



# HOUNDS IN HOMES

houndsinhomesadoptions@gmail.com

## FACT SHEET

### HOUNDS IN HOMES



#### PERSONALITY

Greyhounds were originally bred as hunting dogs to chase hare, foxes, and deer. Canines in this dog breed can reach speeds of 40 to 45 miles per hour, making them super fast **(So as you can see you really don't want a greyhound getting off leash and chasing after Rabbits)**

Not surprisingly, Greyhounds made a name for themselves as racing dogs. Due to the racing industry, you are likely to find them retired and in the care of shelters and rescue groups.

Today, Greyhounds also participate in many other dog sports, including lure coursing, conformation, obedience, and agility.

Beyond racing, people love them for their sweet, loving mild nature. They obtain two speeds: all-out zoomies and total couch potato.

They are, however, quite sensitive, both to the cold and to loneliness. They love being with their humans.



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This is not a dog who can be left home alone for long hours of the day but give them the love, care, and exercise they crave, and you'll have an adoring, cuddle bug companion for life.

## Greyhound Statistics

### Dog Breed Group:

Hound Dogs - Sighthounds

### Height:

Males are typically 28-30 inches (71-76cm) tall at the withers. Females are slightly smaller at 26-28 inches (68-71cm).

### Weight:

Males typically weigh 27-40 kg and females 25-34 kg with racing dogs towards the lower end of the scale.

### Life Span:

12 to 15 years

## Greyhounds As Pets

### Your home

Greyhounds can live comfortably in apartments or homes with small yards as they spend a lot of time sleeping or relaxing and do not need much space.

Your yard will need to be fenced to a height of at least 1.5m, including any gates and fences which should be in good condition with no gaps underneath.

Fencing should be constructed from materials which cannot cause any injury to your greyhound. Dog wire or barbed wire is not suitable.

If your greyhound sees a small animal (squirrels, rabbits, trespassing cats) the other side of a fence it may be tempted to give chase and it is important to keep both your greyhound and other animals safe.

### Exercise

Greyhounds have a reputation for high energy and speed, but in reality their favorite pastime is sleeping.

Designed as sprinters, not distance runners, most greyhounds are



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satisfied with as little as two 20 min walks daily.

Some greyhounds have a higher energy level and will benefit from at least an hours exercise a day.

If you are looking for a greyhound to accompany you in longer walks then with some training and preparation they can walk up to 8km a day.

Hounds in Homes will help match you with a greyhounds that fits in with your exercise preferences.

## Prey Drive

Prey drive refers to an animal's natural desire to chase and kill prey animals for food. This exists in many animals and all breeds of dogs, but is especially evident in greyhounds.

It is important to understand that prey drive is not aggression. Prey drive is a dog's instinctual need to chase and catch things. Aggression on the other hand is behaviour driven by the need for self-preservation, usually as a result

of a gong feeling frightened or threatened.

Your greyhound may learn to live with and may even bond with your other pets, but it can still show some prey drive towards other unfamiliar small animals in different environments.

Prey drive can be triggered by small fluffy dogs, chickens or other ground living birds, squirrels, rabbits, or trespassing cats

The level of prey drive varies hugely across greyhounds and Hounds In Home will ensure you are informed of predatory behaviour we have observed while your greyhound was in our care. In some cases we will not let a greyhound be adopted into a home with small fluffy pets.

Common signs of prey drive are:

- fixated on or staring at a small animal
- stalking or tracking a small animal
- pawing, lunging, chasing, grabbing, hovering above or



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over the shoulder and neck area of the small animal

- high arousal including upright and tense posture, teeth chattering and drooling, quickening of movement, and an upright stiff tail that is wagging quickly

Regardless of their strong prey drive, there's no doubt that this is a wonderful breed that deserves a lot of love and affection.

## Off leash and muzzles

A Greyhound should never be allowed to run off leash except in a securely fenced area and muzzled, until the Green collar can be acquired.

