Hounds in Homes - Adoption Fact Sheet, Guidelines & Agreement

Nov 10, 2026 · @u8686ui6

Part 1: Greyhound Adoption Fact Sheet & Guidelines

Welcome to Hounds in Homes

Thank you for choosing to adopt a Greyhound and give them the opportunity to enjoy life as a much-loved family pet.

At Hounds in Homes, we believe every Greyhound deserves a safe, loving and understanding home. Many retired Greyhounds are learning how to live as pets for the first time, and this transition can take patience, time and understanding.

This guide has been prepared to help you understand your Greyhound's individual needs, prepare your home and provide the best possible care throughout their life.

Please remember that every Greyhound is different. The information in this guide provides general advice, and Hounds in Homes will provide additional guidance about your individual dog's temperament, behaviour and needs.

1. Personality

Greyhounds were originally bred as hunting dogs to chase animals such as hares and rabbits. They are sighthounds, meaning they rely heavily on their vision and have a natural instinct to chase moving objects.

Greyhounds are among the fastest dog breeds in the world, capable of reaching speeds of approximately 60-70 km/h. Because of their speed and chasing instincts, keeping them secure is extremely important.

Greyhounds are well known for their racing history. Many retired racing Greyhounds enter the care of rescue organisations, where they begin learning how to live as family pets.

Despite their athletic ability, Greyhounds are often gentle, affectionate and relaxed companions. Many are happiest spending their days sleeping on a comfortable bed or couch, enjoying a walk and spending time with their people.

They are often described as having two speeds: all-out zoomies and total couch potato!

Every Greyhound is an individual

Not all Greyhounds are the same, and they should never be expected to fit into one box. Every Greyhound has their own personality, preferences, confidence levels and needs.

- Some Greyhounds are energetic and playful, while others prefer a quiet, relaxed lifestyle.
- Some enjoy meeting new people and socialising with other dogs, while others are shy, reserved or prefer their own space.
- Some enjoy exploring new environments and going on longer walks, while others are happiest with shorter walks and familiar surroundings.
- Some adapt quickly to home life, while others need more time, patience and reassurance.
- Some are confident and independent, while others may be sensitive or uncomfortable when left alone.
- Some may be suitable for homes with cats or smaller pets, while others may have a strong prey drive that makes this unsafe.

It is important to get to know your Greyhound as an individual and allow them to settle at their own pace. Never assume your Greyhound will behave a certain way simply because they are a Greyhound.

Hounds in Homes will help match you with a Greyhound whose individual temperament, energy level and needs are suited to your household and lifestyle.

Greyhounds can be sensitive to cold weather because of their short coats and relatively low body fat. Some also find being alone difficult, particularly while adjusting to their new home.

With patience, understanding, appropriate care and plenty of affection, a Greyhound can become a wonderful lifelong companion.

Greyhound statistics

- **Breed group:** Hound dogs - Sighthounds
- **Height:** Males are typically around 71-76 cm at the shoulder; females are generally around 68-71 cm.
- **Weight:** Adult Greyhounds commonly weigh approximately 25-40 kg, depending on their size and build.
- **Life expectancy:** Many Greyhounds live approximately 10-14 years, although individual lifespans vary.

2. Preparing your home

Greyhounds can live comfortably in houses, townhouses and apartments, provided their exercise, toileting, companionship and other needs are met.

They often spend a large portion of the day sleeping and relaxing, so they do not necessarily need a large home. However, they do need a safe, comfortable and secure environment.

Fencing and yard safety

Your yard must be securely fenced, with a recommended minimum fence height of 1.5 metres, unless Hounds in Homes specifies otherwise for your individual dog.

- Gates and fences must be secure and in good condition.
- There must be no gaps underneath or between fence panels through which your Greyhound could escape.
- Fencing must be made from safe materials that will not injure your dog.
- Barbed wire and unsuitable fencing materials must not be used.
- Gates must be securely closed at all times.
- Check your yard regularly for damage, loose panels or new escape opportunities.

Greyhounds can react quickly when they see a small animal on the other side of a fence. Never assume that a secure-looking yard is safe without checking it carefully.

A comfortable place to sleep

Your Greyhound should have a comfortable, warm and quiet place to rest. Provide a supportive bed in a location where they can sleep without being disturbed by household activity. Some Greyhounds prefer a quiet corner, while others like to rest near their family.

