

# **A Guide for the Care and Training of the Retired Racing Greyhound**



**Greyhound Pets of America –  
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# Chapter 1

## In the Beginning...

### 1.1 Items You Will Need Prior To Adoption

When you get your new greyhound there are some items that you will need. They should be purchased either before you get your new family member or right after you get your pet. These items can be purchased at your local pet store or catalogue sales, with the special items available through GPA-Charleston. The items you will need are as follows:

- **Reference Material** – Either *Adopting the Racing Greyhound* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) by Cynthia A. Branigan or *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* by Lee Livingood.
- **Martingale collar and 6 foot nylon leash** - This will be furnished by GPA-Charleston at the time of adoption. A greyhound can back out of a standard buckle collar (You could be left holding a leash/collar with a greyhound running 45 mph away from you.) Also, please never use a metal choke collar on your greyhound as you could damage their throat. Additional leash and collar sets are available from GPA-Charleston.
- **Name Tag** - Your name/address/phone are to be used on a tag, in conjunction with the GPA-Charleston tag and the microchip tag.
- **Large crate (minimum of 42')** - GPA Charleston will recommend the size and style to best suit your particular dog prior to adoption. One can be purchase from GPA-Charleston in most cases.
- **Stainless steel or ceramic bowls** - One bowl for food and the other one for water (3 quart bowls work well).
- **Raised Food Diner** – Aids in digestion and helps take the strain off of your greyhounds neck.
- **Dog Food** - We recommend Purina ProPlan (Chicken & Rice) or other premium large breed dog food.

#### Other Important Items:

- **Dog bed or thick quilt** - Something soft for your greyhound to lie on. If you have allergies to dogs we recommend a thick quilt or blanket because it is easier to put in a washing machine and be fully cleaned.
- **Dog Coat** - Since greyhounds have less than 5% body fat, you may want to purchase a coat for winter.
- **Toys** - Fleece chewmen (shaped like a ginger men), large squeaky toys and bones are popular with greyhounds. Try to avoid vinyl/rubber toys.
- **Dog biscuits** – Any type of high quality biscuits.
- **Pooper Scooper or Plastic Bags** - To pick up after your pet on your walks.

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- **Nature's Miracle** - A cleaning solution to effectively rid those "accident" spots of odors.
- **Dog toothbrush and dog toothpaste** - This is for your greyhound's weekly grooming and is included in the starter bag, if purchased from GPA-Charleston
- **Dog nail clippers** - For the once a week tipping of the nails.
- **Ear cleaner** – Vet Solutions or other veterinarian recommended solution.
- **Heartworm, Flea, & Tick Products** – GPA-Charleston recommends Interceptor and Frontline which has been administered on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

**No Flea Collars.** If You Are In Doubt About The Safety And / Or Effectiveness Of Any Flea Product Please Call GPA-Charleston At (843) 343-2982.

NOTE: Never purchase any over the counter worming medications - please consult your veterinarian if you think your greyhound may have worms.

The above items can be ordered from the following catalogs or obtained from:

- Drs. Foster & Smith at 1-800-826-7206 or visit them at [www.drsfostersmith.com](http://www.drsfostersmith.com)
- Jeffers Pet at [www.jefferspet.com](http://www.jefferspet.com)
- Omaha Vaccine at [www.omahavaccine.com](http://www.omahavaccine.com)



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## 1.2 The First Thirty Days

One of the most important things we emphasize with new Greyhound adopters is **“give your grey time to adjust”**. When people see our Greyhounds at an event, or visit with them in our homes, they should remember that the Greyhounds they are seeing have had time to acclimate to their homes. They have become secure in their new lives.

If you have ever started a new job, or can remember back to the days when you started at a new school, you can have some empathy for the way your new Greyhound feels. In your home they are exposed to new people and new situations. It is understandable that they may be confused and uncertain. Give your grey time to adjust.

New parents need to remember that most Greyhounds have only been in a foster home for a few weeks, and may be hesitant about your stairs, vacuum cleaners, vinyl or wood floors, you schedule, etc. If your Greyhound doesn't want to eat at first, this can be due to stress. No Greyhound has ever starved itself to death in a new home. *You might consider adding a small amount of vanilla yogurt to the food or sprinkle a little parmesan cheese on it initially. Chicken broth (low sodium) also works when added in place of water on the food.*

Often the Greyhound appears reserved for the first week or so. As the new Greyhound bonds to your family and settles in your routine, his or her personality will start to blossom. Soon you will discover that the cookie jar is really too close to the edge of the kitchen counter, your clothes hamper is fair game, and that he or she may sleep on the couch when the folks are in bed or at work.

One phenomenon you may observe is separation anxiety. All of a sudden there are no other Greyhounds around. What has happened? Mom and Dad go off to work and the kids go to school. Where did everyone go? Will they come back? Give your Greyhound a chance to discover the answers to these questions. *Consider leaving a TV or radio playing and a light on when you are gone to reassure them that you will return.*

It's a fine line we have to walk during the first thirty days or so. We have to guide our new grey's development and build his or her confidence without spoiling him or trusting him too soon. But, we all agree that it is so satisfying to see a Greyhound become the ideal companion and family member. The first thirty days may just be the most rewarding of all.



## 1.3 Feeding Your Greyhound

GPA-Charleston strongly recommends that you restrict your dog's exercise before and after eating. The following are the guides for feeding:

- **Strenuous exercise** - There should be no strenuous exercise, 2 hours before and 2 hours after a meal. Strenuous exercise can induce bloat.
- **Type of Food** - - We recommend Purina ProPlan (Chicken & Rice), or any other premium dog food.
- **Feeding Balance** - Feed 2 meals per day of even amounts (for example 1-2 cups a.m. and 1-2 cups p.m.)
- **Weight feeding guide** - The average female of 65 lb. should eat approximately 2 ½ - 3 cups per day. The average male of 70 lb. should be fed approximately 3-4 cups per day.
- **Gain weight** - If your dog needs to gain weight, increase the amount of food by a quarter of a cup per feeding and observe for 2 to 3 weeks. The desired weight gain should take place. Your dog's weight should not exceed 5 lbs above racing weight.
- **Lose weight** - If your dog needs to lose weight, decrease the amount of food by a quarter of a cup per feeding and observe for 2 to 3 weeks until the dog reaches "fit" weight. Remember "Don't change the type of food just the amount."
- **Table scraps** - Never feed table scraps or canned dog food.
- **Treats** - Limit the number of doggie treats per day. If you use the large biscuits, break in half, dogs like to get treats. They don't care how big or small the treat.
- **Fresh water** - Fresh water should be available at feeding times. Do not let your dog drink excessively after eating. Drinking too much water too quickly can cause bloat. Remember "What goes in must come out".
- **Gags** - If your greyhound gags on the dry food add some warm water. It is best to slowly wean your dog off the wet food as a good crunch does wonders for the teeth.
- **Inhales** - If your dog really inhales its food, use a Jell-O mold or a bundt pan for its dish. The center hole forces the dog to eat more slowly.

You should always be able to see the tip of the backbone and a bit of rib on a greyhound. Also, there should be an area that indents between the ribs and tail. A greyhound should never look like a sausage!

Allowing your greyhound to gain too much weight can create health problems. Their bone structure cannot support extra pounds. The more excess baggage a dog has to carry around, the less it wants to move and the chunkier it becomes.



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## 1.4 Martingale Collars

You should always use some form of martingale collar on your greyhound. No other design can assure you positive control. If your dog's collar is 'worn or frayed, contact us for a replacement, as pet stores do not usually have this design.

**Periodically your safety collar should be checked for proper adjustment.**

Proper adjustment of the collar means that when you tension the collar, with the leash clipped to the middle ring, the 2 rings that the tension loop slides through should come no closer than 1 1/2 inches apart. If these rings touch, your dog could back out of the collar. When the collar is slack, there only needs to be enough looseness to slip the collar off the dog's head without causing undue discomfort or pain. If you can slip two fingers under the collar next to the dog's neck, this is adequate.