## Settling your greyhound into their new home

Life at a greyhound racing kennel is very different from life as a pet. A racing greyhound will have been exposed only to a limited number of people and experiences. On retirement a greyhound must learn about their new life as a pet. This transition will take some time, it is

harder to adapt to change as an adult dog than it is for a puppy.

Your greyhound will have started its transition into life as a pet with its Hounds in Homes carer, but this journey will continue in the dog's permanent home. This starts with becoming familiar with the family and new home. It is important that your greyhound has somewhere warm and comfortable to sleep, and this is also a safe place that he can go to in the early days when the changes to his life can be overwhelming.

Retired Greyhounds need lots of socialization and exposure to many different people, sights, sounds, and experiences. Ways to socialize your Greyhound include visits to dog-friendly public places and stores, walks in the neighborhood, and inviting people to your home. Introduce new social situations gradually.

When Greyhounds aren't socialized — exposed to many different things such as people, places, and certain situations — they can become timid



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and have problems adapting to changes in their schedule or environment.

Stairs can be very scary to a Greyhound. Pavements and busy streets can be overwhelming at first. Please don't rush your grey and take everything slowly when introducing new things to them. Ex-racing dogs need time to adapt to home life. Greyhounds are generally a loving breed and affectionate to their people. Usually this friendliness extends to strangers, but they can be aloof with some strangers.

Greyhounds are generally docile and quiet. Muzzling Greyhounds, especially retired racing Greyhounds, is a common practice. Greyhounds may nip at other dogs and can hurt smaller dogs and animals if their prey drive takes over.

We recommend muzzling your Greyhound, at least until they get settled into their new homes and

you have a better idea of their temperament.

## Common issues you may face in the first few months of fostering a greyhound:

**Food aggression:** They can become **very possessive / greedy about food**. If this is not handled properly aggression over food may develop, which can have sad repercussions for both owner and dog. Always remove the bowl, when they have eaten. Feed in the same spot, never approach while eating. WE WILL HAVE AN EXPERT CALL YOU TO HELP MANAGE THIS BEHAVIOUR.

**Toy possessiveness:** They can become **very possessive about Toys too**. If this is not handled properly aggression may develop. If they are possessive over Toys, limit them and pack them away after play. WE WILL HAVE AN EXPERT CALL YOU TO HELP MANAGE THIS BEHAVIOUR.

**Sleep Startle:** 'Sleep Startle' is something that can present in any



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breed but is especially prevalent in **greyhounds**. Greyhounds are typically raised in environments where they sleep alone from a very young age and would not be in a situation where they are woken from sleep by being touched. Place their bed in a corner wedged against a wall, not allowing them to be nudged. Never allow your greyhound on your bed to sleep if they have bad sleep startle. This should subside once they are settled and that they understand that they are safe.

Greyhounds are low to average shedders depending on the time of the year and the individual dog, and they require minimal grooming. The lack of a heavy coat leaves their skin vulnerable to scrapes, tears, and nicks.

They're intelligent and independent, even catlike in many ways. They do have a sensitive side and are quick to react to tensions in the home. They can become shy or timid with mistreatment, even if it's unintentional.

Temperament is affected by a number of factors, including heredity, training and socialisation.

Greyhounds generally have a wonderful temperament, being friendly and non-aggressive, although some can be aloof toward strangers.

Greyhounds are generally healthy, but like all breeds, they're prone to certain health conditions.

Not all Greyhounds will get any or all of these diseases, but it's important to be aware of them if you're considering this breed.

Common Health concerns are Teeth and Greyhounds need regular dentals.

## HEALTH

### Anesthesia Sensitivity:

Sighthounds, including Greyhounds, are sensitive to anesthesia and some other drugs. A normal dose for any other dog of his size can kill a Greyhound, probably because of the breed's low percentage of body fat. Choose a veterinarian who's aware of this



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sensitivity and knows how to dose your Greyhound. If you can't find a vet who's knowledgeable about sighthounds, be sure to alert any vet who treats your dog to this sensitivity.

