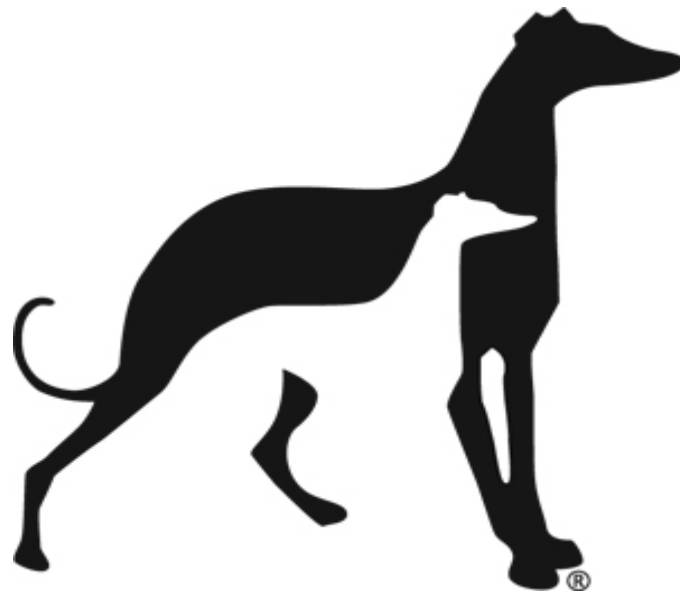


Greyhound Pets of America

Minnesota Chapter



New Hound Owner's Manual

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OUT OF THE GATE



You've just adopted a greyhound, one of the most regal of breeds! Now what??? We would like to offer a few suggestions in order to make your hound's adjustment to its new environment a relatively easy one. Although greyhounds do not tend to lump themselves into the "dog" category, they are still of the canine species and because of that will exhibit certain behaviors.

Preventing Accidents

No one wants their home to become an indoor fire-hydrant, so to speak. The foster family has probably given you useful information on how your greyhound has done in their home, but every situation is new and needs to be treated as such. The following techniques will hopefully help eliminate many issues:

- **Containment**

There are two very useful tools at your disposal to help prevent accidents in your home, especially in the first few days when your greyhound is getting adjusted to its new home and lifestyle: the leash and the crate. When you first get your greyhound home, take them immediately outside on the leash and lead them to the spot where you want them to do their duties. If they do not go, that is perfectly normal – but it is important to give them every opportunity to do so. Once they are inside the house, continue to keep them with you on the leash. Letting them loose to investigate your home is only inviting trouble. If they look like they are about to "mark" in your home, give a tug on the collar while saying "no" or "uh,uh,uh" and then get them outside as quickly as possible. If they go outside (even just a little) give them big praises!! We realize it is not easy to do your daily home activities tethered to a dog – so if you are unable to hold on to them, make sure you use the second tool: the crate. Putting them in the crate is not a punishment – it is a safety measure and a training tool. Make sure the crate you use is large enough for your greyhound. Your hound should be able to stand up straight and turn around in the crate. If things are going well as far as housetraining goes, we recommend that you continue to do this for at least the first two to three days, or longer, of course, if your hound still isn't getting it.

- **Establishing a Schedule**

The life of a track greyhound is very regimented. They are fed and let out at the same times every day. Getting your greyhound on a schedule they can count on will help in the housetraining process.

If your hound is still having trouble after a couple of weeks, please contact your adoption representative as this may be a sign of a more serious physical and/or behavioral problem.

Please note: GPA-MN does not promote any products mentioned nor stand behind any methods used in this booklet.

NO KITTY!!

Some of you may be bringing your hound home, much to the chagrin of your resident cat. We test in-coming hounds to see if they are capable of living with cats, and many of our foster homes have cats as well. Even so, there are some important safety precautions when introducing your new hound to the kitty.



Keep your hound muzzled and on a leash when you bring them into the house. If you can not supervise all interactions between the cat and the hound, keep the animals separated. Keep the muzzle on your hound for several days, until you have observed how your hound interacts with the cat and are completely confident of your greyhound leaving the cat alone. Whenever the cat is present, be happy. Laugh and talk happily to yourself – this will set the stage for positive behavior towards the cat. Reward your hound for paying more attention to you than the cat. Make your hound's calmness in the presence of the cat a very good thing. At the same time, any response toward the cat that is anything more than idle curiosity should be strongly discouraged. Respond to each and every incident. If you ignore even one, the reward of chasing the cat may be just too self rewarding to overcome.

If your hound shows any interest in the cat at all (i.e. staring, whining, or attempting to chase), yell in your deepest, loudest voice "NO KITTY". It is important that you let them know that the cat is off limits. Even if they eventually do become buddies, it is not a good thing to let the hound chase or play with the cat.



If the behavior/interest persists, get a squirt bottle filled with water and set in on stream. Every time your hound exhibits an undesirable behavior, squirt it in the back of the head (not the face) while yelling "NO KITTY". Another deterrent is an empty pop can with (several) about 10 coins inside. Every time your hound starts for the cat, shake the can. Greyhounds are startled by loud noises - they are also very smart and catch on quickly. Unless your cat is particularly dog-friendly, expect him/her to hiss for about a month until he/she settles in and accepts the new member of the family.

