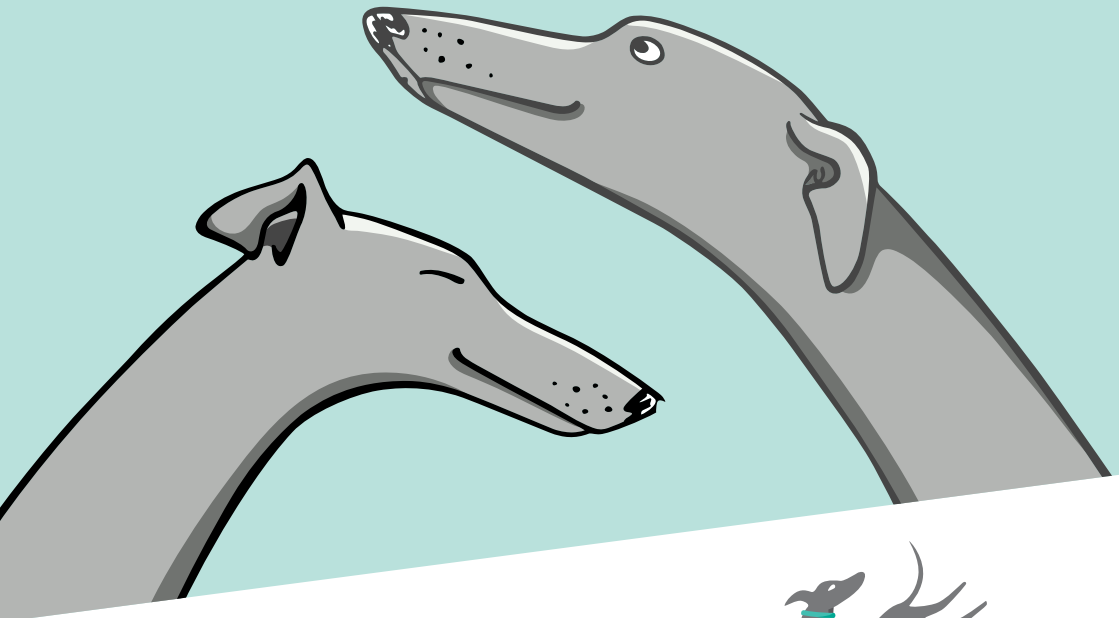


TRAINING GUIDE

SETTING YOUR GREYHOUND
UP FOR SUCCESS



GREYHOUNDS
AS PETS

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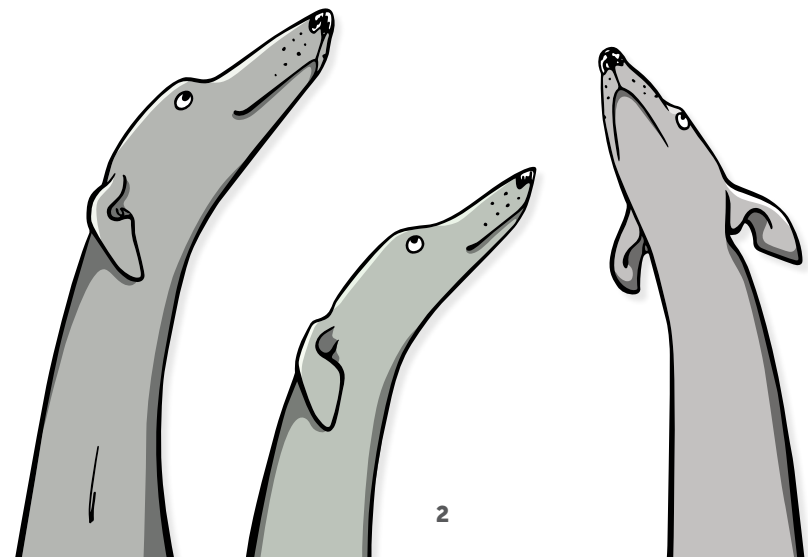
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THE PROGRAM

Most greyhounds make the transition from kennels quickly. During the time they spend in the program your greyhound will adjust to their new life, however like all dogs, training should be ongoing.

In the first few days in a new environment some dogs may show signs of stress such as pacing, heavy panting, lack of interest in food and licking of the paws – these can all be signs of anxiety and should settle.

In many respects helping a greyhound transition to life outside of kennels is similar to bringing a new puppy home. Life in a domestic environment is a new experience for your greyhound, be patient in allowing your greyhound time to settle in.



