

Taking your greyhound home

Thank you for offering your home to a retired greyhound! These pages contain a few helpful hints which will make the integration of your new dog into the family as stress-free as possible.

Overview

In the initial stages of taking a greyhound into a new home, some dogs will show signs of stress such as heavy panting, listlessness, lack of interest in food etc – these are all signs of fear. While your new dog will have spent time with foster carers, life in a domestic environment is still a relatively new experience for him. Stairs, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, large areas of glass etc are new to your dog and can cause initial worries.

Spend time with your dog and take him on a daily walk. Don't let your greyhound off lead at all except for on private property, and do so only then when it is safe and you are sure your dog will return to you when called. Training greyhounds to "recall" and respond to other obedience commands is not difficult but it is often best done in conjunction with a training class.

Transporting your greyhound home

Greyhounds generally are excellent car travellers, as they're used to being taken to race meetings all over the state. Please keep in mind that greyhounds are big dogs and as such they need to be transported in either the rear cargo section of a station wagon or the back seat of a sedan, hatch or wagon. They **should not** be transported on the front seat of a car or in the back of a ute.

Upon arriving home

When you get home, take your greyhound straight into the garden or designated toilet spot and wait until he relieves himself and then praise him profusely. Do this before you take him inside and it will help to prevent him from having an "accident". On entering your garden and before you let your dog off leash, check that other animals such as neighbour's cats etc are given adequate chance to retreat.

Feeding your greyhound & ideal body weight

Your greyhound may go off his food for a few days after the adoption. This is nothing to worry about & is usually as a result of stress. It should pass fairly quickly as the dog settles into your home. Don't worry, your dog will eat when he's ready & he definitely won't starve himself! Your dog also may have slight diarrhea if he is stressed.

Keeping track of your greyhound's ideal weight is easy. At their ideal weight, you should be able to feel the dog's ribs but not see them. If you can see your dog's ribs at all, then the greyhound is too thin. If you can't feel the ribs, then he needs to go on a diet! Greyhounds tend to have a higher metabolism than other breeds & therefore they must have fat in their diet to maintain their condition, particularly in winter. Adding a few tablespoons of lard, dripping, fat trimmings from meat, peanut butter, cheese or vegetable/fish oils are all recommended to maintain a healthy weight.

The "10 minute" rule

A lot of people make the mistake of leaving a bowl of food out for their dog to graze on all day, or if the dog refuses to eat their regular food, they cook them yummiier, often human alternatives to try and tempt them to eat. Usually this only leads to creating finicky eaters.

The best way to cure this is to impose the "10 minute rule". The dog's regular food is put down for 10 minutes. Whatever isn't eaten in that time is taken away. The dog doesn't get fed again until the

next meal is due and you **only** feed the dog's regular food –no treats, tidbits or cooked, special foods. Soon the dog will realise that's all the food he's getting and if he doesn't hurry up and eat, he'll go hungry. His brain will not allow him to starve and he will soon eat. Sometimes it can take a few days but this method does work and it will save you hassles later. Often people worry if their dog misses a meal but in the wild a dog would not get a regular meal each day, so their bodies are designed to cope with this.

Listed below are a number of guidelines which should keep your dog fit and healthy.

Water

Clean, fresh water should be available at all times. Never leave your dog without water.

Canned foods

GAP do not recommend feeding your greyhound canned foods. Canned foods tend to not agree with their digestive system & often result in diarrhea and/or flatulence.

Complete foods

Complete foods are often the most effective, economical and efficient way of feeding your dog and ensuring he gets all the vitamins and minerals he needs. Look for a brand that contains around 26% protein & a minimum of 15% fat. We suggest feeding working or active dog varieties of dry foods. You should also look for a brand that lists meat as the first ingredient. Cheaper brands tend to have cereals as the main ingredient, whilst mid range brands have meat by-products as the main ingredient. Follow the feeding instructions on the packaging according to the weight of your dog. Often greyhounds find dry foods easier to swallow if they are mixed with some warm water, stock or gravy.

Fresh meat

Most dogs love fresh meat. This can be fed either raw or cooked. Beef pet mince can be purchased relatively inexpensively and when mixed with pasta, bread, kibble or rice and vegetables, it becomes a much-relished food for the greyhounds. Raw chicken carcasses are also wonderful for helping to keep the teeth clean and most greyhounds love them. They can have one every second day.

Chews & bones

Rawhide chews & marrow or brisket bones are excellent for helping to keep teeth clean and healthy. Ensure that any bones fed are raw & NEVER feed cooked bones of any kind. Feed bones once per week.

