

# HOUNDS IN HOMES

## Foster carer guidelines.

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1. CONTACTS
  2. EXPECTATIONS
  3. VETS
  4. ASSESSMENT
  5. ADOPTION PROCESS
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## 1. CONTACTS

### Who do I contact if there are any issues?

Please call your coordinator if there are any issues with your Greyhound.

- Trisha - 0422570822
- Jenny - 0414 999 945

Any issues that you believe need to be escalated outside Hounds In Hounds (for example related to the condition of a newly arrived dog) should be escalated with your coordinator and not reported outside of our rescue organisation. Your coordinator and Trisha will then discuss the details with you and make a case-by-case decision on handling the issue best.

In an emergency - First, call Trisha at 04 2257 0822

### Google Drive

We use [Google Drive](#) to keep all the information on the dogs and track their history.

- Carer Information - contains fact sheets and training resources
- Dog Profiles - This is where we keep all of the information for each of the dogs, there will be a folder in there for your foster. Please add copies of any paperwork you receive here. This is also where you will complete your dog's profile and add photos
- [HIH - Dog Tracker](#) - Used to keep track of all the dogs in 1 place, including vaccination, worming, and desex details. Please ensure this is updated

## 2. EXPECTATIONS

### What to expect on your first night?

When your greyhound arrives, he or she may show signs of being nervous or afraid. These signs are:

- Heavy panting
- Timid
- Excessive water drinking
- Chewing paws
- Refusing to eat or drink
- Pacing
- Hiding in small spaces i.e bathrooms, laundries etc
- Cowering and tail between their legs.

Letting them decompress in a quiet part of your home or in a large crate will help them feel secure. Do not force them to interact. Give

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them space and show them a lot of patience and understanding. Let them come to you when they are ready.

- Check their ears, eyes, teeth and gums.
- Check their nails - Paws
- Look out for any signs of limping or soreness.
- Check for fleas (Most have had treatment but the trailers are riddled with fleas, so if coming off transport chances are they have fleas on them.)
- Check for worms in their stools - We have wormers available.
- Give a Nexgard Spectra on day 1 and add to the tracker - the safest way to ensure they are protected from fleas, worms, and ticks
- Can take them for a long walk before going home to help with bonding. Potentially with other dogs in the home.

### 3 Day 3 Week 3-month rule?

A simple way to understand this process of getting your rescue dog adjusted and comfortable in its new home is called the 3-3-3 rule. This rule will help you **understand the decompression process that your new furry friend will go through in the first 3 days, 3 weeks, and 3 months at a new home.**

### Here are some of the questions we get asked:

- **Are they toilet trained?** - We don't know. Greyhounds are generally clean and some trainers give regular toilet breaks from their pens. Others don't and a mess is made. Others are in grassed pens, allowing them to toilet whenever they want, this can continue in the new environment. Your new greyhound needs to be trained in the home. Some arrive completely toilet trained, others are confused with a few accidents, and others are having accidents a lot. It's a foster carer's role to discuss strategies with our dedicated coordinators. We have toilet-trained so many greyhounds.
- **Are they ok on tiles? floorboards?** - Floors - Some greyhounds have never stepped onto tiles or floorboards and are terrified. We can provide yoga mats OR carpet runners. You need to be prepared for your home to have mats down for a while until they gain confidence.
- **Can they walk up my stairs** - some learn fast, and others take a while. Again your coordinator is there to help guide you, however, you should already know how this is done - lots of treats!
- **Can I take them for a walk on a Leash?** - Yes but in the first week it is best to allow them to decompress, and use the garden a lot. Most greyhounds have never even seen another dog before. In the early days, keep your distance from other dogs. If in busy areas, muzzle until assessed properly. Again you need to make any concerns known to your coordinator only. Seeking advice from others can lead to problems. Our coordinators have already selected a list of experienced greyhound advocates, waiting to help.