Allow your dog to retreat to their bed when they need space. Children and visitors should be taught not to disturb a resting dog. Greyhounds may benefit from a warm coat during cold weather, particularly when outdoors.

Making your home safe

Before bringing your Greyhound home:

- Secure rubbish bins, food, medications and household chemicals.
- Keep electrical cords and small objects out of reach.
- Remove or secure potentially dangerous household items.
- Check gates, doors and screen doors carefully.
- Provide fresh drinking water at all times.
- Prepare a quiet sleeping area and establish a consistent daily routine.

Remember that your Greyhound may be unfamiliar with everyday household objects, noises and activities.

3. Exercise and daily activity

Greyhounds have a reputation for being fast and athletic, but many are relatively low-energy dogs at home. They were bred for short bursts of speed rather than sustained endurance. Most enjoy daily walks followed by plenty of relaxation.

Many adult Greyhounds do well with two moderate walks each day, sometimes around 20-30 minutes each, but exercise needs vary considerably between individuals. Some Greyhounds need more activity, while others may need shorter walks because of age, health, fitness or confidence.

Hounds in Homes will help match you with a Greyhound suited to your exercise preferences.

Exercise guidelines

- Start with manageable walks while your Greyhound settles in.
- Allow time to sniff and explore at a comfortable pace.
- Gradually increase exercise as your dog becomes fitter and more confident.
- Avoid strenuous exercise during hot weather.
- Provide opportunities for appropriate play and enrichment.
- Allow plenty of rest between activities.

Do not assume that every Greyhound will enjoy long walks, running or busy outdoor environments. Follow your dog's cues and adjust their activity to suit their individual needs.

Greyhounds can gain weight after retirement if their food intake exceeds their activity level. Monitor their body condition and adjust feeding with veterinary guidance.

4. Prey drive and small animals

Prey drive is a dog's instinct to pursue and catch animals. It is particularly important to understand in Greyhounds because they were bred to chase moving prey.

Prey drive is not the same as aggression. A Greyhound may be friendly and affectionate towards people while still having a strong instinct to chase a small animal.

Prey drive varies greatly between individual Greyhounds. Some can live successfully with certain small animals following careful assessment and management, while others may never be safe around them.

Potential triggers

- Rabbits and hares.
- Cats, particularly unfamiliar outdoor cats.
- Small fluffy dogs.
- Chickens and other birds.
- Other small animals that move quickly.

A Greyhound may learn to live peacefully with a particular household pet, but that does not guarantee they will be safe with unfamiliar animals. Even if your Greyhound is comfortable with your indoor cat, they may react very differently to an unfamiliar cat running outside.

Signs of prey drive

- Fixating on or staring intensely at a small animal.
- Stalking or tracking an animal.
- Becoming suddenly tense or highly alert.
- Lunging, chasing or attempting to grab an animal.
- Rapid movements, trembling or heightened excitement.
- Difficulty responding to their handler when an animal is present.

Some dogs may also show teeth chattering or drooling when highly aroused.

Keeping everyone safe

- Keep your Greyhound on a secure leash when outside your property.
- Never rely on recall alone to prevent chasing.
- Maintain secure fencing and closed gates.
- Introduce other animals gradually and under appropriate supervision.
- Never leave a Greyhound unsupervised with a small animal unless Hounds in Homes and the relevant professionals have assessed the arrangement as safe.
- Follow any specific advice provided about your Greyhound's compatibility with other pets.

Hounds in Homes will share relevant prey-drive observations made while your Greyhound was in our care. In some cases, a Greyhound will not be placed in a home with cats or small animals. Please be honest with us about the animals in your household so we can help determine an appropriate match.

Guidelines: Greyhound muzzling and public safety (NSW)

1. General public areas (on-leash)

- **Muzzles exempt:** Registered pet greyhounds are exempt from wearing a muzzle in standard public spaces (e.g. streets, footpaths and on-leash parks).
- **Leash mandatory:** All greyhounds must remain under the effective control of a competent person and secured on a physical leash at all times.

2. Off-leash dog parks

- **Default rule:** Greyhounds must wear a muzzle in council-designated off-leash areas.
- **Green collar exemption:** A greyhound is only exempt from muzzling off-leash if it has successfully passed the Greenhounds temperament assessment and is wearing its official Greenhounds collar.

3. Registration and transition requirements

- **NSW Pet Registry:** The muzzling exemption applies strictly to lifetime-registered pet greyhounds. Unregistered greyhounds or those still transitioning from racing programs must remain muzzled in all public spaces.
- **Settling-in period:** For newly adopted hounds, it is strongly recommended to keep them muzzled in public for the first eight weeks to ensure a safe adjustment to their new home and community environment.