Additional

A tablespoon of lard or vegetable or flaxseed oil added to the main meal each day will help keep your greyhound's coat glossy. Oily fish, such as tinned tuna, sardines and salmon, will achieve the same thing and can be fed once or twice a week. Small amounts of cheese, either crumbled on top of the food or as a lump as a treat is fine.

Introducing your greyhound to an existing dog

If you already have a dog, it is recommended that you arrange the initial meeting between the two in a neutral area, such as a local park or on the street. Allow them to smell each other on loose, relaxed leads. Go for a walk with the dogs until they are relaxed together, then take them back to the house and into the garden. Firmly reprimand the dogs by growling at them in a low, deep voice followed by a stern NO if either of the dogs exhibit anti-social behaviour such as snarling etc. Often in the initial stages there may be a little growling as the dogs sort out their "pecking order". As long as this doesn't go as far as a fight, it's best to let the dogs sort things out for themselves.

Introducing your greyhound to an existing cat

Ensure that initial introductions are undertaken inside the house, with the greyhound on lead and the cat on the floor (not in your arms). Before you begin, arm yourself with a spray bottle (set onto a strong squirt setting, not a mist) or a water pistol. Allow the greyhound to approach the cat and gently sniff it. If the greyhound lunges for the cat, or attempts to bite at it, reprimand the dog with a

firm NO followed up by a squirt in the face with your spray bottle. When the dog behaves correctly and shows no interest in the cat, profusely praise the dog.

Please note that even if the greyhound completely ignores the cat inside, outside is often another matter and even the most cat-safe dog may chase cats in the backyard.

Take care to closely monitor the greyhound when it is around the cat during the first few weeks. If you are concerned at any time, GAP can supply you with a muzzle for your dog.

House training

While your greyhound would have begun his house training while in foster care, this needs to be continued by you and should begin as soon as your new dog arrives home. House training in greyhounds is generally not a problem. After the greyhounds initial visit to the garden, regularly take them to the area outside that you wish them to use as a toilet. Put them on lead to do this if necessary. When they go to the toilet in this area, praise them profusely. They'll soon learn that this is the area that they're to use as their toileting spot. If taken outside regularly enough, it is unlikely that the greyhound will have had a chance to have an accident inside and he will be thoroughly familiar with the idea that any "toilets" are to be done outside.

If your dog does have an "accident" indoors bear in mind that punishment does not work and can actually make matters worse. Anticipate when your dog needs to go and take him outside and praise him when he does what is expected of him. Any accidents inside the home should be washed thoroughly in a solution of biological washing liquid as this will take the smell away. Take him to the toilet immediately after food, when he gets up, and before he goes to bed and, of course, in between.

Pacing up and down, whining, scratching at the door or circling are all signs that your greyhound may need to go to the toilet. Greyhounds are generally very clean animals and they learn quickly, so housetraining is rarely an issue.

Health issues

Make inquiries at your local vet to establish their knowledge of treating and dealing with greyhounds. Greyhounds react differently to anesthetics to other dog breeds and it is very important that your vet is aware of this. Greyhounds also have different "normal" levels for blood and urine tests to domestic dog breeds. Your greyhound will come to you wormed and vaccinated. Continue with a worming program and worm your greyhound every three months, on the first day of each new season. Vaccination boosters are required every twelve months.

Teeth

Risks, dog chews, large raw bones, raw chicken necks and frames, and dry food help to maintain good dental hygiene. Bad dental health is indicated by bad breath, rotting and tartar covered teeth. While all GAP greyhounds have their teeth cleaned before adoption, tartar can build up quickly if dental hygiene is not maintained. A considerable build-up of tartar should be removed by your veterinarian.

Gastric Dilation and Volvulus (bloat)

GDV is a very serious, life threatening condition that all deep chested dog breeds can be prone to. More detailed information about this condition can be found under the fact sheet section of the GAP website. To help lessen the risk of your dog getting bloat, it is **very** important to not allow the dog to exercise for at least 1 to 2 hours before **or** after eating a meal. You can also feed your dog 2 smaller meals per day to aid digestion, rather than 1 large meal.

Coat

Your pet should be washed as needed (no more than once per month) in dog shampoo or eucalyptus wool wash. Human shampoos are too drying to use on dogs. Some greyhounds appear very relaxed and will wobble or fall over when washed in warm water. This is very normal and the dogs recover quickly if you get them up and lead them around briefly.

Fleas

Check your dog regularly for fleas, especially where cats share the same household. GAP recommends the use of Advantage or Advocate to control fleas.

Heartworm

Please seek veterinary advice on the method of heartworm control best suited to your home situation. GAP recommends the use of Advocate.

