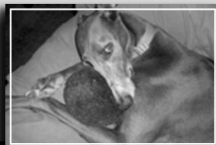




FOREVER HOME GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS



PROUDLY SERVING THE ENTIRE NORTHEAST REGION!

## THE FIRST TEN DAYS

A NEW GREYHOUND OWNERS GUIDE TO SUCCESS.

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FOREVER HOME GREYHOUND ADOPTIONS

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# ***Congratulations!***

You have just adopted a Retired Racing Greyhound and by doing so you have begun one of the most fulfilling experiences of a lifetime. This booklet was designed expressly for you to help make this journey a safe and pleasant experience for both you and for your new best friend and soul mate.

Your decision to adopt this Greyhound is a commitment that will be ongoing for many years to come so please do not enter into it lightly. This beautiful creature will be dependant upon you for everything. He is at your mercy and will rely on you to make all the correct decisions on his behalf for his entire lifetime. He will depend on you for his food and water, and to keep him safe from harm. You will be his sole provider and everything you do will affect his life and future. It will be your responsibility to tend to him when he is ill and when he becomes old and tired. You will give him the love and affection that he so desperately needs in order to blossom and flourish, and in return, this dog will give to you the only thing he has, his heart and his undying love and devotion. It is all he has, he gives it gladly to you, and you will find that it is the most precious gift you have ever received. Remember his life is completely in your hands.

This new relationship will require 2 major things from you:

**UNDERSTANDING & PATIENCE**

Nothing of consequence happens immediately so it is imperative that you exhibit patience with your Greyhound while he adjusts to his grand new life. Some Greyhounds adjust immediately, walk in, act as if they had always been there but others take more time, and do not adapt as quickly as others do. We have found that there is generally an adjustment period of about 10 days, hence the title of our handout.

## **BE PREPARED**

Be sure to have all the proper equipment and supplies purchased and in place well in advance of your Greyhounds homecoming. The main things to have ready and waiting are:

**HIS CRATE:** We recommend the BETTER BUY brand MODEL #1248. Whichever brand you choose the size should be no smaller than 48 x 30 x 35. The dog should be able to stand and turn around freely within his crate to allow for his maximum comfort. Placement of the crate is crucial! The Greyhound should always be where he can see his family. He should never feel removed from family activity. At bedtime, we recommend moving his crate to the bedroom to prevent whining and restlessness. When you discover the crate is no longer necessary a dog bed or comforter should be provided for the Greyhound in the bedroom. Normally Greyhounds will select a family member or members and sleep as close to them as possible. He will likely sleep in your bed with you if you allow it. ( Mine Do ) Your Greyhound should ALWAYS be made to feel as much a part of the family as possible. They are an extremely social breed and adore their humans.

**Raised Bowls are also recommended.** The Greyhound is a tall breed and should not be forced to bow to the floor in order to reach his food as this can cause eventual neck and spinal discomfort.

This booklet is designed to help you and your Greyhound through the transitional first 10 days and beyond. Questions and concerns may be directed to either Paula 518-261-7025 or Martha 518-883-5554. Remember be kind and be patient and you will discover a joy beyond belief as you watch your new Greyhound blossom and flourish under your loving guidance.

**Martingale collar and leash.** These will be provided to you as a part of your adoption donation fee. Remember when replacing his collar to be sure it is of the Martingale variety. The Greyhound's neck and head are virtually the same size, which makes traditional buckle collars unsafe. The Greyhound is able to slip right out of a traditional collar if he becomes alarmed or frightened.

**FOOD:** Any premium brand food is fine. We do not recommend cutting corners on your Greyhounds diet. Less expensive store brand foods may not provide your Greyhound with all of the nutrition necessary to keep him in tiptop shape.

Now that you have your home Greyhound Ready, it is time for your new family member to come to stay. Remember day one your Greyhound is a stranger in a strange land. Imagine yourself transplanted to China or some other foreign place where you know no one and do not speak the language. NOW YOU KNOW HOW YOUR GREYHOUND FEELS ON DAY NUMBER ONE.

Some behavior that you may expect is confusion and anxiety. Your Greyhound may pace, whine and pant heavily. This can sometimes go on for 2 or 3 days. This does not ALWAYS happen but it is best to be prepared in case it does. This is normal and you should not be concerned. Your Greyhound may even refuse food for up to 3 days. Do not be alarmed. Just comfort him and offer him his crate. Once he begins to feel comfortable, he will resume eating normally and will exhibit normal doggy behavior. Just leave fresh water and food down for him and let him discover it in his own time.

Your Greyhound may experience loose bowels because of the stress he is feeling from his environmental change. If this happens, you can actually treat him right from your own medicine chest. Imodium will work so will Kaopectate. Give him approximately ½ the dosage you would administer to an adult. Steamed Rice and ground turkey are also recommended until the stool once again appears firm and well formed. Tree Bark Powder works wonders and can be found at [www.hppets.com](http://www.hppets.com).