Before you allow anyone to walk your dog, ensure they know about the proper ring to clip to. Clip to the wrong one and the whole thing is useless. Be sure that they are physically able to handle the dog.

There are three tags every greyhound should always wear.

- GPA-Charleston I.D. tag- has the group's phone number
- Your personal I.D. tag with dog's name, your name, address & phone number.
- Microchip Tag with the microchip number



## 1.5 A Greyhound's Perspective

### WHEN I GET MY NEW HOME

- I've probably not been in a house long and things will be strange. I may be tense, possibly withdrawn. Be sure I "empty before entering." I may be afraid though you may not notice. This is normal. At some point I'll pick a spot and lie down (on an old blanket or whatever). Let me remain quiet unless I come to you. Be patient, gentle; speak soft soothing one-word assurances such as "good", "easy". Speak "no" more strongly for unacceptable behavior.
- If you do not want me in a certain room use your hand as a traffic cop and say firmly but gently "no", stay that way until I get the message. Repetition and softness are the keys to my learning.
- I like comfort so start now to block me from the sofa and your bed if you do not want me on them and show me where to lie, on what soft surface.
- Mirrors, fireplace glass, sliding glass doors reflect my image. This may perplex me – "who is the other dog?" let me explore.
- Time my feeding (portion feeding) and remember the hand that trains is the hand that feeds. I will also start bonding at feeding time; even though others may want to share in this at first, it is best for one person to eventually do the feeding. Time my duty trips close to mealtime (usually within one hour).
- Feed twice a day with high quality dog food. I may startle easily at first – don't sneak up, come from the front. Remember I am not used to sharing my food. Be sure to feed me separate from any other animals.
- Speak softly. I'll always hear you unless I am asleep.
- I may be very afraid the first few nights. The sounds, smells, shadows are all new to me. I may fuss. Reassure me with words and your closeness.
- If you let me into your bedroom, I'll quickly settle down. Your closeness, scent are my security in this bewildering environment. Remember, once you allow this you have committed. Like all learned behavior, this is how I'll respond and what I will expect to be allowed to do.
- If not allowed in your bedroom, please keep me nearby and develop my confidence with soft words of assurance.
- At first I may stare ahead and seem unresponsive. Remember, I'm undergoing stress adjustment as you probably are too. Quiet and calm is the way to go. A light and gentle massage all over (paws and all) with soothing words is great for both of us (try not to pat).





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- When it is duty time, let me loose, if this is a safe enclosed area. Otherwise, use a 6-foot lead. After I have done my "duty" praise me with "good", a light pat and "let's go eat". I am beginning to learn to please you and stay with you and know that you will reward me for acceptable behavior.



## Chapter 2

### On the Way !!!

#### 2.1 Introducing Your Greyhound to Cats and Dogs

Much care has been taken in testing your greyhound's compatibility with small animals. We ask that you follow the accompanying directions when introducing your new dog to your current pets:

- **Muzzle** - Please use the muzzle we have provided if you have small dogs and/or cats.
- **Dogs** - Introduce your greyhound to your other dog(s) on neutral territory. With leashes on, have them meet on the sidewalk or down the block from your home. Let them greet each other and then take them for a walk together. When you arrive back home walk them around your property (leashes still on) and then bring them into the house.
- **Cats** - Introduce your greyhound to your cat indoors with the greyhound muzzled and leashed. *Hold the leash in your hand.* Leave the cat on the floor. If he or she lunges at the cat, give a hard tug with the lead while saying "No" or "Leave It" in a stern tune. A dog will instinctively jump or nip if a cat is held in an owner's arms, above a dog's head. Another method is to sit on the couch with the cat in your arms securely. Hold the dog's leash and allow the muzzled greyhound to sniff the cat. Once the greyhound has gotten the cat's scent, allow the cat to stand on the floor and get away if it needs to. Again, if the dog lunges for the cat, correct him with a stern "No" or "Leave it" immediately.
- **Even a cat tolerant greyhound is likely to chase a cat when outdoors.**

Look for the following signs:

**Teeth clicking or snapping.**

**Ears alert** - although by itself this merely could indicate curiosity, as this is probably one of the first times your greyhound has seen a cat up close.

**Fixed gaze or stare** - which cannot be broken even when you run your hand in front of the greyhound's eyes?

**Trembling and/or lurching.**

Your greyhound will be curious about your cat but interest combined **with the above signs** can indicate that your greyhound is one of the few that **cannot live safely with small animals.**

- **Separation** - For the first several weeks, keep the dogs and/or cats separated when you are not at home or cannot supervise their interaction. Watch them carefully when they are interacting.

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- **No Chase** - Never let your greyhound chase any of your small animals, even in play. Play can turn to hunt in a flash and no cat or small dog is fast enough to get out of the way of a determined greyhound.
- **Feeding** - Feed your cats/dogs in separate areas. You can feed your greyhound in his/her crate. Always reinforce the pecking order in your house at feeding. The top animal should always be fed, or given treats, first. Then the second...

If you have any questions or are not sure if you are reading the warning signs correctly, please call GPA-Charleston immediately, we will be happy to discuss this with you. Rest assured that prior to adopting, your greyhound will be small animal tested if you have a small animal. No testing is perfect, and these techniques are important to understand for working with your new greyhound. A representative of GPA-Charleston will be glad to assist in this process.



## 2.2 Your Greyhound And Children

Most greyhounds have never been around children and therefore have no reason to dislike them. The real question is: **“Does your child/children know how to behave with animals.”**

Greyhounds, by virtue of being 'track' dogs, generally have not been around children. Therefore they have no reason to dislike children and in fact greyhounds really seem to enjoy being around children. However, there are certain guidelines that we ask that you follow so that the adjustment period for you and your greyhound & children goes as smoothly as possible. This adjustment period can last anywhere from 3 to 6 months depending on the individual greyhound and the dedication and patience of the adoptive family.

It's not uncommon for a new adult dog to growl at a young child. Growling is a normal way for dogs to warn each other off of something. What you need to do is to let this dog know that the child is above the dog in the pack structure .... Hence the dog is not allowed to growl at the child.

The following are some simple rules to ensure a happy relationship:

- Don't leave the dog and child alone together unsupervised. Always have their interaction monitored by an adult. **Please do not let them sleep together in the same bed!!**
- **LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE** - Do not jump on or even pet a sleeping greyhound. Some greyhounds sleep with their eyes open. When a sleeping dog is startled it may growl or come up with teeth before it is fully awake and realizes that the culprit is its best friend. If you must wake your sleeping greyhound, call its name and have it walk to you.
- **Privacy and quiet** - All dogs are entitled to privacy and quiet when they eat and sleep. Children must be instructed to not bother the dog during its “quiet” times. This has to be consistently enforced.
- **Food** - Do not let your child take away the dog's food or interfere with its mealtime in any way. It is best to feed your greyhound in its crate to avoid a problem.
- **Hanging On** - Do not hang on the dog's neck or climb on its back. Greyhounds can be injured or feel threatened.
- **Door Bolting** - Make sure you have a hold of your greyhound by the collar before any door is opened to let anyone in/out of your house.
- **Open Doors and Gates** - Be extremely cautious about leaving doors and gates open (this goes for car doors also). Greyhounds move so quickly that they will be out the door and down the street in a blink of the eye. Teach your children and their friends about the importance of keeping doors and gates closed at all times.
- **Kindness** - A child old enough to have a dog is old enough to treat it with kindness.



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- **Crate** - Do not let your children crawl into the greyhound's crate. Privacy is important. Initially, we recommend that you utilize the crate when your children are actively playing. It is also a good idea to use the crate when children have friends over to play.