Worming

Regular worming benefits the health of both your dog and yourself as some worms can be transmitted to humans by animals. All dogs are wormed monthly with Advocate while with GAP.

Nails

All GAP greyhounds have their nails trimmed before being adopted. Nails should not be allowed to grow too long and should be clipped regularly. If you're a bit nervous about cutting the dog's nails, you can instead buy a bastard file from the hardware store and file the dog's nails once a week. A good guide to see if your dog's nails are too long is to stand him on concrete and see if you can slide a piece of paper between his nails and the ground. If you can't, his nails are too long and need cutting!

Vaccinations

Your new greyhound will have been vaccinated with the C5 vaccine and will require yearly booster shots.

Muzzles

Under State law, all greyhounds except those adopted as pets from GAP are required to be muzzled in public. Your greyhound **must** wear his green GAP identification collar while off your premises.

Bedding

Your greyhound will appreciate having his own bed. Due to their lack of body fat, greyhounds require plenty of soft bedding to make them comfortable. A folded doona complete with cover is an inexpensive and easy to maintain bed. A warm kennel or the kitchen or living room is the best place for your new dog to sleep.

It is recommended that greyhounds, and other dogs, be not allowed to sleep on human beds. This is confusing for the greyhound and encourages it to consider itself higher in the "pack" hierarchy than it should be.

Contacting your greyhound's previous owner/trainer

At the top of the second page of your greyhound's foster summary booklet, there is a section which, if they've given us permission to give it out, contains the name, phone number & email address of the person who used to own your greyhound. This may have been the dog's racing trainer, owner or both. If there is a name listed here, **PLEASE** do get in touch with this person. We cannot stress how important it is to the overall acceptance of GAP in the racing industry that the trainers receive feedback on the dogs they have entrusted into our care. Contrary to what you may think, racing trainers & owners love their dogs dearly & wait many months before there is a spot available for GAP to take them. We often have trainers in tears when they hand their dogs over! The reason they give their dogs to GAP is so that the dog can have a better life.

When a trainer hears from an adoptive family, it helps to give them closure to know that the dog has found a loving home. It also gives them confidence to place more dogs with GAP when they hear what wonderful homes their previous dog/s have found. It doesn't mean they want to be your best friend for life or expect constant updates, just one call or email is all they hope to receive. Some of the comments we've had from trainers are:

"The people who adopted Jake rang me before Christmas. Do you know it was the best Christmas present I've ever had"

"I got a photo from Cilla's family. It made my day. I'm so relieved to know that she's found such a lovely home. Thank you for all your great work. Can I put 2 more dogs into GAP?"

"I've never heard from anyone that's adopted any of my dogs. I'm so disappointed. All I want to know is that they've found a nice home & are loved. Why won't the people contact me?"

If you don't feel comfortable speaking to your greyhound's previous owner but would like to let them know how the dog is going, you are most welcome to send a letter or photos to GAP & we can forward them onto the trainer for you. Due to privacy laws, GAP will not provide your details to the trainer or foster carer.

I think my greyhound has been abused by his previous owner!

We hear this one quite often. Thankfully, you can rest assured that this is simply not true. Greyhounds by nature are a very soft, gentle breed. People often assume, just because when they raise their voice or hand and the greyhound cowers or ducks, that it **must** have been beaten. This couldn't be further from the truth. Racing greyhounds are supreme athletes and are treated as such by their trainers. You can't expect a dog to be neglected and mistreated and then run fast and win races can you? Olympic athletes receive the best of everything to perform at their best and a racing greyhound is much the same.

Obedience training

Greyhounds are relatively soft, gentle dogs & are very easy to manage. If your greyhound displays any sort of undesirable behaviour (eg barking, whining, jumping on the bench to get food) they must be corrected so that they learn that this sort of behaviour is not acceptable. The easiest & most effective way to do this is by using a plastic squirt bottle filled with water. Have it on the "stream" setting (not the fine mist). When the dog behaves inappropriately, give him a good squirt in the face with the water & say "AAH" or "NO" in a stern, deep, growly voice. Some people find that adding some vinegar to the water makes it even more effective. This is a very gentle, humane & effective method of correcting any unwanted behaviour. Of course, when your dog behaves appropriately, it is important to praise him so that he learns right from wrong.

Be firm, fair & consistent with your greyhound. By being soft, and allowing undesirable behavior to continue, you are confusing the dog and increasing the likelihood of further problems. By being patient, fair and firm, you are giving the dog the rules & boundaries he needs to make him happy, and you are helping him be a well-mannered dog that is a pleasure to be around.

