

Considering Adopting a Companion Pet?



GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA
Louisville, KY Chapter

Make a Fast Friend . . .
**Adopt a Retired
Racing Greyhound**

About Greyhounds . . .

Greyhounds have been favored for hunting, coursing, racing and as companions for humans since the times of ancient Egypt. Greek art and coins depict short-haired hounds virtually identical to modern Greyhounds, making it fairly certain that the breed has changed very little since 500 BC. To learn more about the fascinating history of Greyhounds, visit www.fastfriends.org.

Breed Characteristics

Greyhounds are friendly, affectionate dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship. They are often described as intelligent, sensitive, sweet, non-aggressive and unsurpassed as companion dogs.

As a result of lifelong encounters with other Greyhounds on the racing circuit, these dogs socialize well and are generally tolerant of other family pets – including cats and small dogs.

Their temperament makes most Greyhounds wonderful around children. It must be remembered, however, that these are adult dogs who may have never been exposed to small children, with their quick movements and high voices. Children *must* be taught the proper respect for a Greyhound, as with any pet.

There are 16 recognized Greyhound color combinations, including white, fawn, red, black, blue (gray) and many shades of brindle.

Greyhounds have virtually no body fat and little odor. In general, they are very clean and do not require a lot of grooming beyond nail trimming, gentle brushing, cleaning their teeth and occasional baths.

The average female Greyhound weighs between 50 and 70 pounds. The average male weighs between 65 and 80 pounds. Most retired racing Greyhounds stand between 26 and 30 inches tall.

Greyhounds are strictly indoor pets and cannot tolerate extreme heat or cold. They are short-haired and considered minimal shedders.

Racing Greyhounds are usually “retired” between the ages of two and five years. With proper care, their lifespan is 12 years or more. This long lifespan allows the Greyhound to become an essential part of a loving family for many years.

Adopted Greyhounds quickly become attached to their new owners and clearly enjoy pleasing their new family members. Greyhounds love comfort as much as they love to run and will spend hours curled up on a soft bed. If allowed, most Greyhounds enjoy sleeping with their new owners – if not in the same bed, certainly in the same room.

Housebreaking is usually easy since they have been taught to keep their kennels clean. If a newly-adopted Greyhound is let out frequently, if the owner has a fenced yard or if the dog is walked frequently for the first few days in a new home, he or she will soon learn to relieve him/herself outside and to keep its new home clean.

Unless in the house or in a securely fenced area, Greyhounds **MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT ON A LEASH**. There can be no exceptions to this rule. GPA-Louisville does not require adopters to have fenced yards but if you do not have a fenced yard, you must make a long-term commitment to walking your dog several times a day – rain or shine.

Greyhounds are sighthounds. They hunt by sight, not scent. For the last 6,000 years, they have been bred to hunt by outrunning their prey. With their excellent eyesight, any moving object (a small animal, a leaf, etc.) in the distance can trigger the dog's instinct to chase at speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. Oblivious to traffic and distance, this high-speed, frenzied chase can easily end in tragedy.

Adopting from GPA-Louisville

The Louisville chapter of the Greyhound Pets of America places its Greyhounds already spayed or neutered. When placed, they will have had a physical, their DHLPP booster shots, a rabies inoculation, a fecal analysis and a heartworm check. Their teeth will have been cleaned and their nails trimmed.

Prior to adoption, prospective owners must complete an application. After an application is received, representatives of the GPA-Louisville will visit the prospective family's home to talk about the breed and to answer any questions. We do this to ensure that our Greyhounds go into homes where the entire family is eager to adopt and where the adopters are prepared to devote the time necessary for the dog to make the transition from professional athlete to family pet. We also try to establish a profile of the Greyhound best suited to the adoptive family's lifestyle and needs.

At the time of adoption, GPA-Louisville asks for a tax-deductible donation of \$200.00 to help cover some of the cost of the above medical care. Each dog is supplied with a GPA identification tag, a Greyhound safety collar (Martingale) and a matching leash.

GPA-Louisville adopters are invited to participate in our e-mail discussion group and to join us for occasional Sunday afternoon walks in Louisville area parks.

To obtain an application form, please call either one of the phone numbers listed below or visit one of our Meet & Greets at several local area Feeders Supply Stores. Application forms are also available on the GPA-Louisville website, where you can find our current Meet & Greet schedule. Or call us to find out when we will be visiting a store in your area.

About the GPA

Greyhound Pets of America, Inc. is a national, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible pet homes for retired racing Greyhounds. Donations to the GPA or any of its chapters are tax-deductible.

The GPA also strives to educate the public about what excellent, loving pets these beautiful and gentle animals make.

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA

Louisville, KY Chapter

(Formerly GPA-Southern Ohio Valley Chapter)

P.O. Box 72237
Louisville, Kentucky 40272-0237

(502) 995-3767
or (800) 366-1472

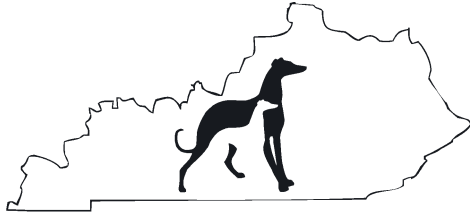
Visit our website at:

www.GPALouisville.org

to learn more about our organization,
our Meet & Greet schedule and adopting a fast friend!