This way your new greyhound has a chance to experience and get used to children while in the safety and security of his/her crate. The use of a crate is mandatory for a minimum of 6 months when you have children. You will find that the crate is an invaluable tool to keep the dog(s) and children separated when you cannot be there to supervise their interaction. Just as you would not leave a toddler or infant alone unsupervised, **children of any age and dogs should never be left alone unsupervised.**

- **Walking the Dog** – Because of the greyhound's sweet nature, children always want to hold the leash and take the dog for a walk. Greyhounds have powerful muscles and they can react in a split second and pull the leash out of an adult's hand, much less a child's. It's a good idea to attach a second leash for the child to hold while you're out walking.
- Parents who feel their children are too young to be taught how to treat an animal properly should wait until the children are older before they bring a pet into their home.

**DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN CRAWL UP TO, RUN UP TO, JUMP ON, KISS, HUG A DOG THAT IS LYING DOWN AND/OR SLEEPING.**

- Greyhounds do not understand the meaning of a child or children rushing, crawling, running up to it or trying to kiss or hug it, when it is laying down (even if it is awake!). A dog may choose to get up and walk away, do nothing, growl or it may even snap or bite. Greyhounds sometimes sleep with their eyes open so it is very difficult to tell if one is asleep or awake.

**The above suggestions apply to all dog/people relationships regardless of age.**

**Recommended Reading:**

***Childproofing Your Dog.* By Brian Kilcommons.**

**“Advice on Greyhound and Kids” By Lynda Adame.**  
**[www.greyhoundlist.org/kids\\_and\\_greys.htm](http://www.greyhoundlist.org/kids_and_greys.htm)**



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## 2.3 Running Loose and the Great Outdoors

### 2.31 Running Loose

Greyhounds, because they are sighthounds, can see far away up to a half-mile or more. The sight of a small animal (rabbit, squirrel, chipmunk, etc.) paper bag or leaves blowing in the wind, can send your greyhound into a full run at 45 miles per hour. In a few minutes they can be a few miles away and not realize they are even gone.

Also unexpected noises, such as firecrackers, motorcycles, loud cars or trucks can also startle and panic the unleashed greyhound. It may take off and become lost and/or get killed by a car.

The rule is **“Greyhounds should always be on a leash or in a completely fenced area when outdoors”**

If you are fencing your yard for your greyhound, the fence should be a minimum of 4 feet (the ideal fence is 6 feet high). Greyhounds are not jumpers, but the exception, may require a taller fence.

### 2.32 Great Outdoors

- NEVER leave your greyhound (or any dog) unattended in a fenced yard unless you are home to keep an eye on them. Many are stolen, mistreated and/or sold to research labs.
- Greyhounds are HOUSE dogs and should never be left out in hot or cold temperatures. Their short coat, lack of body fat and thin skin can cause them to overheat in summer and become chilled in winter. We advise that you make or buy a heavy lined coat to use when the temperature drops below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.
- NEVER put a greyhound on an overhead run or tie them out to a stake or a tree as they can take off running at 45 mph from a dead stop. A broken neck, leg or possibly death can result.

When you walk your greyhound use the martingale collar and 6 foot leash you have gotten or purchased from us.



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## 2.4 Stairs

Teaching your greyhound how to walk up and down stairs is really pretty easy. Remember that this is new to your dog and you have to be patient and persistent. This is not the time to baby your dog. Encourage but do not coddle. Dogs can read our facial expressions so remain calm and smile them through this.

- Let your dog lean against your leg. Start at the bottom stair and grip the dog's collar. You may need to put the dog's front legs on the step.
- Start your walk up the steps still holding the collar. You can encourage your greyhound by saying "come on let's go up". If the dog does not respond get behind and put the rear legs on a step also. Slowly alternate the front and rear legs up the stairs.
- You are now at the top. Praise your dog in a high pitch voice and let him/her relax for a few minutes.
- Grip the collar again and start down the same way.
- Praise again when you reach the bottom.
- Go through this up and down sequence at least one more time.
- If your stairs are not carpeted make sure your greyhound's nails are as short as possible so they don't slip on the steps.
- If your stairs are the open-backed type or very steep, please allow your greyhound a little extra time to learn these.

If you find that the dog is not voluntarily following you up and down, repeat this exercise each day for the next few days.

Within a short period of time your greyhound will fly up and down the stairs.

**There is no reason to consider moving your bedroom furniture to the first floor.**



## 2.5 Housebreaking

Housebreaking is extremely important and can be very easy. The following is GPA-Charleston's attempt to explain housebreaking a few different ways, utilizing the same basic principles, to obtain the desired results.

Just because a Greyhound is potty-trained in its foster home, does not mean it will continue to be in its new home.

The first 48 hours, after adoption, are the most crucial and the adopter should expect them to be the most stressful.

### 2.51 Crate Training

Crate training is the most effective way to housebreak your greyhound. Greyhounds are raised in crates and are very comfortable with them. The basic principle is that greyhounds are very clean animals and will not eliminate where they sleep. Therefore, if a greyhound is in the crate it will not eliminate in either the crate or the house. The following are the basics of crate training:

- **Crate Size** – GPA-Charleston requires the purchase of a 42" crate prior to adoption.
- **Location** - Place your crate in a room that is familiar to the dog. A remote location such as the basement or a room that is far away from family activity can make your dog feel as if it has been abandoned.
- **Rule** - If you can't watch your dog crate it. Do be alert and don't let your dog out of your sight until you are confident he/she is housebroken.
- **Punishment** - Don't punish for accidents. Above all don't use the crate for punishment. A simple NO in a low pitched voice is all that is needed.
- **Schedule** - Keep to a regular feeding and walking schedule (even on the weekends).

The following two sections will walk you through the fundamentals of housebreaking using a crate.

### 2.52 A Simple Positive Approach

- Feed at set times and walk your greyhound at set times. Do not vary your schedule, even on the weekends. At a minimum, your greyhound should be walked first thing in the morning, first thing when you arrive home, last thing before you go to bed and 15-30 minutes after each meal.
- Feed the same food all the time. Do not vary the diet, do not feed table scraps or an overabundance of between meal snacks (limit it to 2 small treats a day).
- Watch your pet's stool. If it is too loose, cut back on the amount of food by ¼ cup per feeding until it becomes firm.
- Take your dog out on a regular schedule. Walk in a small area where you want the dog to go to the bathroom. Dogs like to relieve themselves in familiar surroundings. Limit bathroom walks to 10 -15 minutes so the dog can understand what you expect of him/her. Save the long walks for recreation time.

(Continued)





After the dog eliminates PRAISE!!!

- If your dog does not relieve himself outside, confine it to its crate for another 30 minutes and then take him/her back out. If the dog does not relieve himself then confine again for another 30 minutes. Remember to limit your bathroom walks to 10 - 15 minutes.
- Once your pet does urinate and defecate outside then you can give them some freedom in the house, keep an eye on them. Until you are confident that your pet is completely housebroken do not let your pet out of your sight. If you cannot watch your dog, crate it.
- If you catch your pet in the act of an accident, loudly say "no!" or "stop!" clip on their leash and take them immediately outside to their toilet area. When your dog finishes: PRAISE!
- Clean the accident area with an effective cleanser to remove the scent of urine or stool from the carpet or floor. We recommend Nature's Miracle cleaning solution. Do not let your dog watch you clean it up. It is available in most pet stores and mail order catalogs.
- If you are having trouble, make sure that your dog is not sick. Worms or urinary tract infections are easily cured but can interfere with housebreaking!

