



# Greyhound Pet Adoption Northwest

FOSTER MANUAL

Revised | January 2021

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## Important Contact Information

Adoption		800-767-5139
	<a href="http://www.gpa-nw.org">www.gpa-nw.org</a>	
Medical Coordinator & Central, OR Foster Rep	Rebecca Nance	503-317-9969
	<a href="mailto:brindle_gal@yahoo.com">brindle_gal@yahoo.com</a>	
Clackamas County Regional Foster Rep	Jackie Holstrom	503-320-9409
	<a href="mailto:holstrji@yahoo.com">holstrji@yahoo.com</a>	
Wash. County, NW & SW PDX Regional Rep	Susan Harris	503-329-5963
SE PDX & SE Clack. County Regional Rep	Elisabeth Jacquot-Matt	503-502-6981
N & NE PDX Regional County Rep	Carolyn Duffy	503-679-0778
Southern Valley Regional Foster Rep	Marilyn Merritt	619-957-7632
	<a href="mailto:mrlnmrrtt@yahoo.com">mrlnmrrtt@yahoo.com</a>	
Washington State Regional Foster Rep	Janice Jones	360-798-7122
	<a href="mailto:jonesjamo5@comcast.net">jonesjamo5@comcast.net</a>	

# Welcome... and thanks for participating in our Greyhound Foster Program!

Families who will open their homes to a Greyhound and provide a loving temporary home for them are the heart of our program. It is an honor to participate in our foster program and be a part of finding a home for Greyhounds who need them.

As a foster family, you are a representative of Greyhound Pet Adoption Northwest. Our focus is on Greyhounds as pets. It is our policy to remain neutral on the Greyhound racing industry. Please remember this when you are introducing your foster dog to the public.

We hope you read this manual with an eye toward continuing to improve our foster program and sharing ideas and knowledge. Many of you will already know much of this material, but these guidelines are developed and re-evaluated periodically to ensure that every aspect of fostering goes as smoothly as possible, for both you and your foster dog. Please feel free to make suggestions that you think would help other foster families.

Again, thank you for participating in our foster program. We hope that you enjoy being part of preparing a Greyhound for the next stage of its life.

## WHAT IS FOSTERING?

A Greyhound who is awaiting adoption enters your life temporarily...sometimes that means a few days and sometimes as long as months. The average is 3-6 weeks. These will either be Greyhounds who have recently retired from their racing or breeding careers or never qualified to race. Some have been released back to our adoption program by their adopters.

### **As a Foster Parent, you are responsible for training your foster Greyhound:**

House training	Leash training (potty while on leash & walking)
Socialization both humans and other animals	Responding to given name
Appropriate behavior indoors and outdoors	Alone time
Interacting with other pets	Feeding schedules

Most of the new dogs placed by GPA-NW will go through our foster program. Dogs who have been released back to GPA-NW to find a new home, come from numerous circumstances: divorce, moving, financial issues, medical issues, death in the family, and in some cases, it may be due to a mismatch between a dog and the family. In these situations, you may have a specific problem to focus on to help the dog during fostering.

**Remember – we are just a phone call away if you have questions or need advice!**

**Don't panic and don't wait – there are no dumb questions!**

## BASIC PROGRAM GUIDELINES

### OWNERSHIP OF FOSTER GREYHOUNDS

All foster greyhounds are the sole property of GPA-NW and shall be returned to GPA-NW upon request or if the foster parent is unable to continue to care for the greyhound. While the dog is in foster care, we may determine that the dog would benefit from a change of foster home. Reasons to move a foster dog may be due to the need for exposure to new situations: stairs, other breeds of dogs, cats, apartment life, dog doors, and other experiences. Please remember that the movement of foster dogs is meant to promote the development of the dog for adoption not because you are doing anything wrong.

### CARE OF THE FOSTER GREYHOUND

Foster parents must provide the foster Greyhound with:

- Safe environment, Approved food, Fresh water, Love and affection, Grooming, Soft beds and pillows, and LOTS of guidance, supervision, and LOADS of training

### GIVING MONTHLY PREVENTATIVES

Once each Greyhound has had a negative heartworm test, they are maintained on heartworm prevention monthly and flea prevention as necessary. The foster family **must** give scheduled medications on time and maintain the “Foster Medical Log” in the foster dog’s blue folder by recording the date and medication given each month. Your Regional Foster Rep will ensure that you get the medication needed for your foster dog, as needed. If for some reason you are out of heartworm or flea preventatives contact your Regional Foster Rep ASAP.