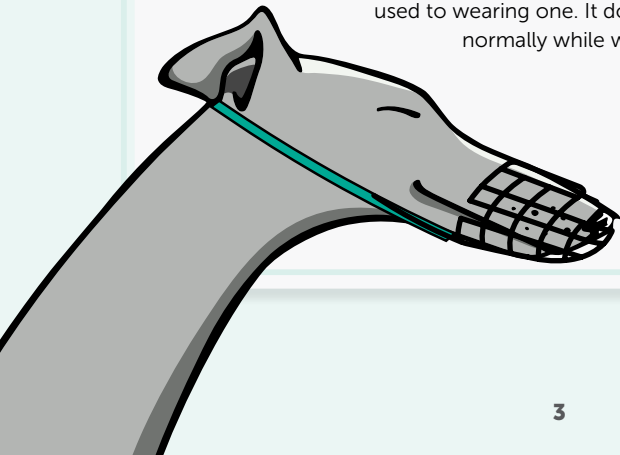
LAWS AROUND LEASH AND MUZZLE

BY LAW GREYHOUNDS MUST BE KEPT ON LEASH IN ALL PUBLIC PLACES

Your greyhound will be issued a green collar which signifies it has passed Greyhounds as Pet's behaviour assessment and is suitable to be unmuzzled in public, however it is still law for all greyhounds to be kept on leash in public places – this includes off leash dog parks. Greyhounds are sighthounds and are very fast, even a greyhound with great recall can see something in the distance and run off to reach it. A sighthound in chase mode can easily run onto a busy road or through a fence without realising the danger. So, for the safety of your greyhound and in keeping with Western Australian law, please keep it leashed unless on a safe, enclosed private property.

ABOUT THE MUZZLE

If you are fostering to adopt or fostering a greyhound you will be issued a muzzle. Until you have adopted your greyhound and have received a green collar from GAP, your greyhound is required as per your contract with GAP WA to wear the muzzle when in public – this includes when on walks. Once you have been issued a green collar your greyhound will not need to wear a muzzle in public. However, should you wish to leave the muzzle on when you are introducing your greyhound to other pets, children or new environments – such as a busy dog park - you can rest assured your dog is used to wearing one. It does not hurt and they can drink normally while wearing it.



TRAINING TECHNIQUES AND TERMINOLOGY

MARKING

Marking is a visual and/or auditory cue such as the word 'YES' or a thumbs up to indicate that the animal has done the right thing. The marker should be introduced immediately after the behaviour is offered, and a reward should follow within 3 seconds (maximum) so that the marker has meaning for the animal.

LURING

Luring uses food treats and the animal's natural instinct to eat to entice them to act or move in desired ways, such as into a sit position or onto a mat. Hold the treat a few centimeters from the dog's nose, then move it forward or in the position you want the dog to move. Reward the dog once in the position by giving them the treat. Make sure to mark the behaviour before releasing the treat.

CAPTURING

Capturing refers to noticing a desired behaviour—one that the animal has initiated without being asked or coerced—and rewarding that behaviour as soon as it happens. This encourages them to choose that behaviour again. Marking and Cueing the behaviour also helps them to know exactly what you are rewarding. Capturing does not use pressure to elicit the desired behaviour but waits for the animal to perform that behaviour themselves.

CUING

A cue is a word associated with a specific behaviour. You can cue behaviours such as mat/bed, sit and down once your dog is confident in performing them. Get the dog to perform the behaviour and say the cue word you want it to associate it with, then mark, reward and repeat until the greyhound associates the word with the specific behaviour.

TIPS FOR TRAINING YOUR GREYHOUND

1. YOUR GREYHOUND IS CONSTANTLY LEARNING

Every interaction you have with your greyhound is a learning opportunity, try to take advantage of this.

2. BUILD A STRONG RELATIONSHIP

Effective training relies on a strong relationship between handler and animal. Greyhounds are sensitive to your mood and actions, try to be mindful of both verbal and nonverbal communication.

3. SETTING YOUR GREYHOUND UP TO WIN

While your greyhound is learning what is expected of him try to manage his world to minimise the chance for him to do the wrong thing.

4. REWARD GOOD BEHAVIOUR

We are all good at pointing out mistakes, but not as good at rewarding good behaviour when we see it. If you notice your greyhound being quiet or happily playing with a toy, be sure to reward the behaviour.

5. MAKE IT FUN

Training will be more effective if it is a fun experience for your greyhound. Try to draw on your greyhound's natural abilities and interests; for example, try to find ways to incorporate his love of running, be

creative, act silly, make watching you more fun than anything else going on around him.

6. KEEP IT SIMPLE

Training will be more successful if you break tasks into small manageable bits. If your greyhound is not picking up a command, chances are you are moving too fast or trying to teach too much at once. Even the simplest behaviours have multiple parts and actions. The more complex the command, the more important it is to break into small pieces and teach each piece separately.

7. KEEP IT SWEET

Rewards, and plenty of them, are key to successfully training a dog. Make your rewards memorable, and keep your greyhound guessing what you will do next. Be creative, be unpredictable and always leave your greyhound wanting more. Try to end every training session on a high note. A "jackpot" of treats is a great way to do this.