## 2.53 A Sample Schedule

- On rising - Walk -relieve - PRAISE; (if after your 10 -15 minute bathroom walk your dog does not relieve himself, bring in, confine to the crate, feed and then walk again within 10-15 minutes of eating and then skip to step #3).
  - Feed & water, wait 10-30 minutes-walk again. If during this waiting period you can't watch the dog in the house perhaps you are getting ready for work-CRATE IT.
  - Your pet's second walk of the morning should be timed so that it is right before you leave for work.
  - Put your dog in his/her crate in a familiar room. Praise. Leave soft music on for the dog and you can leave a cow hoof for the dog to chew. Please do not leave your dog alone with a rawhide bone as it could choke on a piece.
  - Upon returning from work or after any time that you are gone, take your dog out of his/her crate, do not make a big fuss over the dog, & take them for its bathroom walk - Praise!!! If you make too much of a fuss when you release your pet from its crate it may get the idea that being out of the crate is better than being in it. This could lead to separation anxiety, which may be accompanied by whining or barking.
  - Evening meal, give water & walk. Praise!!!
  - Once your dog relieves itself you can take it for a recreational walk.
- Remember: Greyhounds love to go for walks!!**
- Before you go to bed, take your dog on another bathroom walk. Praise!!! Initially you will want to withhold water for 3 hours before bed and during the night.
  - Confine your dog in its crate in the bedroom with you. Once you are certain your dog is housebroken you can let your greyhound sleep on a dog bed in your bedroom with the door closed or use a baby gate



## 2.54 Signs That Your Greyhound May Have To Go Out

Greyhounds usually tell you when they have to go out. Sometimes we are not able to recognize the signs. Some of the signs are as follows:

- Pacing
- Walking in circles
- Walking to the door and looking back at you
- Standing by the door
- Listlessness
- Barking
- Holding up a sign that says "OUT"

When your dog indicates a need to go outside, ***Respond Immediately***, don't wait for the next television commercial.

## 2.55 Troubleshooting Checklist

Having trouble with accidents in the house? Review this checklist carefully and see if there is something you're not doing. Call us if you need more information or advice.

- \_\_1. Are you keeping your pet confined when not at home and within your sight when you are at home?
- \_\_2. Are you limiting the "bathroom" walks to 10 -15 minutes?
- \_\_3. Are you walking after meals and at the appropriate times?
- \_\_4. Did you keep a chart/diary for at least 5 days?
- \_\_5. Are you feeding your dog at the same time every day, measuring his/her food with a measuring cup to assure accuracy, not overfeeding, keeping snacks to a minimum, and not giving table scraps?
- \_\_6. Is everyone in the family cooperating with the housebreaking effort?
- \_\_7. Are you adding to your pet's confusion by punishing him/her?
- \_\_8. Are you certain your dog isn't sick and needs to be examined by a veterinarian?  
(Worms or urinary tract infections are easily cured but can interfere with housebreaking)
- \_\_9. Are you removing the scent of your pet's urine and/or stool from the affected area? We recommend Nature's Miracle cleaning solution.
- \_\_10. If you have a fenced yard, are you going outside with your pet so that you know whether or not it has relieved itself?
- \_\_11. Are you praising your dog when it eliminates outside?
- \_\_12. Are you giving your pet too much freedom in the house?

**Still having problems??? Please call GPA-Charleston at (843) 343-2982.**



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## 2.6 Training

The most effective way to train your greyhound is to join a basic obedience group class. These are inexpensive and fun.

The following are some training insights on greyhounds:

- **Sitting** - Greyhounds do not like to sit, their long backs and well-developed muscles make this an uncomfortable position for them. Coming close is good!! Doing it is great!!!
- **Recall** - Greyhounds can be taught to come when called. But don't ever be fooled into thinking they will come every time you call them (this applies to all breeds). No dog can be trusted to respond 100% of the time.
- **Praise** - Greyhounds respond very well to praise. This praise should always be verbal, accompanied with physical patting and/or a treat. The verbal praise should be done in a high pitch voice. Also, dogs do read facial expressions, so smile when your dog does well and frown when it could have been done better. Use a small piece of a treat as a reward for desired behavior.
- **Reprimands** - They should always be done in a low pitched voice. The command should be NO!!! This will be sufficient to train any greyhound. Remember hitting teaches a dog aggression.

**Helpful Hint Regarding Trash** - All trash should be kept under the counter with the cabinet door closed or in a very tightly covered container. Dogs are very clever at opening things when they want what is inside of it.

There have been retired racers that have earned obedience titles. Just remember that training must be done with a light, encouraging hand and leash rules always apply, even with a highly trained greyhound.



## 2.7 Separation Anxiety

by Lynda Adame

(Originally printed in *Celebrating Greyhounds Magazine*)

One of the most common complaints heard from the owners of companion dogs is that their dogs engage in disruptive behavior when left alone<sup>1</sup>. This disruptive behavior, commonly referred to as separation anxiety, is actually a distress response to separation from the person or companions to whom the dog is attached. Ex-racing greyhounds that are placed in homes as lone dogs often exhibit separation anxiety. This can be explained by understanding their unique past and realizing that they have never been alone, or out of the company of other greyhounds before. Combine this with the fact that they may have never been inside a real home, with humans that actually want to love and pet them, and you have a dog that could become anxious when left alone.

Separation anxiety behaviors are exhibited by male and female dogs with equal frequency and are not breed or age related (except at the time of weaning). One of the key differentiating features between other behavioral disorders and separation anxiety is that the dog engages in separation responses within a short time after being left alone - often within minutes. These behaviors typically peak within 5-30 minutes of being left, and then gradually decline. The disruptive behaviors associated with separation anxiety are commonly broken down into the following categories: Elimination behaviors; Destructive behaviors; and Excessive vocalization<sup>1</sup>. One of the most important things an owner can do is to realize and accept that the dog is not being disruptive on purpose. Dogs don't understand complicated human emotions like spite or revenge, they are simply responding to the stress they are feeling by acting out behaviorally and physiologically. There is a fascinating sequence of events that take place inside a dog in response to stress. The sequence starts with the dog interpreting the situation as "stressful" in the cerebral cortex and then passing this information down to the limbic system via nerve impulses. The limbic system, the part of the brain where emotional responses are made, creates a physical display to suit the emotional response as well as physiological changes in the body. These physical adjustments: rapid bounding heart rate, prolonged rapid panting, eye pupils large and dilated, extensive drooling and salivation, adrenaline release to increase blood pressure, and loose fluid bowel motion, occur automatically, with no conscious effort on the part of the greyhound<sup>2</sup>. Since the dog is not doing this on purpose, punishing is not the key. Punishment used incorrectly can result in negative side effects that actually magnify separation anxiety. For example, a dog will not associate punishment with separation anxiety if it is punished at the spot of misbehavior after the owner returns; instead, the dog might learn to anticipate punishment when the owner returns and exhibit fearful submissive behavior which the owner interprets as guilt.



The goal is to gradually acclimate the dog to being alone. Initially you should set-up many short separations from the dog that last less time than it takes the dog to demonstrate the anxiety response. For some dogs, this period (initially) may only be one or two seconds long, and you might only go to another room in the house. As you have successes, gradually increase the duration of the separation periods. Present the dog with a safety cue when leaving. This cue should be a consistent statement ("Be Good I'll Be Right Back") or action (leaving a TV or radio on). Leave the dog with something to occupy it like the Buster Cube or a hollowed out bone stuffed with peanut butter or a jerky strip. The Buster Cube is a toy that holds 1 1/4 cups of dog kibble inside its compartments, and releases small amounts of the kibble as the dog works the cube and rolls it a certain way. Studies have demonstrated that dogs respond better to departures when the lengths are varied (e.g., 1, 2, 1, 3, 2, 4, 1, 4)<sup>3</sup>. A dog that can tolerate being alone for an hour can usually tolerate being alone for an entire day.