### HELP WITH THE PLACEMENT PROCESS

All foster parents can help! Make sure your dog is housetrained. Practice leaving the dog home alone, so it gets used to a working person’s schedule. Correct undesirable behaviors, such as jumping, counter surfing, digging, chewing, marking, and pulling on the leash. Your goal, as the foster parent, is to have the dog “graduate with honors” into its new home!

Foster parents play an important role in the placement and adoption process. *Please complete the attached “Dog Profile Form” 14 days after the arrival of your foster dog, and email it to your [holstrj1@yahoo.com](mailto:holstrj1@yahoo.com). Update this profile monthly via a quick email to [holstrj1@yahoo.com](mailto:holstrj1@yahoo.com). For more information refer to “The Adoption Process” on pages 14 and 15 of this manual.*

### ID TAGS

Make sure your foster dog wears his/her martingale collar and GPA-NW tag at all times. We ask that you also have a tag made that says FOSTER along with your own address and phone number that can be transferred to each dog you foster. If your foster dog gets loose, it will have double information with both tags on it.

### GREYHOUND NAMES

Each Greyhound comes to its foster home with a “call name”. **We require that you use the name that they came with.** Maintaining the same name is important because the records for all GPA-NW Greyhounds are set up under their call name and additionally they don’t need one more change to handle during their transition.

## GREYHOUND FUNCTIONS

Foster families are welcomed and encouraged to attend Greyhound functions/events with their foster dogs. A foster dog gives a prospective family the opportunity to begin picturing themselves with their very own Greyhound!

## MEDICAL PROCEDURES

### HEALTHY TREATMENT

All Greyhounds entering our adoption program for the first time will either already be spayed/neutered, have a dental cleaning, DHLPP, Influenza and rabies vaccinations if theirs will expire within 3 months, are tested for heartworms and have a fecal and are treated for any identified worms or be scheduled to have these things done after they come into your care. Greyhound's six or older, may need to have extra bloodwork before any of these procedures. Arrangements for routine medical care are made by a Regional Rep/Medical Committee member and scheduled with participating veterinarians who provide us discounted services. **YOU MUST CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL FOSTER REP BEFORE TAKING A FOSTER DOG TO ANY VETERINARIAN FOR ANY REASON. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT YOUR REP ON YOUR WAY TO AN EMERGENCY FACILITY OR AS SOON AS YOUR FOSTER IS CHECKED IN!** As a foster parent, you are **NOT** authorized to obtain any medical treatment other than emergency care without prior approval. Never give your foster dog any medications or supplements without the authorization from your Regional Foster Rep.

### URGENT VS EMERGENCY

**An urgent non-life-threatening event is when your foster dog needs medical attention that cannot wait for 24 hours. An emergency is a life-threatening event that require immediate medical attention.** In a true emergency, transport your foster dog to the closest emergency Veterinary hospital, and check them in **under GPA-NW**. Then if you have not already contacted your Regional Foster Rep, do so immediately. Once the Veterinarian has assessed your foster dog that Vet needs to discuss the treatment plan via a phone conversation with the Medical Committee member for approval. **FOSTER PARENTS ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT AUTHORIZED TO HAVE A DOG EUTHANIZED FOR ANY REASON WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE MEDICAL COMMITTEE OR A BOARD MEMBER.**

### ROUTINE VETERINARY VISITS

#### Before and during your visit to the vet

Please remember that all our participating vets donate part of the services they provide. We are very fortunate that they are so generous with their services. Please follow these procedures:

- Make sure your foster dog is clean before any medical procedure appointment. A clean, flea-free dog is much more welcome in the hospital surgical and boarding areas.
- Be patient and polite to everyone you encounter.
- Always take their muzzle with you
- Remember to take any of your foster dog's past medical information (the Blue Adoption folder) so that the vet will be sure of vaccinations and date given, procedures desired, and medical conditions previously noted.

- Please confirm with the Medical Committee member what procedures the foster dog needs to have done. These procedures are pre-authorized with the vet and if anything arises during the visit, the vet will contact the Medical Committee member for further authorizations.

