Please bring a copy of this handbook to your final meeting/training session!
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THE HISTORY OF GREYHOUNDS

The origin of the Greyhound is deeply rooted in ancient history. In fact, morals and paintings of dogs strikingly similar to today’s Greyhound existed over 4,000 years ago.

From the beginning, the Greyhound was held in high regard in the Middle East and throughout Europe.

Their pictures were etched on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs, and Pharaohs rated them first among all animals, both as pets and hunters.

The Arabs so admired the physical attributes and speed of the Greyhound that it was the only dog permitted to share their tents and ride atop their camels. In early Arabian culture, the birth of a Greyhound ranked second only in importance to the birth of a son.

In Persia, Rome and Greece, the Greyhound enjoyed similar stature and is the only canine mentioned in the Holy Scripture (Proverbs 30: 29-31).

Their link with nobility was established in 1014 when King Canute of England enacted the Forest Laws, which stated that only noblemen could own and hunt with Greyhounds.

Greyhound racing did not begin until much later in this majestic breed’s history.

The Forest Laws were abolished in the 1500’s by Queen Elizabeth I who later initiated the first formal rules of Greyhound coursing (the pursuit of Hares), thus officially inaugurating the Sport of Queens.

In the late 1800’s, the Greyhound was imported to America to help Mid-western farmers control the jackrabbit, a noted crop destroyer. With the advent of the Greyhound in America, coursing events soon followed.

Greyhound track racing, as we know it today, began with Owen Patrick Smith’s invention of a mechanical lure around 1912, which made racing around a circular track possible. The first circular track opened in 1919 in Emeryville, California. Although this track was not very successful, it paved the way for the development of the Greyhound racing industry in America.

Because of their loving nature, Greyhounds are the pet of choice for an increasing number of people. Throughout history and today, Greyhounds have been pets to a number of prominent people, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, President Rutherford B. Hayes, General George Custer, President John Tyler, actress Bo Derek and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty To Animals President Roger Caras.
GREYHOUNDS AS PETS: COMMON QUESTIONS

What kind of pets do ex-racing Greyhounds make?
Greyhounds are affectionate, friendly dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship and make terrific pets. Raised with their litter mates, where they competed for affection, Greyhounds love becoming the centre of attention as household pets. Greyhounds do not usually make good watch dogs. Their friendly nature is not really very threatening.

Are they good with children?
More so than most breeds. They are not as playful as puppies, of course, being mature dogs, but they are very tolerant of children and will usually walk away rather than growl or snap if children become overbearing. This is not to say that they can't be tormented for long periods of time and still not growl or snap. Even a gentle Greyhound has its limits.

How are they with other pets?
Greyhounds are friendly by nature and socialize well as a result of encounters with other Greyhounds in the racing kennel. Cats are unknown to a Greyhound and a little extra time and care are required to make a happy home for all.

How old are retired Greyhounds?
The retired racers are usually between two and four years old.

What is their life expectancy?
These pure-bred athletes enjoy many years of good health. With proper care, they have a life expectancy of 12 years or more.

How much does it cost to own a Greyhound?
After the initial adoption fee, Greyhounds, like any other dog, should be given regular veterinary care. It costs about $1.00 a day to feed a Greyhound.

Are ex-racing Greyhounds already housebroken?
Frequently an adopted Greyhound is completely housebroken right from the start. In their kennel environment they are turned out three or four times a day to relieve themselves. Therefore, racing Greyhounds are kennel-broken, which means they're trained to go outside and keep their kennels clean. Walk them frequently at first, and they quickly learn that their new home is the place they keep clean and outside is where they go to relieve themselves.

How big do they get?
Greyhound males generally stand 26 to 30 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 55 and 85 pounds. Females generally stand 23 to 26 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 50 to 75 pounds.
Do Greyhounds shed?
Yes, but less than most dogs. Their coats are short and sleek and don't smell doggy for long periods between baths.

Why do they wear muzzles? Is it because they are so high-strung?
Actually the Greyhound is a wonderfully unique creature blessed with both the ability to be very competitive and aggressive while on the track, yet on the other hand, a very loving and docile companion, living to please a beloved owner. They wear muzzles while racing for two reasons: to help racing officials determine the outcome of a photo-finish race, and to protect the Greyhounds from injury during the excitement of the chase.

Why do Greyhounds need to be kept on a leash?
A leash assures the Greyhound protection from disasters, such as barbed wire fencing, contact with wild animals, traps and poison. Greyhounds have no fear of cars and other hazards in our world and as history has proven, the Greyhound is an animal born to run. Greyhounds are accustomed to walking on a leash and enjoy the exercise, as well as the attention they receive from the people who pass by.

Do Greyhounds need a lot of exercise?
Greyhounds easily adapt to the lifestyle of their new owners. Feel free to take your Greyhound walking or jogging with you as your exercise regime dictates (more details on exercise later in this booklet).

Can greyhounds swim?
Many people believe that because of their structure and low body fat that they cannot swim. This is not true. Some greyhounds are excellent swimmers. Never leave a greyhound unsupervised near any body of water, including a pool, until you are confident that it can swim and can safely get out of the water unassisted.

 Aren't all Greyhounds grey?
Not at all - they are come in many colours including brindle, black, brown, fawn, or a combination of these colours. The name Greyhound is not derived from the colour of the animal. The name originates from three possible sources. The ancient Greeks may have called Greyhounds "Greekhounds" or may have named them "Gazehounds", since they relied on sight rather than smell in hunting. Third, the name may be derived from the Latin Agre or Agradus meaning degree, which related to the principle and care in breeding.

Why are Greyhounds so streamlined?
Greyhounds are like any other competitive athlete. During their racing career, they eat heartily (up to two pounds of meat per day), but burn off excess weight when they run. As a pet, they eat much less, just four to six cups of dry food a day.

What has the life of a racing Greyhound been like?
Greyhounds spend most of their lives in the company of other dogs. When they are born, the average litter size is about eight pups. Young Greyhounds are given a lot of
attention and handled as much a possible. As they approach their first birthday, their training begins and they are taught to chase a lure, eventually progressing to a racetrack. Track life is very routine - feeding in the morning, turnouts in the exercise yards to relieve themselves and retiring between races in individual kennel crates. Dogs race every three to seven days.

What should I expect if I adopt a Greyhound?
Expect a gentle, loving pet who, with a little time and patience, will be a great addition to your family. Because everything is brand new to the Greyhound, expect him/her to be somewhat confused and very curious. House manners have to be learned, but Greyhounds are very intelligent dogs and learn quickly.

Does my dog need a special space in the house?
In the kennel, your dog has always had its own kennel crate where it felt safe and secure. There are a number of ways to accomplish this in your house. Using a large crate or having a special bedding area during the first few weeks will help the Greyhound adjust at his/her own pace to the unaccustomed freedom of your house. Although many people feel uncomfortable about using a crate, Greyhounds are quite at home in them. Indeed, using a crate can provide for a completely successful transition by affording the dog actual physical security when left alone during the adjustment period and thus preventing any possible damage due to separation anxiety. It also can eliminate any temptation to investigate the garbage. Another advantage to the crate is that Greyhounds, like other dogs, instinctively will not soil their own living space. This makes crate usage a very effective tool in the housebreaking process.

Why is routine important to a Greyhound?
Because Greyhounds are used to having a daily routine in the racing kennel. They tend to feel more comfortable in unfamiliar situations if a routine is established with regard to feeding, answering calls of nature and resting. In a home situation, until you have established a workable routine with your Greyhound, you will need to take more frequent trips outside to avoid accidents.

What about feeding?
Feed your dog between four and six cups of dry dog food (kibble) each day. Gradually, as your dog seems to eat less and begins to gain weight, you can cut back to three and a half to four cups of food a day. A limited amount of table scraps or water from cooked vegetables also can be added to your Greyhound's food. A special treat might be a large, soft marshmallow. Avoid rawhide treats! Pigs ears, dog-safe toys, and cow hooves are OK.

What sort of medical care will my Greyhound need?
The best medical care is preventative in nature. Your dog will need to be checked periodically for worms. Your dog also should be checked annually for heartworm and placed on heartworm preventative medication. Your Greyhound's distemper/parvo vaccination will be up-to-date. Be sure your vet is familiar with the problems Greyhounds have with anaesthesia and if your dog's teeth have a build up of tartar, consider having them cleaned. Greyhounds are particularly sensitive to the chemical in flea collars. For this reason, the only type of flea medication that should be used is
sprays or powders containing PYRETHRIN AND PYMETHRINS. As with any pet, regular veterinary check-ups are recommended. Sentinel is a safe and useful product for all dogs and is recommended for retired racing greyhounds. Please ask your vet about the advantages of using Sentinel as a preventative for heartworm and fleas as part of the routine health care for your new dog.

ABOUT THOSE TATTOOS

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

The tattoo in the right ear tells the Greyhound's age. It consists of the numbers 1 through 12 for the months of the year, followed by the last digit the year of birth. For example, 107 would indicate the Greyhound was born in October 1997 while 66 would indicate June 1996. To differentiate between Greyhounds in the same litter, the letters A, B, C, and so on follow the month and year. Therefore, Greyhounds in the same litter would all have the same tattoos as far as litter registration number, month, and year but would be differentiated from each other by a letter of the alphabet. Thus, no one can ever lie about a Greyhound's true age, nor can dogs be switched in a race as tattoos are checked prior to the start of each race.

