

An Abbreviated History of the Greyhound

Greyhounds have, for thousands of years, been bred to do two things: run like the wind and work with other dogs. They were not bred to be solitary hunters, and the transition from hunting to racing has kept the spirit of cooperation intact. For this reason, greyhounds tend to get along with other dogs.

The earliest pure-bred dogs were of the greyhound-type. The first traces of the long, lean dogs of the greyhound-type were seen in the ancient city of Catal-Huyuk, located in what is now southwest Turkey. Temple drawings, dating to 6000 B.C., show a hunter pursuing a stag with the help of two greyhound-types. It was in Egypt, however, that the greyhound really came into his own. Not only were the dogs kept as companions and hunting partners, they were essentially worshiped.

For centuries, greyhounds have been bred to hunt by outrunning their prey. They are the fastest breed of dog, and their speed is breathtaking. Years of breeding for speed have given them athletes' bodies and dancers' grace. The need to think fast enough to avoid accidents while running at top speed has given them a high degree of intelligence.

The greyhound's devotion to man is legendary. They seem grateful for their new homes and reward their owners with never-ending affection. Raised with their littermates where they competed for attention, greyhounds love becoming the center of your attention as pets and will reward your love and affection by returning it tenfold!

One difference between pet greyhounds and the average pet breed is that greyhounds (adults when adopted) have spent every waking moment in the company of other creatures. They have experienced lots of handling and frequent daily contact with humans and other dogs. This background makes the greyhound well suited for life with other dogs and with people whose schedules allow one or more persons to be home much of the time. The bottom line? Greyhounds demand a certain amount of contact. They bond with their adoptive families quickly and pine when alone.

Greyhound Pets of America- Central Texas

Greyhound Pets of America-Central Texas (GPA-CT) is a chapter of the nationally acclaimed non-profit organization that places retired racing greyhounds in loving homes.

Approximately 15,000 greyhounds are adopted worldwide each year through various adoption agencies, but tragically many more are destroyed.

When the greyhounds no longer place "in the money" or can no longer race, they are then disposed of or placed with groups like GPA-CT. GPA-CT is notified by the track, trainer, or breeder when these dogs are available.

GPA-CT places these dogs in foster homes when they first come into our group. This helps us get to know the dogs and find out what their personalities are before we place them in their new homes. During the time they are in foster care, they are taken to a veterinarian, get their annual shots, are spayed or neutered, have their teeth cleaned, are tested for heartworms, and put on heartworm preventative. During their visit to the veterinarian, they also are evaluated for any injuries or health problems. Once this is done, we can start looking for a good home for the greyhounds.

Greyhounds placed for adoption are usually between two to five years old. They stand between 26 and 29 inches at the shoulder and weigh an average of 50 to 80 pounds with males tending to be bigger than the females. Greyhounds come in many colors: black, red, white, blue, fawn, brindle or any of these colors broken with white.

GPA-CT meets at different pet stores and other locations to show off our greyhounds and to let people know what great pets they make. If you are looking for a good, healthy, wonderful dog as a pet, give us a call and we will do our best to find you the very best, loving pet for you and your family.



Greyhound Pets of America- Central Texas

P.O. Box 10069

Austin, TX 78766

512/301-8236 (placement coordinator)

www.gpacentraltexas.org

A large, light grey silhouette of a greyhound dog standing and facing right, serving as a background for the text on the right side of the page.

**Everything
you always
wanted to
know about
adopting a
greyhound***

*but were afraid to ask

Some questions you might have about greyhounds



What are the adoption costs involved?

The total adoption donation is \$195 (of which \$150 is tax deductible). A check for \$100 must be submitted with the application to adopt: \$25 covers processing, \$75 is refundable if we cannot match you with a dog. The remaining \$95 is due at the time of adoption. GPA-CT uses the donation to pay for neutering or spaying, vaccinations, heartworm testing and, in most cases, teeth cleaning.



What are the prerequisites for adoption?

Greyhounds are not for everyone. GPA-CT will generally not place greyhounds with families who have children under five years of age. You must also have a fenced yard.

