



# Greyhounds



## as Pets







## Greyhounds as Pets

### Why are they so amazing?

Greyhounds make fantastic pets and the growing number of greyhound owners (and from that point onwards are commonly known as Greyhound Slaves!) is testament to the wonderful nature of the breed. They are quiet, well mannered, and very easy to live with. They are friendly, lazy, calm, affectionate, clean, loving, trusting, good-natured and very social. Lots of people now adopt a greyhound because they have met

one owned by a neighbour, friend or relative and come to us once they are in a position to adopt. A greyhound is the original low-maintenance companion animal. They only need two short walks a day and will happily spend the rest of their time dozing by your side, or on their backs with their legs in the air!

Greyhounds can get along with children, the elderly, people with disabilities and can often live happily with other pets, including cats, rabbits, chickens, guinea pigs, and rats!



Greyhounds make excellent Pets as Therapy dogs as well!

#### Average Retirement Age: Between 3 - 5 years of age

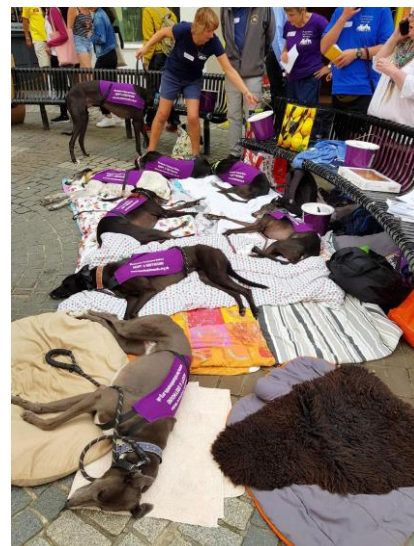
1. **Average Lifespan: Up to 15 years**
2. **Moulting Level: Medium**
3. **Grooming: Light**
4. **Exercise Required: Perfectly happy with two thirty-minute walks a day. Greyhounds are built for speed, not stamina, and use up their energy in short bursts.**

The greyhound is basically a quiet dog and will spend much of its time asleep in its bed. They are not barkers by nature, but will bark if excited or if they are trying to tell you something.



The dogs are their own best advertisement therefore; if you are still unsure about the breed why not **BOOK AN APPOINTMENT FOR A VISIT TO OUR KENNELS. TEL: 01932 251894 and leave a message** Details of how to book are available on both our website and Facebook page. **(Note: COVID guidance means we are only able to accept a limited number of for dog walking at present).**

Most of our greyhounds are ex-racers. We do occasionally have non-chasers brought into us. They have all been bred for the track, so have not as yet experienced the wonders of a loving home life.



We assess all of the greyhounds before finding them a new pet home, but we cannot guarantee their temperament in their new home, as dogs very much react to their surroundings and will, for example, behave differently in the kennels to a noisy forever home. That is why we encourage a home trial before you sign for ownership of the hound.

## Exercise Requirements

### Did You Know Greyhounds Are Lazy Pets?

The Greyhound is an extremely athletic and ancient breed belonging to the sight hound group of breeds. Pebbles, (opposite) is giving an excellent representation of showing us how a keen athlete likes to spend her time! The greyhound was originally used for coursing and hunting and in recent centuries has become known for its life in the racing industry. No other canine is as closely associated with speed, grace, and overall agility as the greyhound.



- For millennia greyhounds have been cherished and bred as hunting dogs whose keen ability to spot prey and its movement, using their keen sense of sight, and to pounce and capture that game at incredibly fast speeds. These traits have endeared greyhounds to the most prestigious of owners throughout time. It is for their rare ability to fill this unique hunting niche, and to simultaneously live as loyal devoted companions that has elevated the greyhound to the courts of kings and rulers throughout their long history.





■ Therefore, you may be surprised to know that Greyhounds love nothing more than spending their days sleeping on a comfy bed or your sofa if allowed! A couple of 20-30 minute walks a day are usually plenty for your average lazy greyhound. If you choose to adopt a younger greyhound then they will usually require more exercise. A longer walk during the week is also good for them, and they love the chance to have a good run around too – although you **must be sure they're in a safe, enclosed area.**

■ For most greyhounds, life at racing kennels tends to follow a set and predictable routine. In the UK, most greyhounds are kennelled in pairs and their lives revolve around feeding, grooming, exercise and the days when they race.

■ **Before retirement, most greyhounds won't have experienced many**

of the day-to-day sights, sounds and activities that companion dogs are accustomed to and that we take **for granted. It's fair to say that, in most cases, early socialisation of a racing greyhound isn't a top priority** within a racing environment. For most racing greyhounds their exposure to the world is limited to their racing kennels, paddocks and the track. They have not seen or encountered microwave ovens, TVs, stairs, other breeds of dogs, small animals or children.

■ For most ex-racing greyhounds, coming into a domestic environment **must feel like landing on an alien planet. One day, you're living in the familiar and the next, you're transported to an environment where you don't speak the language, know the customs, or understand what's** expected of you. Everything appears alien, (did I mention stairs? I'll just mention them again because they almost certainly will have never come across them!) and is probably all rather frightening. However, these dogs are highly adaptable and with understanding, time and patience these dogs thrive in the world away from kennels and love it!

■ Given their backgrounds in the racing industry there are some unique, significant things that need to be understood about them. They often never meet any other dogs apart from greyhounds until they come out **of the industry. They've lived a very secular life in kennels with only other greyhounds and so do enjoy other dogs' company.**







- When they meet other types of dogs, their reactions can vary. Most greyhounds get on well with other dogs and many live with other breeds. Common sense and careful introduction is the key. They are dignified beasts and can find some other types of dogs rude and **pushy**. **'Doggie play'** is not something they are familiar with, and quite frankly, they think that these more traditional styles of **'play'** are rather over-rated and far too energy consuming! In short, they rarely do play in the form you may be used to. They would much rather be asleep for 18hrs of the day!!

- Greyhounds do not need to be muzzled at all times, but we do recommend that you keep your greyhound muzzled when out and about, at least until you are confident of their behaviour around other breeds. They are quite used to it and associate it with pleasurable walks. If you feel you need to let your dog off the lead, a confined space and the wearing of a muzzle is recommended. As with any dog ownership, you have a duty of care to your new dog and part of this means you should not put him in a position where he can hurt another animal, or be hurt by another animal.
- Greyhounds can be a dream on the lead as they are so well mannered. With love and patience your dog will soon learn on which side his bread is buttered, and will only want to please you.



## Helpful Information

Kennel Manager contact info: 01932251894 or [carol@hershamsounds.org.uk](mailto:carol@hershamsounds.org.uk)

**Other handy guides that can be found on the Wimbledon Greyhound Welfare website include:**

- [Responsible Dog Ownership](#)
- [Bringing Your New Dog Home](#)
- [The First Night at Home](#)
- [Greyhounds and Children](#)
- [Greyhounds and Muzzles](#)
- [Toilet Training](#)
- [Greyhounds as Pets](#)
- [Issues Around Food Resources](#)
- [Sighthounds and Stairs](#)
- [Spending Time Alone](#)

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