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## **Greyhoundhomer RGT**

Greyhoundhomer RGT started up on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2006 and have already homed 316 lovable greyhounds. Greyhoundhomer RGT is a registered charity and we are specialists in greyhounds.

Greyhoundhomer RGT homes greyhounds of about 3-4 years old, the average age of retirement, but some might be under 2 because sadly they had a serious injury or too slow or maybe the greyhound just didn't chase.

Greyhounds average live expectancy is 12 years or longer!

Greyhounds are usually lazy, lovable, loyal, friendly, funny, gentle, affectionate, quiet, sensitive, trusting, good natured, clean, good with children, the elderly and often live happily with other pets, including cats!

Greyhounds only need a 10 – 20 minute walk twice every day. They are often described as “couch potatoes” requiring less exercise than a usual dog. Most greyhounds walk quietly on a lead without pulling.

Greyhounds come in a variety of colours; black, white, brindle, fawn, blue (grey) and a combination of these colours. As their coats are short and smooth, they don't get too dirty and can come back relatively clean, generally requiring little grooming.

Generally, younger greyhounds will be somewhat more active, and older greyhounds will be quieter and well mannered. Greyhounds are a pedigree breed and normally stay fit and healthy into their teens. They weigh between 50 - 80 pounds.

The males are usually bigger than females, the males are just slightly taller though, older greyhounds might not be appealing as younger greyhounds but are even more grateful for love and attention.

## **Could you home a gentle loving greyhound?**

Greyhoundhomer RGT will advise you on all matters of adoption. We have three kennels full of loving greyhounds to choose from. The kennels are located in Ockendon, Essex, Bishops Stortford, Herts and Ipswich, Suffolk.

At Ockendon kennels we are homing greyhounds directly from the RGT, owners and trainers, here we have 20 greyhounds with more coming in all the time.

In Bishop Stortford (Herts) we are homing greyhounds from a brand new purpose built kennel. We have up to 10 greyhounds at any time.

In Ipswich we are homing greyhounds directly from the RGT, owners and trainers, here we have 10 greyhounds with more coming in all the time.

Your greyhound will be provided with a collar, lead and muzzle, coat and will have been vaccinated and will be neutered also the insurance company, Pet Plan , provides the first 6 weeks insurance cover free of charge. We also provide worming tablets and tick and flea treatment. Regular doses with a complete wormer, available from the vets, are necessary to ensure your dog stays healthy. We recommend worming 3 monthly intervals.

A home check must be carried out, the only reason we do a home check is to see if you have a garden and to check if you have given us the right location of where the greyhound will be homed. It is a chance to ask as many questions as you have. It is not to look at your house! Your garden must be fenced off with a 5 foot or higher fence.

It would be helpful if you have two bowls ready, one for water

and one for food. An old duvet folded in half will make an ideal bed. A grooming mitt is essential and a soft collar to wear around the house carrying an ID tag will complete the picture. Your dog must be walked wearing a greyhound collar and leather lead.

When you first have your dog, we recommend that your dog wears a muzzle when taken out for a walk. After a while, you will know the social behaviour of your dog and you may then choose to walk without the muzzle.

Don't forget Greyhoundhomer RGT are always here to help and give you support and advice that you may need in the first few weeks, also if for any reason you can no longer keep your greyhound it **MUST** be returned to us.

Any problems, such as going on holiday or if you would want to just check with anything, you will have contact details so then the problem will be dealt with. But our main concern is that you are a responsible, caring person who will look after a retired greyhound.

Even if you work, have children, cats or are unable to go for long walks, it is still worth calling us. There may well be a greyhound that would be ideal for your situation.

### **Arriving At Home**

When taking your new Greyhound home, please bear in mind your dog will never have been in a home environment before. Your dog will settle at its own pace and there needs to be no rush. At your side is where they want to be. Remember, they will become a precious part of your family. Enjoy the experience of seeing them grow from a kennel dog to a family pet. They will bring you great joy!

Domestic appliances which are commonplace to us, such as vacuum cleaners, washing machines, TV etc. will be alien to

them and may initially spook them. Upon arriving home, take the dog straight into the garden or designated toilet spot, wait until they relieve themselves and then praise them profusely. Use their name, tell them good boy/girl and reward them with a small piece of cheese or biscuit (whichever you are using for training purposes). Repeat this process every hour or so for the first day and then get into a routine of letting them out – i.e. before meals and straight after meals.