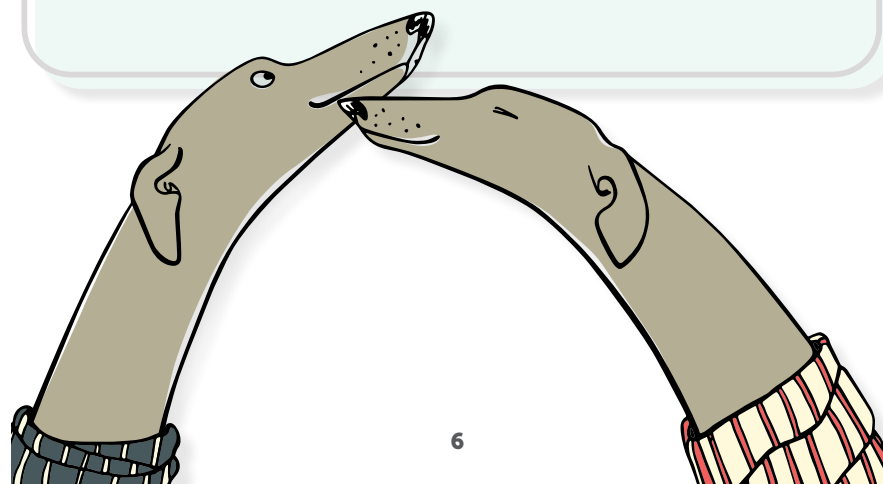
8. FINALLY, REMEMBER THERE ARE NO MAGIC WANDS WHEN IT COMES TO TRAINING

Reliability, patience and consistency are all key to ensuring your greyhound picks up new skills through training. If your greyhound continues to do something "bad" it's most likely because the reward

TRAINING GUIDELINES

- Remain calm and assertive at all times.
- Maintain positive body language, head up, looking forward and walk at a confident pace.
- Visualise your success, you need to believe that your greyhound will succeed.
- Ensure your greyhound is properly exercised before training. This will help with their concentration.
- During training, make sure your greyhound is wearing the training collar and make sure it is fitted correctly, high up on the neck.
- Consistently train your greyhound once or twice daily, 5-10 minutes in duration.
- Always give rewards for correct behaviour immediately. A reward should always be praise and at times it may also include treats, toys or play.
- Any corrections for incorrect behaviour should be short, sharp and given at the right time. A correction is not a punishment, it is a way for you to communicate with your greyhound.

ONCE YOU COMMIT TO TRAINING YOUR GREYHOUND, REMEMBER THAT THEY WILL BE LEARNING FROM YOU 24/7. ALWAYS BE READY TO TEACH.



TRAINING WEEK BY WEEK

The current training program has been developed by our behavioral team in order to best set each greyhound up for success in their transition to a pet. The follow up weekly questionnaires allow monitoring of behaviors and a set guide for training. It is important that the follow up questionnaires are completed towards the end of the respective weeks and are sent in by the due date. This program will help develop each dog's skills within foster care and provide the right information required for foster carers. Training sessions only need to be 5-10 minutes once or twice daily.

You will be provided with a digital and hard copy of the training guide for each greyhound, which may be adapted depending on the needs of each greyhound.

WEEK	TRAINING REQUIRED	WEEK	TRAINING REQUIRED
WEEK 1	1. Toilet training 2. Mat training	WEEK 2	Continue: 1. Toilet training 2. Mat training New: 3. Name recall 4. Leash walking
WEEK 3	Continue: 1. Toilet training 2. Mat training 3. Name recall 4. Leash walking New 5. Four Paws on the floor	WEEK 4	Continue: 1. Toilet training 2. Mat training 3. Name recall 4. Leash walking 5. Four Paws on the floor

WEEK 1: TRAINING

During the first few days your main role is to help your greyhound settle into their new life.

Bonding consists of:

- Getting them used to their name.
- Building trust between you and the greyhound.
- Providing them with a safe and secure "rest" area in the units and settling them into their kennels.
- Lots of positive attention and pats.
- Establishing a daily routine.

Once a greyhound learns to toilet in the wrong place, it quickly becomes a habit that can be difficult to break. Conversely, each opportunity your greyhound gets to toilet in the right place is an opportunity for him to learn the right thing and form a good habit.

PREVENTING MISTAKES

- As soon as you get your greyhound home, take them straight out to where you want them to toilet. They may have had a long car journey and you can't be sure when they last toileted.
- Watch your greyhound – if you see the greyhound circling, sniffing or if they become restless, take them to their toileting place immediately.
- Use common sense – if you know your greyhound hasn't toileted for several hours (e.g. during the evening or whilst you've been out), don't delay in taking them outside. This ideally would be your first task in the morning, or upon your return.

Greyhounds usually need to toilet:

1. After mealtime.
2. When they first wake up.
3. After exercise.
4. Before bed.

TOILET TRAINING

Greyhounds are generally quite clean dogs but as they are unfamiliar with indoor living, you will need to spend some time teaching them where the appropriate places are to toilet at their new home. In order to avoid toilet training accidents from occurring, it is essential that greyhounds are given lots of help and information to teach them where they are to toilet. You also need to ensure that your greyhound is given sufficient opportunity to toilet in that area. After all, humans don't automatically know where the bathroom is in a strange house until they've been shown. Greyhounds are the same but may need to be shown many times before they'll get it right all the time.