Obedience classes are extremely beneficial to both you and your dog. They help to cement your relationship and reinforce to the dog who's boss. If you are interested in learning more about obedience training, we highly recommend that you to contact our trainers Mike (ph 0417 379 397) or Chris Garden (ph 0401 145 214) of Eastern Companion Dog Training and consider attending their classes in Ringwood. The classes are inexpensive, great to meet other dog owners and are conducted by professional trainers. Mike and Chris have worked with GAP since its inception, they are very familiar with greyhounds and they specialise in dealing with problem behaviors. If you can't make it to Ringwood and wish to join a local club, check them out first. If they use choker or check chains, DO NOT attend their classes. Chokers cause irreparable damage to a greyhound's neck. These collars should NEVER be worn by greyhounds.

Separation Anxiety

While separation anxiety can occur in greyhounds, it only does so rarely. Don't change your normal routine or take extra time off work when you bring your new dog home – this will only serve to confuse the dog once you go back to work. It is important that your greyhound must spend time alone outside, particularly when you're home – do this as much as possible over the first few weeks. It's better to get them used to your usual workday right from the start. If you have your new dog with you constantly when you're home, then lock him outside all alone when you go out, this will only serve to escalate the separation anxiety.

It is a good idea to give your dog time to settle into your home **outside** before bringing them inside the house. They have so many new experiences to deal with that it can sometimes lead to an

“information overload”, leaving the dog feeling quite overwhelmed. Introduce them to new things gradually, not all at once

Whining or barking to come inside:

Sometimes the greyhound will bark, whine, scratch or jump at the door to be let inside. This sort of behaviour is most undesirable & must be stopped. Keep a plastic squirt bottle or a couple of small jugs filled with water by the door. When the dog behaves inappropriately, correct them with a stern “AAHH” or “NO” & a good spray in the face with the water. Then shut the door & walk away. Only let the dog inside once it has quietened down, not before.

If you feel your greyhound is exhibiting signs of separation anxiety, please contact GAP for further assistance. What follows is an article written for Animal Watch magazine that provides more information about this disorder:

Companion Lines: Don't Leave Me This Way

Supposedly, absence makes the heart grow fonder. However, the absence of an owner sends some dogs into keen wailing and barking, frequent house soiling and self-destructive behaviours. These are all signs that a dog is suffering from separation anxiety.

The canines most likely to fall victim are second-hand dogs. Whether from a shelter, rescue group or greyhound-track adoption program, dogs re-homed in adolescence or older are at greater risk of suffering separation anxiety than puppies. This is probably because it is more difficult for these dogs to accept changes in their routine and environment. They cling to their new pack leader and panic when that leader leaves home to go about his or her daily business. For similar reasons, unemployed companion animal owners or those who take lengthy at-home vacations or recuperations may find that their dog becomes disoriented when they return to work. These distressed pets need help.

Love hangover

Separation anxiety is often a problem of over-bonding. It is not healthy for a dog to follow his caretakers' every step, to be constantly in the same room, sharing the same piece of furniture, being in close contact all the time. Promote independence by teaching the dog to stay on his own bed while you go out of sight. Start with a few seconds, then build up to a length of time the dog can tolerate. Put up a gate and eventually close a door between the two of you. And, get family members involved in dispensing the "good stuff" to the dog.

Walks, play sessions and feedings should not be provided by only one person, for that person's absence means the end of all that is good in the world to the dog. Panic can ensue. If you live alone, perhaps a neighbour or relative will share the duties, or hire a pet-care professional to assist you.

The worst of a dog's hysteria is often during the first hour after departure. Diffuse the emotion of your leave-taking by heartily exercising the dog right after you wake up. Then, after feeding him, scale back your attention to the point of ignoring him during the last 15 minutes before you leave. Turn off the lights and turn on the television, radio or white noise machine -- whatever you play most when you are home. And, with no more than a whispered "Be Good," leave the house.

Some dogs will read the signs of imminent departure and begin to work themselves into a frenzy. If putting on make-up, packing a lunch or shuffling papers in your briefcase distresses the dog, desensitize him to these or other actions by doing them frequently and at other times (such as before mealtime) so they lose their direct connection to the dreaded departure. Presenting a toy stuffed with goodies can draw the focus of less seriously afflicted canines toward cleaning out the item and away from your leaving. Buster cubes, Kong toys, Goodie balls/ships work well as canine diversions. The seriously afflicted dog, however, will not give the toy a second look until his pack is together again.

Luckily, the majority of dogs - if the earlier suggestions are followed -- in no time will be howling "I Will Survive."