Then take your dog around the house on the lead initially so they can see everything in a calm manner. After 10 minutes or so, take the lead off and sit down, letting them roam around on their own. By this stage the initial excitement will have worn off and they can snoop around calmly. Set the house rules from day one, so they know what they can and cannot do, and ensure all family members are familiar with these guidelines or the dog will become very confused about its role.

Their first few days in this alien world can be quite daunting for them and they may become anxious. Keep in mind the size of the busy, noisy kennel you have taken the dog from and the quiet, new, small world you are introducing them to. Signs of anxiety are pacing, panting, diarrhoea, not eating and drinking and whining at night when left alone. Anxiety can be shown through destructiveness. Please be patient while your dog adjusts. Night-lights and low volume radios left on can help the dog not feel completely alone in the dark. A DAP™ diffuser can also help calm your dog.

We have found that a great many greyhounds get very upset if shut into small rooms, i.e. the kitchen. If at all possible when you leave them let them have the hall area, they are usually much happier there.

## **Training**

Dogs must learn basic commands. Why? ...because like people, dogs need a basic level of education and socialising to enable them to feel confident and behave socially.

You will need to give your dog verbal praise and reinforcement.

Treats of small pieces of cheese can reinforce your verbal commands and are an effective training aid – as is a water sprayer! Should your dog be doing something they shouldn't i.e. jumping up at visitors, paws up on the kitchen counter etc, a quick blast from a water sprayer in the face will quickly prevent your dog from committing the same crime!

Be quick to praise your dog for good deeds and reinforce bad behaviour with the word 'NO' spoken loudly. Please refrain from hitting your dog – it will not understand and may become distressed.

As with young children, do not leave things lying around that your dog could get hold of – either something they could destroy or harm themselves with. It is better to prevent accidents before they happen. Dog training classes can be good fun and can help your greyhound socialise with other dogs.

All training must be done with a light, encouraging hand. Positive reinforcements and food rewards are the best incentives for training.

## **House Training**

We can't guarantee a house-trained dog but most Greyhounds are clean in their kennels, and once they know where you want them to empty, they will be happy to stick with that routine. Because greyhounds are accustomed to being let out of their kennels several times a day to relieve themselves and explore the paddocks. Because of this, a similar routine in a new home makes housetraining relatively easy.

House training should begin as soon as your dog arrives home. Take them straight into the garden, wait until they relieve themselves and then reward them with a small piece of cheese or a dog biscuit.

After this initial visit to the garden, keep repeating the routine at

regular periods throughout the day. It is advantageous to take your new pet for a short 5 minute walk at regular periods throughout the day. During this time it is unlikely that the Greyhound will have had a chance to have an accident and they will be thoroughly familiar with the idea that any 'toilets' are to be done outside.

Thereafter, if your dog has an accident indoors, bear in mind punishment does not work and can make the dog worse. Anticipate when your dog needs to go, take them outside and praise and reward them when they 'go'.

Any 'accident' in the home should be washed thoroughly with a solution of biological washing liquid, as this will take away the smell, otherwise they will constantly re-mark over that spot. You can purchase a spray from any pet shop that will be sure to remove any last traces of odour that the dog maybe able to detect.

Take them to the toilet immediately after food, when they get up and before they go to bed and, of course, in between.

Some signs to look for when your dog needs to go to the toilet are restlessness, pacing up and down, whining, scratching at the door or circling.

Of course, at first, there may be no signs as the dog will have been used to living in a kennel, but Greyhounds are generally clean animals and learn very quickly.

Remember, all pet owners have a responsibility to pick up any mess your dog does while walking anywhere on public ground. It's not only illegal, with fines to be paid, but also very nasty to tread in and offensive in a modern society. Poop scoops can be bought from your local pet store or vet practice or you can use 'Nappy sacks' which are a cheaper alternative.

If you work for a full day then - like any other dog - it would be a good idea to have someone come to let the dog out at lunchtimes. Alternatively, a companion animal can stop the dog becoming lonely. The companion animal doesn't have to be a dog - but I'd recommend another Greyhound as they look better!

