



Registered charity in England
and Wales no.1069438

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Dear

Thank you for your enquiry about adopting a greyhound.

Please read through this information and when you feel ready, kindly complete the questionnaire attached at page 2 and return it to us and then we will be able to start the adoption process by arranging a home visit. Please do not complete the Homing Agreement attached at page 3 - this is for your information only at this stage.

We feel it is fair to point out that in line with other welfare groups who do similar work, we would appreciate a donation of at least £125 on adoption of one of our dogs, to enable us to continue to take in, maintain and prepare for adoption (with vaccination, dental cleaning, sterilisation etc) more dogs in need.

If in the special circumstances of a dog not already having been operated (ie straight from a dog track or being unsafe due to recent oestrus/heat), we require you to undertake this, including the dental cleaning, as soon as possible and to arrange for the veterinary bill please to be sent to us for payment and for us to know that it has been done.

With best wishes,

The Trustees of Greyhounds in Need

Founded by: Anne and Arthur Finch

Trustees: Carl Boyde MRCVS, Terrance Dickens, Martin Humphery, Liz Mason

General Manager: Carolyn Davenport Treasurer: Geoffrey Levy FCA

GIN Shop (Bournemouth): Sue North GIN Shop (Brighton): Christine Page

Homing UK: Pat Whipps Webmaster: Leigh Dworkin



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‘GREYHOUNDS IN NEED’ (GIN) HOMING AGREEMENT

In respect of the following Greyhound: -

Pet Name	Racing Name	Ear Mark/ Microchip number	D.O.B	Colour/Sex	Last Vaccination date	Origin /Trainer	Date of neutering/ last season

Thank you for giving a home to this Greyhound. The dog may have been rescued from abandonment, may have suffered cruelty or become unwanted due to domestic upheaval or was simply retired from racing. Strenuous exercise may exacerbate old racing injuries. Most of these dogs have never been in a home before. As we do not know their entire history, we can give no assurance on any aspect of their temperament or long-term physical condition. Please refer to our “Guidance Notes for Greyhound owners”

- 1. I am the new owner of the dog whose details appear at the head of this Agreement.*
- 2. I acknowledge that I have received a copy of GIN’s “Guidance Notes for Greyhound Owners” and that this will be my guide in assuring a long and healthy life for my dog.*
- 3. I have made a donation to GIN (minimum £125) on adopting this dog as my contribution to the costs of sterilisation and other expenses. I accept full responsibility for all regular and emergency veterinary treatment.*
- 4. I agree to consult GIN if I need further help or guidance and that, if necessary for this purpose, I will allow a representative of GIN to inspect the dog. Should the dog go missing I will inform the council dog warden, the police and GIN.*
- 5. I understand that, in the event of my being unable to meet essential veterinary expenses, GIN will, on application by me, give consideration to financial assistance. Any such assistance, and its amount, will be at the absolute discretion of the Trustees of GIN and will be affected by my having reasonable pet insurance in place.*
- 6. I will take good care of the dog as a respected family pet inside my home. It will not be raced, bred, used for blood donation, or sold. In the event of my being unable to continue to give the dog a home I will consult GIN regarding the dog’s future.*
- 7. It is a legal requirement that the dog shall wear an identity disc carrying his/her address, **at all times.***

Signed	Date
Name (please print)	
Address (please print)	
Telephone	Email
Signed on behalf of “Greyhounds In Need”	Date

White copy – New Owner

Green copy – Homing Officer

Pink copy - Head Office

GUIDELINES FOR NEW OWNERS OF RETIRED GREYHOUNDS

Thank you for offering a loving home to this most abused and undervalued breed of dog. In England, at one time they were permitted to be owned only by Kings and Noblemen, and to kill a Greyhound was a capital offence. They are the dog of dogs; gallant, gentle, generous and ever grateful for love, care, comfort and companionship.

We will be asking the new owner to sign a homing agreement (page 3), which will safeguard the dog's interests for the rest of its life. It will state that the dog will not be used for personal gain, for racing or for breeding.