Babies and small children

As with any breed of dog, it is essential that young children are never left unsupervised when with your greyhound. Children should be educated to be calm and gentle with the dog and to have respect for its needs and its bed (a "time-out" place is a good idea so that when the dog has had enough he can retreat to his own space for a rest). Any tendency for the greyhound to exhibit dominance posturing towards a child or growling/snapping should be corrected **immediately**. Please remember that a growl is one step away from a bite & should never be tolerated towards any humans. The greyhound should be corrected with a firm 'AAH' or 'NO' & sent outside if he growls at a human.

Setting clear rules and boundaries

It is not uncommon, a couple of weeks after adoption, for a dog to begin to start feeling a little too comfortable in their new home. This can be when teething problems, particularly with small children, may occur. Sometimes the dog will try and push boundaries to see what he can get away with and move up the family pecking order. Dogs are opportunists and they will usually pick the smallest, weakest or quietest/most timid member of the family to muscle in on. Most times it is the smallest child or someone who is a bit nervous of dogs that the dog may growl at when near his bedding or food. It is **extremely important** to correct the dog **immediately** if this sort of behaviour is shown. Don't ever let it go or make excuses for it. The greyhound should be corrected with a firm 'AAH' or 'NO' & sent outside. If possible, squirt him with a spray bottle containing half water and half vinegar.

Greyhounds are very soft dogs who are very easy to correct. This sort of problem is very quickly and easily fixed if you nip it in the bud. Allowing growling to continue will only serve to escalate the problem. It's very important to let the greyhound know that you won't tolerate that sort of behaviour in your house.

Of course it is also equally important to praise the dog when he behaves appropriately. Get the person who the dog growls at to feed him treats each time they go near his bedding or food (you can throw treats on the ground if this involves very young children). If possible, get the person to feed and/or walk the dog. That way the dog will see this person not as a threat or negative experience but rather a provider of all positive things (ie food) in his life. If you are at all nervous about this, please contact GAP and we can supply you with a muzzle for initial training.

Power play

All dogs are pack animals and have strict hierarchies within the pack. The Alpha, or dominant dog, is the top animal in the pack. The Alpha dog always gets to eat first, gets the best bed, gets to go outside first etc. Dogs perceive their human families as being part of the pack and it is important to ensure that people are always seen to be higher in the pecking order than the dog.

Imagine for a moment you are a dog with a new bone. Would you give up your bone to another dog? If you did, you would seem to be weaker and lower in status. Your dog perceives you as another dog, so if you are eating a piece of toast, and you hand some over to your dog, you will be conveying a signal that can be interpreted as a submissive gesture. This inclines your dog to see you as a subordinate. This can also lead to the dog trying to put you in your place in other circumstances.

Generally, the more socially climbing the dog, the fewer subordinate signals it needs. The worst cases can eventually result in someone being bitten. Almost every dog of any variety has the capacity to develop problematical dominant behaviour, even if they are not innately inclined to be real leaders.

Who's boss

A dog's dominant demeanor does not necessarily result in aggression. In fact, in most cases it doesn't. Instead a dog's sense of high status can lead it to be reluctant to come when called and to

obey other commands. It can result in an excessive level of attention-seeking behaviour, and over-developed tendency to defend territory and even excessive pulling on the lead, to name just a few.

Dogs that do develop dominance aggression may display it, for example, when the owners try to wipe their paws after a walk, when they are told to get off the furniture, when the owner ignores it to answer the telephone, when their owner gets out of the car first, or even when they put on their coat to go out. A dominant dog may also show aggression over items it has stolen, such as tissues or underwear, or when it's being stroked and has had enough. The list of ways in which a dominant dog may manifest its sense of high status is as extensive as the problem itself.

With a little bit of thought and some understanding of the dog's way of looking at things, it is easy to correct and prevent dominant behaviour. Think again about eating that piece of toast. If you don't hand any over you'll convey to the dog your higher status. This can be enhanced further if you say, "Go away, it's mine!"

Best policy

Give the wrong signals often enough and the chances are that sooner or later the dog will get the wrong idea about its status and become a problem. Sadly, it's the dog who normally gets the blame and is either re-homed or euthanased, while the owners trot off to get another dog and repeat their mistakes all over again. To prevent this sad state of affairs, follow these simple guidelines as an insurance against the development of dominance aggression.