Confining a dog with separation anxiety may work, but the experts feel that the confinement of a crate can add to the panic and stress of the dog. Crates are not recommended in the treatment of separation anxiety, but confining the dog to your bedroom with a babygate can provide a soothing secure environment for the dog.

Drug therapy is the new frontier in treating separation anxiety. PLEASE be extremely careful when using any anti anxiety medication on a greyhound (or any sighthound) because of their unique liver metabolism. Dr. Harry Newman, a sighthound experienced Veterinarian who works with adoption groups in the Buffalo, New York area provided this information: "In greyhounds as in other dogs, I strongly urge owners to try behavior modification techniques and only resort to anti-anxiety medication as a last resort. I recommend running a complete blood panel prior to starting these drugs and a repeat panel 1-2 weeks after starting them. I closely monitor liver enzymes as well as all the other organ functions. Some of the current drugs used are Prozac, Amytriptyline, Buspirone, and Inderal. This type of therapy is new and there is not much data out on reactions observed in greyhounds." Regardless of the drug or the dose regimen used, owners should be warned of the range of side effects, and it must be stressed that these drugs should be used temporarily<sup>3</sup>. The subject of separation anxiety comes up frequently on the Greyhound-I E-mail list and seems to afflict lone dogs. There is one cure to separation anxiety that has worked near miracles for the owners on that list, and that is the addition of a second dog into the household, preferably another Greyhound.

1. University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Jan 1985)
2. From *Care of the Racing Greyhound*
3. *Separation Anxiety in Dogs*, Pilot Mt. Animal Hospital, Lynn McElroy D.V.M., July 1989



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## 2.8 Lost Dog

When you discover your dog is lost the following should be performed:

- Immediately do a quick search of the area
- Call GPA-Charleston immediately, we will contact members in your area to help with bringing your dog home.
- Call local Animal Control, and police and alert them with a description of the dog, name, Tag #, and the area in which the dog is lost.
- While searching it is extremely important to have someone stay near the telephone for a spotting.
- Next make up posters in bold letters saying:

LOST

DOG

REWARD

Telephone #

- The posters should be placed on telephone poles, in supermarkets, in convenience stores, and given to mailmen and children. Keep in mind that most people can recognize a "LOST DOG". They may not be familiar with a specific breed such as a greyhound!!
- Place food and a crate by the house and near the last spotting.
- Call the newspapers and place an ad in the lost/found for the dog and state reward.
- After the first 24 hours increase your search area to 25 miles. Start calling the police, animal control and animal rescue groups. Also visit the shelters with a picture of your dog.



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## 2.9 Veterinary Care

GPA-Charleston will provide you with your dog's veterinarian records which indicate the date of vaccinations for rabies and distemper and the results of the heartworm test.

**NOTE: Vaccinations for rabies and distemper and kennel cough, if needed, are to be given yearly, unless recommended otherwise by your veterinarian.**

**Heartworm and flea/tick prevention are given at the first of each month.**

- **Well Visit** - GPA-Charleston recommends that you take your greyhound to your veterinarian for a well visit. The doctor can establish a profile of your dog when it is well. Also bring the medical records you received from GPA-Charleston.

At your annual veterinarian visit, in addition to a routine checkup, your greyhound should receive:

- **Rabies Vaccine** - Depending on the state and/or town, a rabies shot will need to be given every year.
- **Distemper** - A combination shot for distemper and other viral diseases.
- **Heartworm Test**- If this test was not done at the well visit or your greyhound was taken off the preventative it is imperative it be done at the annual visit.

You and your veterinarian may notice that your greyhound has one or more of the following:

- **Scars** - This is common with greyhounds as they have thin skin and may have banged into another greyhound on the track, or scratched themselves on a fence, etc. In time, your greyhound's hair will grow and cover most scars.
- **Bald Spots** - This is not a skin problem. Due to the greyhound's diet on the track, being kept in a crate, or potentially heredity, the hair is missing. With the feeding of Purina Pro Plan this hair should start to grow back in 8-12 weeks.
- **Tartar**- The soft diet the greyhounds receive at the track tend to cause tartar build up on their teeth. With the feeding of dry food only and cow hooves to chew on you should see an improvement within a few weeks. You should also brush your greyhound's teeth with a dog toothbrush and toothpaste at least once a week. If this does not clear up, it is recommended that you have your dogs teeth cleaned by the veterinarian periodically, if needed.
- **Pieces of ear are missing** - It is not uncommon for greyhounds to be in very close quarters. This closeness sometimes causes them to squabble and an ear can get bitten. This does not mean that your greyhound is aggressive.
- **Bursars or swollen elbows** - Greyhounds have very little body fat and almost no padding on their joints. If they are forced to lie on hard surfaces for prolonged periods of time fluid may accumulate, your veterinarian can drain this fluid easily. A soft quilt or dog bed will keep this from recurring.

(continued)





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- **Shedding** - It is common for a greyhound to shed. This will occur twice a year. Weekly grooming with the hounds glove or rubber comb will minimize the amount of shedding.

The following are areas of caution for greyhounds:

- **Bloat** - All large chest cavity dogs are susceptible to bloat. Simply, bloat is a rapid build up of gas in the stomach/chest area. The stomach/chest area twists and significantly reduces the air intake. If this occurs your greyhound will lie down and gasp for air. He may also pace continuously. If this should occur you have approximately 30 minutes to get him/her veterinary care. Bloat can be avoided by not allowing strenuous exercise before and after eating, eating two moderate meals a day(not one huge), and not allowing your greyhound to gulp water excessively.
- **Ticks** - Has your greyhound ever experienced any of the following:
  - High fever
  - Depression or lethargy
  - Anorexia
  - Anemia
  - Diarrhea or constipation
  - Loss of appetite or loss of body weight
  - Vomiting
  - Nose bleeds, skin hemorrhage or any other unusual bleeding
  - Swollen legs or lymph nodes
  - Nervous system disorders, such as stiff gait, head tilt, seizures or twitching
  - Pale gums and/or inner eye membranes
  - Arthritis

There are four tick-borne diseases that can be the cause of these symptoms. They are Lyme disease, ehrlichiosis, babesiosis or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. The only way to confirm if your greyhound may have a tick borne disease is through a blood test. We recommend that your veterinarian draw at least 3 cc of blood in a syringe, place in a separate tube, spin it down and keep it refrigerated until mailing. Then mail it for a full tick panel testing **to**:

Dr. Cynthia J. Holland  
ProtaTek Reference Laboratory  
574 East Alamo Street, Suite 90  
Chandler, AZ 85225  
(602) 545-8499

**Tick borne diseases are treatable. Your veterinarian will prescribe a treatment plan. If you have any questions please contact GPA-Charleston at (843)343-2982.**





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- **Anesthesia Sensitivity** - If your greyhound needs surgery in the future please note that greyhounds are very sensitive to anesthesia.

Do not be afraid or embarrassed to discuss anesthesia protocol for your greyhound with your veterinarian. If he or she has had minimal experience with greyhounds and anesthesia, provide them with a copy of this information. This information may save your greyhound's life.

## **VETERINARY INFORMATION**

**By Dr. Harry S. Newman, DVM**

### **PRINCIPLES FOR ADMINISTERING ANESTHESIA TO GREYHOUNDS:**

- **Never use thiobarbituates including Biotol, Surital, or Pentothal.**
- **Acepromazine is a safe and reliable preanesthetic tranquilizer in the greyhound**  
**Diazepam and Ketamine combination or Telazole are safe IV anesthetic drugs to use for intubation.**
- **Isoflurane is the gas anesthetic of choice. It is exceptionally safe and recovery is rapid.**
- **Greyhounds should have IV fluids administered during all major procedures lasting greater than 45 minutes. The rate of infusion is 10 ml/kg/hour.**
- **Greyhounds are prone to hypothermia while under anesthesia and should be kept on a heated water pad or other source of safe heat during surgery.**
- **There is no age limitation for surgically spaying or neutering greyhounds, but proper pre-surgical workups should be done and all workups should include platelet evaluations. This will further insure the safety of an anesthetic procedure.**



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- **Greyhound's Bloodwork** - You may want to consider photocopying the following for your Vet.

