and cover most scars.
- Bald Spots - This is not a skin problem. Due to the Greyhound being kept in a crate, the hind-end hair may be rubbed away. This is called "crate rub." This hair may or may not grow back. However, rubbing vitamin E on the bald area sometimes simulates hair growth.

The following are areas of caution for Greyhounds:

- Bloat - All large chest cavity dogs are susceptible to bloat. Simply, bloat is a rapid build up of gas in the stomach/chest area. The stomach/chest area twists and significantly reduces the air intake. If this occurs your Greyhound will lie down and gasp for air. He may also pace continuously. If this should occur, you have approximately thirty (30) minutes to get him veterinary care. Bloat can be avoided by not allowing strenuous exercise before and after eating and not allowing your Greyhound to gulp water excessively. Elevating the feeding dish also aids in avoiding bloat.
- Anesthesia Sensitivity - If your Greyhound needs surgery in the future please note that Greyhounds are very sensitive to anesthesia. Certain types of anesthesia and ways of administration can kill your Greyhound. Please discuss the special anesthesia needs with your vet and feel comfortable with how he/she addresses these issues or change vets. Encourage your vet to consult with a greyhound-friendly vet if they need additional information. H.O.T. will be happy to recommend one of our vets - call us for a name!

- Ticks – Tick diseases are becoming more common in all dogs. If your Greyhound experiences any of the following, and all other causes have been eliminated, tick disease could be the problem.
  - High fever
  - Depression or lethargy
  - Anorexia
  - Anemia
  - Diarrhea or constipation
  - Loss of appetite or loss of body weight
  - Vomiting
  - Nose bleeds, skin hemorrhage or any other unusual bleeding
  - Swollen legs or lymph nodes
  - Nervous system disorders, such as stiff gait, head tilt, seizures or twitching
  - Pale gums and/or inner eye membranes
  - Arthritis

There are four tick borne diseases that can be the cause of these symptoms. They are Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Babesiosis or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The only way to confirm if your Greyhound may have a tick borne disease is through a blood test. We recommend that your veterinarian draw at least 3 cc of blood in a syringe, place in a separate tube, spin it down and keep it refrigerated until mailing. Then mail it to the following lab for a full tick panel testing.

Dr. Cynthia J. Holland  
 ProtaTek Reference Laboratory  
 574 East Alamo Street, Suite 90  
 Chandler, AZ 85225  
 (602) 545-8499

- Diarrhea - Diarrhea can happen with any dog. Some of the common causes of diarrhea are diet change, table scraps, cat food, stress, grass and garbage picking. All of these are controllable and care should be taken to avoid them in the future. The following is a simple schedule to combat diarrhea:
  - 1) Withhold food for 12 hours and limit the water intake.
  - 2) Give your dog either **Immodium** or **Pepto Bismol** at the child dosage once.
  - 3) Boil and shred boneless, skinless chicken or **drain** the fat from cooked ground hamburger.
  - 4) Cook white rice.
  - 5) After everything has cooled make a mixture of 1 cup of rice to 1/2 a cup of meat for each feeding (twice a day). The mixture should be served at room temperature. The amount of food can be increased if the diarrhea stops.
  - 6) Once the dog has had three consecutive days of firm stool you can begin to introduce their regular food into the mixture. The introduction should be gradual (Typically do not increase by more than 1/2 cup of regular food.)

Note: If the diarrhea does not slow down, or does not stop after three days, or you see blood in the stool, contact your veterinarian!

# Chapter 3 - Taking The Turns

## Insecticides And Other Toxins

Greyhounds, because of their low body fat and fast metabolism, are especially sensitive to insecticides and other substances. The substances to watch out for are:

- Flea & Tick Products -- **"DO NOT USE FLEA COLLARS."** Flea collars contain chemicals that go directly into a Greyhound's blood stream and can cause serious health problems and possibly death.

Flea & Tick shampoos and sprays that are safe are those with PYRETHRINS as the main ingredient but *Flea Dip* your Greyhound only if necessary. Usually a bath with a flea shampoo is sufficient. You can also try one of the citrus-based products. DO NOT use any flea/tick products that contain organophosphates. Carbaryl is an example of an organophosphate commonly found in flea powder, some shampoos and sprays. The long acting flea & tick products (for example- DEFEND, DURSBAN) may be unsafe for Greyhounds as well. Seek the advice of H.O.T. on a particular product if you have any doubt of its safety.