Asserting your dominance and status in the "pack"

- Don't feed your dog food that you are eating – only subordinates willingly give up their food.
- Always feed your dog after you have eaten – dominant pack members always eat first.
- Don't let your dog into the bedroom – regard this area as your private den.
- Sometimes stand in your dog's bed or anywhere else he likes to lie – you have to right to go anywhere.
- Don't let your dog sit on the furniture or on your lap – the most dominant dogs occupy the highest level.
- Do not let your dog mouth or bite in play – say NO sharply, then stop the game. This teaches your dog that it should not use its teeth in play and how far to go in real life.
- Don't allow your dog to demand attention. Give him affection on your initiative. Call your dog to you, don't go to it – dominant pack members need to be aloof to unsolicited approaches made by subordinates.
- Make sure your dog gives way to you at doors and gates – dominant pack members precede subordinates.
- Don't step over or walk around your dog – make him move – subordinates make way to dominant pack members.

Providing a safe home for your greyhound

Please note that it is both illegal and extremely unsafe to allow your greyhound off-leash in any public area, including off leash dog parks.

Greyhounds run at speeds in excess of 60kph and have extremely poor recall skills. They often won't come when called, particularly if they see something that takes their attention. We have received many heartbreaking, horror stories of greyhounds being killed after being hit by a car, breaking a shoulder, neck or leg or being impaled by sticks or poles after mishaps when they've been allowed to run off lead. Should your greyhound be off lead & become involved in an incident with another dog, not only will you be fined by your council, you may also be liable for any injuries or vet bills incurred by the other party, which can easily mount to thousands of dollars.

We are all working very hard to change the public's perception about greyhounds and negative publicity from incidents where greyhounds have been allowed off lead & have attacked or rushed at a small dog can very quickly bring years of good work undone.

It is also important to note that your greyhound has only been GAP assessed and passed as small dog friendly with small, fluffy dogs **on lead**. The temptation to chase a small dog racing around the park off lead can often be too much for any breed of dog, let alone a greyhound that can run at more than 60kph & easily catch & possibly hurt a small dog.

Please, do not under any circumstances place your greyhound in what could become a life threatening situation by allowing them to run off lead.

Exercise

Although greyhounds are the fastest breed of dog, they achieve their incredible speed in one all out sprint and do not have a lot of endurance. Because of this, the greyhound actually requires less exercise than most dogs. Greyhounds are generally very content being a "couch potato" and spend most of the day sleeping. They enjoy a short walk (20-30 minutes) each day. If you intend to walk your dog for longer periods, you will need to start at 20 minutes & gradually build up their stamina.

GAP conducts a greyhound playgroup once a month at the Manningham Slipping Track in Donvale, Tootgarook Slipping Track and Ballarat Slipping Track. Please contact GAP for further information.

A Slipping Track is a fully fenced, private area that you can take your greyhound to and allow him some time off-leash. Most slipping tracks work on a subscription system where you pay a small fee and are provided with a key to unlock the gate. Listed below are the community slipping tracks in Victoria (please contact the secretary of the track before you use it for the first time):

Ballarat Slipping Track
Rubicon St, Sebastopol (adjacent to the greyhound track)
Phone Margaret Bryant on 5333 5097 / 0413 186 649

Flinders Slipping Track
Truemans Road Reserve, Tootgarook
Phone Bruce Knight on 5986 3372

Manningham Slipping Track
Stintons Reserve, Park Orchards
Judith Taylor 9720 5598

Sunshine Slipping Track
Carrington Dr, Albion

Slipping tracks are also located at the following greyhound tracks: The Meadows (Broadmeadows), Bendigo, Cranbourne, Longwood, Melton, Wangaratta and Werribee (at the Werribee racecourse).

Lost greyhounds

Ensure you have a collar with identification tags on your greyhound at all times. If your greyhound gets lost, first advise GAP as most animal shelters will call us if a greyhound is handed in to them. These are the other shelters you need to call on a daily basis until your greyhound is returned home safely:

Lort Smith Animal Hospital (North Melbourne) – 9328 3021
Lost Dogs Home and Cat Shelter (North Melbourne) – 9329 2755 or 9329 9493
Blue Cross Animal Society of Victoria (Wonga Park) – 9722 1265
Victorian Animal Aid Trust (Coldstream) – 9739 0300
RSPCA (Burwood) – 9224 2222
Macedon Ranges Animal Aid (Woodend) – 5427 4125

Australian Animal Protection Society (Keysborough) – 9798 8044
Werribee Animal Aid (Hoppers Crossing) – 9749 1945
Peninsula Animal Aid (Pearcedale) – 5978 6706
Geelong Animal Welfare Society (Moolap) – 5248 2091
Broadmeadows Pound (Epping) – 9408 7356
Save A Dog Scheme (Glen Iris) - 9824 7928

Also call all local veterinary surgeries, your local council, neighbours, schools, and shopping centers.