- When you take them out to the designated toilet area it is best to put them on a lead and bring treats. If they toilet, praise them by giving them a treat and taking them off lead for a play or pat.
- If your greyhound doesn't toilet, you can try walking in circles, starting at about a 3-metre diameter and gradually making the circles smaller and tighter (replicating your greyhounds sniffing and toileting behaviour).
- If they do not toilet after 5-10 minutes allow them to go free for a few moments, watching them closely for warning behaviours such as sniffing and circling or unsettled behaviour or take them back outside for another attempt after a few minutes.
- Prevent your greyhound from going into rooms where you cannot watch them. You can keep doors closed or restrict areas with the use of baby gates. You may also like to employ the use of a crate to confine your greyhound when they are asleep or when you can't supervise them (e.g. for half an hour whilst you're attending to something else). To make use of a crate, read the 'crate training' section of this guide.
- Keeping your back door closed will allow your greyhound to indicate to you that they need to go outside. A common mistake made by many new owners and foster carers, is thinking that your greyhound understands that whilst the door is open they know to go outside

to toilet. Opening up the door and signaling that it's time to toilet is an easy concept for greyhounds to grasp as they are always taken out of the kennel to toilet rather than just going on their own accord.

NOTE: whenever your greyhound toiles in the right place, reward them with pats, praise and treats as soon as they have toileted. There is no point giving your dog a treat when they come back inside. If you do that, you are rewarding your greyhound for coming back inside, not toileting.

WHEN ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

- Do not punish your greyhound for toileting in the wrong place! This is crucial. If you yell, smack, or chastise your greyhound they will believe they are being punished for what they are doing (i.e. toileting) not where they are doing it. This will make your greyhound reluctant to toilet in front of you for fear of punishment.
- Soak up whatever you can with paper towel and then clean up using an enzyme-based cleaner from your vet or pet shop. Alternatively, laundry powder (e.g. Biozet) can be diluted and used in a similar manner. Do not use common household ammonia-based cleaners as it attracts the greyhound back to that area to toilet again. Remember, when a greyhound urinates, there is often a large volume that soaks in and under the carpet, so you will need to use a considerable amount of product to cover the area completely.



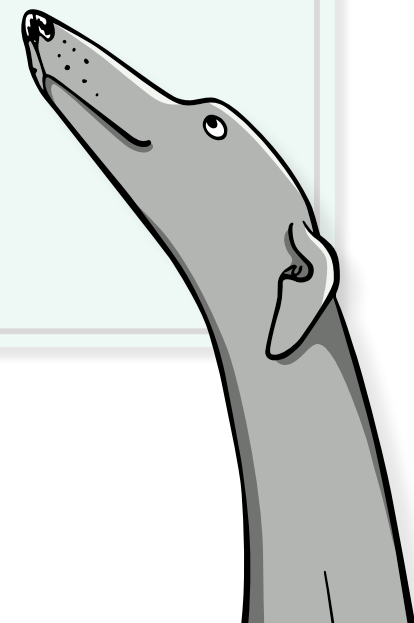
- Change your greyhound's meal times – by changing the time of day when your greyhound eats, you will also change the time of day when they need to toilet. If your greyhound is unable to make it through the night without toileting, try moving dinner forward or backwards to change the pattern. Alternatively, you can try feeding a larger proportion of your greyhound's meal in the morning and less at night or feeding a portion at lunchtime.
- If you have had your greyhound for some time and accidents begin to happen out of the blue, the first point of call would be a vet check up to rule out any underlying causes, such as urinary tract infections or incontinence.

TEACHING YOUR GREYHOUND TO STAY ON THEIR MAT

By providing a mat for your greyhound, you give them an easily recognisable area where they can go if they feel uncomfortable or wants a rest. It also gives you a place to send the greyhound if you want them out from under your feet or away while you enjoy a meal. You can take the mat wherever you go, which makes it easier for the greyhound to behave appropriately outside the home.

Getting started

- Start in an environment where the greyhound is calm and there are minimal distractions.
- Put the mat on the ground and have treats ready.
- Lure your greyhound with a treat in your hand towards the mat. As the greyhound puts at least one paw on the mat, mark the behaviour with a "yes", and give a treat. Continue to lure your greyhound until all four paws are on the mat, mark "yes" and treat.
- If your greyhound keeps their feet on the mat, mark the behaviour again and give them another treat. Lure your greyhound off the mat with an "off" and start the process again.
- Repeat this step until your greyhound is quite comfortable with all four feet on the mat.



SETTLING DOWN

- You want to get your greyhound to settle in a comfortable position, so that it will be able to maintain this for extended periods – usually a 'down' position.
- Lure your greyhound into a down position and mark the behaviour with "yes", followed with a treat.
- Continue to give your greyhound treats for maintaining the drop position.
- If they get up, lure them back to the drop position and give them treats for staying on the mat.
- You are trying to teach your greyhound that good things will happen if they stay on the mat.
- It is best to repeat these steps in several short sessions.