HOUNDPROOFING YOUR HOME

In a hound's mind, the fluffier the thing is the better. If you do not want your hound up on the bed or furniture, don't even allow them to get up there in the first place. If they do happen to jump up on the bed or couch and you do not want them there, let them know immediately. Gently, but firmly, say "no", clip their leash to their collar, and remove them from the furniture. Lead them directly to their own cushy bed.

Remember that greyhounds are large dogs and are capable of reaching high places – countertops being one of their favorite places to explore. Move anything valuable, breakable or potentially harmful to higher ground. We recommend you store your medications in a high cabinet or on top of the refrigerator.

Greyhounds have been known to chew open medicine bottles and ingest the entire contents. Chocolate is also best stored in these places.

PROPER FEEDING

Maintaining the proper weight for your greyhound is one of the most important things you can do to insure the good health and long life of your retired racer. We recommend that they be fed a high quality lamb and rice food. Avoid foods with soy products in them. Serving your hound's food dry helps keep their teeth and gums in good shape.

Your greyhound should be fed about 4-5 cups of kibble a day. We recommend that you feed your hound TWICE a day (2-2 ½ cups at each feeding). A greyhound's ribs will tell you if they are getting enough – or too much – nutrition. You should not be able to see all of their ribs, only a hint of the last three ribs on a pet greyhound. If you can see all of your hound's ribs, you need to increase the amount of food they are eating. If their ribs have disappeared, you might consider cutting back on the treats or daily portions of kibble, or increasing their daily exercise. If you can't even feel their ribs, then they are overweight. If you are trying to decide whether or not to put your hound on a diet, it is best to consult your veterinarian first.

DIARRHEA

Some greyhounds will get diarrhea due to nerves or a change of diet or water. To help alleviate this problem, you can give your hound 2 caplets of Pepto-Bismol three times a day until the stool firms up. You can also mix in some rice with the kibble.



LINK TO DOG FOOD ANALYSIS

<http://www.dogfoodanalysis.com/>

BLOAT

Greyhounds are considered a deep-chested breed of dog and thus prone to bloat or gastric dilation. This is a build up of air and fluids that promotes gas in the stomach and can actually make it flip, cutting off the blood supply to vital organs. It is a matter of life and death – so if you suspect your hound has it, get it to the vet immediately!!

Sign of bloat:

- Dry Heaves
- A hard, distended abdomen
- Extreme restlessness or panting
- Uneventful vomiting (dry heaves)
- Drooling
- An arched back
- Difficulty walking

Some steps owners can take to possibly reduce the risk of bloat include:

- Feed two or three times a day, preferably at times when someone can observe after-feeding behavior
- Discuss bloat with your veterinarian and discuss emergency measures.
- Make sure water is available at all times, but limit quantities, especially right after eating and exercising vigorously
- Dogs should avoid vigorous exercise, excitement, and stress one hour before and two hours after meals
- Make diet changes gradually over a period of 3-5 days
- Feed susceptible dogs individually and in a quiet location
- Pay special attention to the above procedures after animals return home from the hospital – post surgical bloat is a risk factor
- Dogs that survive bloat are at increased risk

If your hound is prone to lying on his or her back after a meal, do what you can to discourage this adorable but risky habit, as abnormal positioning can occur. Walking is okay, just not running.



KENNELING

In order for your greyhound to become accustomed to staying in its kennel, you need to introduce it very soon after getting him/her home. A technique to acclimate your hound to its kennel is “random kenneling”.

One important thing to remember for the first couple of days is to not make a big fuss over them. They never received this treatment at the track. Track hounds are used to the schedule of resting in their crate, getting let out 4-5 times a day for bathroom duties and a little exercise, and then back into the crate. This doesn't mean that you should ignore them, just do not spoil them. They catch onto the good life very quickly and you want to make sure that you teach them what is expected of them right away.

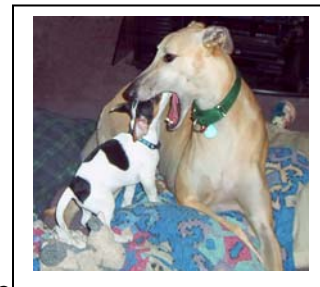
A lot of problems can arise if they are not crated for a couple of days, and then they are put in the crate and expect them to accept being in there for eight hours while you are at work. Start putting them in the crate shortly after you get them home. Show them the crate and see if the hound will go in on its own. Some will, some won't, and some need a little coaxing (a slight push on the hind quarters). If the hound will not go in, try taking a treat, show it to the hound and then toss the treat (small piece of hot dog) into the kennel. If the hound does go in, praise it highly and give it another treat. Once they are in the crate, shut the door and walk away. If they whine or cry, walk up to the crate door, rap on the front of it and say “no crying”, and then walk away. Some hounds are very persistent. Do not give in to their cries, but do make sure that they are not trying to communicate that they have to go to the bathroom. Leave them in their crate for 15 minutes or so, and then let them out (random kenneling). Continue working up to longer times in the crate.

NEVER let the hound out of its crate if it is whining or carrying on. Wait until it is quiet to let it out or they will think that every time they carry on, you are going to run over and let them out. Some greyhounds develop separation anxiety in their new environment and getting them used to being in their crate will help curb that.

Feeding in the crate is another positive factor. They are always fed in their crate at the track. This follows the thought of “all good things happen in the crate”. Never use their crate as a means of punishment. This will delete all the good, positive ideas of them being crated. Punishment for a greyhound is a good, firm “NO”. Simple as that. This is a very gentle breed of dog, unlike any other dog you will ever own. With patience and understanding they will come to learn exactly what you want and what is expected of them.