If you have concerns about any treatment or situation while you are visiting the vet, please remember that you are a representative of GPA-NW, and what you say or do directly reflects on our organization. Contact the Medical Committee member or your Regional Foster Rep as soon as possible and explain your concerns. The Medical Committee member/Foster Rep are the liaisons to the vet, these people are best qualified to deal with any situation/concern that may arise.

#### **AFTER A VETERINARIAN VISIT**

If your foster dog comes to you, immediately after a surgical procedure, please follow these guidelines:

- Rest and relaxation are the keys to a speedy recovery. Give your dog a quiet place.
- No running or jumping for 10-14 days post-surgery. Leash walks only.
- No baths for 14 days post-surgery.
- Check the incision area daily for swelling, redness, bruising, or bleeding. For males, make sure the scrotal area is flat. If the sac appears swollen or full, call the Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member.
- Do not let the dog chew or lick the stitches. Contact your Regional Foster Rep for advice.
- If your dog comes home the day of the surgery, it may vomit from anesthesia. DO NOT FEED. Allow only small sips of water or allow them to lick an ice cube.
- The mouth may be sensitive for several days following a dental cleaning, feed soft foods.
- If you suspect a problem, report it to your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member immediately.
- To check your dog's temperature, use a baby or rectal thermometer. Lightly coat with petroleum jelly. Gently slide it a little less than halfway into the rectum. Hold for 2-3 minutes. If the temperature is over 103 degrees, contact your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member immediately and arrange with them to see a vet right away. A warm, dry nose is not necessarily a sign of fever. Please use a thermometer to be sure.
- To administer medications, disguise a pill inside of some peanut butter, liverwurst, cream cheese, canned food, or something that your dog really likes. Pop into his/her mouth or serve in a dish. For liquid medication, tilt the dog's head up and use a syringe or spoon to pour the liquid down the throat. It is IMPORTANT to give ALL medications as instructed until gone and if you have any trouble getting the dog to take the medication, contact your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member.

## VETERINARIANS UTILIZED FREQUENTLY

Canyon Pet  
Hospital  
14705 SW Allen Rd  
Beaverton, OR 97007  
503-644-1601

Cinder Rock Veterinary  
Clinic  
2630 S. Canal Blvd.  
Redmond, OR 97756  
541-923-1638

Eastgate Veterinary  
Clinic  
33888 SE Peoria Rd  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
541-752-3786

Northwest Neighborhood  
Veterinary Hospital  
2680 NW Thurman St.  
Portland, OR 97209  
503-227-6047

Orchard Hills Veterinary  
Hospital  
3500 Evergreen Way  
Washougal, WA 98671  
360-835-2184

Pet Vet  
14210 Fir St Ste A  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
503-850-4989

The Veterinary Hospital  
175 Silver Lane  
Eugene, OR 97494  
541-688-1835

Southgate Animal Clinic  
7857 SE King Rd  
Milwaukie, OR 97222  
503-771-0857

VCA Salem Animal  
Hospital  
4059 Commercial St SE  
Salem, OR 97306  
503-581-1438

## EMERGENCY & SPECIALTY SERVICES

VCA Northwest Veterinary  
Specialists Emergency Hospital  
16756 SE 82<sup>nd</sup> Dr  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
503-656-3999

VCA Salem Animal Hospital  
4059 Commercial St SE  
Salem, OR 97306  
503-581-1438

Salem Veterinary Emergency Clinic  
3125 Market St NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
503-588-8082

Emergency Vet Clinic of Tualatin  
8250 SW Tonka St  
Tualatin, OR 97062  
503-691-7922

Cascade Veterinary Referral  
Center  
11140 SW 68th Parkway  
Tigard, OR 97223  
503-684-1800

Columbia River Veterinary Specialists  
Emergency & Specialties  
6607 NE 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 109  
Vancouver, WA 98665  
360-694-3007

East Bend Animal Hospital  
425 NE Windy Knolls Dr. Suite 4  
Bend, OR 97701  
541-318-0090