Providing Adoption as an Option
Since 1987

**Making Greyhound placements throughout Kentucky,
Southern Indiana and the Cincinnati area.**



**Greyhound Pets of America
Louisville Chapter**

Greyhound Pets of America/ Louisville Chapter

P.O. Box 72237

Louisville, KY 40272-0237

(502) 995-3767 FAX: (812) 725-0221

www.GPALouisville.org

ADOPTION APPLICATION

NOTE: We highly recommend all potential adopters read *Adopting the Retired Racing Greyhound* by Cynthia Branigan and, if they have children, we suggest *Childproofing Your Dog* by Brian Kilcommons. Both of these books, and many others, are available from Amazon.com through the "Reading Room" link on our www.GPALouisville.org website.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____ Home Phone _____

Your Employer _____ Your Occupation _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Spouse's Employer _____ His/Her Occupation _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Age Group of Applicant(s): Under 25 25-35 36-45 46-55 Over 56

People in the household: Adults _____ Children _____ Ages of children under 16 _____

Have you read any books about retired racing Greyhounds as pets? Yes No
If so, what books have you read? Any other research you've done?

Do you have other pets? If so, what species, gender, age and type? Are they spayed/neutered?

Have you visited one of our Meet & Greets? At Petsmart SuperPetz
 Feeders Supply Pet Supermarket Other: _____

Are any of your pets “outside” pets? Yes No

Are your pet(s) current on vaccinations? Yes No

Are your dog(s) current on heartworm preventative? Yes No

Will your Greyhound be in contact with children or pets other than those in your family?
Yes No

Explain: _____

What has motivated you to adopt a Greyhound? _____

How long have you considered adopting a Greyhound? _____

Have you applied with any other adoption group? _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Where did you meet your first Greyhound? _____

Do you intend to jog/run with your Greyhound? Yes No

Do you intend to obedience train? **G**Yes No

Do you own your residence or rent your residence?

In what type of residence do you live? Single Family Home Multi Family Home
Mobile Home Duplex Apartment Condo/Town House

Do you have stairs in or leading into your home? Yes No If yes, how many? _____

If you rent, does your landlord allow dogs? Yes No Don't Know

Landlord's Name _____

Landlord's Phone Number _____

May we conduct an in-home interview with you? Yes No

How many hours a day will your Greyhound be alone? _____

Do you plan to use a crate? Yes No

If yes, have you already purchased a crate? Yes No

If yes, what type of crate (open wire, plastic/airline type)? _____

Do you have a fenced-in yard? Yes No

If yes, what type fence? _____ How high? _____

If you do not have a fully fenced yard, are you willing to provide on-leash walks for a Greyhound at least four (4) times a day?

Yes No

Have you fully considered the average yearly costs of food and proper veterinary care for a large dog?

Yes No

What type/brand of dog food do you plan to feed your dog? _____

Premium, high-quality kibble (free of corn and soy) is recommended for retired Greyhounds.

Do you travel often? Yes No If yes, will you take your Greyhound with you? YesNo

If no, where will you leave your Greyhound? _____

Do you anticipate major lifestyle changes in the next year (e.g., new job, retirement, moving, new baby)?

Yes No Specify: _____

Do you have a preference regarding age or sex in a companion dog? _____

Would you consider a special needs Greyhound or a senior (age 8 or more)? _____

REFERENCES

Your Veterinarian's Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Personal References (other than relatives):

(1) Name _____

(2) Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Email _____

COVENANTS

- _____ We understand and agree that we may never let a retired racing Greyhound off leash except in a securely enclosed, fenced area.
- _____ We understand and agree to never put a Greyhound on a tie-out chain, overhead line or rope. Greyhounds can easily reach speeds of up to 45 MPH in only three strides. If tied out, the dog can easily break its neck in a matter of seconds!
- _____ We understand and agree that our Greyhound will be an indoor pet only. It will not be left in an unheated/non-air-conditioned space or left outside except for supervised exercise and to relieve itself. The dog may NOT be left in a garage or shed.
- _____ We understand and agree to keep our Greyhound current on all vaccinations each year. Annual heartworm tests will be given and the dog will be kept on heartworm prevention all year long (*i.e.*, Heartgard or Interceptor).
- _____ We understand and agree that, upon adopting a Greyhound, we will accept full responsibility for its care and welfare, releasing any previous owner as well as GPA/Louisville and its representatives, from any future liability concerning the dog.
- _____ We understand and agree that GPA/Louisville reserves the right to repossess any Greyhound adopted from that organization if any of these covenants or any provision of the subsequent Adoption Contract are violated.
- _____ We agree that if we are unable to keep our Greyhound, we will return the dog to GPA/Louisville. If we do not return this Greyhound, GPA/Louisville has the right to take legal action based upon these covenants and/or the subsequent Adoption Contract.
- _____ We acknowledge that the dog placed with us will be spayed or neutered and microchipped prior to adoption.
- _____ We acknowledge that we will be expected to make a **non-refundable** donation of **\$225** at the time of adoption to defray GPA's expenses in retrieving the dog from the track, providing pre-adoption veterinary care and microchipping. (Dogs pre-adopted from the GPA/Louisville's Greyhound Foster Program at Morehead Youth Development Center will require a \$100 deposit at the time of application approval.)

We certify that all information on this application is true and correct. We give our permission for GPA/Louisville to contact our landlord (if applicable), veterinarian and personal references.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

HEARTWORM NOTICE: If our Veterinarian's check shows positive for heartworms, Greyhound Pets of America/Louisville Chapter will not place the affected dog in a pet home. We cannot, in good faith, place a dog who will need the prolonged expensive medical care which heartworm treatment involves.

If you cannot adopt a Greyhound at this time, you can still help our efforts on behalf of these wonderful dogs by making a tax-deductible donation to Greyhound Pets of America.