It is a good idea to keep them used to wearing their muzzle. It might be needed if your hound has to be introduced to small animals (cats, rabbits, or even small dogs) at some time. Put the muzzle on them for about 10 minutes, once a week, just to keep them familiar with it. They will act as if it is a totally foreign object to them – rubbing against you or the furniture or whatever, in an attempt to get it off. Do not be fooled by this, they know exactly what it is and it isn't going to hurt them to have it on.

TAKING THE TURNS



JUST WHO'S ALPHA HERE??

In order for your greyhound to settle into its new home, it needs to understand the dynamics of its new "pack". They try to determine who the leader is, and if they do not find one, will assume it will have to be their job. Many people assume that since they discipline the hound, the hound views them as being in charge. Since behavior correction is a small fraction of daily interactions with the hound that leaves a great majority of time where the hound can see itself as being in charge. If you want your hound to see you as the leader of the pack, you need to communicate that in a way they can comprehend. Below are several things you can do to show you are the "Alpha."

- **Muzzle Greeting**

Dogs welcome other members of their pack back after they have been separated for a time. A dominant dog grabs the muzzle of the subordinate members in its mouth, while the subordinate dogs lick the face and mouth of the dominant dogs. You can substitute your mouth with your hand. Place your hand on top of the dogs muzzle and give it a little squeeze and a slight shake.
- **Possession of Place**

The alpha dog always gets the best place to sleep. They will chase other dogs away and lay down in their spot. You need to do this as well- if a dog is in your way, make them move. Do not step over your hound, even if they are sleeping. If they are up on the couch make them get down, then you sit down and you can choose whether or not to invite them back up.
- **Food**

The alpha always eats first. Try to approximate this at your home. Do not feed your hound right before you eat a meal. Either make your hound wait until after you have eaten or feed them an hour or two before you eat.
- **Going Through Doors**

Alphas always go first. Make your hound wait at the door until you have gone through and then allow them through. If you need your hound to go through first, make sure you give them permission. This is a safety factor as well as good training.
- **Discipline**

Dogs are only disciplined to get them to stop inappropriate behavior, so discipline can only take place while the dog is doing something wrong. Anything after the fact will not register in the dog's mind as to why it is being disciplined. With greyhounds, ONLY non-physical discipline is appropriate. Two examples of non-physical discipline:

 - **Time Out**

Remove social contact with the dog by turning away, avoiding eye contact and generally ignoring them.
 - **Distraction**

Use a sharp vocal signal ("Ah! Ah!" or "No!") to get their attention and then possibly offer them another toy or something to get them to change their behavior.

DEALING WITH SEPERATION ANXIETY

Some greyhounds are prone to separation anxiety. Separation anxiety is the common term used for stress behaviors that only appear when a dog's owners leave them alone in the house. These behaviors can manifest themselves in various ways, depending on the dog. The most common behaviors are:



This WAS my Bed

- **Destructiveness** (chewing, digging, tearing up its bedding or other household items, trying to escape by breaking windows and doors).
- **Self-mutilation** (excessive licking or biting at its own body – usually the paws or the tail).
- **Vocalization** (excessive howling or barking when left alone).
- **Salivation** (soaks the dog's body and bedding).
- **Pacing**
- **Urination/Defecation** even if housetrained.

These behaviors usually start within minutes of the owner leaving and peak at around 30 minutes after the owner has left. They will usually then decline after about 30 minutes. These behaviors are a reaction to stress, and therefore punishing the dog for these behaviors is ineffective and inappropriate.

If your dog exhibits separation anxiety, there are several things that you can do to help alleviate it. Start by leaving your dog for several short periods of time. At first, you may only take a walk around the house and then come right back inside. Give your hound a verbal cue such as “see you” or “I’ll be right back”. *Make sure you don’t make a big fuss upon leaving and especially upon returning.* This just reinforces the idea that your leaving is a terrible thing and something for your greyhound to get worked up about. Use a normal tone of voice when giving the verbal cue and ignore your dog for the first minute or so upon returning. You can gradually work up to leaving for longer and longer times. A dog that can be left for an hour or so can usually make it the whole day.

Other things that help alleviate anxiety:

- Turn on the radio or the television. The background noise seems to soothe the anxious dog.
- Give your dog something to do. Buster Cubes (A toy that is a puzzle. You fill it with kibble/treats and the dogs have to figure out how to get it out) or Kong toys. Many people fill the hole in the Kong with peanut butter and stick it in the freezer. It takes a long time for the dogs to get the peanut butter out, and by that time they have relaxed enough to make it the rest of the day.

If your greyhound has separation anxiety, using the crate may or may not help. For some hounds the enclosed space creates a safety zone, but for others the kennel creates a claustrophobia that only increases the panic. If your greyhound seems to be trying to tear its way out of the kennel we have a couple of recommendations:

- Use a baby gate to confine your greyhound to a room giving your greyhound a comfortable, yet safe, place.
- If your greyhound is exhibiting destructive behavior as part of its separation anxiety, put its muzzle on and loop the buckle through the collar so that they cannot remove it.