Microchipping

Your Greyhound is microchipped and details are recorded on Greyhound Racing Victoria's microchip registry database. Your contact details are automatically recorded on this database when you adopt your dog. There is nothing further you need to do, other than notify GAP should your address and/or phone numbers change.

Should your Greyhound get lost, please provide pounds/vet clinics or anyone you call with your dog's microchip number and your contact details to get the dog back to you more quickly. Sometimes, staff at vet clinics/shelters/pounds are unaware that they need to contact Greyhound Racing Victoria (ph: 8329 1100, ask for Animal Welfare Officer) to obtain microchip ownership details for Greyhounds. If they try to contact one of the other microchip registries (there are several in Victoria), they will not be able to find details of your dog's microchip on their register.

And finally...

- Your greyhound should always wear his GAP collar and an identification tag with your contact telephone number/s on it. This way anyone finding the dog should hopefully contact you rather than the local pound to ensure the dog's safe return.
- Give your greyhound lots of patience, a chance to settle in and plenty of understanding.
- Let sleeping dogs lie! Greyhounds sleep very deeply, occasionally with their eyes open, and dislike being startled awake. They may let out a defensive growl, but unlike most breeds, are unlikely to bite. Try speaking to your dog or calling his name before touching him whilst asleep.
- Take care initially with your greyhound around anything small, fluffy and fast. While GAP greyhounds are used to small dogs and often cats in their foster homes, your home and pets are new to them. Take things slowly and use a muzzle if you are concerned.
- Don't expect your greyhound to respond to a name yet; most dogs are named when they enter the Program and become used to responding to the tone of their foster carers voice; remember, you're a totally new entity. Getting used to a name can take months – not a few days.
- Don't forget that you can call the GAP staff at any time should you have any queries or concerns.
- Enjoy owning this very special breed of dog – we look forward to catching up with you when you come back to adopt a second one!

NEW OWNER FAQ'S

- **When should I put my greyhound's coat on?**
When the temperature is under 15 degrees.
- **When should I take the coat off?**
When the temperature is over 15 degrees and/or you notice the dog panting. You don't need a coat on the dog when it's travelling in the car.
- **Should I walk my dog with a coat on?**
Not unless it is very cold or you're not walking too far or fast. If you notice your dog panting when walking with a coat on, take the coat off – it usually means they're hot.
- **How do I know if my dog's GAP collar is adjusted correctly?**
The two silver circular metal rings which attach the green collar to the black webbing should never touch when the collar is tightened. If they touch, the collar is too loose and could come off. Tighten the collar by sliding the buckle.
- **When will it be OK to let my greyhound off lead at the park?**
NEVER! You are risking your dog's life by allowing this!
- **My greyhound has dry, flaky skin. What is this and how do I fix it?**
This is dandruff. Your greyhound will have had a bath the day before coming to you, so this is just residual dry skin cells. It's nothing to worry about and it will go away. Adding sardines in oil twice per week to the dog's food will help alleviate this. **DON'T** bath your dog more than once a month. Doing so strips his coat of its natural oils and will make the dandruff worse.
- **What is the best sort of brush to buy?**
The rubber mits with nipples on one side are the kindest and easiest to use.
- **What sort of bedding should I buy?**
If the bed is outdoors or on a cold, hard surface, you will need a bed that is raised off the ground (eg a hammock bed). If the bedding is indoors or on carpet, a couple of old blankets or doonas will be ideal.
- **Does my greyhound need a kennel?**
As long as you have a sheltered area where the dog can get away from the wind, rain and sun, you don't need a kennel. A pergola, verandah, shed or garage are fine. If you are buying a kennel, you will need the largest size they have. Buy one with an offset door (ie not a door in the middle), as this gives the dog better protection from wind and rain.
- **Can greyhounds go through doggie doors?**
They can. Keep in mind though that a door that is big enough for a greyhound will also be big enough for a person (eg burglar) to get in too.
- **My greyhound has diarrhoea. How do I fix this?**
Don't feed the dog for 24 hours to rest his tummy. Then start feeding plain boiled rice. Ensure he continues to drink plenty of water. Once his stools have firmed, gradually start re-introducing bland, non fatty meat (eg chicken). Feeding grated apple is also a good remedy but wait until the grated apple turns brown before feeding. Psyllium husk (available from health food stores) is also a good remedy. Add a spoonful to the food. If your greyhound has diarrhoea for more than 3 days, consult a vet.