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- **What if they get leash-reactive toward a dog across the road?** - This is often fear-based. Walk in quiet areas and slowly build up (keeping your distance) Use treats, distraction, and positive engagement. They will improve but needs to be done slowly.
  - **Can I take them to dog parks** - No, not in the early days. Our experienced carers do this after assessments have been done. Always with the muzzle on. Your coordinator can organise, we know lots of empty, flat surfaces and secured fenced areas, so chatting with your coordinator first is essential.
  - **What are the signs of aggression?** - Aggression is often mistaken for a growl. The growl in a greyhound can mean so many things and not aggression at all. It's a way of communication and needs to be respected. Listen to them, give them space when needed, and don't overwhelm them. Remember greyhounds are a gentle breed.
  - **Can they Resource guard food, toys, or sofa/bed** - Yes they can, especially in the early days. Not all do but you must let your coordinator know if you see behaviors such as standing over an object, guarding, and growling. There is no need to be scared, stay calm, and offer a higher-value treat/toy/squeaker, once they have stepped away you can safely remove the item.

For food, it's simple. Leave them be when eating, if with other dogs feed them separately. No high-value treats, like bones.

Sofa space - Use treats to get them down. Train them to be in their beds, and never share your bed with a greyhound who has the potential to guard the bed.

Sleep startle - Use gentle tactics to wake them, call their name, and never hover over them. Wait for them to be fully awake, turn lights on, and potter around the room until they wake. How would you like to be knocked out of a deep sleep?

**Bed** - Place bed in a corner away from foot traffic. When sleeping or resting, leave them be. We use screens in the early days

**Toys** - Pack toys away, don't leave them around if they are guarding them. Slowly teach them how to share and play by using tug toys. For those who don't guard toys a toy box is good.

- **Should I check their General health when they arrive** - We normally do this but it's good practice for you to do this too. Keep nails trimmed (vets) or use Dremel. Keep ears/eyes clean. Check skin regularly, check for scratches, etc Paw pads, use a balm. Check for corns etc

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- **What do you provide for Feeding?** - We provide dry food. Foster carers provide fresh meats and fresh foods (This is stated in our guidelines) We do receive fresh meat as a donation BUT you will need to organise pick up with your coordinator. Your coordinator can let you know how much to feed based on their weight.
  - **Do I need to take them to the vet or will you do that?** - Yes you will need to take them for their first health check (Paid in advance by us) At this appointment, you will need to collect an **M1** form to pass on to your coordinator. All vet visits need to be authorised, unless an emergency. We will let you know what vet to take your foster too, depending on where you are located.

### What is provided

- As much information we have on the dog - please note this is likely limited.
- Muzzle
- Martingale collar
- Wormers/Flea and Tick (If you as a carer want to provide this, we are grateful, we rely on donations)
- Lead
- Dry Food
- Bed (if needed) - will be 2nd hand donation
- Bowls (if needed)

We may also get other donated items such as coats/toys but these are not always available

### Walking / Muzzle Requirements

During the first 2 weeks in care, a muzzle must be worn when in a public space. If your foster has shown no signs of reactivity then the muzzle may be removed when walking in an on-lead area. Muzzles must continue to be worn in off-lead areas at all times.

Where a dog has shown signs of reactivity, muzzles must continue to be worn when in public spaces.

Where there is a resident or visiting dog, it is recommended that your foster be muzzled in the home during introductions.

A collar and harness is recommended for walking for control purposes.

### 3. Vets

All vet visits must be pre-approved with your coordinator except emergency treatment. Depending on the vet, the cost will either be invoiced directly to Hounds in Homes, paid over the phone by your coordinator, or reimbursed to the carer.

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Appointments made without pre-approval will not be reimbursed (excluding emergency treatment).

### Standard Treatments - desex / vaccination etc

Most greyhounds who arrive at Hounds in Homes are already desexed, vaccinated, heartworm tested and dentals are complete. For Greyhounds arriving and requiring desexing and vaccinations, your coordinator will organise a vet appointment on a day to suit. This will likely be at either;

- Greystaines Veterinary clinic
- Glebe Veterinary Clinic

Trisha will have forwarded the rehoming assistance scheme form to the vets. This will be reimbursed to Hounds in Homes bank account, once Trisha has emailed to GRNSW.

#### Standard treatments

- Desexing
- Heartworm test
- C5 / C7 vaccine
- Dental check / clean

#### Pre-surgery preparation

No food from 9pm the night before. Drop your greyhound off at 8.00am on the morning of their surgery.

Collection is usually around 4:30 pm but the vet will advise a time on the day. When collecting, ensure you have; **certificate of vaccination, desexing certificate and M1 forms, invoices, and anesthetic notes.** . These should be uploaded to the drive in your dog's folder.