4. Legal disclaimer

- **General information only:** This document is intended as a general summary of the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) regarding pet greyhounds and does not constitute formal legal advice.
- **Regulatory compliance:** Dog owners and fosters are responsible for ensuring full compliance with current Office of Local Government (OLG) regulations and any specific rules enforced by their local municipal council.
- **Liability:** Hounds in Homes accepts no liability for any actions, penalties or incidents resulting from a failure to adhere to statutory leash, muzzle and registration requirements.

Greenhounds certification process

To obtain a muzzling exemption for designated off-leash areas, owners must complete the official Greenhounds Program process.

Pre-requisites: The greyhound must be desexed, microchipped, and lifetime registered on the NSW Companion Animals Register (CAR) under the current owner's name.

1. **Enrolment:** Contact Greenhounds to enrol the dog in the in-home re-training program. Greenhounds will provide an official workbook and guide.
2. **In-home training:** Complete the self-guided course and workbook over a six-week period to prepare the hound for public socialisation.
3. **Practical assessment:** Book a temperament test with an authorised Greenhounds assessor.
    - Held at a neutral public venue (not at home).
    - Takes approximately 90 minutes.
    - Owners must remain out of sight, as dogs behave differently when their owner is present.
    - Assesses friendliness and compliance, and ensures no aggression towards humans or other dogs (especially small breeds).
4. **Certification:** Once passed, the assessor submits the paperwork. Upon payment of a $49.50 fee, the official green collar, ID tag and muzzle-exempt status are issued.

5. Leashes, collars and muzzles

Greyhounds can accelerate extremely quickly. Even a dog that appears calm and well behaved may suddenly react to a moving animal or an unfamiliar situation.

Leash safety

- Always use a secure lead when walking outside your property.
- Use a properly fitted collar or harness appropriate for your dog.
- Check that equipment fits securely and cannot slip off.
- Keep your Greyhound on-leash near roads, unfamiliar dogs and small animals.
- Never allow your Greyhound off-leash in an unfenced area, even if you believe they have good recall.
- Off-leash exercise should only take place in a securely enclosed area that is suitable for your Greyhound.
- Follow all applicable local requirements for leads and dog exercise areas.

Muzzles

Some Greyhounds may benefit from wearing a properly fitted muzzle during introductions to other dogs or small animals, or where Hounds in Homes specifically recommends one.

A muzzle should be introduced gradually and positively. It must be appropriately designed to allow the dog to pant comfortably. A muzzle is a safety aid, not a substitute for supervision, secure handling or appropriate introductions. Please follow the individual

muzzle recommendations provided for your Greyhound.

If your Greyhound escapes

If your Greyhound gets loose, avoid chasing them, as this may cause them to run further away.

If it is safe to do so, remain calm, use a familiar voice and encourage them towards you. Ask others to help with locating and securing the dog rather than chasing them.

Contact Hounds in Homes as soon as possible and notify the relevant local animal management service if your Greyhound cannot be located. Ensure your contact details and your dog's identification details are up to date.

6. Settling into a new home

Life in a racing kennel can be very different from life as a household pet. A retired racing Greyhound may have had limited experience with household noises, stairs, slippery floors, television, visitors, children and everyday domestic routines.

Although your Greyhound may have started their transition into pet life with Hounds in Homes, the adjustment process continues in their permanent home.

Every Greyhound settles at a different pace. There is no set timeline for becoming comfortable. Some Greyhounds appear confident from the beginning, while others may be nervous, withdrawn, restless or uncertain.

The first few days and weeks

- Keep the home environment calm and predictable.
- Provide a comfortable, quiet sleeping area.
- Establish a consistent routine for meals, walks and toileting.
- Introduce household members gradually.
- Limit visitors and avoid overwhelming outings initially.
- Allow your Greyhound to approach people when they feel comfortable.
- Reward calm behaviour and encourage positive experiences.
- Give your dog plenty of time to rest.

Avoid taking your Greyhound to crowded events, busy shops or dog parks immediately after adoption. Gradually introduce new environments as your dog becomes more confident.

Stairs, floors and unfamiliar objects

Stairs can be frightening for some Greyhounds, particularly if they have never used them before. Slippery floors, glass doors, reflective surfaces and unfamiliar household objects may also be confusing.

