

Bringing Home Your Greyhound

Here are some suggestions we think will help make the adjustment process simpler for you and your dog:

When your dog first arrives

- Let your dog relieve himself before going into the house.
- If you have other dogs at home, take the new dog for a walk with the others so that they meet on a neutral territory.
- If you have cats or other small animals, use the muzzle, both indoors and out. Use the muzzle the first time your dog is in public, even at the vet's.
- If your dog has just been spayed or neutered, restrict activity to leash walks until the stitches are removed.

Housebreaking and using the crate

- Your dog will be nervous; he will drink more water than usual and need to urinate frequently. Walk him every couple of hours the first day or two. He may develop diarrhea. If the diarrhea doesn't stop in a day or two, let the vet recheck for parasites.
- If you catch your dog making a mess in the house, tell him "No, no!" in a firm, gruff voice, but don't yell. Take your dog outside immediately.
- Do not give the dog the run of the house until you are reasonably sure that your dog is housebroken and/or he will not damage anything in the house; gradually increase the dog's range in the house.
- A crate can be invaluable in easing the transition from kennel to home. Many Greyhounds are used to a crate and think of their crates as a "safe place." However, some Greyhounds will not tolerate their crate when they are in their new home with you. Some will bark, howl, and actually break teeth or seriously injure themselves trying to get out of the crate. Before putting your dog in the crate for more than a few minutes, give your dog a "test run." Leave the house and return in 10 minutes. If your dog was not happy in the crate, get him used to being in the crate while you are at home. Leave the crate door open; your dog may go in it voluntarily. Then shut the door and see what happens.

Feeding

- Try to feed your dog what he ate at the kennel. This will help eliminate diarrhea caused by a diet change.
- Feed your dog in his own area, away from other pets. Raised feed and water dishes work best. Moisten dry kibble with warm water and make food changes gradually.
- Feed twice a day, about 2-2½ cups wet kibble at each meal.
- Take your dog outside within 20 minutes after eating.

Other information

- Think of your Greyhound as a puppy that has lots to learn.
- Your dog will follow you like glue. Be careful not to close a door on your dog's tail! Speaking of doors, Greyhounds are very narrow and a door opened 6 inches is enough space for your dog to slip through. Keep the JRG tag on, as it contains the ID# of your dog, and the JRG phone number. As soon as possible,

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purchase a tag that displays your contact information. Pet stores have machines that allow you to create your own tags.

- Establish a sleeping area with a soft bed, preferably where you sleep.
- When you are away from home, keep your Greyhound in a “safe” room, preferably the kitchen. Both your house and your dog should be reasonably safe if you keep your dog in the kitchen. (We have found that some Greyhounds won’t tolerate the kitchen. If this room seems to cause your new pet anxiety, try a different room.) Many Greyhounds have an aversion to closed doors; try baby gates instead. Keep a radio on (animals like classical or easy listening) and give your dog a rubber “Kong” stuffed with peanut butter, or a Nylabone to chew on. Put his bed in there too. Unsupervised rawhide chewing is not a good idea; ends of them can choke a dog.
- Dog-proof your house; your Greyhound doesn’t know what anything is or what is off-limits.
- Put a note on your calendar to remind yourself when to give your dog his next month’s heartworm medication and Frontline application.

Items needed before your Greyhound arrives

- Raised food and water bowls, 10” – 12” high and the 2 qt. size bowls.
- Premium quality, high protein dry dog food. Meat should be the first ingredient listed, and if possible, the food should contain no artificial dyes.
- Dog bed or several large comforters. JRG sells our adopters crates at reduced costs. You will need a crate pad or a thick comforter for the crate as Greyhounds need cushioning.
- A couple of 5” red rubber Kong dog toys. These will be stuffed with peanut butter and frozen, to be used as a “bye-bye” treat when you leave the dog alone.
- A brush or “mitt” with rubber nubs. Greyhounds love to be brushed and it helps to bring out the natural oils in their skin. Zoom Grooms (made by Kong) are excellent grooming tools.