#### Getting into the car after Surgery

- If able, you can lift your dog into the car by wrapping your arm around the back of your dog, so your elbow sits just under the tail. See video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lv62BbPVQms>
- The vets will also be able to provide assistance
- We have a ramp available to use if needed

## 4. Assessment

During their time in care, it's important to assess your dog's temperament and needs. This is important so that they can be matched to their ideal family.

Before being put up for adoption, your coordinator will go through the assessment.

**Walks on the leash** - Make observations on the following; freezing, fear triggers (Noises and objects), reactivity, prey drive, lameness,

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stress, and excessive pulling (If fearful we refrain from walks, make their world smaller until they are ready to go out again).

**Dogs** -How are they around other dogs? How are they with other dogs in your home / on walks? Are they reactive to other dogs? Muzzles should always be worn when introducing new dogs.

**Cats** - Unfortunately we don't test with cats

**Stairs** - Introduce them early, as some greyhounds adapt to them right away. If they show signs of fear, refrain from trying and reintroduce them later down the line, they all get there in the end! Lots of rewards and treats.

**Sleep Startle** - Sleep startle, or sleep aggression as it is also known, can occur when your dog is woken abruptly from their sleep. Greyhounds are deep sleepers and often sleep with their eyes open. Reduce the chances of sleep aggression in your hound by ensuring that they hear you approaching, before making contact with them. When startled they may growl or snarl but will quickly snap out of it. Sleep startle may not appear immediately and can often happen when they have settled in. If it occurs;

- The greyhound should only ever sleep on their bed and the bed is placed in the corner of a room, with two walls as security (preventing somebody from stepping over them). Or if this is not possible then out of high traffic areas.
- They should never be up on sofas or human beds. However, we often hear that after several years in their new home, lots of greyhounds grow out of their sleep startle.

**Food aggression** - All our greyhounds should be fed separately from resident dogs in the early days of their foster journey. Later, food bowls can be placed at least a meter away from other dogs, and feeding is always supervised. Never place hands in food bowls to test for aggression, this is an outdated approach. High-value treats will almost always trigger, so always be away from other dogs and children when given these treats.

**Prey drive** - This is a tricky one as some greyhounds like all dogs just want to interact however, prey drive is an important part of the assessment and we don't take it lightly. We follow the protocol of observing behaviors while wearing muzzles. This could include stalking, lowering of the neck, pawing, salivating, licking licks, and most of all the "about to pounce stance, STARE, and slow quiet walking". We would mark this as showing signs of prey drive and we would add to their profile "No small dogs". Dogs with a strong prey drive will stay longer in foster care, as it can and does improve in time.

**Kids** - For testing greyhounds around children, we believe that training children is a better outcome. Children should be taught how to be safe around all dogs. This is why we prefer older kids for all our greyhounds. It's all about responsible dog ownership and knowing what your children should and shouldn't do. Most greyhounds are great with children but if we notice that a greyhound is uncomfortable with children around, we will reassess their foster home.

**Resource Guarding** - Resource guarding is a tricky one, dogs can guard food, beds, owner, toys etc. We advise our foster carers to never approach a dog who is resource guarding and try to remove it by doing the following:

Find a high-value treat that your dog loves more than the thing they are guarding. Usually a strong-smelling moist food such as chicken. Know the distance at which your dog begins to resource guard (Some greyhounds don't get possessive until you're a short distance), exchange, and give positive reinforcement. For beds, throw the high-value treat on the ground so they come down off the bed or sofa and resume training to stay on their bed (as with sleep startle).

**Suitable for apartment living** - How would the greyhound cope living in an apartment, this is generally determined by energy


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levels and size.

Other training resources can be found in the drive under "Library of resources".

An example of a greyhound assessment sent to adopters can be found below.



**HOUNDS IN HOMES**  
houndsinhomesadoptions@gmail.com  
RON: R251000253



**HOUNDS IN HOMES**  
houndsinhomesadoptions@gmail.com  
RON: R251000253

Dogs name	Dotty
Racing Name	Never Raced
Microchip	956000011576403
DOB	21/12/2020
Carer	Trisha Murphy
Coordinator	Trisha Murphy

**MEDICAL HISTORY**

Nexgard / Wormer due	18/1/2023
Vaccination due	6/10/2023
Sterilisation Date	6/10/2022

**Other Health Info**  
Dotty has a flea allergy, and we think an intolerance to grain

**DIETARY INFORMATION**

Grain free Black Hawk Salmon or Kangaroo, Prime 100 Turkey and Linseed flavour. Sardines, eggs, Ziwi Peak (Makaral treats)

**ANY OTHER INFO**

Dotty is prone to Hot spots, she will need to be on grain free food only. Antibacterial gel can be used and only ever oatmeal shampoos for sensitive skin.