- Introduce stairs slowly and never force your dog to use them.
- Use rugs or nonslip mats where necessary.
- Keep your dog away from unsafe staircases until they can navigate them confidently.
- Supervise your Greyhound in unfamiliar areas.
- Reward small steps towards confidence.

Be patient. What seems ordinary to you may be completely new to your Greyhound.

Socialisation

Socialisation means helping your Greyhound become comfortable with different people, animals, environments and experiences. It does not mean forcing your dog to interact with everyone or exposing them to as many experiences as possible in a short time.

Allow your Greyhound to observe from a comfortable distance, provide positive experiences and respect their need for space. Some Greyhounds enjoy socialising frequently, while others prefer a smaller circle of familiar people and dogs. Both can be perfectly normal.

7. Being left alone

Some Greyhounds cope well when left alone, while others may find it difficult, especially during the early weeks after adoption. Your Greyhound may have spent much of their previous life around other dogs or people and may not yet understand that being alone is temporary.

Signs your Greyhound may be struggling

- Barking or howling when left alone.
- Pacing or repeatedly checking doors and windows.
- Destructive behaviour.
- Toileting indoors despite being house trained.
- Excessive panting, drooling or restlessness.
- Attempts to escape or damage doors and gates.

These behaviours may have different causes, so do not assume every problem is separation anxiety.

Helping your Greyhound adjust

- Begin with very short periods of separation.
- Gradually increase the time as your dog becomes comfortable.
- Provide a safe, comfortable resting area.
- Keep departures and returns calm.
- Use a camera if appropriate to observe how your dog behaves when alone.
- Seek advice if your Greyhound shows signs of distress.

Avoid leaving a newly adopted Greyhound alone for long periods while they are still adjusting. If you are concerned about separation-related behaviour, contact Hounds in Homes for guidance. A veterinarian or qualified behaviour professional may be needed.

8. Toileting and house training

Many retired Greyhounds learn house training quickly, but some may not understand how to communicate that they need to go outside. Even a previously house-trained dog may have accidents while adjusting to a new home.

Helpful tips

- Take your Greyhound outside after waking, eating, drinking and playing.
- Provide regular opportunities to toilet throughout the day.
- Take them outside before bedtime.
- Praise them calmly when they toilet in the appropriate place.
- Supervise them indoors while they learn their new routine.
- Clean accidents thoroughly using an appropriate pet-safe cleaner.

Never punish your Greyhound for an accident. Punishment can create anxiety and make house training more difficult. If toileting problems develop suddenly or persist despite a consistent routine, consult your veterinarian to rule out medical causes.

9. Understanding behaviour

Greyhounds are individuals, and their behaviour is influenced by genetics, previous experiences, health, training, environment and confidence. A Greyhound that appears quiet or relaxed may still be feeling uncertain. Give your dog time to show their personality as they become comfortable.

Recognising stress

- Lip licking or repeated yawning when not tired.
- Turning away or avoiding interaction.

- Tucked tail or lowered body posture.
- Freezing or becoming unusually still.
- Pacing, panting or restlessness.
- Hiding or trying to move away.
- Growling or showing other warning signals.

These signs must be interpreted in context, as some can also have other causes. If your Greyhound is uncomfortable, give them space and reduce the pressure of the situation. Never punish a dog for communicating that they are worried. Use positive reinforcement, patience and consistency rather than intimidation or punishment.

Food guarding

Some dogs become protective of their food, treats or feeding area. This is known as resource guarding. To reduce risk:

- Feed your Greyhound in a quiet, designated area.
- Keep children and other pets away while your dog is eating.
- Do not reach into the bowl or take food away unnecessarily.
- Do not test your dog's tolerance by touching them while they eat.
- Avoid forcibly removing food or treats.

If guarding occurs, prevent situations that may trigger it and seek professional guidance. Hounds in Homes can help connect you with an appropriate qualified professional if food guarding becomes a concern.

Toy possessiveness

Some Greyhounds may become protective of toys, chews or other valued objects. If your dog shows signs of guarding, do not attempt to wrestle the object away or deliberately challenge them.

- Manage access to the item, keep children and other animals away and seek advice from Hounds in Homes.
- Use positive, reward-based training under appropriate guidance.

Sleep startle

Sleep startle is a sudden defensive reaction that may occur when a sleeping or deeply resting dog is startled awake. It can occur in any breed and is a known consideration for some Greyhounds. A dog experiencing sleep startle may snap or bite before fully realising what is happening.