STAYING ON THE MAT

- When your greyhound is in a comfortable position, offer them a treat as you move around the mat.
- Move away and then come back and reward your greyhound.
- Gradually increase the distance and duration. Mixing up duration and distance

- If your greyhound gets up and moves off the mat whilst you are practicing distance or duration, ask them back to the mat and go back to the previous position you know they can be successful at.
- You will need to make sure your greyhound is quite comfortable on the mat before you leave the room.
- Encourage your greyhound to enjoy their mat by offering enrichment items, such as Kong's, pig ears or longer lasting treats.
- Each time your greyhound receives a treat inside, ask them to first settle on their mat.
- If your greyhound moves off the mat, calmly ask them to get back on and reward them for doing so.
- You will be able to go about your daily business while your greyhound is busy enjoying their treat but remember to verbally praise your greyhound and try to return or "release" them, as explained below, before they finish the treat.



ADDING A CUE

When you are confident that your greyhound understands how to use the mat, it is time to add a cue to the behaviour.

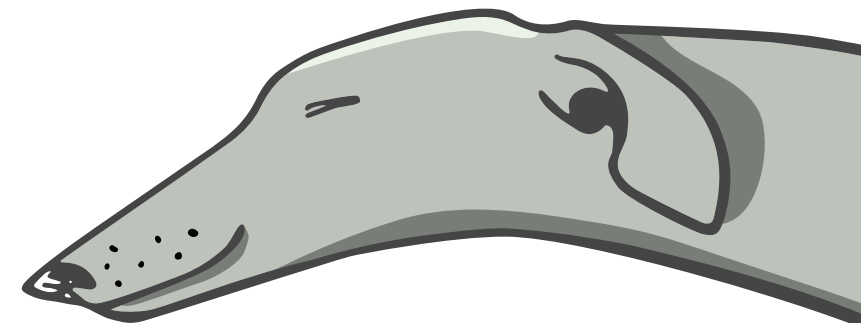
Have some treats ready and cue the behaviour of getting on the mat with a word such as "mat". If your greyhound gets on the mat, mark the behaviour "yes" and immediately reward them.

Let your greyhound off the mat and try again. Initially, you should do this close to the mat so your greyhound understands what you are asking of them.

GETTING OFF THE MAT

It is important that you let your greyhound know when they can move off the mat, otherwise they will become confused.

Saying words such as "OK" or "off" will let the greyhound know when they can move off the mat



WEEK 2: TRAINING

In week two you will know your greyhound's personality a bit better and will be starting to develop trust and communication.

LOOSE LEASH

We would like our greyhounds to learn to walk beside you calmly and without pulling on the lead. This allows them to walk freely and happily beside you with the ability to control the walk so there is no zig-zagging across the path, pulling on the lead or tension on the leash.

- Loose leash walking should be practiced often and a great place to start this is in your back yard or in an area that is limited in distraction or stimuli.
- Once you have your greyhound on the lead, before you start on your walk or loose leash training, you want to make sure that your greyhound has calmed down from any excitement that putting on the lead has created, and is relaxed and ready to go.
- Begin each walk, and every subsequent time you start off, with a clear cue consisting of "your greyhound's name" followed by "let's go".
- When you are ready to stop give the clear cue of "wait", stop walking and gain your greyhound's attention, if there is tension on the lead to allow the leash to become loose. Once the greyhound is back to you with a loose leash, lure them back to your side if they are not already there and continue with the walk.
- Whilst your greyhound is walking calmly and relaxed beside you, praise and reward at random intervals. This will keep your greyhound interested in you and the activity at hand.
- If your greyhound seems very excited and is pulling and putting tension on the lead, make sure you stop walking and wait until your dog releases the tension or relaxes and then start your walk again. Say "let's go" and move off. Continue this until your greyhound is no longer putting tension on the lead or pulling on the lead. Praise your greyhound when walking nicely on a loose leash.



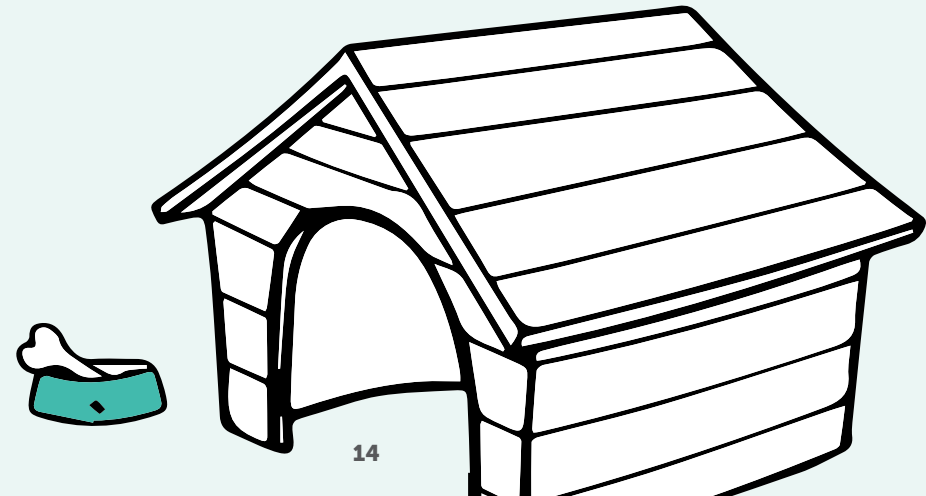
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NAME RECALL

For this exercise, you will need a training pouch (or small bag with easy access) and some training treats, try for something that your greyhound will be able to see once they are laying on the ground.