Males, and occasionally some females though neutered may attempt to mark their new environment with urine in order to make it seem more their own. A sharp NO! And a spritz from a spray bottle of cold water will modify this behavior in short order. Be vigilant, correct IMMEDIATELY and NEVER NEVER strike your Greyhound!

House Training should begin immediately. Take the Greyhound out frequently, every 2 hours initially and praise profusely whenever the Greyhound relieves himself outside. A small training cookie along with the praise will instill a positive feeling in your Greyhound and help him to know he is doing a good thing. When you are unavailable to monitor the Greyhound then crate him and take him outside immediately upon his release from the crate. Again, praise is crucial when he relieves himself outside. ALWAYS allow him to go outside just prior to bedtime to insure a full nights rest. Unless the Greyhound is experiencing loose bowels, do NOT get up in the middle of the night for potty time or you will begin a habit that will be difficult if not impossible to correct. Your goal is to acclimate the Greyhound to YOUR schedule not the reverse!

Be CONSISTENT. That is your key to success in all areas of Greyhound behavior modification.

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REMEMBER.....YOUR " VOICE " AND YOUR SPRAY BOTTLE ARE YOUR STRONGEST TOOLS !

Potty Accidents: If you discover that your Greyhound has had an accident inside and you were not there to see it in progress then just quietly clean it up, spray with some NATURES MIRACLE and forget it. Remember unless you CATCH HIM IN THE ACT you CANNOT correct him. If you catch an accident in progress, holler NO and spritz with the spray bottle. Take him immediately outside and praise him profusely when he completes the act outside.

**Stairs and Glass:** Your new Greyhound has never been exposed to stairs so expect some hesitation at first when going up and down. The first few times it is best to let one person handle the leash while another walks behind the dog to offer support. By placing the dogs front feet on a stair and then doing the same with his hind feet methodically moving first the front then the rear feet gradually up a stair each time will give him the general idea and before you know it he will be doing it totally on his own. Do not push pull or raise your voice just guide him gently and speak softly. Show the Greyhound that he cannot walk through sliding glass doors. Guide him to the glass and let him touch it with his muzzle. Never allow him to run through the house until he has familiarized himself with the layout and has acquainted himself with all the glass doors and low windows.

**Smaller Animals:** Before you adopt your Greyhound Forever Home will have inquired as to what other pets are present in your home. If there are cats, miniature dogs or some other type of small fur bearing creature, we will ask you to select your Greyhound from our dogs that have been tested with small animals and have shown no interest. Forever Home will NEVER place a KEEN Greyhound in a home with small animals. We STRESS that there are NO guarantees and even though the dog displays zero interest in small animals now, we cannot and will not guarantee that this will ALWAYS be the case. We STRONGLY suggest separating the Greyhound from the smaller creatures when you are not there to supervise. Either crate the Greyhound or place the smaller creatures in a bedroom or family room with a door until you return to supervise. The wee ones could be injured just playing if they are significantly smaller than the Greyhound. Be vigilant...be responsible!! Stop accidents before they happen.

Remember that the Greyhound is genetically programmed to chase and even though he may not exhibit, any tendencies now NEVER take for granted that he has forgotten his primal instincts!

**Children:** Most Greyhounds are excellent with children but as with ANY breed of dog, adult owners must exercise caution and common sense. Small children under the age of 7 should NEVER be left alone with ANY dog. Small children must be trained to respect the dog and treat it gently. No RIDING, no fingers up his nose, no tail pulling etc. You should also be aware that some Greyhounds sleep with their eyes open giving the appearance of wakefulness when they are in fact SOUND ASLEEP. Never wake the dog abruptly. Always call his name or make some noise and watch for signs he is awake before touching him. A startled dog can snap and frighten a small child.

Some people have expressed concern for smaller children's safety. Dogs in general have a tendency to go first for the facial area of a small child. There is a very valid reason for this behavior and it is not due to violence or prey response on the dog's behalf.

Remember dogs ( all dogs ) are pack animals and their family is their PACK. In the pack, the dominant animal will offer a corrective bite on the nose of younger dogs to correct unacceptable behavior. That is why young children are

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so often bitten on the face. The dog ( any breed ) feels that he is offering " correction" to the child. That is why if the child is old enough to speak clearly they should be taught from day one how to give the dog verbal commands. Obedience training is helpful and the whole family should participate. Do NOT allow your dog to exercise dominance over any member of your family.

Recommended reading are these 2 books written by the Monks of New Skete: "HOW TO BE YOUR DOGS BEST FRIEND" and "THE ART OF RAISING A PUPPY" Another great book to have on hand is "GREYHOUNDS FOR DUMMIES"

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