Some hounds do just fine if they are left free in the home. If you are going to choose this option, make sure you start by leaving them out for very short periods at a time and then gradually work up to the whole day.

Separation anxiety can be frustrating, especially if you have never dealt with it before. If you are experiencing any problems with your hound and separation anxiety, please contact your GPA-MN adoption representative immediately. Most of us have dealt with it with our own hounds or fosters, and we will try our best to help you get through it as well.

FINAL TURN

VET CARE NEEDS

When choosing a vet make sure you pick one that has had experience with greyhounds. Because of their unique constitution they are very sensitive to certain medications and anesthesia. Do not be afraid or embarrassed to discuss these needs with your vet. There is a list of GPA-MN recommended Vets that do most of the vetting for our foster hounds and a list of member recommended vets listed in Appendix I.



MAKING ANESTHESIA SAFE FOR GREYHOUNDS

- Never use thiobarbituates including Biotal, Surital, or Pentothal
- Acepromazine is a safe and reliable pre-anesthetic tranquilizer in the greyhound
- Diazepam and Ketamine combination of Telazole are safe IV anesthetic drugs to use for intubation
- Isoflurane is the gas anesthetic of choice - it is exceptionally safe and recovery is rapid
- Greyhounds should have IV fluids administered during all major procedures lasting longer than 45 minutes - the rate of infusion is 10m/kg/hour
- Greyhounds are prone to hypothermia while under anesthesia and should be kept on a heated water pad or other source of safe heat during surgery
- There is no age limitation for surgically spaying or neutering greyhounds, but proper pre-surgical workups should be done and all workups should include platelet evaluation - this will further insure the safety of an anesthetic procedure.

PROCEDURE

- Give a dose of 0.1 cc of Acepromazine subcutaneously 30 minutes before administering anesthesia - this will result in a smoother recovery
- Give atropine sulfate or preferably glycopyrrolate at the time of surgical induction with the intravenous anesthetic
- A reliable IV induction anesthetic combination consists of equal amounts of diazepam and ketamine drawn up in the same syringe - the calculated dose of this combination is approximately 1 cc of the mixture per 10 pounds of the body weight. Half of the calculated dose can be given a bolus, then administer just enough as needed to intubate. Telazole is a safe drug to use in place of diazepam and ketamine. It is dosed at 1 cc per 100 pounds of body weight.
- Isoflurane is then used at about 1.5 to 2 percent to maintain anesthesia

WORMING MEDICATIONS

Worming medications are not quite as life threatening as anesthetics. There are many excellent wormers around. **The ones to avoid are Teimin, Task, and DNP.** If your dog contracts heartworm disease, ask your veterinarian as to which regimen is safe for Greyhounds. GPA-MN requires that you keep your greyhound on heartworm preventative during the summer months. Your veterinarian will do a blood test to make sure that your hound is heartworm free and will then prescribe the appropriate medication (e.g. Heartguard).

INSECTICIDES AND OTHER TOXINS

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

- **Flea and 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 and tick shampoos and sprays that are safe are those with PYRETHRINS as the main ingredient. You can also try one of the citrus-based products. DO NOT use any flea/tick products that contain organophosphates. An example of an organophosphate is Carbaryl which is commonly found in flea powder, some shampoos and sprays. The long acting flea and tick products (Defend, Dursband) are unsafe for greyhounds as well. Only Frontline, Advantage and Program are okay to use on your greyhound.

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. Care should be taken to not get this product into the dog's eyes.

- **Lawn Chemicals**
These can be fatal to greyhounds. Do not allow your greyhound to walk on chemically treated areas while the grass is still wet. Lawn services such as Chemlawn, Lawn Doctor, etc. are required to mark treated areas. If you suspect your dog has walked on treated areas, wipe their feet off with a wet rag.
- **Chocolate**
Chocolate contains theobromine, a substance toxic to dogs. Chocolate should be kept out of reach at all times. If chocolate is accidentally ingested, you should always keep an unopened bottle of hydrogen peroxide in your first aid kit. The dosage is 1 tablespoon per 10 pounds of body weight. Pour the hydrogen peroxide into a syringe or turkey baster and squirt into your dog's mouth. With the ingestion of any potentially toxic substance, call your vet immediately.



- **Relative theobromine content per ounce for various products is:**
 - Milk chocolate: 44 – 60mgs/oz
 - Unsweetened baking chocolate: 450 mg/oz
 - Cacao meal: 300 – 900 mg/oz
 - Cacao beans: 300 – 1200 mg/oz
 - Hot chocolate: 13 mg/oz
- **The lethal dosage of theobromine in dogs** is between 250 and 500 mgs/kg, or about 2/3 to 1 1/3 of an ounce of baking chocolate for every 2.2 pounds of body weight (i.e. a 60 lb. Greyhound would have to eat about a pound of baking chocolate). However, serious non-fatal poisonings have been reported in dogs after eating smaller amounts.
- **Paints**

Exposure to oil based paints can cause a variety of reactions in your dog. If you are painting your home it is best to arrange to 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, make sure the door to the bathroom remains shut – or at the very least keep the toilet seat down.

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Sometimes the little things in everyday life can lead to big problems for your greyhound. The following is a list of things to watch for while out and about.

