

Fostering/Adoption Information Booklet



GRANT

Thank you for fostering or adopting a greyhound. This handbook is designed for new owners and foster carers to assist with transitioning their greyhound from kennelled race dog to companion animal.

Contact information

Please contact us if you need assistance with your foster dog.

President of GRANT Committee, Giulia – 0405 396 585

Vets that GRANT uses

Darwin My Vet Service,
Phone: (08) 8927 3657
2/5 Wulagi Place, Wulagi

University Avenue Veterinary
Phone: (08) 8931 0455
66 University Avenue, Durack

Please check with GRANT before making an appointment for your foster dog.

Thank you to Hannah from Pawsitive K9 Behaviour for assisting GRANT with this handbook. If you'd like more help in training or understanding the behaviour of your greyhound, please contact Hannah on 0451 280 501

General Information – Adapting to Home Life

Thank you for fostering or adopting a greyhound through GRANT! You have just helped to give a doggie a new lease on life. Here are some helpful tips and things to remember to ensure that you and your greyhound have a great life together!



- Newfound freedom and exciting surroundings may lead to a return to a temporary 'puppy-hood' so be sure to establish some ground rules. Shut doors or use baby gates to block-off areas you don't wish your greyhound to access.
- Greyhounds are generally quiet, well-mannered and affectionate dogs and usually settle in well to their new surroundings. However, each dog is an individual and for some, becoming a house pet can be a major transition. Others will adjust to the comforts and pleasures of home very readily! Please give them time to adjust.
- Racing greyhounds are used to fairly regimented lifestyles, with few options or choices to make on a daily basis. Learning how they are supposed to behave in a domestic setting can be quite an adjustment, so calm interactions and enrichment will help them quickly acclimatise. Get to know your new dog and give them time to settle into their new environment.
- A healthy dog sleeps for up to 18 hours, so it is important that they have appropriate places to rest where they are not exposed to excessive noises, movements, heat, cold or adverse weather. They need plenty of fresh water and a safe place that is their own space, such as a comfy bed.
- Many greyhounds will already be toilet-trained, but others will need guidance, especially in a new environment. Use positive reinforcement such as providing treats or praise when they toilet in the correct place. Watch for signs that they need to toilet e.g. sniffing around, whining, restlessness and re-direct them to the correct place if you find them toileting somewhere they shouldn't. They might have accidents while adjusting to a new home and schedule.
- Consider different surfaces, noises, objects, stairs, smells etc. Greyhounds generally aren't great at going up and down stairs and will need practice if your house has stairs.
- Greyhounds are generally accustomed to mixing with other dogs and enjoy the company of other canines when introduced correctly. Some greyhounds will get along well with cats and other small animals, but others are too reactive to live with them successfully. We will let you know whether the greyhound you have is considered little dog friendly and/or cat tolerant. Please see further info below on what we mean by the terms 'Little Dog Friendly' and 'Cat Tolerant'.

- Any introductions to other animals should be carried out with your greyhound on a lead until its reactions can be accurately assessed.
- A greyhound may be possessive about food and its bed. The dog should learn to accept its food and food bowl being handled. It should also accept its bedding being handled. If you feel that your dog is 'resource guarding' food, toys, you or his bed/ couch, please contact Hannah from Pawsitive K9 Behaviour. The reason for resource guarding is insecurity and/or learned behaviour which can be changed with the right training protocol. Please don't feed your greyhound at the same time as, or near, other pets until everyone has had time to settle in.
- If your dog is ever disturbed whilst sleeping and you notice it wakes with a 'fight' reaction (i.e. it snaps or makes a startled growl) then work with the dog to make it accustomed to being touched or disturbed when asleep. For example, call its name, gently touch its leg or foot until it understands that there is no need for fear.
- Utilise the daily food intake of your greyhound for recall training and for positive reinforcement while you slowly help him to settle into the new environment.
- Your dog needs a comfy bed. Greyhounds love their bed and it is their special space. As greyhounds are quite bony, they need a soft and supportive bed. You may want an inside bed and outside bed for your new pooch. Trampoline-style beds are practical for outside-often with a softer mat on top. It's a good idea to have a cover (and spare) for the bed's mattress that can be washed regularly. Covers are easy to sew. Adapting a single quilt cover is a practical option.