## **General Care**

Greyhounds do make wonderful pets, but it's important to bear a few simple ideas in mind.

**Ears:** Ears should be checked regularly, as although ear infections are no more common with Greyhounds than other breeds, they can occur. Regular cleaning of the outer ear with cotton balls, plus warm salt water, will keep the ears free of wax that can trap germs leading to infection. Special wipes can also be purchased from pet stores and vets. If your dog is flapping their head and rubbing or pawing at their ear, and the problem persists, seek veterinarian advice. An infection will quickly be cleared up with antibiotic ointment or drops. Many Greyhounds are sensitive with their ears due to racing (due to tattoo checking) so take care when handling them.

**Parasite Control:** Regular grooming of your Greyhound will ensure you are quickly aware if they pick up fleas or ticks. There are a variety of products available to control parasites, however the more effective ones need to be obtained from a veterinary surgery. Remove fleas with a flea comb and bathe your dog with a flea shampoo, but remember, the bath only takes care of the adult fleas on your dog at that time. For more extensive protection, as well as control over pre adult fleas, you will have to treat your dog and your home especially carpets and bedding. A house spray from the vets is available for this.

**Feet & Nails:** The feet and nails have been very important to your Greyhound while they have been racing and need continuing care from you. Their nails will have been clipped

short on a regular basis and you will notice they grow quickly. Once they have settled and they allow you to brush them. Once you have their trust, hold their feet firmly and gently clip a small amount from their nails straight across with sharp nail cutters. Alternatively, file with a nail file. We are always happy to cut their nails at the kennels if you feel unsure.

Check your Greyhounds pads, feet and legs for cuts after they have been exercising outdoors. This is particularly important if they have been running in a large area that you cannot examine completely. Sharp stones, sticks, thorns and glass can cause cuts or become embedded in the foot. Wash their feet in warm soapy water and seek veterinary advice if necessary.

**Skin & Coat:** In order to keep your Greyhound's coat healthy, a grooming mitt or good brush with firm bristles will be required. They will have been used to regular grooming in the racing kennel and most will stand and enjoy this special attention from you. If they require a bath, ensure they are dried quickly and can lie down somewhere warm.

Many Greyhounds have bare patches, especially on the bony prominences or on their rumps. This is usually due to poor bedding or the hounds preference to lying on concrete or wet paddocks or stress. With good food, soft bedding and regular brushing, your dogs coat will soon improve and look shiny and healthy. Some dogs may come with scars from their racing days. These, once healed, rarely give any trouble.

## **Feeding**

Many new owners already know how and what they want to feed their dog, based on past experience. There is a huge range of food products to choose from. These guidelines will help to keep your Greyhound fit and healthy. Ask the kennel for details of the feed your dog has been fed and introduce change gradually.

**Water:** Should be available at all times and changed regularly. Never leave your dog without fresh water.

**Complete Foods:** Are the most effective, economical and efficient way of feeding your dog the proteins, vitamins and minerals they need. When you buy, look for a complete food with approximately 20% protein, which is ideal for a pet dog. Use cold water only to soak or the vitamins will be destroyed. Follow the feeding instructions on the packaging according to the weight of the dog. Feeding the main meal early in the afternoon can assist with housetraining. Keep an eye on your dog's stools. Should they become loose, you may need to change the brand. Generally complete foods are based on biscuits or cereal, tinned food is not necessary but can make a meal more appetising.

**Fresh Meat & Vegetables:** All Greyhounds will enjoy this treat and are very appreciative of any left-overs. However, this is not needed everyday and should form part of the main meal.

**When to feed:** It is generally agreed your Greyhound will benefit from a small cereal breakfast in the morning. Warm milk or milk and water will be much appreciated! A main meal can then be given at lunch time or in the evening – whichever suits your routine, but try to stick to regular feeding times each day.

**Biscuits and chews:** These will aid the dog's digestion and help to keep their teeth clean. They can also be used as training aids and of course as an extra treat!