- **Barbed Wire Fences**
Greyhounds might see something on the other side of the fence and begin the chase. At full speed he cannot see the fence and will crash into it. The result is usually very serious.
- **Birdbaths, Wading Pools, Puddles, Ponds, Etc.**
greyhound to drink out of these. Stagnant water, combined with bird droppings or other animal feces can lead to serious illness such as giardia.
- **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 leading to 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 could be his if you turn your back for a moment. The risk of your hound getting burned is very real as well as the risk of accidental poisoning from the lighter fluid.
- **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.
- **Bee Stings**
Greyhounds can get stung too! Remove the stinger and ice the sight. Watch for signs of allergic reaction and contact your vet if necessary.
- **Recliners**
Make sure your greyhound is not in the way when you let the chair down. They like to lie close to your feet and could be in jeopardy of a smashed nose, tail (which can be a bloody mess...) or paw.
- **Kitchen Floors**
Greyhounds 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 very 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 car window. There is too great a risk of injury from flying debris or your greyhound making a great escape to chase something they saw on the roadside while flying down the highway. With electric windows, be sure that needle noses or floppy ears aren't sticking out of the window when you close it. Use the child safety controls to disable the door and window controls on



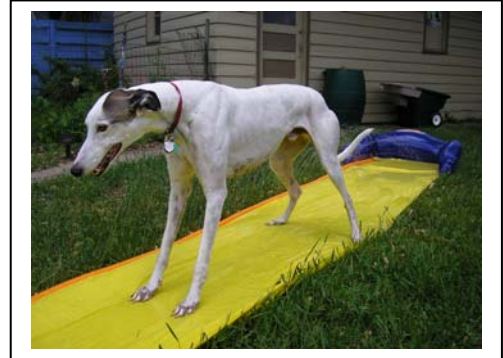
the doors your hound has access to. Your hound can put his paws up on the door and inadvertently raise or lower the window.

- **Lawn Equipment**

While using power lawn equipment, keep your greyhound inside.

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, but due to the greyhound's short hair, bathing your greyhound is an easy procedure. Nail clipping can be a bit trickier, but with practice, it can also be done at home.



The following are a few things to help you in grooming your greyhound:

- **Teeth**

Brushing your greyhound's teeth is the most important thing you can do for their care and well being. You should brush your greyhound's teeth daily. Greyhounds have notoriously bad teeth and suffer from periodontal disease. Keeping your greyhound's teeth clean will help keep them healthy and will help avoid expensive dental procedures by your veterinarian.

- **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 your greyhound may have deeply imbedded 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 have 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. In a pinch, flour, cornstarch or chalk will work. Another method of keeping your greyhound's nails short is filing them with a Dremel tool.

- **Skin**

If your greyhound seems to have dry, flaky skin you can apply a good conditioner directly to the coat. If skin problems persist, consult your Vet – he may be suffering from low thyroid or have an allergy.

- **Brushing**

You should brush your greyhound about once a week. Brushing helps pull out the dead undercoat and reduce any shedding.

- **Bathing**

Greyhounds do not need frequent bathing. They do not have the oils in their coats that other breeds produce and therefore their coats do not attract much dirt. Brushing once a week is usually sufficient to keep them clean. Bathing too often can cause skin problems.

Coats

Because of their low percentage of body fat, they need to wear a coat when the temps are below 40 degrees.



Collars and Leads

Always use a humane choke collar (or martingale collar), like the one provided to you by GPA-MN.

Their skin is sensitive and thin and can not tolerate a metal choke chain. **NEVER** use a retractable leash. There is not enough control with these. A short leash (6' or shorter) provides enough room for them to sniff around when they are walking, yet enough control in case they get spooked – especially when they first come from the track. When they run, they exert up to 228 pounds of pressure on your arm. The martingale collars are to be used only when walking your greyhound and should be removed when inside. Your greyhound should have a separate collar with identification tags attached. This is to be worn at all times so they always have their identification tags on.

NEVER Stake or Tie Out Your Greyhound

Greyhounds reach top speeds in three strides and can snap their own neck when they hit the end of the tie-out. They always need to be on lead unless they are in a completely fenced in area. Be sure to double check for open gates or gaps in the fence. If there is one, you can be guaranteed that your hound will find it. Remember that they have been bred for over 2,000 years for one sole purpose – to run – FAST. If they are off leash, that is exactly what they will do. As a sight hound, they can spot a moving object from a mile away and once the chase instinct sets in, no amount of calling, whistling is going to stop them from running. Since they do not stop to look for cars, a car is often what stops them.

This is why we **ABSOLUTELY STRESS** the fact that you **CANNOT LET THEM OFF LEAD NO MATTER WHAT !!!!!** It does not matter how long you have had them or how much training they have had.

HOME STRETCH

GREYHOUNDS AND CHILDREN

GPA-MN has an adoption policy of not adopting to families with children ages 5 and under. We have found that the hounds adjust better to their new home when there are not small children to deal with. At the track they do not see these “little creatures” and sometimes have trouble handling the noise, poking, etc.



Greyhounds do okay 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, get fed up and defend itself, or the dog will become afraid of the child. Prevention is best. Please teach your children how to treat this gentle, loving creature and protect your greyhound from your children. Above all else, **NEVER LEAVE A CHILD AND ANY DOG TOGETHER UNATTENDED.** Anything is possible at any time with any dog.