Dove Lewis Main Clinic  
1981 NW Pettygrove  
Portland, OR 97209  
503-228-7281

## A GREYHOUND'S FIRST AID KIT

*Copied from the Greyhound Gazette, with a few minor deletions and additions\**

1. **A copy of "Care of the Racing and Retired Greyhound" book.**
2. **Blood stop powder or styptic pencil** – stops toenail bleeding (use flour or corn starch in an emergency)
3. **Betadine scrub soap or Chlorhexadine solution** – to cleanse wounds, or use soap and water
4. **Hydrogen Peroxide or saline solution** – for minor cuts and to induce vomiting.
5. **Benadryl** – use for allergic reactions, e.g. bee stings 25 mg once a day for dogs over 50 pounds unless otherwise prescribed
6. **Sterile gauze sponges (2" and 3")** to cleanse wounds
7. **Telfa pads** – to place directly on a wound; they won't stick
8. **Porous adhesive tape** - Elastikon, Elastoplast – 2" wide to use as an outer wrapping; Elastoplast removes less hair and is easier to remove
9. **Vetwrap (3M)** –2" alternative outer wrapping that sticks only to itself and not the hair
10. **Rolled cotton, Q-tips and cotton balls** for swabbing
11. **Scissors and tweezers** – for multiple purposes (bandage scissors are safer \*)
12. **Bacitracin or Neosporin or Polysporin (dc)** – for minor wounds
13. **Rectal or digital thermometer** – to see if your dog has a temperature (normal is 101.5 F more or less)
14. **Imodium A/D caplets** for diarrhea
15. **Antacid (famotidine or omeprazole)** for squeaky stomach caused by grass eating etc.
16. **Syringe (large sized, no needle)** – for giving liquids
17. **Clean sock** – to protect foot bandages in the house (white sports sock is best\*) and a baggie to cover bandage outside
18. **Towel or blanket** – to carry an injured dog
19. **Exam Gloves**
20. **Flashlight**
21. **EMT Gel or spray**
22. **Sanitary Napkin (to stop heavy bleeding)**

### FIRST AID POINTERS

1. Your injured dog may not respond as he or she would ordinarily when you try to help; be on the safe side and use a muzzle
2. CPR – refer to a good veterinary health book for a detailed explanation of the procedure; it is good to know
3. Use direct pressure to stop blood flow from a serious wound. Use your hand, a cloth, or sanitary napkin
4. Avoid putting cotton on wounds (when you remove it you also remove the clotted blood)
5. Avoid waterproof adhesives; they build up heat and can cause infection
6. If your dog needs a temporary splint, use a magazine around the injured limb
7. Avoid alcohol as a cleanser; it burns and does more damage than good. Saline solution (the same as contact lens solution) is a safe, effective alternative
8. Use tweezers to remove ticks quickly.

## FOOD, CARE, AND TRAINING

### FOOD AND WATER

Feed only an approved kibble. Chicken, Rice & Vegetables is the preferred choice with water added. Your foster dog may be used to eating a different diet, so you may need to mix canned food with the kibble at first. You **MUST** provide access to fresh, clean water at all times!

If you would like to feed your foster dog the same thing that you feed your own dogs you need to get approval from your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member. If needed, GPA-NW will provide kibble and/or canned foods that have been donated or purchased for foster dogs. Please keep in mind, this is for foster dogs only! If you need food for your foster, please contact your Regional Foster Rep. When feeding your foster dog, do not feed them near your own dogs. They may be protective of their food bowls. Feed the foster dog in a separate room or area and SUPERVISE.

### NEVER FEED

- Raw meat – it may contain salmonella.
- Food that could be spoiled. Discard old food and wash bowls daily.
- Chicken bones, pork bones, or fish bones – these can be swallowed, and their sharp ends can pierce the stomach or intestinal walls.
- Any bone that could splinter or be swallowed whole.
- Supplements (other than fish oil) – unless prescribed by a veterinarian or approved by your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member.
- Chocolate – contains Theobromine, which is poisonous to dogs.
- Alcohol – thirsty dogs can drink fatal amounts quickly.
- People food – investigate what is dangerous to dogs.

### GIVING MONTHLY PREVENTATIVES

Once each Greyhound has had a negative heartworm test, they are maintained on heartworm prevention and flea prevention monthly. The foster family **must** give scheduled medications on time and maintain the “Foster Medical Log” in the foster dog’s blue folder by recording the date and medication given each month. Your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member will ensure that you get the medication needed for your foster dog, as needed. If for some reason you are out of heartworm and flea preventatives contact your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member ASAP.