By Suzanne Stack, DVM

Greyhound bloodwork has enough differences from "other dog" bloodwork to sometimes make it deceptively "normal" or "abnormal" if one isn't familiar with these differences. The salient differences are discussed below.

### **CBC = Complete Blood Count**

RBC = Red Blood Cells

Hgb = Hemoglobin

PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume / Hematocrit

WBC = White Blood Cells

Platelets

#### **NORMAL VALUES FOR:**

	<b><u>Greyhounds</u></b>	<b><u>Other Dogs</u></b>
RBC:	7.4 - 9.0	5.5 - 8.5
Hgb:	19.0 - 21.5	12.0 - 18.0
PCV:	55 - 65	37 - 55

Greyhounds have significantly more red blood cells than other breeds. This elevates parameters for RBC, hemoglobin, and PCV / HCT, and is the reason greyhounds are so desirable as blood donors. Most veterinarians are aware of this difference. Never accept a diagnosis of polycythemia - a once-in-a-lifetime-rare diagnosis of pathologic red cell overproduction - in a greyhound.

Conversely, never interpret a greyhound PCV in the 30's - low 40's as being normal just because it is for other dogs. A greyhound with a PCV in the 30's - low 40's is an anemic greyhound. Here in Arizona, a greyhound PCV < 50 is a red flag to check for Ehrlichia.

### **WBC**

Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5

Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

Other greyhound CBC changes are less well known. The greyhound's normally low WBC has caused more than one healthy greyhound to undergo a bone marrow biopsy in search of "cancer" or some other cause of the "low WBC."

### **Platelets**

Greyhound: 80,000 - 200,000



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Other dog: 150,000 - 400,000

Likewise, greyhound platelet numbers are lower on average than other breeds, which might be mistakenly interpreted as a problem. It is thought that greyhound WBCs, platelets, and total protein may be lower to physiologically "make room" in the bloodstream for the increased red cell load.

Confounding these normally low WBC and platelet numbers is the fact that Ehrlichia, a common blood parasite of greyhounds, can lower WBC and platelet counts. So if there is any doubt as to whether the WBC / platelet counts are normal, an Ehrlichia titer is always in order. The other classic changes with Ehrlichia are lowered PCV and elevated globulin and total protein. But bear in mind that every greyhound will not have every change, and Ehrlichia greyhounds can have normal CBCs.

### **Chem Panel**

T.P. = Total Protein

Globulin

Creatinine

T4

#### **NORMAL VALUES FOR:**

	<b>T.P.</b>	<b>Globulin</b>
Greyhound:	4.5 - 6.2	Greyhound: 2.1 - 3.2
Other dog:	5.4 - 7.8	Other dog: 2.8 - 4.2

Greyhound total proteins tend to run on the low end of normal - T.P.s in the 5.0's and 6.0's are the norm. While the albumin fraction of T.P. is the same as other dogs, the globulin component is lower.

### **Creatinine**

Greyhounds: .8 - 1.6

Other dogs: .0 - 1.0

Greyhound creatinines run higher than other breeds as a function of their large lean muscle mass. A study at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine found that 80% of retired greyhounds they sampled had creatinine values up to 1.6 times as high as the top of the standard reference range for "other dogs." As a lone finding, an "elevated creatinine" is not indicative of impending kidney failure. If the BUN and urinalysis are normal, so is the "elevated" creatinine.



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## **T4**

Greyhounds: .5 - 3.6 (mean 1.47+/- .63)

Other dogs: 1.52 - 3.60

These figures are from a University of Florida study of thyroid function in 221 greyhounds - 97 racers, 99 broods, and 25 studs - so it included both racers and "retired." While greyhound thyroid levels are a whole chapter unto themselves, a good rule of thumb is that greyhound T4s run about half that of other breeds.

## **Urinalysis**

And lastly, the good news - greyhound urinalysis is the same as other breeds. It is normal for males to have small to moderate amounts of bilirubin in the urine.

## **Sources**

M.R. Herron, DVM, ACVS, Clinical Pathology of the Racing Greyhound , 1991.

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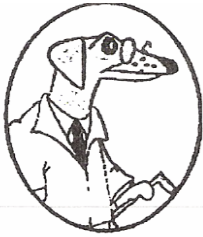


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## Health and Dog Care

### Greyhound Bloodwork

By Suzanne Stack, DVM

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**CBC = Complete Blood Count**  
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PCV / HCT = Packed Cell Volume  
/ Hematocrit  
WBC  
Platelets

**Chem Panel**  
T.P. = Total Protein  
Globulin  
Creatinine  
T4

RBC	Hgb	PCV
*Greyhound: 7.4 - 9.0	*Greyhound: 19.0 - 21.5	*Greyhound: 55 - 65
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WBC
*Greyhound: 3.5 - 6.5      *Other dog: 6.0 - 17.0

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T4
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\*M.R. Herron, DVM, ACVS, *Clinical Pathology of the Racing Greyhound*, 1991.

\*\*C. Guillermo Couto, DVM, ACVIM, "Managing Thrombocytopenia in Dogs & Cats," *Veterinary Medicine*, May 1999.

\*\*\*J. Steiss, DVM, W. Brewer, DVM, E. Welles, DVM, J. Wright, DVM, "Hematologic & Serum Biochemical Reference Values in Retired Greyhounds," *Compendium on Continuing Education*, March 2000.

\*\*\*\*M. Bloomberg, DVM, MS, "Thyroid Function of the Racing Greyhound," University of Florida, 1987.

\*\*\*\*\*D. Bruyette, DVM, ACVIM, *Veterinary Information Network*, 2001.



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- **Diarrhea / Loose Stool**

Diarrhea can happen with any dog. Some of the common causes of diarrhea are table scraps, cat food, stress, grass and garbage picking. All of these are controllable and care should be taken to avoid in the future.

The following is a simple schedule GPA-Charleston recommends to combat **loose stool / normal diarrhea**:

- Initially try mixing a couple spoonfuls of canned Pumpkin with the dry food.
- **Withhold** food for 12 hours and limit the water intake .
- Give your dog either Immodium or regular strength Pepto Bismol at the child dosage once.
- Cook white rice.
- After everything has cooled make a mixture of 1cup of rice to 1/2 ration of your dog's regular food for each feeding (twice a day). The mixture should be served at room temperature. The amount of food can be increased if the diarrhea stops.
- Once the dog has had three consecutive days of firm stool you can begin to introduce more of their regular food into the mixture. The introduction should be gradual (Typically no increases over 1/2 cup regular food).

The following is a simple schedule GPA-Charleston recommends to combat **extreme diarrhea**:

- Take your dog to a veterinarian for a shot of anti-diarrheal medication.
- **Withhold** food for 24 hours and limit the water intake .

The following is a GPA-Charleston recommended process for reintroducing food after extreme diarrhea:

- Boil boneless chicken or ground hamburger, ground chicken or ground turkey and drain off the fat (shred the chicken).
- Cook white rice.

The rule of thumb is: The dog must have 3 consecutive days of firm stools in order to progress to the next level

- Level 1 - Mix 2 cups cooked white rice and 1 cup cooked hamburger or chicken and add 1/4 cup of regular dog food. 3 days of firm stools, go to Level 2.
- Level 2 - Mix 2 cups cooked white rice and 3/4 cup of cooked hamburger or chicken and 1/2 cup of regular dog food, 3 days of firm stools, go to Level 3.
- Level 3 - Mix 1 3/4 cups cooked white rice and 1 1/2 cup of cooked hamburger or chicken and 3/4 cup of regular dog food. 3 days of firm stools, go to Level 4.
- Level 4 - Mix 1 1/2 cups of cooked white rice and 1/4 cup of cooked hamburger or chicken and 1 cup of regular dog food. 3 days of firm stools, go to Level 5.