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

Pet Greyhounds may also be tattooed at the owners request on the inside to the thigh for registration with other tattoo registries such as National Dog Registry (NDR) or Tattoo-A-Pet. All NGA registered dogs can be registered (with written permission form the NGA) with the CKC, UKC, and the AKC.

BEFORE YOU BRING YOUR NEW PET HOME

Before the big day, you'll need to make a few preparations:

A Greyhound safety collar, muzzle, and GPAC I.D. tag will accompany your Greyhound. This sight hound collar is the only type of collar that can be used on your dog. If you need a replacement, please speak with your local representative. You will need a dog tag and an owner identification tag with the dog’s name, your address and phone number.

Purchase other supplies such as food, food and water dishes, grooming brush, toothbrush, blanket, collar, and play toys. You may also want a squirt bottle full of water.
on hand for discipline purposes. Greyhounds hate to be squirted in the face and it
doesn't hurt them.

You may also want to purchase a crate to help with housebreaking and making your new
pet feel more at ease.

Prepare your house for your new family member by removing any fragile knick-knacks,
checking your fencing for holes or weak spots, and placing clips or locks on your gates.
You'll also want to check the latches and locks on screen doors and mark large windows
and sliding glass doors with a band of tape for easy visibility.

Clear your kitchen counter of any tempting treats and cover your waste container with a
secure lid or place it inside a cabinet.

Select his sleeping place and arrange your dog's blanket. Our usual suggestion is in the
master bedroom with the door closed. Place his bed next to yours. This serves several
purposes. If the dog needs to go out, you'll know. It reassures the dog who, after all,
has never slept alone in his entire life. It also continues the plan of making good habits,
not bad. If he had the run of the house, he could get into all kinds of trouble: sleeping in
your room means you know what's going on.

Scout for nearby fully-fenced baseball or soccer fields for suitable areas to exercise your
new dog.

Contact your veterinarian to alert him/her about your new family member and set an
appointment to review the medical information form and discuss on-going health care
programs.

Discuss Greyhound pet rules with all family members, particularly children, to ensure an
easy transition period.

Review background information about Greyhounds and don't hesitate to call GPAC at
(902) 889-2214, if you have any questions.

SHOPPING LIST

✓ Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies
✓ Adopting The Racing Greyhound, by Cynthia Branigan
✓ Dog Crate – Extra Large  (30 x 48 x 36)
✓ Old blankets/ Dog bed (s)
✓ Tooth Brush & Tooth Paste
✓ Grooming Brush or Glove (soft bristled or rubber)
✓ Toe Nail Clippers (scissor ones are the best )
✓ 2 Metal Dog Bowls – 2 quart/litre
✓ Clicker for training
✓ 6 ft. Lead
✓ Ear Cleaner
✓ Dog Coat For Winter
✓ Cod Liver Oil Capsules (20 min)
✓ Imodium / Kapectate / Pepto-Bismol / Loperamide tablets (2mg)
✓ Supply of Food – see page 11
✓ Dog Toys Kong, Chewman, tartar busters
✓ Treats Milk Bones, Pigs Ears & Denta Bones, etc.
✓ Talk to your GPAC rep about feeding raw beef bones and frozen turkey necks

THE RIDE HOME

Greyhounds are good travellers. While they have never ridden in a car, they have been transported in specially designed trucks. Normally they settle right down once the drive is under way. Following are a few tips to make the drive an easy one:

You may bring a six-foot-long leather or nylon leash with you.

Plan on two adults to bring your pet home. A friendly Greyhound that decides to help the driver could cause an accident! Do not plan on having the Greyhound ride in back with children. Please make alternate arrangements for childcare.

Prepare your car by putting an old blanket over your back seat. Not only will the seat be more comfortable for the Greyhound, but the blanket will protect your upholstery as well. If you have a station wagon or van, an old comforter, blanket, or similar soft item will provide a comfortable spot for your new pet.

Unless your trip is longer than four hours, you will not need to bring water or stop to walk your dog.

BRINGING YOUR NEW PET HOME

Bringing home a new pet is an exciting and rewarding experience. For the Greyhound, adjusting to the life of a pet from that of an ex-racer can take a few days. The following are a few suggestions to make the transition easier.

Once you get home, you should first offer your Greyhound a chance to relieve itself and for a good walk to release excitable energy. Walk your dog back and forth in a small area until the dog does his business.
Allow the dog to explore its new home at its own speed but for the first day on lead, and always under your supervision. It will be much easier to establish good habits early than to correct bad ones later. You may also choose to allow the Greyhound to continue to drag its lead in the house for the first few days.

Although your dog is used to living indoors, everything is new to him in your home. As he sniffs his way through the house, you can offer words of encouragement or discouragement.

Your dog will not know stairs when you first bring him home. Start slowly at first taking him up and down two to three steps. On the way down, he may try to take all the steps at once, so stay in front of him so he can only take one at a time. With some patience your dog will learn quickly and soon he will be climbing stairs like an old pro.

Sliding glass doors and plate glass windows are new to your dog. They may not realize they can't get through. Take care to introduce your dog to these obstacles by tapping on the glass to let them know it's there. You can also put tape or stickers on the glass at eye level. Mirrors are also a new experience for your dog. He may think his reflection is another dog and try to play with it.

Take precautions when cooking. Your stove and counters are at eye level and your dog will be curious about the food smells. When cooking or baking your stove will become hot and your dog does not realize he will get burned.

The patterns you set in the first few days are the ones you will live with the rest of your pet's life. If you do not want your pet on the furniture, do not break down at three A.M. and cuddle him on the couch!

Verbal commands are generally enough to train your Greyhound. He/she will know by the tone of your voice what is acceptable and what is not.

This will be a very stressful few days for your Greyhound. It is best to keep things quiet - delay the welcome home party for a week or two.

It is not unusual for a new pet to refuse to eat for a day or two. He will probably drink more water than normal and consequently need to go out more often. Also, he will need more rest than normal.

The change of diet and excitement of his new home may cause your new pet to have diarrhea. Should this occur, give your dog two teaspoons of Kaopectate every hour for four hours or until the diarrhea stops. If unsure, give the same dosage as recommended for a small child. If it continues for more than a day, consult your veterinarian.

**GREYHOUNDS AND OTHER PETS**

One basic philosophy will describe the way to handle this situation - you're in charge, they're not! When introducing your Greyhound to other animals, follow these simple rules:
Dogs

Introduce them on neutral ground. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing them to meet in an area your other pet doesn't "own" such as down the block from your house.

After the initial sniffing, you should walk the dogs together for a short time and then bring them into the house at the same time, but your existing dog should always walk into the house first. This is almost like having your dog act as a host to the new Greyhound.

Any sign of growling or aggression should be met with a quick jerk of the leash and a sharp "NO!"

Although Greyhounds are used to sharing attention, your other dog may feel jealous and need a little extra attention. You should always respect the hierarchy of your existing pack order. Your GPAC rep will explain this further at your final training session.

The dogs should be fed separately in their crates.

Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out in the yard together. Always use your muzzles on the dogs when in doubt.

Once you feel that they have accepted each other, you'll be in for a treat as you watch the two of them play. If your other dog is older or overweight, make sure he doesn't overdo it trying to keep up with his sleek new roommate (the settling-in process usually takes a few months before the dogs really establish themselves and become accustomed to each other. If your other pet is a very small breed, you should supervise play situations closely, especially at first. Your Greyhound's playful chase and lunge could be too rough for a toy breed. You'll need to teach him/her otherwise. Remember, you're in charge.

Always use the muzzle on the Greyhound when introducing your new dog to small animals and this is especially important during play.

Cats

If you are introducing your new Greyhound to a cat, you should shut the cat in one room as the Greyhound explores the house. Use your muzzle!

After the initial exploration one adult should take the Greyhound on his leash while the other lets the cat out.

Keep the dog on a leash and place the muzzle on. You can allow your Greyhound to drag its leash in the house.
You don't need to lead the dog, but you should follow him and be able to jerk and correct sharply if he tries to dart for the cat. Stepping on the leash will also provide a quick and respectful correction for the dog.

After the initial introduction, you may remove the leash, but should keep the muzzle on until you feel confident. If your cat is familiar with dogs, this process usually goes quickly, as your Greyhound has been to "cat school" in his adoption program.

If your cat is older or very shy, the process could take several weeks.

The Greyhound should be crated when no one is home.

Cat food has an irresistible smell to dogs and should be placed in a high spot so that the Greyhound can't get to it.

Litter boxes should be hooded and turned into a corner to ensure peace for the cat and no access for the dog.

Also keep on hand a squirt bottle full of water.

**Birds**

Introduction of the Greyhound to a caged bird follows the basic procedures above.

Just remember, a severe jerk on the lead and/or collar accompanied by a bellowed "NO" will do wonders.

