

## FACT SHEET

Victoria's Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) is an initiative of Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) that began in 1996.

GAP was established to help greyhounds that had finished their racing careers, or were never suited to racing, find a loving home. In its early years, GAP was run from the Sandown Park Veterinary Clinic by volunteers, until GRV took control of the Program.

In 2003 GRV opened its dedicated GAP facility in Seymour which can house up to 60 greyhounds at a time.

Having rehomed close to 5000 former racing greyhounds or greyhounds, GAP is beginning an even bigger push to ensure the greyhound breed is understood in the general public.

GRV is the body responsible for governing and promoting the sport of greyhound racing. GAP is an extremely important arm of the organization and recently an extra \$1.4 million of funding for the program was announced.

One of the main tasks of GRV and GAP staff is promoting the greyhound breed. There are a number of misconceptions about greyhounds in the general public and GRV and GAP are continually educating the public on the suitability of greyhounds as pets.

In the 2014 Financial Year, GAP achieved a record number of adoptions with 536 greyhounds finding new homes. GRV's increased focus on marketing and increased focus on Greyhound Welfare assisted this result as well as the public's recognition that greyhounds make fantastic pets.

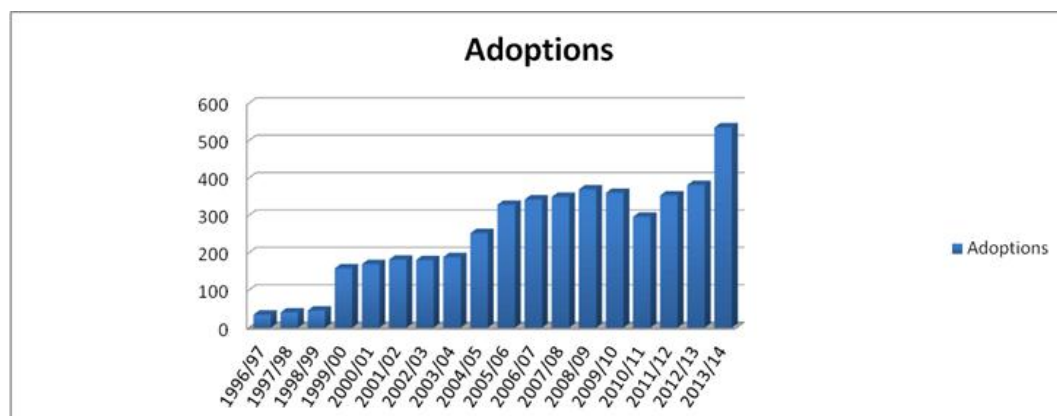
### **The adoption process:**

1. Greyhounds that have retired from racing – or never made it to the track – enter the program.
2. Greyhounds then undergo a thorough temperament test where they are tested with small dogs and a cat to determine which homes they will be suitable for.
3. Once a greyhound has passed its temperament test, they are accepted into the program and are kennelled at the dedicated facility in Seymour.
4. The greyhounds then undergo a period of 3-4 weeks in foster care where they are taught skills such as: walking up stairs, walking on slippery floors and taught how to adjust to life in a home.
5. After this foster period the greyhound is ready for adoption and ready to find its 'forever home'
6. Greyhounds receive the special GAP 'Green Collar' which exempts them from muzzling laws (*Domestic Animals Act 1994*) meaning they are able to be in public without wearing a muzzle.

### Attributes of a greyhound:

- Lazy
- Friendly
- Docile
- Loyal
- Placid
- Fashionable
- Streamline
- Goofy

### Number of adoptions per year:



### GAP Events and Promotions:

Throughout the 2014 Financial Year there was a variety of activity that helped with the achievement of the record number of adoptions. These range from attendance at the Royal Melbourne Show, to the Every Greyhound Has a Story photographic essay exhibition, to the first adoption day at the Flemington Racecourse.

All of these events, in addition to other annual events contributed to the public's recognition of greyhounds as fantastic pets. Throughout the year there was an increase in the number of inquiries for adoption as well and an increase in the number of foster carers in the GAP network.

The Every Greyhound Has a Story exhibition, that featured works from renowned photographer Josh Robenstone, generated huge public interest in greyhounds and the unique stories behind their relationships with their owners. This week-long event was made available free to the public, to help garner an understanding of the remarkable effect a greyhound can have on people's lives.

GAP has had a stand at the Royal Melbourne Show for more than a decade and has won best exhibitor in the Pets Pavilion on two occasions. The Royal Melbourne Show is one of the biggest events of the year for GAP, with many people bringing their families to the show and being able to get up close and personal with the greyhounds.

The Adoption Day at Flemington Racecourse was a significant event for adoptions. The record for the number of adoptions in a single day was broken with 16 greyhounds finding new homes. This was the inaugural metropolitan adoption day and received a brilliant response from all that attended.

### For further information please contact:

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