(continued)





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- Level 5 - Mix 1 1/4 cups of cooked white rice and 1 1/4 cup of regular dog food. 3 days of firm stools, go to Level 6
- Level 6 - Mix 1 cup cooked white rice and 1 1/2 cups of regular dog food. 3 days of firm stools, at the next feeding decrease the amount of cooked white rice by 1/4 cup and increase the amount of regular dog food by 1/4 cup.

Continue this regimen until your dog is back to their usual amount of dry dog food and then discontinue the rice. If at any time in this process your dog experiences diarrhea again you must go back to the cooked white rice & hamburger or chicken mixture only.

Note: For the first two feedings on the rice/hamburger or chicken mixture you may want to add regular strength Pepto-Bismol at the children's dose.

**Note: If the diarrhea does not slowdown, does not stop after three days, or you see blood in the stool contact your veterinarian immediately!!!**



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## **2.91 GPA-Charleston Local Veterinary Recommendation List**

### **GOOSE CREEK**

Animal Medical Clinic of Goose Creek 569-3647

**\*\*Dr. Chappell & Dr. Gerbec\*\***

Goose Creek Vet Clinic 553-7011

**\*\*Dr. Brown & Dr. Hoppmann\*\***

Mt. Holly Vet Clinic 553-4700

### **HANAHAN**

Hanahan Vet Clinic 744-8927

### **SUMMERVILLE**

Central Ave Vet 851-2112

Nemasket Vet Clinic 871-4560

**\*\*Dr. Leevan\*\***

### **MONCKS CORNER**

Lakeside Animal Hospital 761-4920

**\*\*Dr. Jones\*\***

### **JAMES ISLAND**

Bohicket Vet Clinic 559-3889

**\*\*Dr. Schong & Dr. Rockwell\*\***

Ohlandt Vet Hospital 795-7574

**\*\*Dr. Ohlandt\*\***

### **JOHNS ISLAND**

John's Island Animal Hospital 559-9697

**\*\*Dr. Mary Wall\*\***

### **WEST ASHLEY**

Animal Medical West 766-7387

Charles Towne Vet 571-4291

### **DOWNTOWN CHARLESTON**

All Creatures Vet Service 579-0030

Patrick Vet. Clinic 722-4470

### **MT. PLEASANT**

Advanced Animal Care of Mt. Pleasant 884-9838

### **DANIEL ISLAND**

Daniel Island Animal Hospital 881-7228





## Chapter 3

### Home Stretch...

#### 3.1 Toxins - Insecticides and other Substances to be Cautious about

Greyhounds, because of their low body fat and fast metabolism, are especially sensitive to insecticides and other substances. The substances to watch out for are:

- **Flea & Tick Products** - **“DO NOT USE FLEA COLLARS.”** Flea collars contain chemicals, which go directly into a greyhound's blood stream and can cause serious health problems and possibly death.

Flea & Tick shampoos and sprays that are safe are those with PYRETHRINS as the main ingredient but NEVER FLEA DIP your greyhound. DO NOT use any flea/tick products, which contain organophosphates Carbaryl is an example of an organophosphate commonly found in flea powder, some shampoos and sprays. The long acting flea & tick products (e.g. - DEFEND, DURSBAN) may be unsafe for greyhounds as well. Seek the advice of GPA-Charleston on a particular product if you have any doubt of its safety.

- **Lawn Chemicals** - May be fatal to greyhounds. Do not allow your greyhound to walk on any chemically treated areas. Lawn services such as Chemlawn, Lawn Doctor, etc. are required to mark treated areas with yellow flags.
- **Chocolate** - Chocolate contains theobromine, a substance that is toxic to dogs. Chocolate should be kept out of reach at all times.
- **Paints** - Exposure to oil base paints can cause a variety of reactions in your dog. If you are painting your home it is best to arrange to safely have your greyhound elsewhere. If this is not possible the dog(s) should be put in a safe and well ventilated area of the house away from the fumes.
- **Household Chemicals** - Many harsh detergents and chemicals are used in connection with house cleaning and home remodeling. For example, if you use the continuous cleaning type of toilet chemicals like Tide-E-Bowl, make sure the toilet seat is kept down.



## 3.2 Care and Grooming

Greyhounds are very used to being handled at the track making it easy for you to groom your greyhound. GPA-Charleston recommends you do the following every week:

- **Ears** - Your greyhound's ears should be cleaned every week. You should use cotton balls and a mild ear cleaning solution as recommended by your veterinarian. Your veterinarian can also show you the proper way to clean your greyhound's ears.
- **Nails** - Your greyhound will need to have its nails cut every week. This may vary with the amount of exercise your greyhound is getting and how much natural wear their nails get. *Your greyhound's nails should be kept trimmed short enough so that they don't touch the floor when the dog is standing on a hard surface.* Your veterinarian can show you how to properly cut your greyhound's nails. A dremel tool can also be used to file nails down.
- **Brushing** - You should also brush your greyhound once a week or more frequently if you desire. Use a shedding blade, hounds glove or a rubber comb. These items really help to pull out the dead undercoat and reduce any shedding.
- **Teeth** - Greyhounds do not mind having their teeth brushed and we do recommend that you do this every week. Doggie dental kits include a dog tooth brush and a non foaming dog toothpaste. Human toothpaste foams too much.
- **Bathing** - Bathing your greyhound depends on how dirty they get and if you have allergies. Please see the section on Insecticides for the proper flea/tick shampoo to purchase.

Note: Many greyhounds become very relaxed when getting bathed and may lean on you and may even fall over, so please make sure you have a firm grip on your dog during bathing.

- **Tick Collars** - A PREVENTIC collar may be used on your greyhound. This collar repels and kills ticks only. The chemical on this collar is not absorbed into the skin or bloodstream; it only disperses over the coat. You can purchase this collar by mail order or from your veterinarian.

**Remember NO FLEA COLLARS OR FLEA DIPS!**



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### 3.3 The Greyhound Reach / “counter surfing”

Greyhounds can reach high places, such as your kitchen counter, with very little effort. Be sure to place breakables or potentially harmful items out of the reach of your greyhound, including your dinner!! Never leave breakable items, food or potentially poisonous items on low tables or counters when your dog is unattended.

Greyhounds are also known to be interior decorators. They will move pillows, stuffed animals, and the like, from one place to another. They may even take books off your shelves. Greyhounds also like to rearrange their own beds (we call this nesting). If you don't want your greyhound on your couch or bed, let them know that immediately. Gently tell the dog “no”, clip on their leash and remove them from the furniture. Take them to their own resting area.

### 3.4 Allergies

Most people have some form of allergies. This does not mean you cannot have a greyhound. Simple procedures and patience will enable you to have a great companion. If you are allergic to dogs, you are allergic to their dander. Typically, people are more allergic to heavily undercoated dogs (i.e. Huskies) than greyhounds.

If you have an allergic reaction there are some simple things you can do until you build up a natural immunity (tolerance):

- **Bathe** - Bathe your greyhound once every 2 weeks.
- **Groom** - Groom your greyhound twice a week. If possible, have the person in the household with no allergy problems do all the grooming. If possible groom outdoors.
- **Sleeping** - Initially have your greyhound sleep in another room with a member of the family who is not allergic.
- **Allerpet** - Use Allerpet-D for dogs as directed.
- **Color** - Consider a darker colored tight haired greyhound since they seem to be better for people with allergies.
- **Timing** - Don't get your greyhound when your allergy sensitivities are at their peak.
- **Bedding** - Use a thick blanket or quilt as your greyhound's bedding and wash it every week.
- **Couching** - Don't allow your greyhound up on the furniture.
- **Have Patience** - The worst time is the first two weeks. Usually after 2 months even the most severe reactions settle down.