To reduce the risk:

- Provide a quiet, comfortable sleeping area.
- Teach everyone in the household not to touch or disturb a sleeping dog.
- Call your Greyhound gently from a distance before approaching.
- Keep children away from the dog's sleeping area.
- Do not allow your dog to sleep in a shared bed if there is a risk of sleep-startle-related injury.
- Seek professional advice if your Greyhound reacts defensively when disturbed.

Some dogs improve as they become more comfortable in their new home, but improvement cannot be guaranteed. Always manage the risk rather than assuming the behaviour will disappear. Contact Hounds in Homes if you have concerns about sleep startle or any other behaviour.

10. Children and family life

Many Greyhounds can live happily with children, but compatibility depends on the individual dog, the child's age and behaviour, and the household environment. Some Greyhounds are patient and gentle around children, while others may find busy or noisy environments overwhelming.

Keeping children and dogs safe

- Always supervise interactions between dogs and young children.
- Teach children to approach dogs calmly and respectfully.
- Never allow children to climb on, hug tightly, chase or pull a dog's ears or tail.
- Teach children not to disturb a dog that is eating, sleeping or resting.
- Give your Greyhound a quiet space where they can retreat undisturbed.
- Never allow children to take food, toys or chews from a dog.
- Respect signs that your Greyhound wants space.

No dog should be left unsupervised with a young child, regardless of how friendly or well behaved the dog appears. Hounds in Homes will help assess whether a particular Greyhound is suited to your household.

11. Introducing other dogs and pets

Some Greyhounds enjoy the company of other dogs, while others prefer their own space. Their compatibility should be assessed individually.

Introducing another dog

- Choose a calm, controlled environment.

- Introduce the dogs gradually and supervise closely.
- Keep initial interactions brief and positive.
- Avoid forcing them to interact.
- Separate them when unsupervised until it is safe to do otherwise.
- Provide separate feeding areas, beds and resting spaces.
- Follow the introduction plan recommended by Hounds in Homes for your individual dog.

Cats and small pets

A Greyhound may live peacefully with a particular cat or small dog but still react strongly to an unfamiliar animal. Do not assume that a successful introduction means the animals can safely be left alone together.

Keep small animals secure and use appropriate barriers and supervision. If your Greyhound shows fixation, stalking, lunging or chasing behaviour, calmly increase distance and seek professional advice. Never deliberately test a Greyhound's prey drive by exposing small animals to risk.

Some Greyhounds will not be suitable for homes with cats, rabbits, chickens or other small pets. Hounds in Homes will discuss known compatibility concerns before adoption.

12. Feeding and nutrition

A balanced diet is essential to your Greyhound's health, energy levels and body condition. Every dog has different nutritional needs depending on their weight, age, activity, health and the calorie content of their food.

Feeding guidelines

- Feed a complete and balanced dog food appropriate for your Greyhound's life stage.
- Follow the food manufacturer's feeding guidance and adjust according to body condition and veterinary advice.
- Most adult dogs do well with their daily food divided into two meals.
- Provide fresh drinking water at all times.
- Introduce dietary changes gradually.
- Monitor your Greyhound's weight and body condition regularly.

Some Greyhounds may enjoy suitable treats such as small pieces of cooked lean meat or commercially prepared dog treats. Treats should be given in moderation and should not replace a balanced diet.

If you wish to feed raw food, a home-prepared diet or a combination of fresh foods and commercial food, seek veterinary advice to ensure the diet is nutritionally complete and safe.

Foods to avoid

Never feed your Greyhound foods known to be toxic to dogs, including chocolate, grapes, raisins, onions, garlic, products containing xylitol and alcoholic drinks. Keep rubbish, bones that may splinter and other potentially dangerous foods out of reach.

Feeding safety

Feed your Greyhound in a quiet place where they can eat without being disturbed. Do not allow children or other animals to approach the dog while eating. Never forcibly take food away or deliberately challenge a dog that is guarding its bowl.

If your Greyhound has a history of food guarding or has special dietary requirements, follow the specific advice provided by Hounds in Homes and your veterinarian.

13. Health and veterinary care

Greyhounds are generally healthy dogs, but like all breeds, they can develop medical conditions that require attention. Arrange routine veterinary checks and discuss your Greyhound's medical history, preventative healthcare and any known health concerns with your veterinarian.