Greyhounds should not be kept as outside dogs or left in a garage. They have insufficient body fat and too sparse a coat. They do not adapt well to extreme heat or cold.

GPA-CT also reserves the right to withhold placement of a greyhound if the placement is not in the best interests of the dog.



What is the temperament of these dogs?

Greyhounds are generally gentle, quiet, clean, and good-natured.



What is their life expectancy?

Although most large breed dogs do not live as long as small breeds, track greyhounds have such an excellent athletic start in life that you can expect them to live until they are 12 to 14 years old.



How much exercise do they need?

Greyhounds need no more exercise than other large dogs, but they enjoy running in enclosed areas and taking walks. They must NEVER be turned off-leash! Most of the time they are content to sleep.



Are greyhounds easy to train and handle?

Greyhounds are extremely sensitive and intelligent animals, responding quickly to talk and touch as rewards. A stern voice quickly checks a greyhound. No physical punishment should ever be used!



Are ex-racing greyhounds housebroken?

Greyhounds are “kennel trained” — they are trained to keep their kennels clean. At first, walk your dog frequently, and he will quickly learn his new home is the place he keeps clean and outside is the place he can relieve himself. When you are away from home, it helps to limit the area in which he can roam within the house. This helps him identify the areas to keep clean and limits his ability to get into trouble.



Are greyhounds good with children?

Because track dogs are handled by breeders, haulers, trainers, and track workers throughout their careers, they are highly socialized. They are not as playful as puppies, because they are mature dogs, but are generally tolerant of children. However, all dogs have their limits, and no dog should be subjected to harassment!



How are they with other pets?

Greyhounds are friendly by nature and most socialize well with other dogs as a result of interaction with other greyhounds in the racing kennels. Some learn to accept cats and other small pets, but any introductory period should be closely monitored.



Do they make good jogging companions?

Yes! However, their track experience prepares them for sprinting on dirt tracks only. Long exposure to asphalt or concrete may hurt the pads of their feet unless they are allowed to acclimate gradually. You will also have to build them up slowly to your pace and distance.



Do they make good watch dogs?

No. They are far too gentle, but the psychological impact of a large dog can be a deterrent to would-be troublemakers.



Why do greyhounds wear muzzles on the track?

Greyhounds wear racing muzzles because as they round the bend on an oval track, some of them may bump shoulders due to the centrifugal force of the turn. This could potentially lead to a dogfight. Track officials prevent this possibility by muzzling. Racing muzzles are used for photo finishes as well.



Are there special responsibilities if I adopt a greyhound?

Your greyhound must be kept on year-round heartworm preventative, kept free of parasites, receive regular vaccinations, be kept indoors, and wear a GPA-CT identification tag at all times.

Adopting a Greyhound

1. Decide if a greyhound is the right dog for you. Do your homework by researching the breed. Read as much as you can about the greyhound. (“Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies” by Lee Livingood is an excellent resource.) Come to GPA-CT Meet & Greets and visit the dogs. Talk to greyhound owners about what living with and caring for a greyhound is really like. Now is the time to ask all your questions.
2. If you decide that a greyhound is the right dog for you, download an adoption application from www.gpacentraltexas.org. Please read all the information carefully and make sure you understand GPA-CT’s policies. Complete and return the adoption application along with your deposit.
3. After your completed application is received, the Placement Coordinator will call you and will review the application with you in order to fully understand what type of greyhound you are looking for.
4. Work closely with the Placement Coordinator to choose a greyhound that fits your personality and lifestyle. Take your time and visit as many greyhounds as possible to find one that fits your family and lifestyle. Make the best decision you can for both you and your future greyhound.
5. After you have chosen a greyhound, the Placement Coordinator will arrange a visit with the greyhound at your home. If all goes well at this visit, your application will receive final approval and a date will be set for placement of your greyhound. (The remaining balance of your adoption donation is due at placement.)
6. Welcome your greyhound into your home as a member of your family and enjoy a wonderful life together!