**KIDS AND DOGS**

Although they are everyone's favourite photographic subject, kids and dogs present special problems for parents. Teaching the new Greyhound his manners must go hand-in-hand with teaching the children their manners around the new pet. Please keep in mind that you are dealing with a live, adult animal with all the accompanying instincts and needs. The Greyhound is one of the most easy going dog breeds, but it is nonetheless a dog.

In order to establish a loving relationship between Greyhound and child, it is a wise idea to review the following ideas and discuss them:

The Greyhound is not a toy. It deserves respect and responsible care.

No living creature would enjoy being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. Greyhounds sleep with their eyes open, so it's easy to mistake them for being awake.
If the dog is sleeping, he needs rest. When he's ready to play, he'll let you know.

A Greyhound needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed. A crate is an excellent choice.

Small children often want to express their affection for the pet Greyhound by hugging or clinging to the dog. Teach your children that this can be "scary" for the dog and encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders or brushing instead.

Ears and tails are private things, not play things.

It is important to reinforce to your dog the idea that children are part of the "human coaching team", not litter mates. Even though a child may be eye level, your dog must understand that the child is still a person and must respond accordingly. For this reason, we strongly recommend that your Greyhound does not share you child's bed or bedroom.

Outdoor games with your Greyhound should be closely supervised, especially initially and until both child and dog are fully trained.

Instead of running and jumping with your new pet, have your child join you as you stand in place and happily encourage your dog to come to you, with each person taking a turn. This provides exercise for the dog and reminds him that all people are in control - large or small.

The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy - SAFETY FIRST. This applies to both the dog and the kids. Do not leave young children and dogs alone together. If you cannot supervise, crate you dog.

**FEEDING YOUR NEW PET**

Your new Greyhound has had his diet adjusted from the special high calorie, high protein, racing diet he required as a professional athlete to a top quality, well-balanced, pet diet. Your dog is an omnivore not a carnivore, so it needs a balanced, quality diet.

**Mealtime Do's and Don'ts are as follows:**

**DO** feed your Greyhound twice a day. Four cups of dry food (kibble) per day, 2 cups in the AM and 2 cups in the PM. You may need to modify the amount after the first few weeks according to your dog's activity level and age. You should be able to feel ribs, but not see them. Please contact Jeanette Reynolds (902-889-2214) or your local GPAC rep if you have any questions regarding how much to feed your dog.
DO use a small chunk, high-quality food (24-26% protein). G.P.A.C. recommends:

- Purina Pro-Plan
- Chicken Soup for the Dog Lover’s Soul
- Med-i-cal Maintenance
- ShurGain Maintenance
- ShurGain Canine Plus
- Purina One
- Eagle Pack Holistic
- Evolve
- Nutrum: Maintenance
- Eukanuba
- Sensible Choice
- Innova
- Percise
- Canidae
- Canine Plus Holsum Blend
- Fromm

DO pick a quiet corner of the room where your dog will be left when you're gone for feeding. If you are using a crate, you should feed your dog in the crate.

DO feed your dog at the same time every day. Greyhounds like consistency.

DO pick a time that will be convenient enough to allow you to let your dog out about twelve hours after feeding to relieve himself or herself (usually 6:00 am & 6:00 pm). Most Greyhounds are used to a bathroom break before eating their meal.

DO monitor your dog's eating habits. It is not unusual for a new Greyhound to refuse to eat for a day or two. To encourage eating, you may want to add a couple of tablespoons of good quality canned food & warm water poured over the dry food. Do not allow the food to soak after adding water.

DO pick up any wet food not eaten in 10 minutes and discard. Otherwise for dry food, save what is not eaten for the next meal. Repeat this routine at the next feeding and your Greyhound will quickly learn mealtime limitations.

DO watch for itchy, flaky skin. Cold, dry weather can irritate a Greyhound's skin. During the dry winter months, add one to two tablespoons of fish oil, cod liver oil or Vita Shine to their food or flax seed oil or 1 capsule of Evening Primrose oil given orally/day. 1 cup of bran or ½ cup oatmeal to food weekly mixed with water.

DO add Glucosamine and Chondroitin (50-100lb dogs, 1000mg 2x/daily)

DO add blueberries, broccoli, raspberries, organic meat, 2-3 garlic cloves to your dog’s diet occasionally.

DO treat your dog with carefully selected snacks such as pig's ears, cow hooves, & biscuits. A sterilized beef bone, peanut butter bone, frozen raw turkey necks, dentabones, tartar busters are also excellent treats.

DON'T let your Greyhound eat everything in sight. Greyhounds generally have excellent appetites and will eat anything. Unfortunately, everything doesn’t quite agree with them.
Despite what advertisers would have us believe, your Greyhound will be happiest with the same food every meal.

DON'T let your Greyhound drink large quantities of water or exercise immediately before or after eating: allow at least one hour. All deep-chested dogs, including Greyhounds, are susceptible to bloat, a condition that can be fatal.

DON'T be surprised if your new pet expects you to share your banana as you slice it for your cereal. Your Greyhound may have eaten bananas, apricots, pumpkin, applesauce, spinach, marshmallows, apples, broccoli, and even vanilla ice-cream and jelly doughnuts on a limited level as a racer. We don't expect you to be completely perfect! Most Greyhounds will attempt to drink your coffee or tea and this should be discouraged.

DON'T EVER feed your dog chocolate, raisins, onions, grapes, and Macadamia nuts. Reactions to this tempting sweet vary from dog to dog, but none are good. Chocolate contains ingredients that can speed up your dog's heart rate, cause allergic reactions, and can be fatal.

DON'T feed your dog "people shaped" treats like miniature hot dogs or bacon. These usually contain lots of dye, salt, and sugar. Stick to the basics of good quality biscuits.

DON'T feed your dog any food treats containing red dyes. Also don't feed your dog any beef basted chews. Plain white chews will do just fine. Coloured treats are acceptable if they are coloured naturally with carrots, beef, or spinach.

DON'T feed you Greyhound from the table. This will only encourage bad habits that will be hard to break.

DON'T leave alluring items on kitchen counters. Greyhounds are curious by nature and may sample items left on the counter. Remember that if it's left unattended, it's fair game!

DON'T be alarmed at your Greyhound gulping down his/her meal. Greyhounds generally "bolt" their food without much, if any, chewing. Spreading the food out on a cookie sheet will eliminate the bolting and choking.
Recipes

SATIN BALLS

A great recipe for putting weight on underweight dogs. Special thanks to Judi Mallinsen for this addition. (recipe from “Greytalk”)

- 5 pounds ground meat
- 5 cups total whole grain cereal
- 5 cups oats (slow cooking type)
- 2½ cups raw wheat germ
- ¾ cup oil
- ¾ cup molasses 6 egg yolks
- 6 packets gelatin
- 2½ Tablespoons Solid gold sea meal supplement

Mix all ingredients together like meat loaf, roll in balls no larger than 1 inch diameter, Divide into separate containers and freeze, thaw as needed.

DOG BONES

Dogs love these cookies. This recipe is from “Company's Coming - Kid's Cooking” so it is easy.

- 2 cups All Purpose Flour
- 1 Cup Cornmeal
- ¼ Cup Wheat Germ
- 2 tsp Beef Bouillon Powder (OXO)
- ½ tsp Garlic Powder
- 1 Large Egg
- 1 Tbsp Cooking Oil
- 1 Cup Hot Water

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Combine first 5 ingredients in a bowl and stir. Add the egg, cooking oil and water. Roll out on a well floured surface to a 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with bone or other shaped cookie cutter. Arrange on an un-greased cookie sheet. Bake on the centre rack in the oven for about 2 hours until dry and very hard. Let stand overnight to dry thoroughly. Store in a container with a lid.
BREAD MACHINE CHICKEN FLAVORED TREAT

For people with a bread machine - these are super simple!

- 1 cup chicken stock
- 1 cup bread or all-purpose flour
- 2 cup whole wheat flour
- ¼ cup non-fat dry milk powder
- 1 ½ teaspoon yeast

Use dough cycle. Roll dough to ½” thickness. Cut with cookie cutters or a pizza cutter. Place on a greased baking sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in warm place about one hour. Bake at 325-degrees for one hour. When all are baked, turn off oven and leave overnight. Store in airtight container.

HOUSEBREAKING HINTS

The main difference between Greyhound hygiene habits and average pet habits is that the Greyhound expects you to tell him when it's time to go. He has always expected his trainer to let him out into his yard on a schedule; unlike a pet puppy who is taught to scratch at the door to be let out.

However, because your Greyhound is used to living indoors and going outdoors to relieve himself, adjusting to his new lifestyle is relatively easy. Tips to follow include:

Develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can.

The basics to keep in mind are:

- Out first thing in the morning
- Out after meals
- Out after naps
- Out before you leave
- Out before meals

It is important that you supervise your pet, especially at first. This gives you the opportunity to praise your dog for doing the right thing and also to keep an eye on him.