Remember, you may need to use other flea control methods for your yard, house, and other pets. A good old-fashioned flea comb is the safest and least toxic tool. A flea and tick spray labeled “puppy and kitten safe” is also useful when you see fleas. DO NOT use flea collars. If you see little white worms in the dog’s stool or around its rectum, it is most likely tapeworms. They are not contagious and cannot be passed from one dog to another. They can only be contracted if the dog swallows an infected flea or eats raw meat. IF YOU SEE TAPEWORMS, YOUR DOG HAS FLEAS. Call your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member for information about how to handle this.

## **MOST COMMON PARASITES**

- Tapeworms – fleas cause it. They look like rice kernels in the dog’s stool or around the rectum. They cannot pass from dog to dog except by fleas.
- Round worms – These worms look like shoelaces or spaghetti in the dog’s stool. In the gut of the dog, they curl in a spiral, which is how the name was derived. Many dogs do not show symptoms, but they can present as diarrhea or bloating, especially in puppies.
- Hook worms – Microscopic blood sucking parasite that inhabits the small intestine, and can lie dormant in muscle tissues, as larva, which will become active as soon as medication eliminates the adult Hookworm. Hook worm can cause anemia and inflammation of the small intestine. These worms are not visible in the stool. Symptoms may be pale gums, lips, and ears. Poor appetite, visible blood or dark stools, diarrhea, or constipation. Untreated, these parasites can be fatal. When treating Hookworm please see the Hookworm Treatment Guidelines in your foster dog’s blue adoption folder. And know that your foster dog must have two fecal tests in a row that are negative for both Hookworm ova and antigen to be completely clear of Hookworm (if they are negative for ova, but positive for Antigen that means they have Hookworm larva somewhere in their system/tissues).
- Whipworms – These worms live in the Cecum, where the small and large intestines meet. The dog may have bloody diarrhea, dehydration, anemia, and/or weight loss. They could also be asymptomatic. The microscopic eggs of these worms are found in fecal contaminated soil or water. The dogs ingest them by licking paws, eating soil, or dead animals.
- Giardia – caused by ingesting cysts shed from infected animals. This can be in standing water, such as puddles and wildlife droppings such as rabbit poop. Giardia presents as diarrhea, often greasy or with excess mucous and a strong, foul odor.

### **All parasite infections require Medical Treatment!!!**

## **GENERAL CARE AND GROOMING**

Check your foster dog frequently for cuts, scrapes, dirty ears, tartar on their teeth, or long nails. Please provide necessary treatment (Neosporin, Silvadene, etc.). Groom periodically with a brushing mitt or glove. They will probably shed a little and love the attention. Brush your dog’s teeth with a dog toothpaste at least a couple times a week. Trim nails as needed. If you are not able to trim them, please let your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member know.

## **HOUSETRAINING**

Whether your foster dog is new to life outside of a kennel or has lived in another home environment, their routine will be changing when they enter your home. You may need to adjust your foster Greyhound to your routine or train him/her to use a dog door. If you have a dog that is not housetrained or has a lapse in his manners try the following:

- Take the dog outside on a regular schedule (starting with every 2-3 hours).
- When you are at home, keep the dog with you on a leash so that you can catch him in the act of having an accident. Correct the dog with a firm “NO” and take him/her outside. When the dog goes outside, praise profusely.

- When you are not at home, confine the dog to a crate or room that they are familiar with and feel comfortable in, using a baby gate. GPA-NW has wire crates for its foster families to use, please ask for one if needed.
- Male Greyhounds can use a belly band until they have acclimated.
- Never correct a dog if you do not catch him/her in the act! Dogs are not able to connect your correction with an action that took place five minutes before.

### **WALK AND PLAY**

Take your foster dog for walks and teach him/her to stroll calmly on the leash. NEVER use a retractable leash with a Greyhound! They can go from laying down to 25 mph+ in just 15 feet. A retractable leash can get you and/or your Greyhound injured.