**Additional items:** A teaspoon of sunflower/vegetable/fish oil added to the main meal will help maintain a glossy coat. Cooked eggs in any form can be enjoyed once a week or so. Cheese, an excellent training aid, can be crumbled on top. Oily fish, such as sardines or pilchards and other filleted fish are a healthy treat. Human chocolate, raisins, salt and raw onions are poisonous to dogs. They simply cannot digest it. Only give doggy treats.

Make sure all children and visitors are aware of the significant danger to your pet. Be aware of danger if your pet gets into household waste bins from open tins and glass etc. Keep the bin secure. Never allow your Greyhound to scavenge or pick up bits of food outside the home. There may be poison or vermin bait present and the consequences can be a serious illness or even death.

Common sense will tell you not to feed the dog before a long journey, just carry water for the comfort stops. Never feed just before or just after exercise. Always wait about one hour. It is recommended that you feed your greyhound from a raised bowl on a stand whenever possible as greyhounds have such long necks and legs that it is awkward for them to eat from a bowl placed on the floor. For them, an elevated dog bowl on a stand available from pet supply stores or catalogues may be the answer. An upturned bucket may serve the same purpose. Contact any member of our team for help with feeding problems.

## **Heat & Cold**

Greyhounds are particularly susceptible to extreme temperatures, as they only carry a small portion of fat on their bodies.

This may be more obvious in the cold weather, but not so obvious in the heat. In the colder weather pop a coat on them to keep them warm. They could develop pneumonia should they become too cold. Coats should be big enough to cover from the neck to over the tail.

Like all dogs, greyhounds get very hot on warm days. They will pant, possibly be grumpy (like us really) and try to find cool places to lie. In hot weather, leave your greyhound in peace as much as you can. Remind children to cuddle a lot less, if at all. Help to keep them cool with damp flannels on their bodies and

protect them from the sun with cream or shade if they decide to lie outside. This might sound crazy but if there is a breeze in the garden it might seem to be the coolest place, however dogs don't know about UV rays and can get badly burnt.

Please remember to take care to only walk your greyhound before it heats up in the morning or at night when it has cooled down. If they are reluctant to go for a walk, then just give them the opportunity to toilet in the garden and let them lie.

It is best to feed earlier/later, if they don't eat much – don't worry unless there are other symptoms of illness.

Never leave a dog in a hot room or car – they can die within ten minutes.

Symptoms of heat stroke are distress, severe panting and collapse. If you think your greyhound is showing signs of this, cool your dog as fast as possible with cold water or ice applied to the head and back. If there isn't an immediate improvement get veterinary help immediately.

### **Making Friends**

If you already have a dog, please bring it with you to our kennels when you are considering a Greyhound - the dogs will pick each other!

The first meeting should always be in a neutral area, this does not include any areas where your dog regularly walks, as these are considered secondary territories. Allow them to smell each other on loose relaxed leads whilst muzzled. Continue walking until the dogs are relaxed with each other and then take them back to the house and into the garden. Ensure your existing dog's toys, beds, bones, food and water bowls are taken up and put out of sight so there is nothing for them to argue over. Your existing dog might not like another dog playing with their

possessions at this stage. When you put the possessions down, make sure there are more than enough for both dogs.

To avoid future problems between your dogs, remember to ‘back up’ your pack leader. The pack leader will be first through the door, first to seek attention and the first at the food bowl.

Given that racing greyhounds have only ever really known other greyhounds it is surprising how quickly they get on with other dogs after a certain amount of initial caution. Most greyhounds that leave our kennels will have been neutered and it shouldn’t be too long before they are perfectly happy with their new ‘house mate’.

### **Special Needs**

The majority of greyhounds settle happily into family life. However, there are those with specific needs who are also looking for homes. These are dogs with behavioural problems, extreme timidity or who are simply just so overwhelmed by the world outside the kennel doors that they experience adjustment problems or separation anxiety. All of these dogs require special homes to meet their individual needs, where they can find inner peace to join the world outside of kennels.

Typical symptoms of adjustment problems are howling, barking, scratching or chewing furniture and fittings or even excreting around the house during your absence. Your greyhound has been used to the company of their kennel mate, trainer, re-homing staff and volunteer walkers and to be left alone can be initially distressing for them. Try giving your greyhound an item of your worn clothes.