Anaesthesia and medication considerations

Greyhounds have some breed-specific physiological differences that can affect how certain medications are processed and how anaesthesia is managed. Always tell your veterinarian that your dog is a Greyhound, particularly before surgery, sedation or any new medication.

Your veterinarian can determine the appropriate drugs, doses and monitoring for your individual dog. Never give human medication or alter a prescribed dose without veterinary advice.

Dental health

Dental disease is a common concern in Greyhounds. Good dental care includes:

- Regular tooth brushing with dog-safe toothpaste.
- Routine veterinary dental checks.
- Professional dental cleaning when recommended.
- Monitoring for bad breath, red gums, loose teeth or difficulty eating.

Greyhounds may require professional dental treatment, so discuss an appropriate dental-care schedule with your veterinarian.

Other health conditions to be aware of

- **Osteosarcoma:** An aggressive form of bone cancer that can affect large and giant breeds. Persistent lameness, limb swelling or unexplained pain should be assessed promptly by a veterinarian.
- **Bloat and gastric dilatation-volvulus (GDV):** A potentially life-threatening emergency in which the stomach becomes distended and may twist. Signs can include a swollen abdomen, repeated unsuccessful attempts to vomit, restlessness, drooling and collapse. Seek emergency veterinary care immediately if suspected.
- **Pannus:** An inflammatory eye condition that can affect the cornea. Eye changes, cloudiness or unusual pigmentation should be assessed by a veterinarian.
- **Thyroid disorders:** Conditions affecting thyroid function can influence weight, skin, coat and energy levels. Your veterinarian can investigate any concerning symptoms.

These conditions will not affect every Greyhound, but adopters should be aware of the importance of monitoring their dog's health.

General health checks

Regularly observe your Greyhound for changes in:

- Appetite and drinking.
- Weight and body condition.
- Energy and behaviour.
- Walking, movement or signs of pain.
- Eyes and vision.
- Skin and coat.
- Ears and signs of irritation.
- Teeth and gums.
- Urination and toileting habits.

Contact your veterinarian if you notice concerning or persistent changes.

Emergency warning signs

Seek urgent veterinary assistance if your Greyhound experiences:

- Difficulty breathing.
- Collapse or sudden severe weakness.
- A swollen abdomen with repeated unsuccessful attempts to vomit.

- Suspected heatstroke.
- Severe bleeding or major injury.
- Suspected poisoning.
- Sudden inability to walk or severe pain.

Do not wait for a response from Hounds in Homes if your dog needs emergency medical attention.

14. Grooming and general care

Greyhounds generally have short coats and require relatively little grooming. They may shed more during certain seasons, and shedding varies between individuals. Their thin skin and short coat can make them more vulnerable to scrapes, cuts and other skin injuries.

Grooming tips

- **Coat:** Brush gently as needed to remove loose hair and keep the coat clean.
- **Skin:** Check regularly for cuts, irritation, lumps or other changes. Seek veterinary advice about wounds or unusual skin conditions.
- **Ears:** Check the ears regularly. Use a dog-safe ear cleanser only when appropriate, and never insert cotton buds or other objects into the ear canal.
- **Nails:** Check nail length regularly and trim when necessary. Ask your veterinarian or groomer for assistance if you are unsure how to do this safely.
- **Teeth:** Brush regularly using dog-safe toothpaste and arrange veterinary dental checks.
- **Eyes:** Monitor for redness, discharge, cloudiness or changes in appearance.

Weather and comfort

Greyhounds may feel the cold more than some other breeds because of their short coat and relatively low body fat. Provide warm bedding indoors and consider an appropriate coat during cold weather. In hot weather, provide shade, fresh water and a cool resting area.

Avoid strenuous exercise during extreme heat and never leave your Greyhound in a parked car.

15. Training and enrichment

Greyhounds are intelligent dogs, but they may not have experience with all the behaviours expected of a household pet. Some may be unfamiliar with stairs, household noises, toys, different walking environments or basic household routines.

Positive training

Greyhounds generally benefit from patient, consistent, reward-based training.

- Reward desired behaviour with praise, treats or play.
- Keep training sessions short and positive.
- Give your dog time to understand new expectations.
- Avoid harsh punishment, intimidation or physical corrections.
- Introduce new experiences gradually.

Some Greyhounds may find sitting uncomfortable or unfamiliar due to their build or previous experience. Do not force a Greyhound into a sit. Ask your veterinarian if a posture appears painful or difficult.