Teach your Greyhound to play! Greyhounds love soft stuffed animals, especially if they squeak. Please make sure toys are dog safe! No parts that can be chewed off and ingested (i.e. hard eyes)

Outdoors – Greyhounds can work up a quick speed, even in a small yard. Look for small stumps or pipes or even tree branches that could break or dislocate a toe or brush against sharp edges. Also check for poisonous plants:

Yew	Hops	Water Hemlock	Mistletoe
Milkweed	English Holly Berries	Rattlebox	Philodendron
Corn Cockle	Jerusalem Cherry	Jimson Weed	Azaleas
Jessamine	Rhododendron	Oleander	Foxglove      Castor Bean

NOTE: If you have a pool, be aware that although dogs are natural swimmers, they cannot pull themselves up. And, since Greyhounds lack the buoyancy provided by fat, they don't float very long.

## **YOUR FOSTER DOG WITH OTHER ANIMALS AND CHILDREN**

### **SOCIALIZATION**

SUPERVISE and socialize your foster dog with your own Greyhounds, dogs, cats, and other pets. Remember your mission is to show this dog how to relax and be a good family pet.

### **GETTING ACQUAINTED**

Take precautions while you are getting to know the dog's personality, especially when he/she is around other animals. Introduce them to one another slowly. NEVER leave the foster dog alone with cats, small pets, or other dogs especially if there has been any aggressive or dominate behavior.

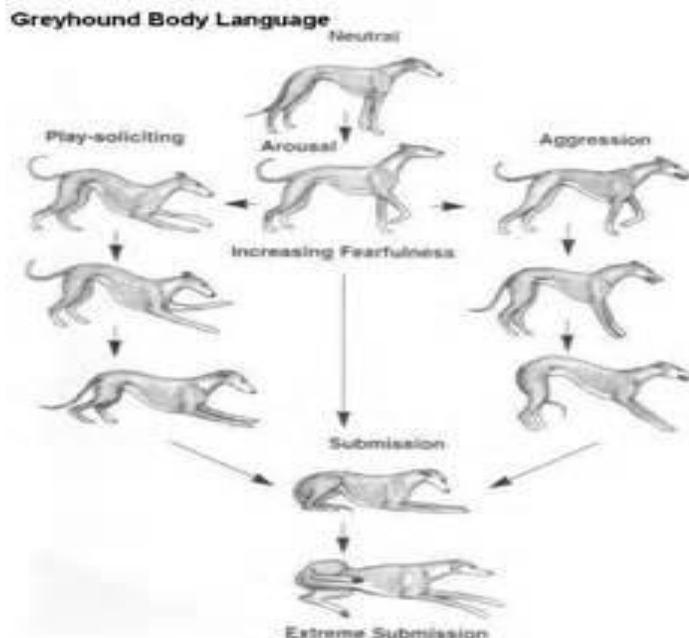
## INTRODUCING THE FOSTER TO YOUR DOGS

Have them meet on neutral territory; for example, introduce them on the sidewalk in front of your house or down the block. Keep the foster dog on a short leash close to your side. Bring out your dogs on leashes one at a time. Do not let them rush the new dog.

With leashes still on, let them sniff and greet each other, then take them around your property and into the house. If all dogs are behaving well with each other, you may remove leashes, but continue to monitor and supervise. Do not leave dogs alone unattended until you are 100% positive that all are getting along well.

Observe the reaction of the new dog and of your own dogs. If they are not interacting well, watch for signs of aggression and dominance.

- Head and tail held high, stiff, and rigid
- Tail held high and wagging stiffly
- Raised hairs along the spine from shoulders to tail
- Growling or snapping
- One dog attempting to mount the other dog



**IMMEDIATELY** correct any show of aggression with a very firm “NO”. Remove them from the area and give them some space to cool down.

## INTRODUCING THE FOSTER TO YOUR CATS

Introduce the Greyhound to your cat indoors with the Greyhound muzzled and leashed. Hold the leash firmly in your hand. Leave the cat on the floor. Walk toward the cat slowly. If the dog pulls or lunges, give a sharp pull sideways, not backwards on the leash and a very firm “NO”. Keep the dog on the leash for the first few days and muzzled for at least a week, when the cat is present. Correct the dog every time it shows an inappropriate level of interest in the cat. A spray bottle filled with water is helpful for correcting the dog from a distance. Remember, dogs good with cats inside almost always chase cats outdoors.