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 – call his name and make sure he is awake. 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. 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. They should never be allowed to crawl or walk up to a dog that is lying on its bed. The dog’s bed should be seen as its personal space and therefore off limits to the child. This has to be consistently enforced.
- **Crate**
Do not ever let your children crawl into the greyhound’s crate. 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. Use the crate to keep your greyhound and children separated when you cannot be there to supervise their interaction.

- **Food**
Do not let your child take away your greyhound's food or interfere with it at 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, 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 Bolting**
Make sure you have hold of your greyhound by the collar before any door is opened to let your child's friends in or out of the house.
- **Open Doors and Gates**
Be extremely cautious about leaving doors and gates open (this goes for car doors, too). 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.
- **Baby Gates**
These very inexpensive devices are excellent ways of separating the children in the house from the greyhound. The children can have their defined play area and the greyhound can have a room in which to rest in relative peace and quiet.
- **Movement**
Greyhounds do not understand the meaning of a child or children rushing, crawling, running up to it or trying to 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.



- **Stuffed Toys**
Greyhounds often steal children's stuffed toys. This is a compliment to the child, as the greyhound wants to have something with them that smells 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 command.

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.

STAY POSITIVE

Greyhounds will never win an obedience championship, but they can be trained. The most important part of training is to keep it positive and to have lots of patience. **NEVER** strike your hound or “pop” their lead in an effort to train them. The most severe reprimand ever given to your greyhound is a stern “no”. Greyhounds respond to praise, treats and repetition.

Greyhounds can benefit from formal obedience training. It gives them some guidelines as to what is expected of them in their new life off of the track and can be a good relationship building experience.

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE

GREY TIDBITS

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. S/he has never been in a home before and 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 maybe a little scared.



Greyhounds are very intuitive and sensitive dogs with a lot of smarts. They can open gates, cage doors, refrigerators, drawers, trash cans, and all kinds of containers. The Greyhound is an observer of everything. Their eyes and the brain are working all the time – even when they sleep. And sleep, is what they do best – besides loving you. Upside-down resting (known as cockroaching) is a greyhound trait. The third eyelid will appear, followed by a lolling tongue.

Greyhounds also do a funny thing called “nitting”. They nibble or pinch at your hand or whatever body part is closest to them. Some of them will just do it in the air – which makes it look like their teeth are chattering. They will do this when they are glad to see you, or get excited about something like going out for a walk or for a ride in the car. Being curious and careless are greyhound traits as well.

Some greyhounds have “sleep aggression.” If you startle them awake, they might snap or growl. When approaching a sleeping greyhound, always call his name or make a noise and be sure they are awake.

The greyhound has a heart the size of a human’s and has a body composition that is 65% 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.

Cat-like, they will sometimes ignore you. Don’t be offended – this is their temperament. They are also cat-like in cleanliness. They will lick and wash themselves like a cat. Your greyhound might also be compared to a child in that they have very selective hearing.

Sharp objects in the yard that could become lodged in your greyhound’s mouth or throat should be removed, along with low hanging tree branches. 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

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

LET'S BE SOCIAL

Make sure to socialize your hound. Your greyhound has lived with lots of other greyhounds all its life. GPA-MN has lots of opportunities to take your hound out to meet other greyhounds (and greyhound owners):

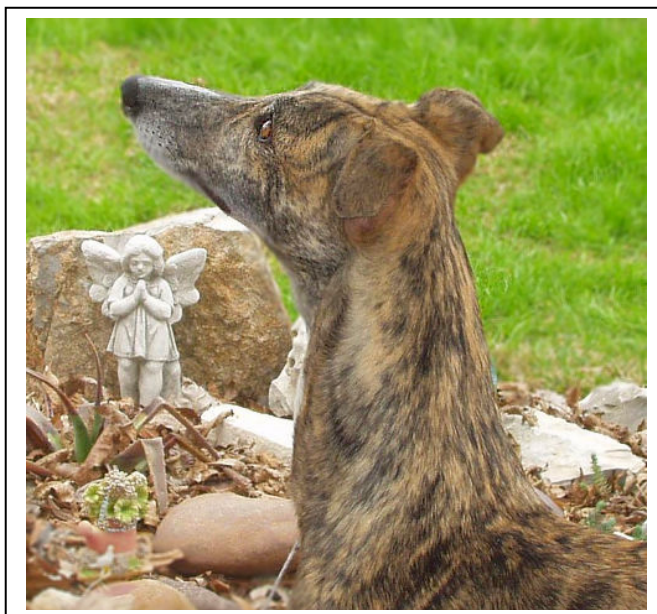
- **Meet and Greets / Monthly Social Hour**
Meet and Greets are held at Twin Cities area Petcos and other pet stores. The schedule is listed on the GPA-MN website and in the Newsletter. You do not have to call ahead or stay the whole time. Bring your Greyhound and just drop in and say hi.
- **Gassy Walk**
This fun walk takes place every Sunday at 2pm. Walkers meet at the Rose Garden at Lake Harriet to stroll around the lake with your hound.
- **Special Events**
Dog Shows, State Fair, Renaissance Festival, Art Fairs, and Women's Expo. Show off your hounds and generate interest in greyhound adoption. Special events are also posted on our website.



AND THE WINNER IS... YOU !!!!

This manual is filled with a lot of **dos and don'ts**. This is not intended to discourage you in any way. We are trying to give you as much information as possible in order for your greyhound to successfully integrate into your family and into your hearts. Chances are, you will have few problems with your dog. With a little patience, time, and lots of love, you will have a "fast friend" forever.