Mental enrichment

Enrichment helps keep your Greyhound mentally engaged and supports their wellbeing. Suitable activities may include:

- Sniffing and exploring on walks.
- Food puzzles appropriate for your dog's ability.
- Reward-based training.
- Gentle play.
- Safe, supervised exploration of new environments.
- Calm interaction and companionship.

Choose activities suited to your dog's confidence, physical ability and individual preferences.

16. Weight management and exercise balance

Some retired racing Greyhounds gain weight after retirement because their exercise levels and feeding requirements change. Maintaining a healthy weight helps protect their joints, mobility and overall health.

- Measure food portions rather than estimating.
- Account for treats and training rewards.
- Monitor your dog's body condition regularly.
- Adjust exercise gradually according to fitness and health.
- Seek veterinary guidance if your Greyhound gains or loses weight unexpectedly.

Do not assume every Greyhound needs the same amount of food or exercise.

17. Understanding your Greyhound's individual needs

Your Greyhound's temperament may become clearer over time as they become more comfortable in their new environment. A dog that seems quiet initially may become more playful once settled. A dog that appears confident may later show anxiety in unfamiliar situations.

Please remember:

- Do not rush your Greyhound into new experiences.
- Do not compare your dog with other Greyhounds.
- Respect their need for rest, space and reassurance.
- Seek help early if behavioural concerns arise.
- Follow the individual advice provided by Hounds in Homes.

A successful adoption is not about expecting a dog to fit perfectly into your life immediately. It is about understanding one another and building a safe, trusting relationship.

18. Ongoing support from Hounds in Homes

Adopting a Greyhound is a learning experience for both you and your dog. Questions and challenges may arise during the transition to home life.

Hounds in Homes encourages adopters to contact us if they have concerns about:

- Settling into the home.
- Behaviour or anxiety.
- Separation difficulties.
- Food or toy guarding.
- Sleep startle.
- Interactions with children or other animals.
- Changes in temperament.
- Any other concern affecting the dog's welfare.

Please seek advice early rather than waiting for a problem to escalate. We are here to provide guidance and help support the best possible outcome for both you and your Greyhound.

If your Greyhound experiences a medical emergency, contact a veterinarian immediately rather than waiting for a response from Hounds in Homes.

19. A lifetime commitment

Adopting a Greyhound is a commitment to provide a safe, loving and stable home throughout their life.

As an adopter, you are responsible for providing:

- Appropriate food and fresh drinking water.
- Secure accommodation and safe fencing.
- Daily exercise and mental enrichment.
- Companionship and appropriate supervision.
- Routine veterinary care and necessary medical treatment.
- Grooming and dental care.
- Patient, positive training.
- A safe and respectful environment that meets your Greyhound's individual needs.

Your Greyhound may need different levels of care as they grow older or their health and circumstances change.

If your circumstances change and you are no longer able to care for your Greyhound, please contact Hounds in Homes to discuss the appropriate next steps. A dog adopted through Hounds in Homes must not be sold, surrendered or rehomed to another person without contacting Hounds in Homes and following the terms of the adoption agreement.

Our priority is the safety, welfare and long-term wellbeing of every Greyhound in our care.

20. Adopter acknowledgement

- I acknowledge that I have received and read the Hounds in Homes Greyhound Adoption Fact Sheet and Guidelines.
- I understand that Greyhounds are individuals with different temperaments, energy levels, behavioural needs and levels of confidence.
- I understand that my Greyhound may require time, patience and support while adjusting to life in a new home.
- I acknowledge my responsibility to provide appropriate care, secure accommodation, safe handling, veterinary attention and a suitable environment for my Greyhound.
- I understand that I should contact Hounds in Homes if I have concerns about my Greyhound's behaviour, welfare or adjustment to their new home, and that urgent medical concerns must be addressed by a veterinarian.
- I understand that this fact sheet provides general guidance and does not replace veterinary advice, professional behavioural advice or the formal Hounds in Homes adoption agreement.

Adopter's name	
Greyhound's name	
Adopter's signature	
Date	
Hounds in Homes representative (if applicable)	

Thank you for opening your home and heart to a Greyhound. Every dog deserves the opportunity to feel safe, loved and understood. With patience, compassion and the right support, you can help your Greyhound enjoy a happy life as a cherished member of your family.