If you catch your dog attempting to urinate in the house or you catch him while he is in the act of urinating, give him a sharp, verbal reprimand and then take him outside and praise the dickens out of him when he goes in the right place. Do not hit your dog or try to put his nose in the accident, as your dog will respond more quickly and positively to kindness. Dogs live in the moment and will not associate the reprimand with the accident after it has been done.
Your Greyhound may attempt to lift his leg or squat in a few places around the house to "mark" their territory, especially if you already have a dog. He/She is making the house THEIR house, so he/she feels more at home. Watch them carefully as they walk or sniff around the house and try to catch them before they do it. If this should happen, it does not go on for long, so try to be patient. "Accidents" may be cleaned with 1 part water and 5 parts vinegar. Also, by allowing your Greyhound to drag its leash in the house you can catch him in the act and this will ensure your Greyhound trains that much quicker.

Greyhounds are used to going out in their yard with a human around. If you just shove your pet out the door, he'll spend more time worrying about where you are than on what he's supposed to be doing.

If he doesn't go when you expect him to during the first few days, you should make an extra effort to keep him close to you so that you can prevent a mistake.

If you're busy, you should crate him.

If he looks antsy, he goes out again.

It is important to differentiate between bathroom walks and exercise walks. The scheduled bathroom walks should be in a restricted area where the dog is taken to do his duty. You should walk back and forth in this area or stand in one spot and let the dog walk around you. Do not distract him with talk. When he goes, praise him. The use of positive reward markers like the clicker or praise gives notice to a specific action so that the dog associates this behaviour with the reward.

TRAINING YOUR GREYHOUND

One of the main reasons Greyhounds make such wonderful pets in that they are easily trainable. Retired racers believe that people are all-knowing and all-powerful, making you the natural choice to set the ground rules. Keeping your dog under this illusion will be a great benefit to your relationship! A few tips that will make the training process go smoothly:

The role as leader or coach of your greyhound is a serious responsibility. The messages you send will shape your dog's idea of the world.

Outline ahead of time what is acceptable and not acceptable behaviour for your Greyhound and make sure all family members abide by the rules. A family meeting should be held before the dog arrives to your home, in order to set the expectations and limitations with all the family members, children included.

- Can he get on the furniture?
- Where can he sleep?
- Where can he eat?
- What will be his treats?
- Who will feed the dog?
Be consistent. Don't allow him/her to do one thing one day and not the next.

In most instances, a firm, sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your Greyhound.

Once your Greyhound knows the family rules, another effective way to reprimand him is to firmly scold him and then totally ignore him for several minutes. Greyhounds crave attention and this approach will reinforce his guilt.

Remember that your dog will respond to your reaction, not your words. If he seems afraid of something new, and you cuddle and coo over him, he will quickly get the idea that he should react timidly to any new situation. Reassure him by stroking his neck.

Be aware that this life is a new experience for your Greyhound and simple things such as stairs, glass doors and shiny floors may frighten him at first. Take the time to show him that these new things are no big deal and easily mastered.

Always praise your Greyhound when he has done something good.

Adults and children should participate in hand feeding the Greyhound either treats or food on a regular basis. A hand that feeds is also a hand that is more likely to be trusted taking things away. Your final meeting with your GPAC rep will also focus on bite-inhibition training for a soft-mouthed dog.

Throughout the dog’s life, he has relied on someone to set boundaries for him – first his mother, then his trainer, and now you. He is counting on you to tell him what is good and what isn’t.

Always remember, you're in charge - he's not.

GPAC recommends obedience training classes with your greyhound after allowing him to settle in. The recommended settle in period is 30 days.

**CLICKER TRAINING**

GPAC recommends clicker training. Greyhounds respond well to the clicker as it’s a fun and non-punishment way of training and introducing your dog to its new world. The family should also participate in clicker training as well. Clicker training will also help promote a safe and loving bond between your dog and children.

Clicker training is a fun and exciting way to train your dog. This unique reward-based system will allow you to communicate with your dog more effectively, while encouraging your dog to ‘offer’ desirable behaviours instead of always waiting to be asked. Clicker training is especially effective for dogs that lack attention, or for easily bored dogs that require more mental stimulation than traditional training methods provide.
Clicker basics
The clicker is simply a small box that makes a ‘click’ sound when pressed. The click can be delivered in a split second, allowing you to mark exact behaviours or movements made by your dog. The dog soon learns that the click signals that the behaviour he is exhibiting at that moment is desirable and will earn him a reward - and so it is worth repeating. With traditional training, the dog often becomes confused because the delivery of the reward happens after the dog has finished exhibiting the behaviour, or the reward has become diluted by overuse (how many times have you told your dog ‘good boy’ for no reason at all?). The click is a unique sound that the dog never hears at any other time, plus it always sounds the same, thus making learning much easier.

Getting started
First you need to teach your dog that the click means a reward will follow. Start in a quiet area with no distractions and have a good supply of small but very tasty treats to hand. Press the clicker once and immediately give him a treat. Repeat this sequence until he starts to get the idea that a treat always follows the click. You can test to make sure he understands this by waiting for him to look away and once he does, click. He should immediately look back at you in anticipation of his reward. If he doesn’t, then a few more repetitions are required. The Multi-Clicker has a volume adjustment; for sensitive dogs, turn the volume to the minimum setting.

Clicker training your first behaviour
The first behaviour you attempt to clicker train your dog to do should be simple. There is plenty of time to move onto more difficult behaviours once you are both confident in your training. Touching a target stick is a fun thing to teach and is perfect as a first behaviour. Once he has learned to ‘Target’, you can use this as a lure for teaching other moves such as ‘Spin’ or ‘Playbow’.

1). Have your clicker and treats ready.
2). Dab the end of your target stick with a small amount of tasty, smelly food (cream cheese or liver pâté are good).
3). Extend your target stick and offer the end towards your dog - he should be keen to check out the tasty smell.
4). As soon as his nose touches the stick, click and then give him a treat.
5). Offer the target stick again and repeat as above.
6). Once he understands that in order to get the treat he needs to touch the stick, start to move the stick further away from him so he has to step forward to touch it. As soon as his nose touches the stick, click and treat.
7). Gradually you can make it harder for him to reach the stick by taking it higher, lower or moving it away so he has to chase it. Remember to click and treat every time he touches it.
You are now ready to build in a short delay between the click and the delivery of the treat. This is important as you won’t always be able to give the treat instantly (i.e. if the dog is at a distance when you click). However, you still need him to know that whenever he hears the click, he was offering the correct behaviour and a reward is coming his way. The delay is also useful to give you time to access your treats, you don’t want to always have food in your hand or your dog will soon learn to ignore you unless he can see the food. Keeping the food in your treat bag until you have clicked will help to avoid this.

1). Offer your dog the target stick as before and click as soon as his nose touches the stick, but wait 2 seconds before delivering the treat.

2). Repeat several times as above but vary the length of time before delivering the treat to anywhere between 1-5 seconds (any longer and he may lose interest). Remember you must still always click as soon as his nose touches the end of the stick.

3). You can now also vary the way in which you deliver the treat. Sometimes feed him from your hand; sometimes throw the treat onto the floor (near the dog at first until he gets the idea). Throwing the treat is useful for speeding up slow dogs or for encouraging the dog to move away from you - essential for distance.

4). Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time the stick is produced, you can start to add a ‘command’ or ‘cue’ to the behaviour such as ‘touch’.

**Congratulations, you have now clicker trained your first behaviour!**

**Training other behaviours**

Now you can go on to use your clicker to train your dog to do any other behaviour you choose. You can use your clicker for all your training or just for specific parts - it’s up to you! When thinking about training a new exercise, consider how best to achieve the desired response. The two most common ways of clicker training are ‘luring’ and ‘shaping’.

**Luring:** You can lure the dog into the desired position by encouraging him to follow food (or the target stick, once learnt) and then clicking as soon as he exhibits the correct behaviour. This can be a fast way to train, particularly for fairly simple behaviours such as sit, down, spin, take a bow.

**Shaping:** With shaping, you click any correct step (no matter how small) towards the behaviour you want, then click and treat every successive movement until you have the desired behaviour. This requires a little more patience but is very effective particularly for more complicated behaviours or sequences such as walk to heel, retrieve an item or send away to an object.
Further things to try:

Sit
1). Hold a treat between your thumb and first finger and allow your dog to sniff it.
2). Slowly raise the treat up and back over his head so his nose follows it.
3). As his head goes up, his bottom should go down onto the floor. Click and treat the moment it does.
4). Don’t worry if it takes a few attempts, be patient!
5). Repeat as above.
6). Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command ‘sit’.
7). As he learns the verbal cue, start to reduce the lure until he can perform the behaviour on the verbal cue only.
Troubleshooting: If your dog jumps up, you are holding the treat too high. If he walks backwards, you have taken it too far back.