Living with other pets: Ex-track racing dogs have not been in a home. All racers have been trained to chase small, moving, furry objects, so great care must be taken with regard to their contact with cats or small dogs. Some dogs are safe immediately they are retired; others respond to detraining; others can never be trusted. A muzzle can be used. On the positive side, Greyhounds are very well mannered on the lead, and will not tug and are generally very happy kept on the lead walking beside you. Do not let your dog run free for at least three months or more, or even never, until you are quite sure that he/she will come back when called. They do not need vigorous exercise. By nature they are very lazy and in addition they probably have joint, toe and muscle injuries from racing and should only have gentle exercise. Their injuries will then not normally be apparent as companion animals.

Living with babies and children: There is no reason why dogs and babies should not co-exist happily and safely. If you are expecting a new baby start training your dog to stay out of any "no go" areas of the house as early as possible. Introduce new items such as cots, car seats, prams etc as early as possible in order to get the dog used to them. It also helps if you can get a recording of baby sounds so that when the baby arrives the dog will not find it strange. **NEVER** leave a baby alone with a dog however much you think you can trust the dog. **ALWAYS** praise and reward your dog when it behaves well around the baby so it will accept the baby is nice to have around. As children grow they should be taught to respect the dog, never touch it suddenly, especially if it is asleep, not to pull it's tail or poke little fingers in eyes and always to allow it to have it's own space. Greyhounds often become a child's best friend.

Toilet training: needs to be done sensitively. In the kennels the dogs are usually clean in their sleeping area but regard the floor as the toilet. Some adapt immediately to the notion that the floor of the house is taboo and that they must be taken outside. Others need patience, understanding and encouragement and time to understand the new regime. Frequent attention to taking the dog outside hourly during the first day and praising him/her when he/she performs, may be all that is necessary. Punishment after the accident indoors, serves only to frighten the dog, and perpetuate confusion, panic and more accidents.

Diet: A Greyhound has a sensitive physiology and may not be able to eat all he/she needs in food just once a day. It may be best to divide the meals into three smaller meals per day. Usually they are not greedy and should be given all they want. As a racer they are usually kept underweight and should be fatter as retired dogs. The sacro-iliac joint and ribs should not be visible. A well-fed dog makes a happier more restful companion. Bitches generally should weigh 24-29kg and males 27-32kg.

Generally: The dog should have a soft bed of its own; somewhere to retreat from the children and hubbub of the home where he/she will not be disturbed. It can be an old duvet, eiderdown, or settee cushions. Their leanness necessitates protection of the bony prominences and joints over which sores and swellings can develop

It is a legal requirement that the dog should wear an ID tag at all times, even in the house and particularly during the very vulnerable time when the dog is being transported somewhere.

A greyhound collar should be put on high up the neck at the narrowest point and fit snugly. It is a good idea to have a house collar which remains on at all times—inside and outside complete with ID tag which has your name, address and telephone number. It is a legal requirement for an ID tag to be worn at all times. For nervous and/or strong dogs a harness should be used in the early days after adoption.

Of course you have to leave your dog at home while you go to work, go shopping or other places that a dog cannot go. When your dog is new to the family routine he needs to learn that when you go out you do come back so try not to leave him too long at first. Try going out and returning after about 5 minutes at first, then 10 minutes and then longer. Most will learn quickly but do remember that they will need a toilet break and cannot last all day. Give your dog proper care and you will have a friend for life. Sometimes helps to have two.

Dogs can be looked after in apartments if the owners are dedicated enough to take the dog out 3-4 times a day, especially late at night and early in the morning. A garden must be fenced 2 metres high if the dog is alone in it. They can jump when motivated but are usually too lazy.

Potential diseases in dogs: There are three major infections affecting dogs in the UK today - **PARVOVIRUS**, **HEPATITIS** and **LEPTOSPIROSIS**. All should be controlled by vaccination. These must be kept up to date. Please consult your veterinary surgeon.

Worming: - Adult dogs should be wormed every six months.

If you are interested in finding out background information about your ex-racer please visit www.greyhound-data.com

If you have any problems, please contact:

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