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessments are performed to the best of our abilities during each dog's time in care in conjunction with the coordinator and carer.

AREA	YES	NO	UT	NOTES
<b>1. Ability to live with</b>				
Medium / Large Dogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Small Dogs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Cats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Children	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>2. Behaviours; shown signs of:</b>				
Resource Guarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sleep Startle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Food Aggression	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Prey Drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is Toilet Trained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>3. Other noteworthy behaviours:</b>				
RE toilet training: She is still learning but has been doing really well, continue to take her out early in the morning and late at night and she will get there.				

## 5. ADOPTION PROCESS

### Greyhound Ready for Adoption Checklist

The following summarises our goals for the greyhounds that come into our care. There are exceptions to every rule so please discuss with your coordinator if the greyhound in your care is not able to meet all of these goals.

- The dog is desexed and stitches removed
- The dog has a minimum of C5 level of vaccination (C7 preferred)
- Any known injuries or short-term health issues have been assessed and where possible resolved. Trisha or your coordinator will provide advice on any issues that we will try to fully address before making the dog available for adoption



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- Any ongoing health issues are well understood and have an associated treatment plan and any other relevant documentation exists and is ready to be passed on to the adopter. For example:
    - Veterinary reports and treatment plans for any ongoing injuries or medical conditions
    - Treatment plans for any allergies or skin conditions that require ongoing care
    - Reports of any dietary requirements that need to be adhered to to maintain good health going forward
  - The dog must be housetrained
  - The dog will walk well on a lead
  - The dog doesn't freeze when out walking
    - We will have some dogs who have specific anxieties that cannot be overcome and will need to be managed. These need to be documented and discussed with prospective adopters
  - The dog can walk up and down stairs
    - We should aim to familiarise our dogs with the type of stairs they may need to cope with in a home. They don't need to be able to cope with large flights of steep stairs.
  - We have established a diet that suits the dog (no ongoing tummy troubles)
  - The dog sleeps through the night (doesn't expect you to get up at the crack of dawn)
  - The dog can be left on their own for a few hours if necessary.
    - We will inevitably have some dogs who suffer from separation anxiety which will need to be managed. This needs to be documented and discussed with prospective adopters.
  - We have a good understanding of the following:
    - The dog's level of prey drive
    - How the dog reacts to children
    - How the dog reacts with other dogs
    - The amount of exercise that would suit the dog
  - If any undesirable behavior has been observed such as food aggression, sleep startle, resource guarding reactivity to other dogs, etc, then this has been discussed with Trisha or your coordinator to determine if any further measures should be taken before making the dog available for adoption.

## Adoption Process

### Stage 1 – Getting them ready to advertise

1. Fill out the dog history template - This will be in your dog's folder once the coordinator has pre-filled some elements
2. Gone through the assessment with your coordinator
3. Write profile - lots of examples available under adopted dogs
4. Add pictures - in your dog's folder
5. Tick "ready for adoption" in the tracker

### Stage 2 – Potential matches

The coordinators will vet the applications and send them through appropriate applications to the carer.

1. Read through applications and call – Have a chat with potential adopters about their experience/expectations and give as much information as possible about your foster.

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2. **Arrange a meeting** – If both sides are happy after the call you can arrange to meet in person, this can be a walk in the park or a home visit. Depending on what everyone is comfortable with and if there are any restrictions in place. All members of the prospective family need to attend, including kids and other dogs where possible.
  3. After the meeting, both sides need to decide whether the placement is a good fit. You will need to discuss all aspects with your coordinator.
  4. If both sides are happy to proceed with the adoption then your coordinator will send out the paperwork including the dog's information, desex/vaccination certificates, adoption forms, and change of ownership details.
  5. Your coordinator will confirm once all paperwork is complete and the adoption fee has been paid. You can then arrange for your foster to be picked up.

Note: All dogs are automatically on a 2-week trial period and can be returned for a refund of the adoption fee less \$100.