Down
1). Start with your dog in a ‘sit’ position.
2). Hold a treat between your thumb and first finger and allow him to sniff it.
3). Slowly take the treat straight down towards his front paws.
4). As he follows the treat with his nose, he should gently slide into a down position. Click and treat the moment he does.
5). Don’t worry if it takes a few attempts, be patient!
6). Repeat as above.
7). Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command ‘down’.
8). As he learns the verbal cue, start to reduce the lure until he can perform the behaviour on the verbal cue only.
Troubleshooting: If your dog gets up, you have taken the treat too far forward. With some dogs (particularly small breeds) it helps to take the treat back towards the chest rather than forward. If you use the word ‘down’ in other situations (like getting your dog off the furniture) then use a different command such as ‘flat’, ‘drop’ or ‘rest’.
**Walk on a loose lead**

1. Put a lead on your dog and walk forward a couple of steps.
2. If he walks forward with you on a loose lead, click and treat.
3. If he pulls in front, immediately turn and walk in the opposite direction.
4. As he catches up to you, click and treat as he reaches your side and the lead becomes slack.
5. Repeat as above.
6. Gradually increase the number of steps you can take before clicking and treating.
7. Practice in increasingly distracting situations.
8. Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command 'heel'.

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog gets very excited when you put his lead on, practice putting his lead on and off throughout the day without always taking him for a walk to desensitize him.

**Recall**

1. Hold a treat or your dog's favourite toy in front of you.
2. Say his name in an enthusiastic voice and show him the reward.
3. As he comes towards you, back off a couple of steps.
4. When he reaches you click and treat.
5. Gradually increase the distance from which you can get him to come to you.
6. Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command 'come'.
7. As he learns the verbal cue for the behaviour, start to reduce the lure until he will come back to you on the verbal cue only.

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog is not interested in coming towards you, you need to be more exciting or offer a more desirable reward. Alternatively there may be too many distractions and you may need to start in a quieter area.

**Fun tricks to teach your dog:**

**Spin**

1. Hold a lure in front of your dog's nose (this can be a food treat, a toy or target stick, once learned).
2. Slowly start to take the lure away from him in a large circular movement.
3. As he reaches the lure, click and treat.
4. With each repetition aim to get him a little further before you click and treat.
5). Eventually he will be able to turn a full circle or ‘spin’.

6). Once he is reliably offering the movement every time, you can start to add the command ‘spin’.

7). As he learns the verbal cue, start to reduce the lure until he can perform the move on the verbal cue only.

Troubleshooting: If your dog is not keen to go into the spin movement, practice first just clicking and treating for following the lure in a straight line. Make sure to always teach the ‘spin’ in one direction so as not to confuse him.

Take a bow
1). Start with your dog in a stand position.
2). Hold a lure in front of his nose (this can be a food treat or a target stick, once learned).
3). Slowly take the lure down towards the floor and back towards his chest.
4). As he follows the treat down, click and treat.
5). Repeat, aiming to click and treat as his chest touches the floor but before he lies down.
6). As he gets the idea, you can withhold the click for a second or two thus encouraging him to hold the position.
7). Once he is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command ‘playbow’.
8). As he learns the verbal cue, start to reduce the lure until he can perform the behaviour on the verbal cue only.

Troubleshooting: If your dog keeps lying down, click and treat at a much earlier point a few times before trying again for the actual playbow.

Rollover
1). Start with your dog in a down position.
2). Hold a treat between your thumb and first finger and allow him to sniff it.
3). Slowly move the treat towards his shoulder, keeping it close to his body.
4). As his nose follows the treat back, click and treat.
5). Repeat, aiming to lure his head a little further round towards his shoulder each time.
6). Once you have your dog lying on his back, click and drop the treat on the other side of the dog so that he rolls over to get it.
7). Repeat a few times, then once you have your dog on his back, withhold the click but move your lure hand slightly. Your dog, anticipating the dropped treat, should roll right over at which point you can click and treat.
8). Once your dog is reliably offering the behaviour every time, you can start to add the command ‘rollover’.
9). As your dog learns the verbal cue, start to reduce the lure until he can perform the behaviour on the verbal cue only.

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog is not keen to roll right over, repeat the earlier stages until he is confident. Make sure the surface he is laying on is comfortable and that he doesn’t suffer from any underlying back pain.

**Adding a ‘cue’**
With clicker training, we only add a ‘cue’ or ‘command’ once the dog has learnt the behaviour and is offering it reliably every time. This way he never fails to make the association between the cue and the desired behaviour so is much more likely to be consistent in his responses in the future.

**Extending a behaviour**
Once you have taught your dog a behaviour, you may want to extend it, for instance – turn a ‘sit’ into a ‘sit-stay’ or instead of one rollover you may want two. With clicker training it is easy to teach him to extend a previously learned behaviour.

**Sit-stay**
1). Cue your dog to sit.
2). As he performs the action, withhold the click for a few seconds.
3). Click and treat.
4). Repeat the behaviour gradually increasing the length of time before you click and treat.
5). Once he can hold the position for about ten seconds, cue him to sit, take a step away, return, click and treat.
6). Repeat the behaviour, gradually increasing the length of time and the distance you can wait before returning to click and treat.

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog keeps getting up it means you are going too far or for too long. Take your training back a step and extend gradually.

**Double rollover**
1). Cue your dog to ‘rollover’ as previously learned.
2). As he finishes the manoeuvre, withhold the click and immediately cue again.
3). As he finishes the second ‘rollover’, click and treat.
4). Repeat until he can perform the sequence fluently.

**Troubleshooting:** If your dog is not keen to perform the second behaviour, lure as you did when teaching the first roll.
Rules of clicker training:

There are not many rules to clicker training – but these must be followed for the clicker to be effective:

- If you click, you must treat – even if you have clicked by accident or in the wrong place.
- Do not use the clicker for anything other than to mark desired behaviour – it must not be used to get the dog’s attention, neither is it a command.
- Only click the desired behaviour once between treats, multiple clicking will only desensitize the dog to the click (even if you are excited that he got it right!).
- Some sound-sensitive dogs may find the clicker slightly startling, it is important therefore, either to reduce the sound on your multi-clicker or to put the clicker in your pocket.
- Don’t try and teach multiple new behaviours in one session.
- Keep training sessions short as clicker work can be tiring for your dog.
- Have fun – if you are feeling stressed, or fraught, don't train. If you start to get frustrated, switch to an exercise your dog finds easy, and then take a break.
- Don’t give a behaviour a cue word until you are convinced that your dog will do it straight away.
- As you are using a lot of food treats, reduce your dog’s normal meals.

Your final meeting with GPAC will include a deep dive on settling the Greyhound into your home, how to train the dog and family (and other pets included) to ensure everyone starts off and stays on the right track.

HOME ALONE

Up until now, your Greyhound has led a very different life than that of a house pet. Even the most simple, common things in our everyday life can be completely foreign to a Greyhound and a little intimidating. A little patience and a lot of love will help you and your new pet make the adjustment. When leaving your Greyhound alone, remember:

One of the hardest things for your Greyhound to adjust to will be loneliness. This dog has lived its entire life with either litter mates or kennel mates and people coming and going most of the day.

Never leave your dog outdoors, particularly in the winter. With their short hair, Greyhounds are very susceptible to cold (and heat exhaustion.)

Never tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain, or "runner" as Greyhounds are not used to being tied to something stationary. They can get tangled up and injure themselves, or will pull, wiggle or chew their way out. Greyhounds can generate a lot of power very quickly. If they are tied up then they could forget they are tied, take off running at their blazing speed, and snap their neck when they hit the end of the line.
A big asset in this adjustment period is the XL crate. This portable XL cage provides the security your dog needs as well as protecting both the dog and your house from each other. You should have an extra large crate for your Greyhound, the largest crate available.

Your pet is used to having his own crate in the kennel, a nice old bone and a warm comfortable place with a blanket in which to nap the day away. Using a crate is not cruel; it provides the sense of security your dog needs. A radio or TV will provide soothing background noises. Your GPAC rep will focus on crate training during your last training session.

The first few days you should use an old washable blanket or something similar in the crate. A favourite bone can be placed in it and the door left open. Remember, Greyhounds are use to sleeping on paper or carpet in the racing kennels.

At mealtime, place your dog and its food in the crate. This will reinforce the idea that this is his own spot.

**THE CRATE GAME**

Before you leave you dog for an extended period, you should practice leaving for short time intervals and then build up.

Don't pay attention to your Greyhound a half hour before leaving, or half hour after coming home. This will help the transition period for your dog and curb the separation anxiety problem.

The next time (even a few minutes later) repeat the process, but this time leave the room. Plan to hide for several minutes and then let him out. This teaches him that you always come home. If your Greyhound acts up when crated, stomp into the room and tell him he's terrible then stomp out again. You can even smack the top of the crate if you like-ham it up! After a few minutes of quiet, praise him enthusiastically again. The crate will provide an escape for your dog if children are harassing him. Of course, the strictly enforced rule is that no one should bother the dog when he is in the crate. Keep repeating this crate game and extend to longer periods each time.

If you decide not to use a crate because someone is home most of the time, you should choose a room to keep the dog in when you're gone. You will need to practice just like the people using crates. GPAC will have sent a muzzle home and show you how to put it on. It will help protect the dog and your furnishings.

All dogs, including greyhounds, have a need to chew; it helps to relieve tension and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large sterilized bone or cow hoof to chew while you are away. Children should understand that this bone is strictly the dog's, and not a toy to be taken away from the dog.
**EXERCISE**

A popular myth about Greyhounds is that, as ex-athletes, they require a lot of exercise. In reality, the Greyhound is a pretty lazy pup. A retired racer is quite content to be a "couch potato" and spend most of the day sleeping. However, we do recommend a certain amount of exercise, which not only is good for your dog, but good for you as well.