Part 2: Hounds in Homes Adoption Agreement

Greyhound details

Pet name	
Gender	
Microchip	

Adoption home details

Adopter name	
Address	
Phone numbers	

Adopter declaration

I, [adopter name] (Adopter), hereby attest that the following information is true and that I will comply with the terms outlined below concerning the adoption of the dog listed above (hereafter referred to as "the dog"):

1. I am adopting the dog solely as a domestic companion for myself and/or my immediate family.

2. I will not abuse, neglect, starve, or harm the dog in any way.
3. I will keep the dog up to date on all required vaccinations.
4. I will provide adequate food, clean water, and shelter at all times.
5. I will ensure the dog receives daily exercise and appropriate mental stimulation.
6. I will not permit the dog to roam unsupervised.
7. I will comply with all local laws regarding leashing and waste disposal.
8. I will register the dog with the local council.
9. I agree to keep the dog's microchip information updated with my current contact details.
10. I acknowledge that I have received documentation outlining the dog's history, behavioural assessment, and care requirements. I understand that while all reasonable efforts have been made to assess and disclose the dog's health and temperament, no guarantees can be made regarding its future health, behaviour, or suitability.
11. The dog has been examined by a licensed veterinarian prior to adoption, and all findings have been disclosed to me. I accept the dog in its current condition, including any known or unknown health or behavioural issues, and agree to provide the necessary care and support.
12. I understand that Hounds in Homes is not liable for any injury or damage caused by the dog once it is in my care.
13. If the adoption is not successful within a two-week trial period from the date of adoption, I agree to return the dog to Hounds in Homes. A refund will be provided, less an administration fee of $100.
14. If the dog becomes ill or injured during the trial period, I will immediately contact the carer or Hounds in Homes for advice. I understand that any illness or injury incurred during the trial period is my responsibility, and Hounds in Homes will not cover any related veterinary expenses.
15. I agree that I will not sell, give away, surrender, or rehome the dog to any person, shelter, or organisation without the prior written consent of Hounds in Homes. If I can no longer care for the dog, I will contact Hounds in Homes immediately to arrange for its return.
16. I understand that after the 2-week trial period, I assume full and permanent responsibility for the dog, including all veterinary care and associated costs.
17. I acknowledge that if I wish to surrender the dog after the trial period has ended, Hounds in Homes will attempt to assist with rehoming, but cannot guarantee immediate placement. I also understand that any adoption fee is non-refundable after the trial period.

18. I agree to allow a representative of Hounds in Homes to contact me for follow-up purposes.

References

Veterinarian's name	
Veterinarian's contact information	
Personal reference (not a family member)	
Reference phone number	

Adopter's signature

Adopter's signature	
Date	

Hounds in Homes coordinator / carer declaration

I, Trisha Murphy (Hounds in Homes representative), attest to the following information as being factual and true:

- We have provided the dog with annual vaccinations and given details to the adopter.
- We have provided the dog with flea, tick and wormer treatment and given details to the adopter.
- The dog is desexed and we have provided the certificate to the adopter.
- We have informed the adopter about any known health issues of the dog, as well as any medication required.
- We have completed an assessment to the best of our abilities and have made no misrepresentations regarding the temperament, age or medical status of the dog.

Coordinator's signature	
Name	Trisha Murphy
Date	28/02/2025

Payment

Payments must be made prior to the pick up of your Greyhound unless other alternatives have been made, for example, cash on the day.

Account name	Hounds in Homes
Bank	Bankwest
BSB	302-964
Account number	0057924

Interstate applications only: attestation statement

I hereby attest to the following protocol regarding the return of a dog from interstate adoption:

- **Notification:** I will promptly notify Hounds in Homes of my intent to return the dog and comply with any specific instructions provided by them.
- **Health and safety:** I will ensure the dog is in good health, has up-to-date vaccinations, and will be transported safely using appropriate means such as a crate or carrier suitable for travel.
- **Transportation:** I will arrange suitable transportation for the dog, whether by driving, air travel, or using a professional pet transport service, ensuring the dog's well-being throughout the journey.
- **Coordination:** I will coordinate with the receiving party to schedule the return at a mutually agreed time and place, and will provide all necessary documentation and records related to the dog.
- **Financial responsibility:** I understand that I am responsible for covering any costs associated with the transportation of the dog, and I will discuss any potential refund of adoption fees with the agency.
- **Emotional considerations:** I acknowledge the emotional aspects involved in returning a pet and will take steps to handle the process with care and compassion, prioritising the dog's best interests.

By following this protocol, I aim to ensure a smooth and responsible return of the dog to the adoption agency or rescue organisation.

Signature	

Date	