

how can i adopt a retired racing greyhound?

Greyhound Pets of America seeks qualified adoptive owners committed to responsible pet ownership. We have established formal procedures to ensure that retired racers are placed in loving homes with people who will take good care of their new pets.

After reviewing the information in the brochure, call GPA-Springfield, MO for an application or view our website at www.gpamo.org. One of our volunteers will arrange for a home visit. This brief visit serves two purposes: You get to ask any questions you have about owning a greyhound and our GPA-Springfield, MO volunteer gets to know you, and makes a quick inspection of your home environment. If you currently have pets, they must be spayed/neutered (exceptions to this would be considered on a case-by-case basis). Also any existing pets must be on a heartworm preventative.

We prefer to place dogs in homes with a fenced front or back yard, since it is more convenient for you and safer for the dog. Fencing is MANDATORY for homes with children. We consider "children" to be age 16 and under. A greyhound must also be an indoor housepet. In some instances we place dogs in condominiums and apartments, but only if the adoptive owner can demonstrate their commitment to extra responsibilities.

Following the home visit, a GPA-Springfield, MO representative will contact you. If you are approved as an adoptive home, a representative will call to arrange delivery of your dog. We prefer to deliver dogs late in the week, so that you can spend the weekend getting to know each other.

can't adopt?

You can help gpa-springfield, MO by making a tax-deductible donation or by volunteering your time to help promote its programs. The dogs will thank you!

adoption contract requirements

The final step in the adoptive process is the signing of the Adoption Contract, which signifies your acceptance of the following terms:

You agree to make a non-refundable donation of \$200.00 which entitles you to:

- A spayed/neutered greyhound with up-to date vaccinations, heartworm test, fecal test, any needed dental work and groomed.
- A month's supply of *Heartguard Plus* (heartworm preventative) and *Frontline* (flea/tick preventative).
- A complete greyhound information packet.
- A Martingale collar, leash and muzzle.
- "Owners Manual", *Lee Livingood's Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* for \$5.00.
- A GPA-Springfield, MO identification tag.
- Greyhounds are microchipped

You promise to keep the dog in good health by providing for regular veterinary care, including vaccinations.

You promise to have your dog wear a collar at all times with the GPA-Springfield, MO ID tag attached. You promise to notify GPA-Springfield, MO immediately if the dog is lost or stolen.

You promise that in the event problems develop that prevent you from keeping the dog, you promise to return your greyhound to GPA-Springfield, MO.

You promise to keep the dog as a pet and will not, under any circumstances, use the dog for racing, breeding, hunting, research or experimentation.

Violation of the Adoption Contract will result in Greyhound Pets of America repossessing the greyhound.



about us

This brochure is designed to introduce you to greyhounds, answer the most common questions about these friendly, gentle dogs and explain GPA's adoption procedure so you can learn how to adopt a greyhound of your own. This brochure is published by the Springfield, Missouri chapter of Greyhound Pets of America which serves the Ozarks.

Greyhound Pets of America is a national organization dedicated to finding responsible, loving homes for retired racing greyhounds. As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, GPA depends on donations and volunteers to accomplish its goal.



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With their gentle dispositions and good-natured temperaments, retired racing greyhounds make excellent pets. If you are a family looking for a devoted companion, a well-mannered greyhound could be just the pet for you.



about greyhounds

Greyhounds have been bred for speed for centuries, making them one of the oldest and purest breeds of dogs in the world. They can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where drawings of greyhounds were found inside the tombs within the great pyramids.

Greyhounds have a life expectancy of 12-15 years or more. Their coat of short hair can be coarse as burlap or soft as cashmere, and stays clean naturally, requiring little grooming.

Colors can be solid or combinations of black, white, fawn, blue and red with as many shades of brindle.

Greyhounds measure 26-29 inches high at the shoulder, and weigh 55-80 pounds. These measurements can be deceiving, considering the greyhound's sleek, aerodynamic shape, thin tapered legs, muscular hips and shoulders, and long graceful necks.

caring for greyhounds

How old are the retired racers?

Greyhounds placed through the GPA adoption program are usually two to six years old. Younger dogs may not have qualified for racing. Older dogs are recently retired from racing because they are no longer competitive. Others may come from local animal shelters or from families whose living situations have changed such that they can't keep a dog.

Do greyhounds need lots of exercise?

Greyhounds always enjoy going out for walks and exploring new places, but only need to go two or three times a week.

Do greyhounds need a special diet?

During their racing careers, greyhounds are fed a high energy diet to help them perform at their peak. For retired racers we recommend starting with a good canned food mixed with dry kibble. You can gradually transition to a diet of only dry food. A high-quality, adult maintenance dry food costs about a dollar a day, provides good nutrition and prevents weight gain.

Do greyhounds have special medical needs?

Many people think of greyhounds as an exotic breed that require extra care and special attention. This is not true. Greyhounds do not require any special veterinary care. However, because they have a low level of body fat, they do require special anesthesia for surgery. And since they are fed a diet of soft-food in the kennel, many need dental care for their teeth.

living with greyhounds

Are greyhounds housebroken?

Greyhounds are trained to keep their kennels clean, so housebreaking is relatively simple. Frequent walks with timely praise teach them the house is the place they keep clean and outside is the place where they go. Our greyhounds are fostered with a knowledgeable greyhound owner before they are adopted, therefore the dog's training has already been completed.

Come see what greyhounds are like at the following show & tells:

- **Springfield, MO**
PetSmart, second Sunday each month, 1-3pm
- **Fayetteville, AR**
Petco, first Saturday each month, 10am-12pm

How well do greyhounds adjust?

After an initial adjustment period while they adapt from the regimented training routine of the kennel to their new life of leisure, greyhounds make themselves very comfortable. During this period, you need to teach the dog the rules of the house. It helps to limit how much of the house the dog has access to at first, gradually increasing their territory as they gain confidence.



Do they get along well with pets and kids?

(We do not place greyhounds in homes with children under 5.)

Greyhounds become part of the family very quickly.

Having spent their entire life with other dogs in a kennel, greyhounds are very social animals. They can learn to get along with other animal companions, including cats. Although greyhounds are usually good around kids, we do not adopt to families with children under 5 years of age. They are strong dogs and are not used to the activity of a young child. They are very tolerant of children, and will walk away when they've had enough. However, homes with children under 10 are highly encouraged to purchase and read **Brian Kilcommon's *Childproofing Your Dog***. This is available at most bookstores, libraries or may be purchased through GPA - Springfield, MO.

Are greyhounds easy to train?

Greyhounds crave affection and are very responsive to your mood. After sharing one human with dozens of dogs in the kennel, adopted greyhounds are eager to please you. They are very sensitive and can sense your mood by the tone of your voice.