**Hypothyroidism:** Hypothyroidism involves low levels of the hormone produced by the thyroid gland. A mild sign of the disease may be infertility. More obvious signs include obesity, mental dullness, lethargy, drooping of the eyelids, low levels, and irregular heat cycles. The dog's fur becomes coarse and brittle and begins to fall out, while the skin becomes tough and dark. Hypothyroidism can be treated with daily thyroid medication, which must continue throughout the dog's life. A dog that's getting daily thyroid treatment can live a full and happy life.

Other ways to socialize your Greyhound include visits to dog-friendly public places and stores, walks in the neighborhood, and inviting people to your home. Introduce new social situations gradually. Generally affecting large

and giant breeds, osteosarcoma is an aggressive bone cancer

The first sign of osteosarcoma is lameness, but the dog will need x-rays to determine if the cause is cancer.

Osteosarcoma is treated aggressively, usually with the amputation of the limb and chemotherapy.

**Bloat** is caused by the sudden influx of gas and air in the stomach. This causes the stomach to distend and twist and can cause death in a dog if it is not treated promptly. Usually the twist must be repaired surgically.

Greyhounds are fairly low energy dogs, but they still need and enjoy a daily walk. If they aren't exercised, they can become bored, which may lead to destructive behaviour.

Greyhounds are born with a natural drive to chase prey and owners need a solid fence to keep their dogs from taking off after small animals.



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Greyhounds should also be kept on leash during walks. That strong prey drive will have them ignoring commands if something interesting catches their eye.

Greyhounds can become overweight which is bad for their health. It's common for a retired racing Greyhound to gain roughly 5 pounds after retirement, but he shouldn't be allowed to gain any more than that.

Greyhounds are independent and need a confident, consistent owner.

They do better with patience, consistency, and training methods that use rewards rather than punishment — they like food rewards best.

Greyhounds sometimes have difficulty with the sit as it's not a natural position for them.

Greyhounds are generally easy to house train. Retired racing greyhounds are especially amenable to crate training and will do well as long as you keep them on a regular toilet schedule.

**Pannus** Pannus is a disorder that affects the eye of the greyhound, and will eventually lead to blindness if it's not managed. It is not painful in its early stages, causes no discharge from the eye, and may be hard to see unless you look closely at your greyhound's eyes in a good light.

## Feeding

Recommended daily amount:  
Males, 2.5 to 4 cups of high-quality dry food a day, divided into two meals; females, 1.5 to 3 cups.

(How much your adult dog eats depends on his size, age, build, metabolism, and activity level)

The quality of dog food you buy also makes a difference. The better the dog food, the further it will go toward nourishing your dog and the less of it you'll need to shake into your dog's bowl.

Keep your Greyhound in good shape by measuring food and feeding him twice a day. When giving your greyhound treats, try the eye contact test.



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Keep ears clean and free of debris with an ear cleanser.

Never insert anything into the ear canal; just clean around the outer ear.

This breed's teeth need the most dedicated care.

Greyhounds tend to have poor dental health, so regular brushing is a must

Trim nails once or twice a month if your dog doesn't wear them down naturally to prevent painful tears and other problems.

Eyes should be clear, with no redness or discharge. Your careful weekly exam will help

you spot potential health problems early.

Greyhounds can be patient with children and have been known to step delicately around toddlers, but they do best in homes with older children who know how to act around dogs.

As with every breed, you should always teach children how to approach and touch dogs, and always supervise any interactions between dogs and young children to prevent any biting or ear or tail pulling on the part of

either party. Teach your child never to approach any dog while he's eating or sleeping or to try to take the dog's food away. No dog, no matter how friendly, should ever be left unsupervised with a child.

Although Greyhounds do well with other dogs, they can view smaller dogs, cats, or



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other small pets as prey, especially if the animals run from them. Some have a much lower prey drive than others, but it's always best to supervise your Greyhound around smaller animals. Instinct can overcome training, and Greyhounds have been known to injure or even kill smaller pets. And even if they're best friends with your indoor cat, they may view outdoor cats that come onto their property as fair game.