- You will also need to set yourself up in a large clear area. Outside on the lawn or a large clear area inside the home.
- Call your greyhound's name in a bright and cheerful manner, when they come toward you reward them with "yes" and throw a treat about half a meter out to the front of you (left or right side, depending on what side your greyhound has come into you from).
- When your greyhound runs off to get the treat, allow them to eat it call them back "come (your greyhound's name)" as they return to you say "yes" and throw another treat out to the opposite side.
- Repeat the process of sending your greyhound out to receive their reward (treat), calling them back and marking "yes" when they return.
- When you have repeated this exercise 5-10 times, finish with a release word "finished" or "free" and allow your greyhound to move off on their own accord.

NOTE-If your greyhound isn't responding to you, you might be too far away. Start about a meter away and slowly work to increase the distance you are tossing the treats



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WEEK 3: TRAINING

In week three you will know your greyhound's personality better and will be developing greater trust and communication.

FOUR PAWS TRAINING

The aim of 'Four Paws' training is pretty straight forward, four paws on the floor wins the game. No jumping up or unwanted hugs. Your hound will probably be jumping up to get your attention. It is important to ignore this behaviour in its entirety and not reward it in any way. The best way to do this is to turn your back to the greyhound, avoid eye contact, stay quiet and not talk to them, and make sure to avoid making physical contact with them (no patting or pushing them in any way) until they are performing the desired behaviour. As soon as all four paws are on the ground, an enthusiastic "yes" and a treat.

Conditioning your greyhound to the word "yes" makes learning 'Four Paws' on the ground easy.

Remember "YES" = Treat

"Yes" becomes the marker word used when all four paws are firmly on the ground. This allows the greyhound to quickly understand that by not jumping up and staying on the ground is how they get the treat and your attention

Keeping a little container of treats in areas of the house where you find your greyhound becoming most excited and tends to forget their manners, will help you quickly access and reward the desired behaviour.



IMPORTANT ADJUSTING TO HOME LIFE TOPICS

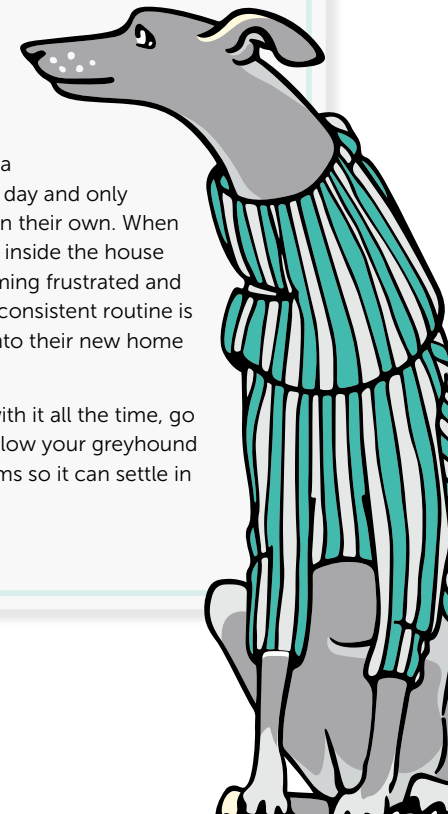
ROUTINE

The first thing to consider when bringing home your new hound is their daily routine. Greyhounds thrive in a well-established and consistent home routine, and it is a crucial aspect in settling them into your home.

To avoid unnecessary anxieties and hyper attachment issues it is best to have a well-structured routine set out for your new greyhound and make sure everyone in the family is aware before bringing them home. This includes what times they are fed and who feeds them each night, when they are taken to toilet and for exercise as well as how often and how long they are left alone.

The responsibilities of feeding and walking can be rotated through family members to avoid the greyhound hyper attaching to just one family member. It is also beneficial to teach independence even when someone is home all the time by putting your greyhound outside with a kong or a snuffle mat at certain points during the day and only letting them back inside once they have settled on their own. When practicing this, make sure you are calm and quite inside the house as this will decrease the likelihood of them becoming frustrated and encourage them to settle. A well-structured and consistent routine is a great way to ensuring your greyhound settles into their new home environment quickly.

Don't overwhelm your new dog by trying to be with it all the time, go about your usual routine in a calm manner and allow your greyhound time to watch, see and investigate on its own terms so it can settle in comfortably.



DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Destructive behaviour is a term that humans apply to any behaviour they find unacceptable, such as digging or chewing. However, most of this behaviour is normal dog behaviour.

Be mindful that destructive behaviour can be the result of boredom, lack of physical exercise or anxiety, amongst many other things. Try investing in a Kong and stuffing it with treats to keep your dog entertained while you are away. You could also provide your dog with a sandpit to dig in.

Remember you should never reprimand a dog for any destructive behaviour after the event. Dogs do not understand the reason behind your anger and will just end up scared of you if you hit or yell at them when you arrive home to find a hole in the garden. Find out the cause of the behaviour and treat it appropriately or consult a professional animal behaviourist.