Cedar is a natural flea repellent and can be used in bedding. However, some Greyhounds are allergic to cedar, so watch for any skin reactions if you choose to use cedar bedding. Diatomaceous earth (found in health food stores) can be dusted onto rugs, furniture, bedding, etc. It is harmless to pets and people and kills fleas. Borax is also good for this purpose. Care should be taken not to get any of these products in the dog's eyes. The Siphotrol Plus Fogger is also good.

- Lawn Chemicals - Can be fatal to Greyhounds. Do not allow your Greyhound to walk on any chemically treated areas while the grass is still wet. Lawn services such as Chemlawn, Lawn Doctor, etc. are required to mark treated areas with yellow flags.
- Chocolate - Chocolate contains theobromine, a substance that is toxic to dogs. Chocolate should be kept out of reach at all times. Special attention needs to be taken during holidays.
- Paints - Exposure to oil base paints can cause a variety of reactions in your dog. If you are painting your home it is best to arrange to safely have your Greyhound elsewhere. If this is not possible, your Greyhound should be put in a safe and well-ventilated area of the house away from the fumes.
- Household Chemicals - Many harsh detergents and chemicals are used in connection with house cleaning and home remodeling. For example, if you use the continuous cleaning type of toilet chemicals like Tidy-E Bowl, make sure the toilet seat is kept down.

## Little Things -- Big Problems

Sometimes the little things in everyday life can lead to big problems for your Greyhound. The following is a list of some things to BEWARE of:

- Barbed Wire Fences - Greyhounds might see something on the other side of the fence and begin the chase. At full speed, he can not see the fence and will crash into it. The result is usually very serious.
- Birdbaths - Do not allow your Greyhound to drink out of the birdbath. The stagnant water combined with the bird droppings can lead to serious illness.

- Sticks and Stones - It is a good idea to keep the twigs, small branches and stones picked up in the yard. While racing around, your Greyhound can hit them or step on them this can lead to serious injury.
- Cleaning Solutions - The bucket of scrub water may seem innocent to you, but if your Greyhound decides to lap some up, serious or fatal injuries may result.



- Outdoor Grills - Keep your Greyhound inside while grilling. Your steak dinner might be his if you turn your back for a moment. Also the fire is dangerous and if the Greyhound gets into the lighter fluid there could be serious injury. Also, don't use your outdoor grill as a storage area – what we mean is don't put something in there, for example a bottle of bug killer for temporary storage, that you don't want your Greyhound to get into. There have been instances of a very determined Greyhound opening the lid to get at the item and the Greyhound has been accidentally poisoned.
- Swimming Pools - Greyhounds are not the best swimmers. Be careful about leaving them unattended in the backyard with a pool. Usually, once your Greyhound finds out he can't walk on water, they will steer clear of the pool.
- Lawn Chemicals - Use extreme precaution! Coming

in contact with a freshly treated lawn can cause allergic reactions or a debilitating illness involving the central nervous system.

- Bee Stings - Yes, Greyhounds get stung too. Remove the stinger and ice the sight. Watch for signs of allergic reaction and consult your vet if necessary.
- Recliners - Make sure your Greyhound is not in the way when you let the chair down. They like to lay close to your feet and could be in jeopardy of a smashed nose, tail or paw.
- Kitchen Floors – Greyhound like to be around their family in the kitchen. Usually, right in the middle of the kitchen floor. While you are cooking, this can be dangerous. If you trip on your Greyhound with a hot pot in your hands, the result could be serious injury to both of you!
- Car Windows - Do not allow your Greyhound to hang his head out of the window while you are driving. Sticks, stones or bugs could hit his face and cause injury.
- Lawn Equipment - While using power lawn equipment, keep your Greyhound inside. Flying debris can cause serious injury.