If you observe the following signs, Muzzle or crate the dog and inform your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member right away:

- Teeth clicking or snapping and ears alert
- Fixed gaze or stare that cannot be broken
- Trembling or lurching

### **BEHAVIOR TOWARD SMALL ANIMALS**

NEVER allow the foster dog to run and play with cats or small dogs – indoors or outdoors. Play can turn to hunt in a flash, and no cat or small dog is fast enough to get out of the way of a determined Greyhound. Not to mention, if a 50 to 80lb Greyhound trips over or accidentally steps on a cat or small dog, the small animal could be injured.

### **INTRODUCING THE FOSTER DOG TO CHILDREN**

Remember that most greyhounds have never seen children or had much time interacting with them. Some greyhounds are fearful of little people, and some are too inquisitive. Again, like introductions to other things, please use caution. In general, children should not be approaching the dog, they should be calling the dog over to them. If the dog approaches in a calm manner, then the dog may enjoy interaction with well-behaved children. If the dog is fearful, lunging or jumping, or any behavior that seems inappropriate, call your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member for help. Never let a child hug or kiss a greyhound who is new to your home or approach the foster dog while it's on its bed or in its crate. Some greyhounds can be space protective or space defensive, so use caution and always **supervise**. As the old saying goes, "Let Sleeping Dogs Lie". Kids can be loud boisterous; Greyhounds are not used to this. Again, children should **NEVER** approach the Greyhound. Have them sit and call the Greyhound to them! **The key with children is SUPERVISION! If you have to leave the room either the child or the dog needs to go with you. Children are going to be children, they are going to forget and leave a door open, or forget to stay off the dog's bed, or not to hug a nervous dog. Children are also going to get excited or rambunctious, and they are going to have friends over and things can get loud or busy. Always have a safe place for your foster dog to go to when they need to get away from normal changes in activity levels involving children.**

### **POSSESSIVE BEHAVIOR**

The foster dog may be possessive of food, toys, and space at first. Your own dogs may begin to exhibit possessive behavior. **DO NOT** leave dogs unsupervised with food, toys, etc. Correct all possessive behavior.

### **LEAVING PETS HOME ALONE**

Once you have observed dogs behaving appropriately in your presence, you may leave them together. In the meantime, you may want to use a crate for your foster dog until you have confidence that all your animals will be safe and comfortable together. A baby gate or an x-pen as a barrier at doorways can be used to separate dogs and cats while you are away. Do not leave a foster dog in an enclosed x-pen unsupervised – they can easily injure themselves. Sometimes it is best to muzzle your foster dog and your own Greyhound when you leave to avoid small nips or injuries caused by rough play when there is not human supervision.

## **MUZZLES**

You will receive a muzzle with your foster dog. The majority of greyhounds are comfortable wearing muzzles and can pant and drink water while wearing one. Any time your foster dog is off leash in an enclosed area, with other dogs, all the dogs should wear muzzles. Play can turn into a disagreement in a matter of seconds. Save your dogs and yourself the pain and suffering, and the trip to the vet for stitches or surgery, and **please follow this rule.**

## **INSURANCE**

We encourage you to enjoy your foster dog and socialize him/her as you would your own dog. We do, however, want to remind you that we do not carry insurance as a group. If your foster dog inflicts injury on another animal or person, your homeowner's insurance policy may cover you under the liability portion of your policy. You may want to check with your insurance company to find out how and when such protection is extended.

## **DOG PARKS AND DOG-SITTING**

**Foster dogs are NOT to be taken to dog parks for the following reasons:**

- As you know, many of these foster dogs are not safe with smaller animals. A few of them have been involved in incidents at dog parks, and there have been some incidents with dogs already adopted into home. We are concerned about potential liability if a foster dog injures or kills another dog at such a park.
- The risk of injury to a foster dog at a dog park is another concern to us. With their paper-thin skin, Greyhounds can much more easily be ripped by rough-housing than breeds who have fur and body fat.
- Small and medium dogs (and the reputation of Greyhounds as pets) are at risk if you take your foster dogs to a dog park.

We also ask that you do not dog-sit while you have a foster dog, for some of the same reasons as above. Exceptions have been made in situations where the dogs have previously lived together – the Foster Team grants exceptions. Also adding more dogs to the mix creates a potential risk to your dogs, the foster dog, and the dog(s) that you are sitting.