So, what do we mean by 'LITTLE DOG FRIENDLY'?

When we say a greyhound is 'little dog friendly', it means their temperament around a small dog has been assessed. The assessment involves exposing the greyhound to a small dog, while observing their interactions. A greyhound will pass this assessment if they demonstrate friendly, non-aggressive behaviours towards the small dog. Even if your greyhound has passed and is considered 'little dog friendly', caution should ALWAYS be taken when introducing your greyhound to small breeds, because we cannot predict how a dog will respond in different environments and situations. The same should apply to big dogs too. The best way to introduce dogs is always from the side and/or behind instead of head on. Stay calm and try to have a loose leash whilst the dogs are sniffing each other.

If your greyhound is going to be living with a small dog, introductions should be slow and cautious, allowing both dogs plenty of time to get used to each other. Safety equipment such as a muzzle, harness and lead can be used during introductions and removed in stages. Initially, your greyhound and the small dog should not be left unsupervised together. Like humans, some dogs will become besties immediately, whilst other friendships are built slowly. Remember, this process can be just as stressful for your greyhound as the small dog and friendship is a two-way street. Patience is key!

Although your greyhound may be little dog friendly, please don't let them off-leash around small breeds (e.g. at parks, beaches), until you know your dog well. Greyhounds are gentle dogs by nature, many of whom live with small animals. However, they have been bred and trained to chase. Therefore, a small creature in the distance may instinctively appear interesting to a hound!

The time and effort you put into **recall training** with your hound will be very valuable. This will provide the best chance of you and your hound having positive off-leash experiences and ensure you are being a responsible pet owner by having effective control of your hound.

If you would like more information on **recall training**, have a look at online resources such as RSPCA Victoria 'Teaching your Dog Recall' – <https://www.rspcavic.org/health-and-behaviour/dogs/teaching-your-dog-to-recall>. Or, contact a local dog trainer/behaviourist such as Hannah from Pawsitive K9 Behaviour - <http://www.pawsitivek9behaviour.com.au/>.

And what's meant by a greyhound that is 'CAT TOLERANT'?

Some greyhounds can live happily with a cat. Again, if we say a greyhound is 'cat tolerant', this means that their temperament around a cat has been assessed and their behaviour towards the cat is observed. The dog needs to show it is not interested in the cat.

However, we must emphasise that, even though a greyhound is assessed as 'cat tolerant', it is essential to **MUZZLE** and **LEASH** your greyhound when first introducing it into your home that includes your pet cat, and for a period of time after while they both settle into the new situation. Some suggest placing the cat in a crate and allowing the greyhound to become familiar with the cat before allowing them to interact. Even in this instance, we strongly recommend you use the muzzle and leash on your greyhound. It could take days or even weeks for things to settle before you can consider not using the muzzle. Please ensure that interactions without a muzzle are strictly supervised.

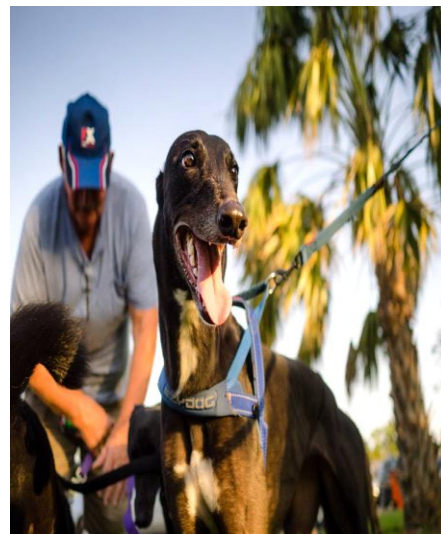
It is also recommended that greyhound and cat interactions occur within the home. **AVOID** letting both outside, in your yard, at the same time. This is because the sudden or fast movement by the cat may trigger the greyhound's high prey drive and could change a friendly or indifferent relationship into a tragic outcome for everyone.