**IF IN DOUBT ABOUT ANY OF THE ABOVE,**

**CALL A H.O.T. REPRESENTATIVE**

## **Care and Grooming**

Greyhounds are very used to being handled at the track making it easy for you to groom your Greyhound. Some Greyhound owners take their Greyhound to the groomers for baths and nail clipping. However, due to the Greyhound's short hair, bathing your Greyhound is a very easy procedure. Nail clipping can be a bit trickier, but with practice, can also be done at home.

The following are a few things to help you in grooming your Greyhound.

- ◆ Ears - Your Greyhound's ears should be cleaned at least every other week. You should use cotton balls and a mild ear cleaning solution. Dampen the cotton ball with the solution and clean inside the flap on your Greyhound's ears. NEVER stick anything in your Greyhound's ears as damage can result. If you feel that your Greyhound may have deeply inbedded dirt inside his ear, a few drops of the cleaning solution dropped directly into the ear canal and massaged on the outside, will allow your Greyhound to "shake out" some of the dirt. Your vet or groomer should do extensive ear cleaning.
- ◆ Nails - Your Greyhound will need to have its nails cut at least once a month. This may vary with the amount of exercise your Greyhound is getting and how much natural wear their nails get. You should keep styptic powder on hand in case you clip too short, as it seems Greyhounds nail clipped back too far will bleed forever. In a pinch, flour, cornstarch or chalk will work. Although a "quicked" nail will bleed quite a bit, remember that no Greyhound has ever died from loss of blood due to a "quicked" nail! Your veterinarian or a H.O.T. representative can show you how to properly cut your Greyhound's nails.
- Skin - Oil added to the food is good for the skin. A good conditioner, which can be applied to directly to your Greyhound's coat, is Avon Skin So Soft, mixed half and half with water and applied with a spray bottle. This mixture also makes a good flea and mosquito repellent. Use this moderately.



If skin problems persist, please consult with your vet. Your Greyhound could be suffering from Low Thyroid (Hypo Thyroid) or have an allergy.

- Brushing - You should brush your Greyhound once a week or more frequently if you desire. Use a hound's glove or a dog brush. You can also use a flea comb. These items really help to pull out the dead undercoat and reduce any shedding.
- Bathing - Bathing your Greyhound depends on how dirty they get and if you have allergies. Please see the section on Insecticides for the proper flea/tick shampoo to purchase.

Note: Many Greyhounds become very relaxed when being bathed and may lean on you and may even fall over, so please make sure you have a firm grip on your Greyhound during bathing.

- Tick Collars - A PREVENTIC collar may be used on your Greyhound. This collar repels and kills ticks only. The chemical on this collar is not absorbed into the skin or bloodstream; it only disperses over the coat. You can purchase this collar by mail order or from your veterinarian.

**Remember NO FLEA COLLARS**

## Allergies

Most people have some form of allergies. This does not mean you cannot have a Greyhound. Simple procedures and patience will enable you to have a great companion. If you are allergic to dogs, you are allergic to their dander. Typically, people are more allergic to heavily undercoated dogs (e.g., Huskies) than Greyhounds.

If you have an allergic reaction there are some simple things you can do until you build up a natural immunity (tolerance):

- Bathe - Bathe your Greyhound once a week.
- Brush – Brush your Greyhound twice a week. If possible, have the person in the household with no allergy problems do all the grooming. If possible, groom outdoors.
- Sleeping - Initially have your Greyhound sleep in another room with a member of the family who is not allergic.
- Bedding - Use a thick blanket or quilt as your Greyhound's bedding and wash it every week.
- Furniture - Do not allow your Greyhound up on the furniture.
- HAVE PATIENCE - The worst time is the first two (2) weeks. Usually after two (2) months, even the most severe reactions settle down.

All of the above advice is for the initial adjustment phase. Once the allergic reaction settles down you may want to consider relaxing some of the above precautions gradually.



## Chapter 4 - Crossing The Finish Line

### Tattoos

All racing greyhounds born in the United States are registered with the National Greyhound Association in Abilene, Kansas. To provide positive identification they are tattooed in both ears when about 2 months old. The left ear is tattooed with the litter identification number assigned by the NGA. All greyhounds in the same litter will have number.