The most obvious and easiest answer is in your own backyard. The typical Greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished.

Care should be taken to introduce your new Greyhound to your yard or any new fenced area before turning him loose in it. This means a walk around the fence so that the dog can familiarize himself with the boundary.

You also should let the dog investigate hazards in your yard such as a barbecue or planter.

The first time your dog exercised in your yard off the leash should be in daylight and under an adult's supervision.

You may need to restrict your dog's activity in a new area. Greyhounds have been conditioned for sprinting and may become so excited and interested by a new exercise area that they overdo and could overtax themselves.

If you plan to use your Greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program, you should have an enthusiastic partner as long as you start slowly.

Greyhounds exercised primarily on and in their kennel situation, which means the pads on their feet are smooth and soft. A little time must be taken to build up the callouses needed to exercise with you on cement or blacktop. Start your dog's regime the same way you did yours - slowly. Walk or jog two or three blocks at first and then gradually increase.

Care should be taken during extreme temperatures. Your dog is susceptible to heat stroke, just as you are. During hot weather it is wise to exercise early and easier. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding. Cold weather presents other hazards for this desert breed. A warm-up blanket (coat) made for Greyhounds is an excellent idea for walking or jogging in winter. Check you dog's feet for snow packing which can split webs, or ice cuts. It's also a good idea to swish the dog's feet in lukewarm water to rinse off salt and other ice melters after your walk. Boots and coats are also available. Ask your GPAC representative about them or where to find proper boots, coats, and other accessories. Each dog is an individual with different activity levels. Generally, younger dogs enjoy higher activity than older dogs. If your dog has a medical problem that would indicate a restricted activity program, GPAC will advise you of those restrictions.

Most Greyhound pets can be kept happy and healthy with a 30-minute walk daily. Although romping and running in a large fenced area is fun, it is not essential everyday.
But remember that exercise is one of the most important activities of your dog’s daily life for both physical and mental health.

DO NOT: Exercise your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed - this is asking for a disaster to happen. The Greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. Something as small as a paper cup blowing across the street from the park could mean your dog’s death. Once your pet is focused in on this moving object, he no longer hears you: he is running on pure instinct. For this reason, electronic fencing is not permitted. An unenclosed fence also lets other dogs into your yard. This is also against your contract and may lead to your dog(s) being returned to the Society.

Most Greyhounds walk very well on a leash. If your pet starts to pull or freezes as he sees something on the horizon, "pop" or "snap" the leash to quickly jerk the collar and give the command, "heel", "let's go" or something similar. A pocket full of treats is also handy to be used as bait.

**GREY'T TO KNOW**

Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy “SLO”

Imagine one day your Greyhound limps a bit and you look at his paw to find that an entire toe nail is missing. Your first thought is likely that he ran too hard and caught it, and in some cases, that really is all that happened. Sometimes, though, if you look at the remaining nails, you’ll discover a bigger problem. There may be several toe nails that seem abnormal - loose, tender, draining.

SLO is thought to be an autoimmune disease that targets the toe nails. The hallmark of autoimmune diseases is that the body mistakenly forms antibodies against part of itself. If it’s antibodies fighting against our own red blood cells then we destroy our own blood and become anemic. If it’s antibodies fighting against our joints then we become arthritic. In the case of symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy, Greyhounds form antibodies against their toe nails, and reject them.

**WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?**

- multiple nail loss
- licking the nails
- visible oozing around the base of the nail
- separation of the nail from the quick
- limping
- infection
- odour
DIAGNOSIS

While the only 100% accurate way to diagnose this problem is by biopsy (and that means amputating the end of the toe, called "P3"), this problem in a Greyhound is one that experienced veterinarians will feel comfortable making a diagnosis based on the appearance of the feet. Amputation of the tip of a toe is disfiguring, expensive, and unnecessary.

This condition can be confused with simple bacterial infection and fungal infections, and valuable time may be lost with antibiotics, foot soaks, and other medications that don’t target the underlying immune nature to the problem.

TREATMENT

This must be treated as an immune disorder, not a simple infection loose and painful nails should be removed - usually under anaesthesia there is often a 6-10 week lag time to see a good response to treatment. Treatment must extend over a period of at least many months, and in many cases, years relapses are common medications may need to be adjusted based on response to treatment - there is no single successful protocol.

SEE YOUR VETERINARIAN but go in with information about the disease and treatment. This is not a common diagnosis and many vets might not be familiar with it.

MEDICATIONS (any doses mentioned here are for greyhounds - other breeds need their own levels)

- In all cases, essential fatty acids should be started immediately but because of the nature of the disease, it may be 6 weeks or longer to see improvement. The recommended dose is 180 mg eicosapentanoic acid (EPA) per 10 pounds. Sources of EPA are:
  - The 1000 mg fish oil capsules contain 180 mg EPA, so a 60 pound Greyhound should get 6 fish oil capsules a day, a 70 pound Greyhound should get 7. These are readily available over-the-counter.
  - 3V HP caps
  - Derm Caps ES

- Vitamin E 400 IU every 12 hrs
  - If the problem is severe or advanced at diagnosis, the following medications are also used:
    - tetracycline and niacinamide (500 mg each every 8 hours for an average sized Greyhound)
    - pentoxiphylline (Trental) - some vets prefer this over the tetracycline//niacinamide combination.
• prednisone and azathioprine should be avoided if possible, but in resistant or very aggressive onset cases, prednisone can be dosed in greyhounds at 15 mg total dose per day, and then weaned down as soon as possible.

• Pain medication - this is a very painful condition and there can be some relief with NSAID's like Rimadyl, Deramaxx, etc.

A WORD ABOUT DIET

Most dermatologists agree that one of the possible triggers for this disease is food related. Thus, treating your SLO dog as a severe food allergy patient might be of some benefit. This involves very strict dietary restrictions, and the details should be discussed with your vet. Foods that have proven useful include Eukanuba Veterinary Diet (Response FP - a fish based food), IVD foods, Hill's ZD, and other truly hypoallergenic foods.

PROGNOSIS

This disease tends to remain a life-long problem with afflicted dogs, but it is also one that can almost always be controlled with medication. With luck, over 6-8 months, new nails will regrow and your hound will be pain-free.

Article courtesy of: Grassmere Animal Hospital
Nashville, TN
http://www.grassmereanimalhospital.com/SLO.htm

GROOMING YOUR GREYHOUND

One of the nicest features of your pet Greyhound is that he is virtually permanently pressed! Grooming needs are minimal and take just a few minutes a day:

Your Greyhound should only be bathed when soiled. Greyhounds have little oil in their skin so they have little "doggy odour" and rarely need a bath.

If you need to shampoo, select a conditioning shampoo designed for animals from a good pet supply store or your veterinarian. Never use human shampoo. Even products as gentle as baby shampoo will seem harsh to your pet. Aloe Vera & Oatmeal Aussie Brand Shampoo is recommended.

Be sure to rinse, rinse, & rinse again after bathing. Any soapy residue left can be an irritant to your dog's sensitive skin.

Most of the year, a quick brushing with a soft bristle brush in the morning will keep him looking great. During the spring and fall shedding weeks, you may need to repeat this routine in the evening as well.
A short-nibbed rubber brush or mitt will aid in removing more stubborn elements such as dead hair and dried mud.

Once a week, you should inspect your pet's ears and clean them gently with a cotton ball or swab dipped in Professional ear cleaner (available from your vet or GPAC store), or in 1 part hydrogen peroxide and 10 parts water.

Your Greyhound will have its teeth professionally cleaned upon adoption. When you take your new pet for its first check up, have the veterinarian inspect his teeth. To maintain dental hygiene brush your pet's teeth weekly, your veterinarian will be happy to show you how to brush your Greyhound's teeth. Most Greyhounds have poor dental conditions so care should be taken to ensure you maintain the dog's oral hygiene.

Greyhounds are used to having their nails trimmed while they stand. Just lean over and bend each foot backwards, so that you can see the underside of the nail. If you're nervous about trimming the nails, ask your vet or local groomer to show you how much to trim.

Flea and tick control is the one area that requires special effort on your part. Greyhounds are extremely sensitive to chemicals and pesticides. The use of a flea collar or medallion, or even a grocery store flea spray will KILL your dog.

Greyhounds should be treated only with products containing PYRETHRIN AND PYRETHRIN as the active ingredients. Brands such as Duocide products are appropriate. Check with your veterinarian if you are not sure; don't gamble with your dog's life!

