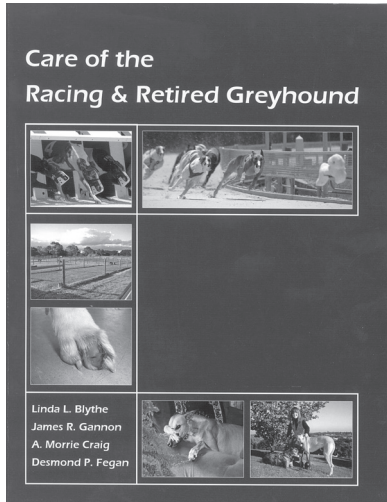


**Additional Resource:**

Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound can be purchased by calling 785-263-4660 or visiting <http://www.ngagreyhounds.com>



For a downloadable version of this brochure visit [www.agtoa.com](http://www.agtoa.com)

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# TREATING A RETIRED GREYHOUND

Medical Facts  
About This Unique Breed



# CARING FOR OUR FAST FRIENDS

## Introduction

As the popularity of adopting a retired racing Greyhound as a pet increases, veterinarians are seeing Greyhounds in their clinics for the first time. Former racing Greyhounds are a wonderful breed and make great pets. They are intelligent, quiet and socialized. They have been in close human contact for their entire lives and are used to attention and affection, which makes them ideal patients.



## Distinctive medical characteristics

As distinctive as they are as pets, greyhounds also have some unique medical characteristics.

## Blood Values

- Blood values in Greyhounds are different. High or low values in other dogs are often normal for Greyhounds.
- Greyhounds have higher red blood cell counts ( $5.99-9.39 \times 10^6/\text{ml}$ )\*, as well as higher packed cell volumes (41.4-64.2 %)\* and hemoglobin concentrations (14.8-21.6 g/dl)\*.
- White blood cell counts typically are lower (1,800-14,600/ml)\*.
- Blood platelets are lower and range from 100,000 cells/ul to 300,000 cells/ul.
- Protein in the blood is lower and ranges from 5.4 g/dl to 6.6 +/- .4 g/dl.
- If there are concurrent clinical signs of hypothyroidism, measure T4, free T4 and TSH to determine if the dog is hypothyroid.

\* Steiss JE, et al. Hematologic and Serum Biomechanical Reference Values in Retired Greyhounds. Compendium on Continuing Education, March 2000.

## Big Hearts

- Greyhounds have larger hearts and lower heart rates (60-90 BPM) than other breeds
- Low-grade benign heart murmurs are common.
- Blood pressure tends to be high.



## Surgery

- Avoid administering sulfur containing anesthetic agents, eg; thiopental and thiamylal.
- Monitor a Greyhound's temperature under anesthesia as malignant hyperthermia does occur.
- Some Greyhounds may develop spontaneous bleeding one-to-four days after routine minor surgery or trauma.