What you need to do is desensitise them and build their confidence. If your greyhound follows you everywhere around the house you must stop them, encourage them back to their sleeping area and try to leave the room again until they become

confident with letting you out of their sight. Your greyhound will also associate the going out procedure of putting on your coat and picking up your keys as the start of a time alone and will begin to get anxious. To stop them fretting at the prospect of being alone, you should take off your coat, put the keys back and carry on with the normal household routine. After a short while, put your coat back on, pick up those keys again, then, without any fuss, put the keys back, remove your coat and repeat these actions until your greyhound gets positively bored!

You can build their confidence by closing them in the room where they sleep and moving around the house for a very short time, then for just a short time, gradually acclimatising them to being left alone. When leaving the room you should make as little fuss as possible, so they learn that being left is a normal everyday occurrence.

Leaving a radio on a low volume is quite reassuring for them. Following this you should be able to leave the house for short periods, perhaps walk to the end of the road and back, so your greyhound learns that you do actually return.

If your greyhound is particularly sensitive and even increased confidence does not improve their behaviour, then the use of an indoor kennel may be required, or perhaps a relative, dog walker, friend or neighbour could act as 'baby sitter' whilst you are out.

The indoor kennel can be effective to help with both separation anxiety and house training. Providing they are taught that the kennel is their sanctuary and it is furnished with their normal bed, a small bowl of water and their favourite toy, they will feel confident and relaxed. The kennel will prevent them from chewing furniture and it is unlikely they will soil in an area where they may have to lay.

Once your greyhound is confident enough to sleep in the kennel,

you can begin to shut the door for periods whilst you are in the room and soon you will be able to leave the room for brief time. Tell them to stay as you move away from the kennel and if they begin to whine say 'NO' firmly and continue to leave. When you return and they have been quiet, you should praise them without fuss.

Greyhounds with special needs can take up your time and energy in the early days and weeks, but your efforts will be rewarded. However, we would advise that you give careful consideration to your experience in handling special / problem dogs and the work involved when considering these dogs. With the correct care, all of these dogs have great potential to enjoy a happy retirement in a home. Handling advice on each dog will be given and post-adoption support is available, should you require it.

There is nothing worse than taking on a dog and giving up on it. A dog is for life – not to be given up on. Returning them to the kennels after being in a home can often disturb them more. Please think carefully before committing to take on a dog. If, after you have tried everything and things are still not working out the dog must be returned to the kennels to prevent further distress.

## **Getting Older**

Ageing is a genetic process and your dog ages at a much faster rate than you do. Dogs are classed as mature at 18 months. The life expectancy of a dog ranges from 8 to 16 years and varies according to state of health.

Signs of ageing: Ageing changes occur gradually and may not be obvious to you as you see your dog every day. You might see changes in coat colour, greying of the muzzle, sleep pattern, appetite and thirst, body shape, reluctance to exercise and behaviour. Many of these changes also develop as symptoms of

diseases, so have your dog checked by your vet regularly.

Many veterinary practices run senior or geriatric clinics dedicated to offering advice on diet and care for the older dog. Routine healthcare such as annual vaccination boosters, worming and flea control should not be overlooked and should be continued throughout your dog's life into old age.

**Diet:** There are some notable differences in the nutritional requirements of the older dog. Senior life stage diets take into account altered life styles, levels of activity and declining organ function. Your vet will be able to give you advice when changing from an adult to a senior diet.

Some older dogs require up to 20% fewer calories as they become less active, so weigh your dog regularly (every 3 months). Many veterinary surgeries have scales as well as breed weight guidelines. Adjust the food intake to maintain optimum weight. Obesity is likely to put more strain on the heart, lungs, muscles and joints and may result in a shorter life expectancy. If your dog is overweight, speak to a vet about a calorie control diet.

As activity levels fall, older dogs may start to demonstrate muscle wastage. Supplements such as Cod Liver Oil or capsules and Glucosamine will help prevent joint deterioration. Normal healthy senior dogs should receive the same levels of protein as younger dogs but it must be of high quality. Feeding them little and often avoids overloading their digestive system. Their appetite may reduce as the sense of smell and taste diminishes. Old dogs require extra attention from you. Be kind and considerate and recognise this need for greater input into your dog's life. Older dogs also tend to need to go to the toilet more often as a result of muscular weakness. Give them more opportunities to go out during the day, later at night and earlier in the morning.