INTRODUCING YOUR GREYHOUND TO ANOTHER DOG

If you already have a dog it is recommended that you arrange the initial meeting in a neutral area such as a local park or on the street. This way your new greyhound isn't entering your current dog's personal space and causing them to feel unsafe. We suggest keeping the greyhound muzzled during the initial interaction. Go for a walk with the dogs until they are relaxed together. Once they are both calm, start to walk in a circle, slowly making the circle smaller and smaller until one of the dogs is able to do a nose to butt sniff. Keep the interaction short and sweet- 3 seconds is the goal! Switch directions and allow the other dog to have a nose to butt sniff. If all goes well, it is time to go back to your house or garden and interact there. If either of the dogs behaviour changes and you are concerned then repeat the process above in your garden. Once both dogs have settled, drop the calmer dogs lead and allow it to interact without any interference. Then drop the other lead as well and allow the dogs to interact at their own pace. Once they are able to interact in this manner, the muzzle may be removed. If everything goes well then congratulations-you have successfully facilitated your new hounds introduction!

Note: face to face interactions are quite 'rude' for dogs and may be unsettling. Nose to butt is like a hand-shake for dog

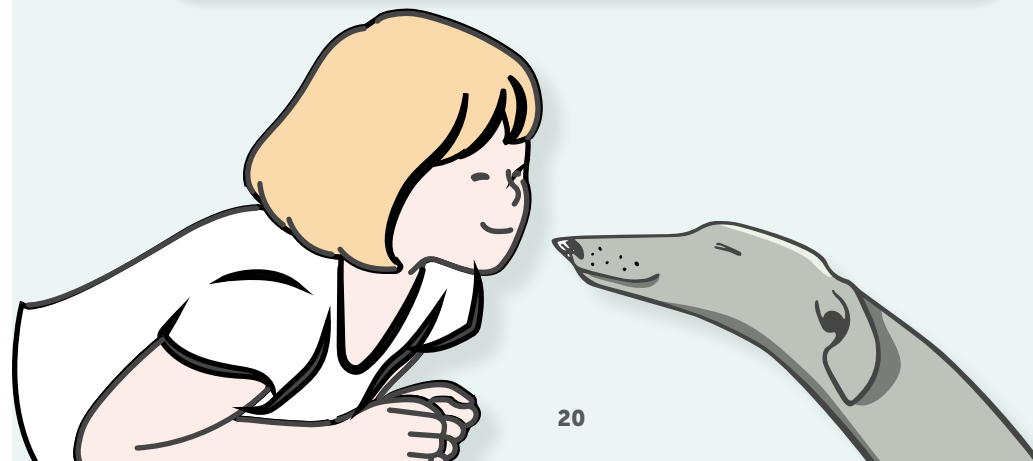
INTRODUCING YOUR GREYHOUND TO A CHILD

When introducing a greyhound to a child the best way to do so is to have the greyhound in the backyard or a room where the child cannot be seen to start. Let the child settle in on the couch or a comfortable open space. Make sure the child is calm and quiet before introducing them. Quick fidgety movement and loud/ high pitch noises are to be avoided. Once the child and greyhound display calm/relaxed behaviour, walk the muzzled greyhound into the room on a lead. Let the dog walk around and explore the room as it wishes. Reward calm and friendly behaviour and do not force an interaction between the dog and the child.

Do not apply tension to the lead. The only tension that should be on the lead is the tension applied by the greyhound itself. If the tension on the lead is quite a lot and the greyhound is becoming aroused, the dog should be removed from the room and let decompress in a separate room where it cannot see or hear the child. Once the hound is calm you may try again.

Make sure to be consistent with rewarding calm behavior with high value treats. Do not let the child approach the dog. The greyhound must feel comfortable to approach themselves.

If the greyhound is calm, friendly, and politely interacting with the child on the couch/open space, walk the greyhound a few meters away from the child. Have the child stand up and walk a short distance perpendicular to the greyhound. Watch the greyhound closely to see how it responds to the child moving. If it maintains its calm state, allow it to approach the child again and interact. Once this has been completed, you may drop the lead and allow the greyhound and child to interact in a calm manner.



GREYHOUNDS AND CATS

Greyhounds are sighthounds and have been bred for thousands of years to chase things. If you own a cat you will need to spend time introducing your greyhound to your cat and teaching them not to chase. Some greyhounds can be taught to get along with cats and live alongside them peacefully, but for the safety of your cat we recommend constant vigilance during the early months of co-living. We recommend leaving the muzzle on your greyhound if it is in your garden with the cat. You should also never leave them alone together until you are certain they are comfortable with each other and the greyhound will not chase the cat if it moves quickly. You need to constantly reinforce to your greyhound that it is not okay to chase cats.

The first time you introduce your greyhound to an existing cat try following these steps:

- Ensure that initial introductions are undertaken inside the house, with the greyhound on a lead and muzzled and the cat in a comfortable and safe location. Do not introduce the greyhound to a cat while someone is holding it. Sometimes it is best to have the cat on the other side of a baby gate as an added bit of security.

