

Q&A

Greyhounds are one of the most misunderstood dog breeds. There are many misconceptions about greyhounds that are utterly incorrect. This is something that Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) through its Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) attempts to address through a number of educational activities that help the general public understand that greyhounds can make amazing pets.

Do retired greyhounds require a lot of exercise?

No. Greyhounds are sprinters and because of this, they tire very quickly. They enjoy, but are not dependent on, moderate exercise. In most homes, the shared experience of a short brisk walk once a day is enough to keep both the adopter and the adoptee in good physical health. They can make good jogging companions, but only after they are properly conditioned for long distances.

Are greyhounds good with other dogs?

Greyhounds have usually spent a lot of time with other dogs, and are generally friendly by nature. They usually get along well with other dogs, although they may not play with them. If you are thinking of adding a greyhound to your family, and you already have another dog, common sense should be exercised during the introductory period and supervised feeding is always recommended in a multi-pet household. GAP carefully matches greyhounds to adopters, and the number and type of other dogs or pets in the family are taken into consideration during this process.

What is the average size of a greyhound?

Male greyhounds are usually taller and heavier than females, weighing from 30 to 45kg and standing from 65 to 75cm at the shoulder. The females can weigh from 25 to 35kg and stand from 60 to 70cm at the shoulder.

Do females make better pets than males?

No. There is little difference between males and females, except that the males are larger. Female greyhounds tend to be a little more independent and stubborn, while males are generally more affectionate and easy going.

Why do greyhounds make good pets?

Greyhounds are quiet, well-mannered, and very easy to live with. They are friendly, affectionate, lazy, calm, clean, loving, trusting and good-natured.

Are greyhounds good with other animals?

It depends on the dog. While some greyhounds are not suitable for homes with small animals such as cats and rabbits, a lot are. GAP tests all greyhounds thoroughly to ensure that a correct match between greyhound and adopter is achieved.

Are greyhounds good with children?

Retired racing greyhounds are, for the most part, very tolerant with children. If a child becomes overbearing, the dog will usually walk away rather than snap or growl. As with all breeds of dogs, small children should never be left unsupervised with a greyhound.

What ages are available, and how long do greyhounds live for?

GAP greyhounds are generally around two years of age, but it is standard for GAP to have a range of greyhounds available for adoption from eighteen months of age right up to 10-14 years at any given time. The adaptable, stable and loving nature of the greyhound predisposes an easy transition to companion dog regardless of age. Generally, younger dogs will be more active, while the older dogs will be more quiet and well-mannered. The expected lifespan of a greyhound is 12-15 years.

Are the greyhounds for adoption house-trained?

Most of the GAP greyhounds are house-trained before being adopted. Greyhounds are intelligent, clean animals who learn very quickly. Greyhounds are already kennel-trained when they come to the Adoption Program and this training is usually transferrable to the house meaning they need limited house-training – although there may be some accidents along the way.

Can greyhounds be let off lead?

In public places, absolutely not! It is both illegal and extremely dangerous to allow a greyhound to run off lead. This includes off leash dog parks. Greyhounds are one of the fastest land animals in the world and can reach speeds of up to 75 km/h. Horses, by comparison, have been known to reach 70 km/h. Greyhounds are sight hounds, this means that if something grabs their attention they will chase it and could put themselves in danger.

Do greyhounds make good guard dogs?

No. Greyhounds are placid, friendly animals who are not protective about their property or people. They tend not to bark, and rarely alert owners to the arrival of strangers at their home.

Do greyhounds have to be muzzled in public?

It is **ONLY** those greyhounds adopted as pets from GAP, and wearing the green GAP identification collar, that are exempt from being muzzled in public. **ALL** other greyhounds whether they are current or retired racing greyhounds or greyhounds adopted as pets privately or from a shelter or rescue group, **MUST** by law be muzzled in public.

Do retired racing greyhounds adjust quickly to life as a pet?

Yes. Most greyhounds coming through GAP spend time in a volunteer foster home to expose them to as many new things as possible, and help them to transition from the kennel lifestyle to that of a family pet. The dogs are usually quite settled in a family environment well before the foster time is through. Greyhounds thrive on human companionship and bond very quickly. Bonding usually only takes a matter of days, and becoming accustomed to a new routine and environment generally only takes a few weeks. The older greyhounds tend to be better mannered from the start while the younger dogs are generally more curious and active.

Where is the Greyhound Adoption Program based?

GAP is based at a dedicated facility in Seymour that was opened in 2003. The facility can house up to 60 greyhounds at a time. Assessments and adoptions are also regularly conducted at a variety of locations around the state.

What is Greyhound Racing Victoria's involvement in the Adoption Program?

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) is the statutory body responsible for governing and promoting greyhound racing in Victoria. The Greyhound Adoption Program is fully run and operated by GRV and is one of many Greyhound Welfare initiatives undertaken by the organisation. More information about these initiatives is available on request.

For more information on the Greyhound Adoption Program please contact:

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