We love hearing from you. You will be invited to join our "e-list" email which is a great place to share funny anecdotes, ask questions, express concerns or share ideas. You can also call us at 763-785-4000. We have all been there and are more than happy to give you the support that you need.



Appendix 1: Recommended Veterinarians

These veterinarians work with GPA-MN to provide care for all of our incoming hounds:

Blaine Area Pet Hospital

1184 Aberdeen St.
Blaine, MN 55449
Phone 763-754-2131

Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital

5815 80th Ave. North
Brooklyn Park, MN
Phone: 763-566-6000

Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic

440 West 79th St.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
Phone: 952-934-8862

Cottage Grove Animal Hospital

8136 E. Point Douglas Road
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Phone: 651-768-0200
Dr. Mike Thrasher

Maplewood Pet Care Clinic

2811 White Bear Ave.
Maplewood, MN 55109
Phone: 651-770-8373
Dr. Kathy Marr

VETERINARIANS RECOMMENDED BY GPA-MN MEMBERS

The veterinarians listed below have been recommended to us by satisfied greyhound owners in the area. They are in alphabetical order with comments.

**Airport Animal Hospital
4259 Haines Road
Duluth, MN
218- 727-0128**

We have had wonderful luck with Christine Wickenheiser at Airport Animal Hospital. Dr. Wickenheiser has a sight hound and is aware of the sensitivity of our group of dogs.

**Animal Wellness Center
7000 E. Fish Lake Rd.
(New facility with boarding and
day care)
Maple Grove, MN
763-420-7958**

There are 4 veterinarians - all with greyhound experience. The office manager said the gh census for the past few years is 76. That's a lot of experience!! Their service is great and they have the latest technology. Their compassion has been incredible in good times and in bad.

**Banfield Pet Hospital
1410 University Ave. W
Saint Paul, MN
651-641-1168**

Dr. Cologgi used to have a grey, he's great. I've been very happy with the other vets, too. My only complaint is that sometimes they get too busy and you end up waiting a long time for your appt. They have wellness plans, where you pay a monthly fee and then get discounts on medicines and procedures and the office visit part is free. When they move to the Spruce Tree building on the corner of University and Snelling they'll have extended hours.

**Brighton Vet Hospital
2615 Mississippi St.
New Brighton, MN
651-636-1063**

They have evening hours and a fantastic staff. It's one of the only places who will clean dog's teeth without putting them to sleep. They have a 24-hour emergency line with a live person answering the phone. They ask for symptoms and call Dr. Hedges. He calls back, has the tech call with his advice or meets you at the clinic no matter what the hour.

**Carver Lake Veterinary Center
2201 Ventura Drive
Woodbury, MN
651-578-3290**

We have seen a couple of different vets there, and all have been very accommodating and good with our grey. They also have an online portal where we can log in to retrieve information, due dates on shots, etc.

**Chanhassen Veterinary Clinic
440 West 79th St
Chanhassen, MN
952-934-8862**

I've had good experiences here with my fosters. All the vets and techs seem very pleasant, mature and experienced. I haven't been through a health crisis with them, but have had non-serious medical issues and they all seem intelligent and caring.

They take care of all 3 of my greys (one with a chronic illness) and my fosters. They're great.

Delano Veterinary Clinic
504 Babcock Blvd E (Hwy 12)
Delano, MN 55328
763-972-3534

Dr. Diane Hansen's very kind and gentle and a long time multi-greyhound owner (like nine at a time). She's had to manage some weird ailments with her own gh's (megaesophagus, colitis, bone cancer, etc.). She's gone above and beyond the call of duty. Her techs are also very pleasant and I know one has been with her for many years. Dr. Hansen is a very intelligent vet, yet practical. She **always** puts the dog's quality of life and comfort first.

Dr. Hanson came from the U of MN Vet clinic. She owns 5 greyhounds herself - so to say she knows the breed is an understatement. More importantly, she goes way beyond the call when a greyhound needs help. She literally kept our first grey by her side on a weekend when he was very ill & dehydrated and she came to our house when he was too disabled for us to take him to her office & helped us help Spirit over the bridge. And we didn't have to refinance our house.

Duluth Animal Hospital
Dr. Prosecky
Duluth, MN
218-728-3616

Edina Pet Hospital
78th and Cahill
7701 Cahill Road
952-929-5800

Excelsior Animal Hospital
130 Oak Street
Excelsior, MN 55331
952-474-1106

Foley Blvd Animal Hospital
11247 Foley Blvd. NW
Coon Rapids, MN
763-755-3595

After visiting about five vets last fall for a special autoimmune disease Cora developed (something called SLO that made all of her nails very brittle and is common in sight hounds) I can honestly say we're sticking with Dr. Rodger Barr

Dr. Barr and his staff performed a thorough greyhound dental and exam under anesthesia. It's a long haul for us up to Coon Rapids, but he was definitely a greyhound expert, which we wanted for this procedure. If we had extensive vet care again, I'd drive all the way up to see him again.

We have driven the two hours to get there on numerous occasions for our two because he is SO good with the hounds and is considered a sight hound clinic (although he also sees other breeds and cats) He really knows his stuff about greyhounds and his office staff are great too. Eight paws up from my gang!