**Safe Flea Products for Greyhounds:**
- Mycodex Shampoo with Pyrethrins
- Duocide Long Acting Flea Spray
- Advantage, Advantage Plus
- Sentinel (heartworm, roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, fleas)
- Program
- Revolution

**Safe Dewormers for Greyhounds:**
- Vercom Paste (roundworms, hookworms, whipworms, tapeworms)
- Nemex-2 (roundworms, hookworms)
- Droncit tablets (tapeworms)
- Drontal, Drontal Plus
- Lopatol (roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms)
- Panacur is best for hookworms
Safe Heartworm Preventatives for Greyhounds:

- Filaribits (regular kind only)
- Caricide
- Styrid-Caricide (also prevents rounds and hooks)
- Intercepter (Canada)
- Heartgard
- Heartgard 30 Plus (hookworm preventative also)
- Sentinel
- Revolution
- Advantage, Advantage Multi

Best Veterinary consultants to Use

Note: 90% of veterinarians across Atlantic Canada are now very familiar with Greyhounds, although many veterinarians still consult with the University of PEI or Harbour Cities Vets for advice on unusual cases. Between the two of them, University of PEI and Harbour Cities in Dartmouth, NS do about 80% of the top Greyhound work Atlantic Canada. You will have been provided with a full Booklet of information on medications and anaesthetics. Please ensure you photocopy them and give them to your vet.

University of PEI Small Animal Teaching Hospital (902) 566-0950.
Harbour Cities Vet Clinic - Dartmouth, NS (902) 463-7610
Metro Animal Emergency Clinic – (902) 468-0674

All of these institutions are also happy to advise pet owners directly on any Greyhound question they may have. Please contact Jeanette Reynolds (902-889-2214) or your local GPAC rep if you have any further questions.

UNSAFE PRODUCTS AND DRUGS
DO NOT USE THESE ON OR AROUND A GREYHOUND!

- All flea collars and flea-killing medallions, all long-lasting flea dips, Dursban (cholrpyrifos) insecticides, Dichlorvos (DDVP) insecticides, Methoxychlor (DDE), Malathion, or any other insecticides that end in Athiom.
- Proban flea control tablets and oral liquid, Pro Spot 40 and Spotton (fenithion) topical systemic insecticides.
- Filaribits Plus heartworm and hookworm preventive.
- DNP, Task, Telmin/Telmintic, Veriplex/Anaplex deworming drugs.
- When in doubt, ASK one of the recommended consultants or your GPAC representative whether something is safe. There are many things available that are harmful to Greyhounds, but carry no warnings because Greyhounds are so rare away from the track.
- NEVER use Hartz Blockade and NEVER offer foods containing red dyes or Beef-Basted rawhide.

**VETERINARY CARE**

Greyhounds are a very healthy breed with none of the inherited health problems commonly found in other large breeds.

Prior to your adoption, your dog was spayed or neutered, checked for heartworm and parasites, tested for tick illness, and had its distemper/parvo vaccination updated. The health sheet form GPAC will give you the exact dates of this care. Please take this to your veterinarian so that your Greyhound's file can be established.

Following are a few things you'll want to do to help your Greyhound lead a long and healthy life:

Heartworm prevention will be one of the most important things you can do for your Greyhound. We recommend one of the chewable, monthly, preventative tablets, or liquid topical doses. Your veterinarian will advise you regarding when to start this protection. Many families prefer to continue year round plans, while others find returning to the clinic each spring to have their dog rechecked and restarted on the medication is better for them.

Annual check-ups and re-vaccinations should be planned near the anniversary of your adoption. This will serve as a good reminder to renew your local dog license as well.

Before allowing your dog to be anaesthetized or tranquilized be sure your veterinarian is familiar with the procedures and dosages appropriate for a Greyhound. Because Greyhounds have so much muscle bulk and so little fat, these drugs react more powerfully on them. The normal dose of anaesthetic for another breed of dog of the same weight could be fatal to your Greyhound. Photocopy your information for your vet!
The following is an article by Rodger I. Barr, D.V.M.

**A Safe Method Of Sighthound Anaesthesia**

Whether it be man or beast, the greatest risk in elective or nonessential surgery is the anaesthetic. In Veterinary Medicine, this risk is a minimal one when in the hand or a graduate D.V.M. That is unless your pet happens to be a sighthound. The greatest medical injustices perpetrated against these breeds is the lack of instruction in veterinary medical colleges concerning the differences between these breeds and all the other dogs of the world.

The most commonly used anaesthetic regimen in veterinary medicine incorporates a short-acting thiobarbiturate such as Surital followed by gas anaesthesia utilizing either Metophane or Halothane. For most breeds this type of regimen is more than satisfactory; for sighthounds it has the potential of being very dangerous, even fatal. Little research has been directed at the actual reasons for these breed differences, so although cold hard facts are not available, educated guesses are.

Three factors are responsible for the short-term effects of the thiobarbiturates. They are highly lipid-soluble, meaning they are absorbed into fat almost immediately after intravenous injection. They are then metabolized by the liver over a variable period of time, and subsequently excreted in the urine. With most breeds, the routine injection of the thiobarbiturate with no other anaesthetic agent employed, will result in approximately 10-15 minutes of anaesthesia before recovery occurs. The sighthound will remain under for usually 30-35 minutes, in some cases longer; some never recover. The reasons for this are obvious when one considers the method of action of the above mentioned anaesthetic.

Redistribution into fat is the greatest reason for fast recovery form thiobarbiturate; if the patient in question happens to have very little fat, this anaesthetic agent which normally obliges the anaesthetist by retiring to insignificant tissue such as fat, remains in the bloodstream continuing to depress the central nervous system as well as the cardiovascular system. An unaware anaesthetist will then begin gas anaesthesia at the point at which the thiobarbiturate normally wears off, but in this case is merely doubling up the anaesthetic load, and thus depressing the patient even more. At the very least, the patient will recover in three hours or so and not be fully recovered for up to 24 hours. In addition to the absence of body fat in many of the sighthound breeds, it seems their livers are unable to deal as effectively as some breeds with many drugs which rely on this important organ for metabolism... supporting even more the need to find a alternate method for anaesthetic control of the sighthound surgical patient.

To criticize an existing method without offering a viable alternative would render this article unnecessary. To avoid this fate, I would like to present my candidate for the safest, most effective method of sighthound anaesthetic induction. The following method has been used on over 200 sighthounds by the author as well as many other animals who for one reason or another required a SAFER method. I have, to date, never lost a sighthound from this method. Some day a problem is bound to occur, but at this point in time, I haven't even had any close calls or unexpected responses. The drug of which I speak is a human drug known generically as Oxmorphone. It is almost fully
reversible. In other words, upon completion of the procedure, one can almost immediately raise the patient's level of consciousness dramatically, through the use of a narcotic reversing agent such as Nalline or Levallophan. All sighthounds receive atropine sulfate prior to the anaesthesia. All sighthounds receive intravenous fluids during general anaesthesia. At this time 0.05 mg/lb of Oxymorphone is combined in a single syringe with 0.1 ml/10lbs. Of acepromazine (1.5 mg oxy. And 0.3 cc ace. for a 30 lb dog). This combination is injected intravenously over a 15-20 second period; faster than this can result in a brief excitement phase. Apprehensive dags can receive as much as 0.075 mg/lb of Oxymorphone. Within five minutes, the dogs can be incubated with very little manual restraint. Many animals will respond excessively to sharp noises at this stage. Depending on the procedure as well as the level of depression the patient has achieved one may or may not incorporate the use of Metophane, a gas anaesthetic. Upon completion of the surgery, Malline is injected I.V. at a dosage equivalent to the induction dosage of Oxymorphone. This method has been used for several years at Colorado State University on thousands of dogs, many of which were track Greyhounds. During my post-graduate training at the above mentioned institution, three sighthounds were mistakenly anaesthetized using a thiobarbiturate. One died of malignant hyperthermia during surgery (high body temperature). A Scottish Deerhound suffered cardiac arrhythmia and had to be defibrillated. The third, a Greyhound, took a page out of Rip Van Winkle and slept for three days. These numbers are statistically far too few to draw any accurate conclusions, but who among you would want to volunteer your hounds to complete the study?

For all practitioners, the safest drugs are those agents in which we have confidence and are most familiar. So those who use the thiobarbiturates or some other anaesthetic regimen, there's obviously no reason to change. This article is directed at that person who has tried a method and is looking for something better.

Hopefully in the future, through improved education we can avoid some of the unnecessary problems and errors we've committed in the past. When that day comes, we all benefit.

*Permission to print this article was granted by Dr. Rodger Barr and the National Greyhound Association.*

**What's all the talk on ticks you ask?**

GPAC works to ensure our Greyhounds are tested for Tick Illness. We have a direct relationship with Protatek labs and test all of our dogs once they reach Canada. When you adopt through GPAC you do not need a veterinary referral. Please contact your local rep or contact GPAC directly (902-889-2214, or www.gpac.ca) for more information. We offer regular and recheck titer clinics for all Greyhounds. We have been testing our dogs for over 15 years.

**Protatek Labs Tick Disease Information**

An educated Greyhound owner is the single most critical factor in insuring the long-term health of these beautiful canine athletes and friends.
Has your Greyhound ever experienced any of the following:

- high fever
- depression or lethargy
- anorexia
- anemia
- diarrhea or constipation
- loss of appetite or loss of body weight
- vomiting
- nose bleeds, skin hemorrhage or any other unusual bleeding
- swollen legs or lymph nodes
- nervous system disorders, such as stiff gait, head tilt,
- seizures or twitching
- pale gums and/or inner eye membranes
- if racing, declining performance

Has your Greyhound:

- travelled extensively, especially in western, south western or eastern region of the U.S.
- travelled in regions where ticks are prevalent
- frequented kennels with high turnover/large number of dogs
- received a blood transfusion
- been involved in a blood donor program
- experienced stressors, such as poor diet, illness, relocation or racing
- been born to a known Babesia canis-infested dam

If any of these symptoms or conditions apply to your dog, it is important that you know about recent findings of tick-borne diseases affecting Greyhounds all over the U.S.