- Allow the greyhound to approach the cat. If the greyhound becomes aroused or frustrated (barking, jumping, lunging, etc) redirect it by calling its name and going to an area where it can't hear or see the cat. Once the greyhound is calm then begin the process again. Only approach the cat when the greyhound is exhibiting calm behaviour.
- When the dog behaves correctly and is calm or shows no interest in the cat, praise the dog profusely and give it a treat or food reward.
- Please note that even if the greyhound completely ignores the cat inside, outside may be a different matter. Even the most "cat tolerant" dog may chase a cat in the backyard, especially if the cat runs away from the dog.

Take care to closely monitor the greyhound when it is around the cat during the first few weeks. For added piece of mind don't forget that you can always put your greyhound's muzzle on, think of it as a training device until you are certain your greyhound and cat will get on.

POISONS AROUND THE HOME

Having a dog in your home is like having a small child, you must ensure that the dog does not have access to poisons and toxins commonly kept in homes and sheds. Don't assume that your greyhound will not eat something because it smells or tastes bad, or because it has never eaten it before. Dogs have been known to eat all sorts of foul smelling or tasting toxins, including some products which are marked as repellent to pets.

Inside the house, make sure that all containers of detergent, shampoo, soap, cleaning agents, insect sprays etc. are kept out of the dog's reach. Overhead cupboards are safer for storing such products. Alternatively, you could fit child proof locks to low cupboards.

If you use cockroach baits or sprays ensure that they are placed out of reach of your dog.

Human drugs and medications (including recreational drugs) must also be kept out of reach. Dogs may be poisoned by accidentally eating their owners' pills. Some human drugs can be toxic to dogs, you should never give your dog any sort of medication without first asking your vet.

In the garden, ensure that your dog does not have access to areas where poisons have been applied. Remember that dogs may walk or lie on areas which have been sprayed and may also chew on grass or plants.

Check your garden for toxic plants. If you are not sure if a plant is safe, check with a nursery or poisons information line. Remember that some plants may grow toxic fruit at certain times of the year.

Snail pellets are one of the most common causes of poisoning of dogs. If you use snail pellets, only use them in dog proof containers, or in fenced off areas of your yard. Store the packets out of reach, preferably in a locked cupboard.

Rodent baits are another common cause of poisoning. Depending on the product, a dog may be poisoned by eating dead or dying rodents which have eaten the bait, or by eating the bait itself. Dogs poisoned with rodent baits may not show any symptoms for up to two weeks.

When walking your dog, it is a good idea to keep a close watch to make sure the dog does not pick up and eat things it finds. When walking near rivers or on the beach, be aware of dead fish and other animals washed up near the shore. Blowfish, for example, can be fatal in a very short time if eaten by a dog.

It is also a good idea to familiarise yourself with foods that are toxic to dogs.



TRADE GAME

Sometimes a greyhound may have trouble distinguishing what is and isn't an appropriate toy. The first step to be able to safely retrieve items from your greyhound is to establish a foundation of trust using the 'Trade Game'.

Essentially, we never ever take an object from a dog - instead, we swap or 'trade' for an object of equal or greater value. If you are enjoying time playing the yard with your hound, have at least two toys. When your hound is focused on/chewing the first, throw the second - the movement will be infinitely more interesting for a sighthound. When they leave the first toy and go after the second, you can safely retrieve the first and so on...

Similarly, if the 'toy' in question is a household item like a shoe, the same rule will apply. Do not forcibly remove this item from your greyhound, but rather swap it for an appropriate toy of theirs. If your old shoe seems better than the toy, up the ante by instead offering food. This means that the interaction with you always remains a positive experience for the dog and helps build trust and strengthen the human-animal bond.

RESOURCE GUARDING

It is important to understand that each dog will value things differently, and therefore may feel possessive of different objects or items. Food is the more commonly guarded resource, but other guarded resources could be toys, a person, a crate, another animal they are housed with, their bed, or even their food or water bowl.

This is why we strongly advise not to allow your dog on human furniture such as the couch or bed, as they may begin to view these objects as their own.

Address the guarding of food and toys in a similar fashion. With food you would offer to trade the food item being guarded with a treat of a higher value, thrown in their line of sight to the side, so you then have time to retrieve the original item being guarded. For a toy trade you would offer (throw in line of sight) a toy of lower value - the movement will get the dogs attention, rather than the value or throw a treat.

Do not chase the dog or try and take the object directly from his/her mouth as this could result in the dog protecting the object and when pushed to their limits the greyhound has potential to growl, snap or bite to "guard" their resource.

REFERENCES

This booklet has been compiled to help guide you through the early stages of adopting your greyhound. It is the compilation of responses to the most commonly asked questions from new owners.

The following entities need to be credited for some of the information in this booklet:

- Greyhound Adoption Program of Queensland
- Greyhound Adoption Program Victoria
- Greyhound Adoption Program of Tasmania Inc.
- Greyhounds As Pets New Zealand
- Greyhound Adoption Program South Australia
- Greyhound Adoption Program New South Wales

Please note the information contained in this booklet is aimed to assist you throughout the adoption period, but does not replace or exceed professional assistance.

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