Golden Valley Animal Hospital
651 Winnetka Ave. North
Golden Valley, MN 55427
763-544-4286

Grand Avenue Veterinary Center

1140 Grand Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105
651-224-3038

(DVMs: Nancy Balto, Ann Brownlee, Kate Freed, Karen Christopherson, and Heather Statdtherr) **I believe we've seen Heather Stadtherr the most.*

We have had good experiences finding appointments for routine care and road-rash scraped greyhound feet.

Hillcrest Animal Hospital

1320 E. County D
Maplewood, MN 55109
651-484-7211

Inver Grove Heights Animal Hospital

7131 Cahill Ave E.
Inver Grove Heights, MN
651-451-4404

Lake Harriet Veterinary

4249 Bryant Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN
612-822-1545

Life Care Animal Hospital

1328 White Bear Ave. N
St. Paul, MN
651-774-6063

Maplewood Pet Care Clinic and Boarding

2811 White Bear Ave
651-770-8373

Friendly staff very professional and willing to explain - with a GH in residence

Minnehaha Animal Hospital

4809 Chicago Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-825-4427

Dr. Rachel Meloy has 2 greyhounds she rescued from tracks. Sounded like they were in bad shape so they placed them with a vet rather than going through the normal adoption channels. "State-of-the-art health care, old fashioned service for over 30 years"

Oakwood Pet Clinic

1441 Cty Rd 101 No
Plymouth, MN 55447
763-473-7030

I have used Dr. Williamson now for four years and she has proven herself to be knowledgeable on Greyhounds as well as other breeds. When Snickers died, she sent me a basket filled with cookies and candy (not that that's a reason to have a vet, but still.....!) When Libby had that terrible run-in with The Critter, she stapled her face back up and you can't even see where the scar is. I never have to wait and the staff is friendly and helpful.

Park Grove Pet Hospital

7663 79th St. S
Cottage Grove, MN
651-459-9663

Dr. Dan Cederstrom is an absolutely amazing doctor. They have experience with greyhounds and Dr. Cederstrom deeply cares for the animals. When our cat went into acute kidney failure he was stopping by to check on her in the middle of the night just to make sure she was doing okay. He was also completely frank and honest about what they could do when our 1st greyhound was diagnosed with Lymph node cancer; he let us know what they could do there and what we would need to go to the U of M for. They also just built a new clinic a couple years ago and it is beautiful!

Pilot Knob Animal Hospital

4145 Knob Drive
Eagan, MN
651-452-8160

Dr. Charles Peck – head vet
They are Greyhound knowledgeable.

PineRidge Pet Care

2172 Station Parkway
Andover, MN
763-755-5321

Lots of nice vets there, my favorite Dr Bear, and Dr Hartman, my hounds usually see them. I have been with them for years.

River Ridge Pet Clinic

12243 River Ridge Blvd
Burnsville, MN 55337
952-890-3730

Rockford Road Animal Hospital

3900 Vinewood Lane, Suite 16
Plymouth, MN
763-559-7554

We've seen all 3 of the Vets there. They all seem very knowledgeable about Greyhounds and are very good with Jackie. The office is always clean and the receptionists and techs are very helpful and friendly.

St. Francis Animal Hospital

1227 Larpenteur Ave. W
Roseville, MN 55113
651-645-2808

I have had very good experiences with Dr. Jennifer Blair at St. Francis Animal Hospital. She is very gentle with my Kiba girl, and takes enough time to talk with me so that I clearly understand what's going on with my hound. She's also very good about calling me at home to check on Kiba if she's been sick. I really like that personal attention. I've had a couple of scares with Kiba, and they have treated her very well.

University of Minnesota Small Animal Hospital

1365 Gortner Ave.
St. Paul, MN
612-622-1919

After hours emergency:
612-625-9711

Veterinary Center on Main

763-315-4643
123 Central Ave
Osseo, MN

They are very customer service oriented, have weekend and evening hours, and are priced competitively for the immediate area (and they will match 1800 PetMeds pricing).

Appendix 2: RECOMMENDED BOARDING KENNELS

All Season's Country Club in Cocoran
<http://www.allseasonsccc.com/index.htm>

Animal Inn Boarding Kennels & Suites, Lake Elmo 651-777-0255
www.animalinnboardingkennel.com

Animal Wellness Center in Maple Grove 763-420-7958
www.animalwellnessmg.com

Auntie Ruth's Furry Friends Home Away From Home, Hopkins 952-936-9000
www.auntieruth.com

Bloomington Veterinary Hospital, Bloomington 952-884-3228
www.bloomingtonvet.com

Brooklyn Park Pet Hospital, Brooklyn Park 763-566-6000
www.bppethospital.com

Dog Break, Sandy Jammer, Coon Rapids sjammer@msn.com 612-201-5567

Country Kennels, St. Mayer 952-657-2575

Happy Days Doggie Camp, Rockford 763-477-9999
www.happydaysdoggiecamp.com

Kolstad's K-9 Acres, Minnetonka 952-934-3884

Krismyth Kennels, Hutchinson 320-234-7812

Maplewood Pet Care Clinic, Maplewood 651-770-8373

Pet Boarding by Brandi, Hastings 612-382-4234
www.petboardingbybrandi.com

Stone Mountain Lodge, Blaine 763-792-8929
www.stonemountainpetlodge.com

Waggin' Tail Ranch, Elk River 763-241-3883