Finally, for your cat's comfort and safety, it is important to provide an 'escape' inside your home that allows the cat to get away from an interested greyhound at any time. For example, a baby gate across the door into a hallway will allow the cat to get through but prevent the greyhound from chasing. Please do not leave them unsupervised in the same area especially in the first 12 months of your hound settling into his new life.

These are important measures to help your new greyhound and your resident cat settle in with each other and live together harmoniously.

Walking, Exercising and Entertaining your Greyhound

When fostering, it is a requirement for your greyhound to stay on a lead at all times when out of their yard, even at parks and beaches. They should also wear a harness as greyhounds can easily slip their collar due to their narrow head. It is very stressful if they run away!



- Greyhounds are sighthounds and most will chase anything, including a plastic bag! Your new pet can go from standing to 40km/hr very quickly and they have little road sense.
- Therefore, it is always important that your greyhound be kept on a lead when not in its yard or a secure enclosed area. We recommend you teach your greyhound its name or an attention sound (e.g. whistle) as well as investing the time to teach your hound to come when you call (recall).
- Keep exercise to early morning or evening when your greyhound is naturally active and it isn't too hot. Be alert to any signs of heat distress in your dog. Many greyhounds enjoy cooling off by walking or lying in a shallow pool of water. A child's wading pool in the backyard can be ideal.
- Regular daily walks of 20-30 minutes are enough for your greyhound, although some will happily take more outings and walks if you offer this. Some greyhounds have had enough exercise after 15 minutes, while others will go for 40 minutes.
- Always build up to longer walks. Greyhounds are not the best choice as jogging companions. They are low-energy dogs with short bursts of energy and are not built for endurance.
- Enrich your dog's life with nose work, interactive games and feeding games. For example, the Treasure Hunt. You can do this with your greyhound or use it as a home-alone enrichment tool. Instead of giving their dry food in a bowl, scatter food over the grass. Encourage your hound to search and find. Give a positive response when a piece is found. If they are used to having a Kong, try hiding that for them to find.
- If you have friends who have dogs that are compatible with your greyhound, you might like to have them visit. Greyhounds are very social animals. Please note, although greyhounds are one of the quietest breeds, they can be very noisy and active when playing with other animals.
- You should never tie a greyhound to a stake or a tree. If they take off at high speed whilst tied up, a broken neck, other injury or even death can result. Retractable leads are not recommended for the same reason and harnesses are safer than collars. Please choose a well-fitting harness that does not sit in the armpits or restricts your greyhound gait.

Feeding Your Greyhound

Your greyhound might be very slim and may need fattening up.

How much should I feed my greyhound? We have provided a guide below:

Greyhound under 35kg:

Morning: 1 cup dry & 1 cup meat

Evening: 2 cups dry & 1 cup meat

Greyhound over 35kg:

Morning: 2 cups dry & 1 cup meat

Evening: 2 cups dry & 1 cup meat

- It is recommended to add raw meat to their diet. Canned food can lead to health problems and it is very easy to give your greyhound fresh, raw protein.
- Your greyhound can also eat:
 - Raw bones on a regular basis for dental health and mental enrichment
 - Sardines and raw eggs (which are great for their coat); mix these with dry biscuits.
 - Safe raw or cooked vegetables
 - Raw turkey/chicken necks and wings or marrow bones - for good dental health.
 - Pet mince (chicken, beef, kangaroo)
 - Healthy dog treats or chews (we don't recommend processed treats such as rawhides)
 - If your greyhound has difficulty eating dry kibble, you can mix approximately ½ a cup of warm or cool water with their kibble to entice them to eat. Slowly reduce the amount of water added to encourage them to chew the dry food.
- **Foods to avoid** - Alcohol, coffee, avocado pit, skin and stem (these are dangerous; only flesh is healthy), apple seeds, rhubarb, cherries, stone fruits, macadamia nuts, grapes, sultanas, onion, raw potatoes, chocolate, salty foods, tomato plants, citrus, xylitol, mushrooms, uncooked yeast dough.
- **Water** - Clean fresh water should always be available. Never leave your dog without water. Many greyhounds also like to wet their feet so a bucket or paddle pool may come in handy.

If you need more help or information regarding diets and correct fitting harnesses get in contact with Hannah from Aussie Pooch Nutrition & Wellbeing on (08) 8931 2906.

Registering your Greyhound when you Adopt

In order to ensure the safety of all our rehomed greyhounds is essential that all your greyhound's details are up to date so that if they get lost your greyhound's home can be found. To do this YOU need to change the details by registering your greyhound with your local council.

Darwin City Council

You will need to register your greyhound with the Darwin City Council if you are living in the Darwin municipality. Registration requires an annual fee and you will need to know your greyhound's microchip number.

To find out more please call the council on 8930 0300 or go to <https://www.darwin.nt.gov.au/live/pets-wildlife/pet-registration-microchipping/overview#accordion-1-3>

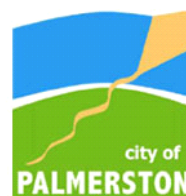


Palmerston City Council

You will need to register your greyhound with the Palmerston City Council if you live in the Palmerston Municipality. Registration is an annual fee and you will need to know your greyhound's microchip number.

Palmerston council offers FREE registration for dogs that have been adopted through community groups during their first financial year. You will need to provide proof of adoption when submitting registration paperwork.

To find out more please call the council on 89359999 or go to <http://www.palmerston.nt.gov.au/laws-and-permits/animals/registration>



We also recommend registering your details with an Australian wide microchip registry organisation. Your greyhound will already be microchipped – you will need to update your details.

Central Animal Records are one of Australia's leading companion animal microchip registries. Their site and data base allow owners to view and update their details online. Contact them on 03 9706 3187.

Australasian Animal Registry is a national body focused on the safe and speedy recovery of your pet. With this organisation you are able to view and update our details online. Contact them on 02 9704 1450.

Immunisations, Worming and Tick/Flea Management

Your greyhound should stay up to date with its immunisations to protect against severe and life-threatening diseases, such as parvo. If you're fostering, your greyhound will get immunised shortly after leaving the racing kennels. If adopting, your greyhound will already be vaccinated.

Parvovirus

Often referred to as 'Parvo', this is a highly infectious virus that attacks a dog's intestinal tract. Parvovirus is generally transmitted through the faeces of infected dogs, and the virus can last in the environment for up to a year. Annual immunisations can protect against the Parvovirus.

Remember to worm your greyhound regularly

Intestinal Worms

Intestinal worms including roundworms, hookworms, whipworms and tapeworms are common in Darwin, and infected dogs can pass them on to people, especially children. In Darwin dogs need to be wormed more frequently than in other areas of Australia. **We recommend worming your dog once a month. Worming tablets can be purchased at the vets or large pet stores.**

Heartworm

Heart worm in dogs is a silent disease that can be a killer. By the time you notice heartworm symptoms in your dog it is serious. Your greyhound can be protected by heartworm with an annual injection or monthly tablet. Both options are very effective, provided they are consistently given on time.

Ticks and Fleas Management

In Darwin, there is a common but essentially harmless brown tick (we don't have paralysis ticks). Although, ticks can also transmit diseases to dogs. Fleas enjoy the hot, wet climate in Darwin, and they can make your greyhound miserable and itchy so you should monitor your dog for any ticks and fleas.