ProtaTek

ProtaTek Reference Laboratory ("ProtaTek") has performed serologic testing for tick-borne diseases Greyhounds since March 1995. Findings revealed that about 70% of Greyhounds are silent, asymptomatic carriers of at least one or more tick-borne disease agents.

Your dog may have been infected with, or exposed to, a number of tick-borne disease agents which may be uncommon in your area.

Two similar and potentially serious tick-borne disease agents are Canine Ehrlichiosis also known as Tick Fever, and Canine Babesiosis. Both agents travel through the dog's blood stream and are typically transmitted by ticks sometimes by the same tick bite. Greyhounds, as a breed, seem to be unique in their susceptibility to these diseases primarily because of travel to and residency in various states and the potential widespread infestation of ticks at Greyhound breeding, training and racing kennels. Because Greyhounds are transported across state lines for racing purposes and to
adoptive homes and the fact that they are used as blood donors, there is a much greater possibility for widespread transmission of these diseases, once thought to be more geographically isolated in occurrence. Moreover, the Greyhound breed is known to be very sensitive and easily stressed, increasing their susceptibility to disease.

The symptoms listed above are typical of what dogs may experience in the acute phase of each of these diseases. With Ehrlichiosis, affected dogs may later enter a chronic carrier phase which may last several years. During this stage dogs appear clinically healthy, but red blood cell, white blood cell and platelet counts remain below normal levels.

These carrier animals may be a dangerous source of infection if blood is transferred to another animal. Of equal concern, these carrier dogs can develop a more severe phase of Ehrlichiosis if they suddenly become stressed or immuno-suppressed due to other illnesses, harsh environments or the use of certain immuno-suppressive drugs. Carrier dogs are considered walking time bombs. Once the dog goes beyond the carrier state and reaches the severe chronic phase, the disease becomes difficult and costly to treat.

Canine Ehrlichiosis can easily be diagnosed by the IFA test used in ProtaTek's laboratory. Treatment of Canine Ehrlichiosis consists of tetracycline drugs or their derivatives. Usually dogs in the early acute phase require only 2-3 weeks of treatment, whereas chronically affected dogs require treatment for 6 weeks or longer. In many cases, supportive therapy in the form of i.v. fluids and blood transfusions is also required. In addition to tick bites, Babesiosis can be transmitted through blood transfusions as well as transplacentally, if the blood donors or dams are chronic carriers. Infection are most severe in dogs which become infected as puppies and young adults (<2 years).

Dogs 2 years or older generally develop an asymptomatic carrier state. Likewise puppies infected in utero remain carriers if untreated. Carrier dogs may also develop clinical Babesiosis if their immune systems are compromised. Carrier dogs can spread infection at an alarming rate if used as blood donors or for breeding purposes!!

Serology provides a highly accurate and reliable method for the detection of all stages of Canine Babesiosis. The IFA test is the most specific and sensitive method available. Two drugs have been determined top be effective against B.canis infections: Diminazene aceturate and Imidocarb dipropionate. Unfortunately, neither of these drugs are approved for routine use in the U.S. and special permission has to be obtained from the FDA in order for veterinarians to obtain them.

Two additional tick-borne diseases which Greyhound owners should be aware of are Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever ("RMSF") and Lyme disease. Cases of RMSF are most prevalent in the eastern half of the U.S., but also occur in the West. Symptoms of RMSF are similar to those listed above for Ehrlichiosis. Likewise the disease is treated with tetracycline's. Lyme disease, also, is characterized by many of the same symptoms listed above. Signs of chronic Lyme disease consist of recurrent, intermittent arthritis. Neurological symptoms and kidney disorders may also develop. Amoxicillin or doxycycline are the drugs of choice for treatment of this disease. ProtaTek uses the IFA test for diagnosis of both RMSF and Lyme disease. Humans are also susceptible to infections with certain strains of these four disease agents, if bitten by infected ticks.
Aside from the above tick-borne diseases, Greyhounds which have spent time in the Southwest or Western U.S. should also be tested for an insidious fungal disease known as Valley Fever. Clinical signs are variable and progressive and may include coughing, lethargy, weight loss, lameness, blindness and/or neurological disorders. ProtaTek’s diagnostic test is able to determine whether an infected dog has a localized infection or if dissemination through out the body has occurred. Several Imidazole drugs are effective against the disease, which usually requires a longer treatment schedule than those mentioned above. For more information about diagnosing these diseases and their treatment, consult your veterinarian. ProtaTek is uniquely specialized in the diagnosis of tick-borne disease. Our staff consists of individuals with long-term scientific/University experience with such diseases.

Treating a retired Greyhound

Caring for Our Fast Friends - Medical Facts About This Unique Breed

Introduction

As the popularity of adopting a retired racing Greyhound as a pet increases, veterinarians are seeing Greyhounds in their clinics for the first time. Former racing Greyhounds are a wonderful breed and make great pets. They are intelligent, quiet and socialized. They have been in close human contact for their entire lives and are used to attention and affection, which makes them ideal patients.

Distinctive medical characteristics

As distinctive as they are as pets, greyhounds also have some unique medical characteristics.

Blood Values

- Blood values in Greyhounds are different. High or low values in other dogs are often normal for Greyhounds.
- Greyhounds have higher red blood cell counts (5.99-9.39 x 106/ml)*, as well as higher packed cell volumes (41.4-64.2 %)* and hemoglobin concentrations (14.8-21.6 g/dl)*.
- White blood cell counts typically are lower (1,800-14,600/ml)*.
- Blood platelets are lower and range from 100,000 cells/ul to 300,000 cells/ul.
- Protein in the blood is lower and ranges from 5.4 g/dl to 6.6 +/- .4 g/dl.
- If there are concurrent clinical signs of hypothyroidism, measure T4, free T4 and TSH to determine if the dog is hypothyroid.

Big Hearts

- Greyhounds have larger hearts and lower heart rates (60-90 BPM) than other breeds
- Low-grade benign heart murmurs are common.
- Blood pressure tends to be high.
Surgery

- Avoid administering sulfur containing anaesthetic agents, e.g.; thiopental and thiamylal.
- Monitor a Greyhound’s temperature under anaesthesia as malignant hyperthermia does occur.
- Some Greyhounds may develop spontaneous bleeding one-to-four days after routine minor surgery or trauma.

Additional Resource:
Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound can be purchased by calling 785-263-4660 or visiting http://www.ngagreyhounds.com

Produced by the American Greyhound Track Operators Association (AGTOA) in co-operation with:
Linda L. Blythe, DVM, PhD
Guillermo Couto, DVM
Brad Fenwick, DVM, PhD
Robert L. Gillette, DVM, MSE


Greyhound Bloodwork by Suzanne Stack, DVM

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceivingly "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

CBC = Complete Blood Count

RBC = Red Blood Cells

Hgb = Hemoglobin

PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume / Hematocrit

WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets
NORMAL VALUES FOR:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Greyhounds</th>
<th>Other Dogs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RBC:</td>
<td>7.4 - 9.0</td>
<td>5.5 - 8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hgb:</td>
<td>19.0 - 21.5</td>
<td>12.0 - 18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCV:</td>
<td>55 - 65</td>
<td>37 - 55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV / HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference. Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia - a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction - in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's - low 40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's - low 40's is an anemic greyhound. Here in Arizona, a greyhound PCV < 50 is a red flag to check for Ehrlichia.

WBC

Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5

Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

Platelets

Greyhound: 80,000 - 200,000

Other dog: 150,000 - 400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Confounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated globulin and total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.
Chem Panel

T.P. = Total Protein

Globulin

Creatinine

T4

**NORMAL VALUES FOR:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>T.P.</th>
<th>Globulin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greyhound</td>
<td>4.5 - 6.2</td>
<td>Greyhound: 2.1 - 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other dog</td>
<td>5.4 - 7.8</td>
<td>Other dog: 2.8 - 4.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal - T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

Creatinine

Greyhounds: .8 - 1.6

Other dogs: .0 - 1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values up to 1.6 times as high as the top of the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.

T4

Greyhounds: .5 - 3.6 (mean 1.47+/-.63)

Other dogs: 1.52 - 3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds - 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs - so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.
Urinalysis

And lastly, the good news - greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

Sources


GPAC INFORMATION

GPAC products

GPAC has a full line of products available at the Greyhound Benefit Store (although it is not necessary that any products be purchased at the store). All sales from the store directly benefit the dogs staying at GPAC Hope Cottage Kennel while awaiting their forever-homes.

GPAC member support

GPAC offers all our members 24-hour support, behaviour solutions, and advice for all its canine members (not just Greyhounds). Also, continued support is available through our huge online Greyhound community located at www.gpac.ca and the GPAC chat site.

Greyhound Pets of Atlantic Canada