The tattoo in the right ear tells the Greyhound's age. It consists of the numbers 1 through 12 for the months of the year, followed by the last digit of the year of birth. For example, 102 would indicate the greyhound was born in October 1992 while 61 would indicate June 1991. To differentiate between greyhounds in the same litter, the letters A, B, C and so on follow the month and year. Therefore, greyhounds in the same litter would all have the same tattoos as far as litter registration number, month and year, but would be differentiated from each other by



a letter of the alphabet. Thus, no one can ever lie about a greyhound's true age, nor can dogs be "switched" in a race as tattoos are checked prior to the start of each race.

True, the numbers representing years repeat after ten years, but it is very easy to differentiate a 12-year-old greyhound from a 2-year-old. Other countries have different registration systems. For example, Irish greyhounds are also tattooed in their ears, however, the Irish registry uses a series of letters rather than numbers and the tattoos can only be interpreted with the aid of the registry itself.

Pet greyhounds may also be tattooed at their pet owner's request on the inside of the thigh for registration with other tattoo registries such as National Dog Registry (NDR) or Tattoo-A-Pet.

## **In Closing**

Recognizing the adjustment period and successfully managing it without undue stress is a very important part of the Greyhound adoption process. It must be remembered that becoming a house pet involves a very dramatic change in routine for your Greyhound. He has never been in a home before. He has no idea who you are or why you are taking him to some place so strange. Also, he does not know what on earth you want him to do. He is baffled, a little nervous, and a little scared.

Greyhounds are very intuitive and sensitive dogs with a lot of smarts. They can open gates, cage doors, refrigerators, drawers, trashcans and all kinds of containers. The Greyhound is an observer of everything. The eyes and the brain are working all the time, even when they sleep. And sleep by the way is what they do best, besides loving you. Upside-down resting is a Greyhound trait. The third eyelid will appear, followed by a lolling tongue. Don't be alarmed! They are not dead, just off somewhere chasing bunnies! By the way, being curious and careless are Greyhound traits also. Noses get into everything.

The Greyhound has a heart the size of a human's and is sixty-five percent muscle. They smile, laugh, grumble, growl, yodel and whimper in an attempt to communicate. These are not aggressive acts. The showing of teeth is generally considered a smile, which is a common trait of the Greyhound.

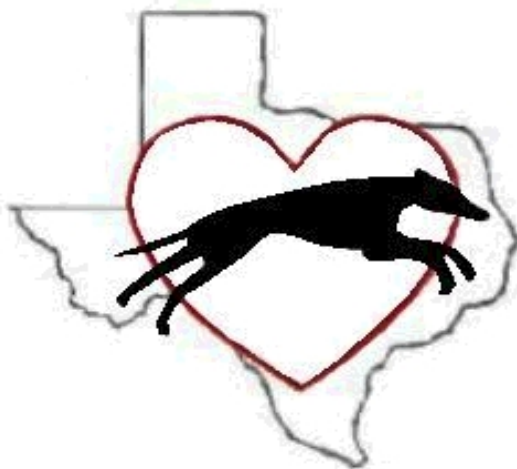
Cat-like, they will sometimes ignore you. Don't be offended or hurt; this is their temperament. "You threw the ball, you go get the ball", is the way they seem to think. Besides, they never got an opportunity to play ball much while they were working. Your Greyhound might be compared to a child in that they can have very selective hearing.

Sharp objects in the yard that your Greyhound could become lodged in its mouth or throat should be removed, along with low hanging tree limbs. Keep in mind that a Greyhound will fix its sight on whatever it takes an interest in and will tend to crash into or step on anything and everything in its path. Getting tangled up in things is a favorite pastime.

Your Greyhound has never played, so take the time to teach your Greyhound how to play. He will fill your days with countless hours of enjoyment and fun!

All of these pages are filled with do's and don'ts and lots of advice. Chances are, you will have few if any problems at all with your dog. We are ALL still learning about Greyhounds and appreciate your information and funny stories. Pictures are a great joy to us.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, or if you'd just like to share something with us, remember, your H.O.T. representatives are only a telephone call away!



***THANK YOU FROM THE  
H.O.T. HOUNDS***

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