

About Greyhounds

For centuries Greyhounds have been bred to hunt by outrunning their prey. They are the world's fastest breed of dog and their speed is simply breathtaking. Years of breeding for speed have given them graceful and athletic bodies. The need to think quickly while running has increased their native intelligence and their ability to make independent decisions. Since they were bred thousands of years ago to hunt in packs and take down the game before their humans caught up with them, they have never been accustomed to heeding human commands while running. Now that hunting is no longer their job, their lifestyle as racers is quite different. What has not changed, however, is the fact that they are still wonderful companions because they are raised with lots of human contact from the day they're born.

Greyhounds placed through GPA Tri-State are usually between 2 and 5 years old. They stand between 24 and 31 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 50 and 90 pounds, females generally being smaller than males. Greyhounds come in a variety of colors including black, red, blue (gray), fawn, various shades of brindle and all of those colors broken with white.

There is nothing unique to Greyhounds that prevent them from getting along with other pets and children. In fact, Greyhounds are often more gentle and more patient than many other breeds. However, while peaceful by nature, adult supervision is the key to integrating them into families with small pets and children.

Greyhound ownership is a serious responsibility. Our policy is to ensure that anyone who adopts a Greyhound will be capable of, and willing to, accept that responsibility.

Adoption Process

Application: An adoption application can be found online or you can contact us and we will send you one. Complete the application, being sure to include the references requested. Then you may submit your application by mail to the address listed on the last page of the application.

Application Review: We will review your application and then contact your references. The next step will be for a Local Representative to contact you. We will answer any questions you may have at this time and will schedule a home visit at a time convenient to all members of your household.

Home Visit: During the home visit, the Local Representative may bring a Greyhound along to visit so that you and your family have the chance to see and interact with a Greyhound in your own home. This visit gives us the opportunity to talk with you one-on-one about the joys of adopting a retired racing Greyhound, safety measures to help keep the Greyhound safe, and helps us determine what type of personality would best fit in with the family's lifestyle, schedule, etc., if approved. Everyone living in the home is asked to be present for the home visit.

The Local Representative will need to tour the home/yard with you and help point out any possible safety issues that may need to be corrected before bringing a Greyhound home.

Application Approval: If your application is approved, the Local Representative will speak with you about the Greyhounds we have available and which one(s) might work well with your family.

The Wait: The adoption process can take several weeks. If we currently don't have a Greyhound that would be a match, please be patient. A wait of a few weeks compared to the years of enjoyment and love the right hound will bring you will be worth it!

Please keep in mind that not all individuals or homes are right for a retired racing Greyhound. Submitting an application to GPA Tri-State is not a guarantee that you will be approved to adopt a Greyhound.

Research. While your Application is being processed, please continue your research. Even though we think Greyhounds are some of the most wonderful dogs on the planet, they are not for everyone. To help you determine if a Greyhound would fit into your home, read books about Greyhounds and use the Internet to visit other Greyhound web sites.

Adoption Fee

The adoption fee of \$250 goes towards fostering expenses including the costs incurred for spaying or neutering, dental, heartworm check and preventative, parasite testing/treatment and vaccinations as necessary. Adopters receive an adoption manual, martingale collar and leash set, GPA Tri-State ID tag and turnout muzzle with their adopted Greyhound.

To start the Adoption Process you can access our application online to print and once complete, return it to the address listed on the last page of the application. If you cannot print the file, contact an Adoption Representative near you and we will mail you a form.

~ Requirements ~

INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ADOPTING GREYHOUNDS

1. **It is vital to keep your Greyhound on a leash whenever he is outdoors, unless he is in a fenced in area. Never TRUST it to not run away.**
2. To help individuals and families determine if a Greyhound is right for them, GPA Tri-State does require applicants to read at least 1 of the following books. Many local libraries have a variety of Greyhound books or they are available through local bookstores and online.
 - a. *Adopting the Retired Racing Greyhound* by Cynthia A. Branigan
 - b. *The Guide to Adopting an Ex-Racing Greyhound* by Carolyn Raeke
 - c. *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* by Lee Livingood

Note: Families with children under the age of ten (10) are also required to read *Living With Kids and Dogs Without Losing Your Mind* by Colleen Pelar.
3. Identification must be kept on your Greyhound at all times. A GPA Tri-State ID tag will be provided at the time of adoption and you must agree to keep this along with your personal ID tag on your Greyhound at all times.
4. If your Greyhound is lost, stolen, or missing for any reason, you must notify the police, animal control, and the GPA Tri-State President or your local Representative **immediately.**
5. If you find that you cannot keep your Greyhound for any reason, you must notify GPA Tri-State and make arrangements to return him/her. You **cannot** give your Greyhound to anyone else without GPA Tri-State's consent. If you move, change phone or email, etc., you must notify GPA Tri-State of your new address and telephone number.
6. You must agree to keep your Greyhound as a pet and never let him/her be used for laboratory research. The retired Greyhound's career is over. He/She may or may not come to you with registration papers but you will not be able to reactivate his/her career. Your Greyhound is strictly a family PET.
7. Greyhounds are used to having a lot of attention as well as being kept in crates, and could become nervous and upset the first few times they are left alone. For this reason it is advisable to have a crate for the Greyhound's safety and protection when you are not at home (at least for the initial phase-in period). GPA Tri-State may loan you a crate for a short period if an extra one is available.
8. Your Greyhound is an indoor pet and should be kept in the house at all times except for walks and exercise. **A GREYHOUND MUST NEVER BE TIED UP OUTSIDE.** They will either choke themselves trying to get loose or will slip out of their collar. Your Greyhound must be allowed to relieve himself/herself outside several times a day in a fenced area or on a leash.
9. You agree to promptly answer GPA Tri-State's correspondence and/or inquiries regarding your Greyhound.
10. **Owners are responsible for yearly booster shots or titers, purchase of heartworm preventative, and examinations by a licensed veterinarian along with any other veterinary care as needed.**