- **My greyhound has bad breath. How can I fix this?**
Check his teeth to see if they need cleaning. A raw marrow bone once weekly will help this. The problem may also come from further down in the gut. Adding a spoonful of natural yoghurt to the meal helps correct digestive imbalance.
- **My greyhound has bad flatulence. How can I fix this?**
This is probably due to diet. A natural diet shouldn't produce wind, nor should feeding Advance dry food. Charcoal biscuits are great for reducing wind problems.
- **What time of day should I feed my greyhound and how many times should I feed my greyhound each day?**
It doesn't matter what time of day you feed your dog. Do it at a time that fits in best with your daily routine. Ideally, if you can, feed your dog 2 smaller meals per day this is better for their digestion and lessens the risk of Gastric Dilation and Volvulus (bloat).
- **How much should I feed my greyhound?**
There are guidelines of what your greyhound has been fed whilst at GAP in his foster booklet.
- **How do I know if my greyhound is too thin?**
If you can see the dog's ribs AT ALL, then he is too thin.
- **How do I know if my greyhound is too fat?**
If you can't feel his ribs and he has no defined waistline when looking from above, he needs to go on a diet!
- **My greyhound just growled at my kids but I'll excuse it because.....this is OK isn't it?**
Growling should NEVER be excused. Remember, a growl is one step away from a bite. Contact GAP for advice ASAP.
- **My greyhound has bald patches on his bottom and/or tail. Does he have a skin condition I should be worried about?**
No, this isn't a skin condition and it's quite a common occurrence in the breed. Nearly all greyhounds have some degree of baldness on their bottom and tail. It is caused by the dog laying down and rubbing the fur a lot, particularly if on rough bedding (eg. Hessian, dirt or concrete). Sometimes the fur will grow back but your dog may always have some bald spots in these areas. It's nothing to be concerned about.
- **My greyhound becomes weak and falls over when I bath him, especially in warm water. He then has trouble getting up or standing for a few minutes.**
This is something that appears to be specific to and very common in greyhounds. Vets aren't aware of it and are unable to explain to us exactly why it occurs. When being bathed, the majority of greyhounds will become weak and groggy, particularly in the hind legs. They may try to lie down or fall over and are unable to stand, sometimes for a couple of minutes after the bath is finished. This is nothing to be concerned about and it's quite normal for the breed. Just allow your dog some time to rest and he'll be fine again in a few minutes.

Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association

Victorian Vet's List 2010

Region	Clinic	Vet's name	Clinic Phone
Albury/Wodonga	Hume Animal Hospital	Dr. Arthur Frauenfelder	02 6025 4088
Ballarat	Eureka Veterinary Hospital	Dr. Michael Sheedy	03 5333 5959
Bendigo	Mclvor Road Veterinary	Dr. Sue Collins	03 5443 7749
Geelong	Newtown Veterinary Clinic	Dr. John (Jack)Ayerbe	03 5221 5333
Melb Metro	Caulfield Veterinary Clinic	Dr. Janene Kirschner	03 9527 7740
	Prahran Veterinary Hospital	Dr. Carl Muller	03 9510 1335
	Craigieburn Animal Hospital	Dr. Michael Bell	03 9305 5855
Cranbourne	Walnut Veterinary clinic	Dr Des Fegan	03 5995 5255
	Cranbourne	Dr. Barry Haywood	03 5978 5174
Frankston	Karingal Veterinary Hospital	Dr. Barbara Backhoy	03 9789 3444
	Keysborough Vet Clinic	Dr. Chris Boemo	03 9798 7274
Oakleigh	Monash Veterinary Clinic	Dr. Ray Ferguson	03 9544 7455
Springvale	Sandown Vet Clinic	Dr. Alastair Smith	03 9547 6666
SE Victoria	Maffra Veterinary Group	Dr Cindy Hayes	03 5147 1177
	Trafalgar Veterinary Clinic	Dr. Gee Tawfik	03 5633 1327
	Warragul Veterinary Clinic	Dr Roderic Irwin	03 5623 2525
SW Victoria	Allansford Wollaston Vet Clinic	Dr Craig Finlayson	03 5561 6911
W Victoria	Maryborough Vet Practice	Dr. Kris Hardefelt	03 5461 4466
	O'Callaghan Parade Clinic	Dr. Garth Nurse	03 5381 1996
	Stawell Veterinary Clinic	Dr Michelle Gray	03 5358 1666
	Terang and Mortlake	Dr. Craig Wood	03 5592 2111
N Victoria	Glenrowan Veterinary Clinic	Dr. Joanne Watkins	03 5766 2661
	Shepparton Veterinary Clinic	Dr Geoffrey Withers	03 5821 3188
	Tatura Vet Clinic	Dr. Phil Stammers	03 5824 1755
NE Victoria	Mansfield Veterinary Hospital	Dr. Peter Cullen	03 5775 2055