## Cats & Greyhounds

It is important to remember that not only greyhounds chase cats – so do many other dogs!

Greyhounds are sight hounds after all and their instincts have been deliberately bred for chasing and they have been trained to chase something small that is moving. Humans might not even realise this because a greyhound may see something seen to be worth chasing that could be up to half a mile away. But just as Greyhounds show different degrees of competitiveness in a race, they show greater and lesser degrees of interest in small animals.

Some greyhounds CAN LIVE WITH CATS.

You will have been advised if the dog you are choosing is considered suitable or not to home with a cat. It is **IMPERATIVE**, however, that the following sensible precautions are taken until you are confident of your dog's temperament.

- When you make the initial introduction, keep your greyhound muzzled and on a tight collar and lead.
- Keep your cat in the room and if your greyhound pulls towards the cat, pull them back and say, “no, leave,” in a firm voice. You may find that a quick shot in the face with water from a water sprayer is also a great deterrent! If your greyhound reacts to your commands as you wish them to – don't forget to praise them – treats of small cubes of cheese are often favoured!
- Do not pick your cat up as this will heighten your dog's interest.

The next step is to get your greyhound to lie down and relax close to your cat. This step may well depend on your cat's willingness to co-operate. Some cats may spend time watching the dog from the highest and furthest place possible:- others may be willing to give the newcomer a blow to show who's boss. It is

always best to favour the cat above the dog as this will give the cat higher authority in the eyes of the dog and it should not be forgotten that we have two temperaments to work with in this introduction.

If your greyhound is scratched by a cat, bathe the scratch immediately with warm water. When you think you are making progress, take away the muzzle, keep the tight collar and lead on and feed your greyhound and cat together. By doing this they are alongside each other but do not have their minds on each other. When you are feeling confident, replace the muzzle and take away the collar and lead. In time, the muzzle can also be removed. Your greyhound will quickly accept the rules and accept the cat as a member of the family. However, a sensible approach and all necessary precautions should be taken. Ensure the cat has a place to escape. If necessary, put a baby gate at the bottom of the stairs so that the cat can get through but the dog cannot.

Even when the dog accepts your house rules, remember strange cats outside the home may well still be regarded as fair game for a chase, so always be alert when out exercising. If you are letting your dog out into the garden, it is worth checking, to make sure there are no cats in your garden. Until you are confident, it would be unwise to leave your dog and cat alone in the same room. If your cat is not used to dogs in its home there is a risk that it might leave. It is essential that your cat has a collar and identity disc to cover this possibility.

Feel free to contact a member of our Trust and we can put you in touch with one of our many happy dog and cat owners to talk through any of your concerns and questions with you.

## **Children & Greyhounds**

It is essential that when introducing a canine into a home where

babies and small children are present, special care is taken. There is no exception with a greyhound. Children and babies should never be left unattended with the dog. Children must be educated to be calm and gentle with the dog and have respect for its needs and its bed. An escape place is an excellent idea so when the dog has had enough, it can retreat to its own space.

Greyhounds are people orientated, gentle, placid and docile but all breeds have a breaking point when taunted by children. Please teach children respect for your dog and soon they will be best of friends. Never let a child disturb a greyhound when it is asleep.

If a child becomes overbearing, a Greyhound will usually walk away rather than snap or growl. However, every dog has its limits. Greyhounds are gentle by nature, most are fine with children, if the child has been taught respect for animals. Many adoption groups are hesitant to place any breed of dog with young children (usually under fives),

## **Fireworks**

Any pets, including Greyhounds can be terrified of loud noises. Fireworks, storms, thunder and lightning may scare your dog. Don't leave them alone if possible. During firework season, take your greyhound out for their walk before dark. Draw the curtains at dusk and put the radio or television on. Your greyhound will look to you for your response to the sounds so try not to react. Let your dog go to where it feels safe and do not keep pampering them – they will only respond more to the noises around.