All of the above advice is for the initial adjustment phase. Once the allergic reaction settles down you may want to consider relaxing some of the above precautions gradually.



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## 3.5 Deadly Heat

### 3.51 “What Heat?”

The weather today was absolutely perfect! The sun was shining, temperatures were in the low 80's and humidity was low. Do not let today's beautiful weather fool you; the 'dog days of summer' are upon us. When the temperature and humidity are high, we hear warnings on the radio to minimize the time we stay outdoors, keep cool, and check on elderly or sickly neighbors, friends and relatives. These warnings should also alert us to take special precautions with our greyhounds. If it's too hot for you to be outside for long periods of time, it's definitely too hot for them. Take short walks in the early morning or late evening. If you have to walk your dog during the day, stick to short potty walks.

What about other days when there are no heat warnings? You should still be aware of the temperature and humidity, and be alert to any signs of heat distress in your dog. If you live in a house without air-conditioning, and have the windows open with fans running, and your dog is lying around panting, it's too hot to go outside for more than a very short walk.

Some dogs are more sensitive to the sun. Black greyhounds will feel the heat more than those with lighter colored coats. Greyhounds can also get sunburned. They have very short, thin coats, and as we all know, some of them have bald butts!

Many greyhounds enjoy cooling off by walking or lying in a shallow pool of water. One of our greyhounds loves her hard plastic kiddie pool. She takes a walk through it every time she goes out into the yard.

### 3.52 Heat Stroke

Be aware of the early signs of heat stroke and take quick action. The first signs are excessive panting, weakness, inability to stand, dilated pupils and a blank expression. Immediately get the dog into a cool area, soak towels in cold water, and wrap these around the dog. If possible, put about six inches of cold water in the bath tub, stand the dog in the cold water and pour cold water over it's entire body. If, after approximately 5-10 minutes, you don't see a change for the better, get the dog to the veterinarian immediately.

Dogs can progress from mild heat stroke to severe quickly. If you see blood spots on the gums and what looks like bruising on the inside of the thighs, **get to the veterinarian's immediately!** Do not continue and try to treat the dog. Grab a wet towel to wrap the dog in if it's available and get moving!

Have an enjoyable and safe summer. Just be aware of changes you see in your dog. If the heat seems to be bothering him/her, (for example, heavy panting) get them out of the heat and cool them down. Restrict their outdoor activities. If you find yourself in a situation

(Continued)



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where you think your dog is in danger of heat stroke, take immediate action! Heat stroke can cause brain damage and even death.

If, while you're reading this, you do not know the name, location and phone number of the nearest veterinary emergency facility, now is a good time to gather this information and keep it by your phone. In our house, emergencies *never* occur during our veterinarian's regular office hours!



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## 3.6 Disaster Planning

### Help Your Greyhound Survive a Disaster

Thanks to modern weather forecasting technology, we are rarely surprised by natural disasters such as flash floods, hurricanes or blizzards. Other natural disasters, such as forest fires, and man-made problems, such as gas explosions and leaking tank cars, arrive with little, if any, warning. By developing a disaster action plan for yourselves and your greyhounds, you can improve the chances that all of you have to make it through a disaster safely.

#### ADVANCE PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL

Make sure you know your options before a disaster strikes. If you need *help*, contact your county emergency management coordinator or your veterinarian,

- If your greyhound is on a special diet and/or medication, ask your veterinarian for disaster planning assistance.
- Survey your home and determine the best place for your greyhound during a disaster that doesn't require evacuation. A utility room, bathroom, kitchen, or other tiled area that can be cleaned easily and is away from windows is best.
- Unfortunately, emergency public shelters **CANNOT** allow greyhounds to enter for perceived public health and safety reasons. If you plan to use an emergency public shelter, you **MUST** make other arrangements for *your* greyhound's protection and safety.

Steps you can take include.

- Asking a dependable friend or relative who lives some distance away if you and your greyhounds can stay with them during an emergency;
- Finding motels some distance from your area to which you and your greyhounds can go in the event of an evacuation. Be sure to ask if there are any restrictions on size and number of greyhounds allowed.
- Get a crate for each greyhound in case you must travel.
- Be sure your greyhound **ALWAYS** wears a proper martingale collar with current ID tags. ID tags should include your home phone number as well as the number of a contact outside the affected region. Make certain your microchip tag is securely attached to the collar.
- Keep a leash handy and get your greyhound used to it.
- Prepare a disaster traveling kit for your greyhound in case you must leave the area with your greyhound. It should include:
  - Greyhound license and ID tags;
  - Proper size metal or plastic crate;



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- Leashes
- Non-spill water and food bowls;
- Water in sanitized non-breakable containers;
- Dried food;
- Special medications; plastic bags and/or paper towels.

## When Disaster Strikes

- Do not leave your greyhounds at home when you evacuate

## Getting Back To Normal

Once the all-clear has sounded and you and your greyhounds return to your home, be **CAREFUL** about allowing your greyhounds outdoors unattended and off-leash. The disaster may have altered your fencing and gates. Greyhounds could easily get out and become lost.

In addition downed electric lines, fallen trees and other debris, and contaminated water could present real dangers to your greyhound.



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## 3.7 General Resources

### Book Resources by Lynda Adame

#### OBEDIENCE

##### *Play Training Your Dog*

Written by Patricia Gail Burnham, published by St.  
Martin's Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY  
10010 [ISBN: 0312616910], 1986

#### GENERAL DOG BEHAVIOR BOOKS - PROBLEM SOLVING AND UNDERSTANDING DOG BEHAVIORS

##### *Good Owners Great Dogs*

by Brian Kilcommons, Sarah Wilson  
Hardcover - 276 pages (August 1992)  
Warner Books; ISBN: 0446516759

##### *Childproofing Your Dog*

*A Complete Guide to Preparing Your Dog  
for the Children in Your Life*

By Brian Kilcommons and Sarah Wilson,  
published by Warner Books; [ISBN: 0446670162],  
April 1, 1994

##### *Don't Shoot the Dog!*

*The New Art of Teaching and Training*

By Karen Pryor, published by Vintage Books  
[ISBN: 0553253883], 1993

*Dog Problems : A Professional Trainer's Guide to Preventing and Correcting  
Aggression, Destructiveness, Housebreaking Problems, Excessive Barking, Dogfights,  
Tugging, Jumping, Shyness, Stealing, Begging, Car Chasing, Fear Biting, Object  
Guarding, and much, much more*

by Carol Lea Benjamin  
Howell Book House; ISBN: 0876055145 ;

##### *The Dog Who Loved Too Much*

*Tales, Treatments, and the Psychology of Dogs*

By Nicholas Dodman, published by Bantam  
Doubleday Dell; [ISBN: 0553101943], 1996





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*The Culture Clash*

Written by Jean Donaldson, published by James & Kenneth Publishers, 2140 Shattuck Ave. #2406, Berkeley, CA 94704; [ISBN 0876057911], 1996

*Leader of the Pack : How to Take Control of Your Relationship With Your Dog*

by Nancy Baer, Steve Duno

Harper Mass Market Paperbacks; ISBN: 0061010197

*People, Pooches, & Problems*

Written by: Job Michael Evans. (1991

NY: Howell Book House. ISBN 0-87605-783-0 (hardcover)

*Cesar's Way The Natural Everyday Guide to Understanding and Correcting Common Dog Problems*

Written by: Cesar Millan with Melissa Jo Pelletier

Harmony Publishers **ISBN-10:** 0307337332

*ABC's of Alpha*

Available through the Direct Book Service at (800)776-2665.

Ian Dunbar series on dog behavior

The Nothing In Life is Free handout.