DAP™ diffusers, available from your local vets are very good at calming your greyhound. This is a plug-in device which emits 'dog appeasing pheromones' similar to those produced soon after a puppy is born by its mother. The pheromones create a 'safe feeling' for your dog and are very effective. Alternatively

seek medication from your vet, if the firework season causes undue distress. Prior to the firework season, you can also prepare your greyhound by buying a 'Noise Phobia CD or cassette'. This imitates the sounds of fireworks and should be played at a very low level for a couple of days. Gradually increase the volume of the CD over a few days and your greyhound will become used to the strange noises and hopefully begin to show no fear when hearing them. There are also Homeopathic remedies such as Kali-Phos, Bach Rescue and Serenity.

## **History Of A Greyhound**

It is interesting to note that the Greyhound is one of the oldest breeds in existence and has been traced back thousands of years to the early cave drawings. It is also, the only dog mentioned in the Bible.

The greyhound was the dog of the pharaohs in Ancient Egypt, the dog of the kings of Ancient Greece and of the landed gentry and nobles in England. According to H Edward Clarke, greyhounds can be traced back 4000 years. Originating in Southern Arabia, the greyhound was introduced to Britain via the Romans...at least that is what is believed to have happened.

An illustrated manuscript in the British Museum dating to the 9th Century, depicts a chieftain and his huntsman with two greyhounds.

Greyhound racing is believed to have begun in 1876 in Hendon North London. Greyhounds were introduced to the United States in the mid 1890's primarily to control jack rabbits on the mid-western farms.

## **Brief Notices**

Whether ambling along leafy lanes, rambling through forests, or

exploring new access land, the countryside is a great place for you and your dog to explore and enjoy.

Six steps to worry-free walkers by following the Countryside code:

Control your dog so that it does not scare or disturb farm animals or wildlife.

When using the new access rights over open country and common land, you must keep your dog on a short lead between 1st March and 31st July - and all year round near farm animals - and you may not be able to take your dog at all on some areas or at some times. Make sure you follow any official signs.

As a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals.

If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead - don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it.

Take good care that your dog doesn't scare sheep and lambs, or wander where it might disturb birds that nest on the ground and other wildlife - eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.

Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess can be and how it can cause infections, so always clean up after your dog and dispose of its mess responsibly.

Wherever you go, following these six steps will help keep your pet safe protect the environment and demonstrate that you are a responsible dog owner.

## **Are Greyhounds Ill-treated While racing?**

Generally speaking the answer is NO! During a dog's racing career happy fit dogs will race well, whereas ill treated ones won't run so well. A trip to a race meeting will show you that greyhounds love to run. Watch them as they go to their handlers when the race is over. Most are happy just to have taken part in a race. Some though, are known to sulk if they lost! Under NGRC rules the dogs are examined before and after a race by a vet. In the case of track accidents the dog will be treated for its injury before leaving the track. This is not to say that abuse never happens - as in all walks of life abuse does happen - but systematic abuse does not. All NGRC training kennels are examined regularly - twice by a vet and once by a racing steward each year so abuse should be picked up. It is obviously against NGRC rules to abuse greyhounds - anyone found doing so could lose their licence for life.

If you would like a copy of your greyhounds race card send a £5 cheque made out to "The Retired Greyhound Trust" to the NGRC, Twyman House, 10 Bonny Street, Camden Town, London NW1 9QD with his earmarks and racing name. Videos of his races, where known, may be obtained from GREYHOUND VIDEOS, 24 Park Lane, South Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 8NB for some stadiums.

### **Your Help**

Your help could really make the difference there are so many ways you can help the work of the Greyhoundhomer RGT.

Greyhounds make excellent family pets.

They are gentle, loving and adapt to home life easily.

We always need more people to adopt our dogs, so perhaps you could help?

Not everyone has the room to take in a retired greyhound, but there are other ways to help the Greyhoundhomer RGT.

Here's how you can help:

- Sponsor an RGT greyhound in the kennels
- Join your local RGT branch
- RGT merchandise
- Participate/organise a sponsored event on our behalf
- Walk dogs at your local RGT kennel
- Simply make a donation to support our essential work
- If you feed your greyhound Wafcol please send the barcode on the left hand bottom to 106 PARSONAGE ROAD, RAINHAM, ESSEX. So that we can purchase some leads for the greyhounds.

THANK YOU.

## **Contact Details**

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