**Should you take your foster dog to a dog park or dog-sit when we have requested that you not do so, GPA-NW will expect you to be responsible for any legal, financial, and medical problems that occur with any of the dogs, including your foster dog!**

## THE ADOPTION PROCESS

While the foster Greyhound is in your care, Placement Volunteers will be making home visits to prospective adopters and attempting to find the perfect match for your dog. For this reason, it is important that you keep your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member up to date regarding your foster dog's personality, behavior, habits, health, and idiosyncrasies. For instance, you will want to note what and when if the foster dog has begun to limp, has an ear problem, etc. and contact your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member ASAP. In turn, your Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member will pass this information to the Placement Coordinator and if needed to the Medical Committee.

When your foster dog's profile matches an adopter's profile, a Placement Volunteer will contact you for more information. In some situations, you may be asked to participate in a visit/meeting with the prospective adopters. At this visit/meeting, help the prospective adopters interact with your foster dog and show him/her off to the best of your ability. Please remember the Placement Volunteers are trained and have experience in adjusting Greyhounds to various homes and situations. The potential home for your foster dog may or may not be similar to your home life.

### **If you are present when a potential adopter meets your foster dog;**

- Discuss your feelings and observations, and any comments you have regarding the potential adopters with the Placement Volunteer, but **do not** discuss them in front of the potential adopters.
- Avoid statements such as "Fido would be perfect for you." Or "Fido would never do that."
- Stick to how the foster dog has reacted in your home situation, remembering Greyhounds are extremely resilient and can adapt to a variety of situations.
- NEVER let the prospective adopter take the dog home after the first visit, unless you have been told to do so by a Placement Volunteer.

The Placement Volunteer or designee will complete the adoption paperwork. We would appreciate it if you would bathe (if needed) your foster dog and check him/her over for overall cleanliness (eyes, ears, toes, teeth) and for fleas/flea dirt (using a flea comb) before turning him/her over to the Placement Volunteer. Wash or ask for a replacement muzzle if needed, and if their collar and leash have become soiled or damaged wash them or ask for a replacement. Double check to make sure your foster dog's blue folder is in his/her bag, and that the Foster Medical Log is up to date. Also, if there is not a heartworm preventative in the folder let the Placement Volunteer know ASAP so they have time to get one ahead of time. Include enough of the food your foster dog is eating for 4 to 5 meals in the bag for transition food. If you are unable to trim your foster dog's nails or bathe them before their adoption and they need it, please let the Placement Volunteer know ahead of time so that other arrangements can be made to have that done.

Every attempt will be made to provide you with information on how your foster Greyhound is settling into its new home. Should you have contact with the adoptive family, please inform the Placement Volunteer. It is very important that the Placement Volunteers be involved in the solution for any issues that may arise – it can make the difference between an adoption that sticks or one that doesn't. We would also like the new families to become a part of our Greyhound volunteer group. You can help by informing them of and inviting them to Playdates and other functions/activities.

It's not always easy as foster parents to let go – it may help to know that Greyhounds, unlike us, live by the adage in the Crosby, Stills, and Nash song and really do "love the one you're with." We can learn from them and find the next Greyhound who needs our love, attention, and training.

### **HUMAN INTERACTION/SOCIALIZATION**

Exposure, exposure, exposure! Take your foster dog everywhere you possibly can, show off the dog's positive traits and work on correcting any bad habits. Another tip that you may not have thought about – what you say about your foster dog and Greyhounds in general has a great impact on potential adopters. You can scare them away by jokingly saying the wrong thing. Emphasize your dog's positive qualities, cute expressions, and delightful personality. We have had adopters change their minds, because of an offhand comment a foster parent made at an event. If you are having an issue with your foster dog, please contact Regional Foster Rep/Medical Committee member for suggestions on how to help the Greyhound thru the issue. Don't jeopardize your foster dog's chance of finding a home by discussing it with other volunteers at an event especially if potential adopters are in attendance!

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

- *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, Lee Livingood
- *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*, Cynthia A Branigan
- *Greyhound: A Complete Owner's Manual*, D. Caroline Coile
- *Living with More than One Dog*, Carol Cronan
- *Childproofing Your Dog*, B. Kilcommons & S. Wilson
- *Good Owners, Great Dogs*, B. Kilcommons & S. Wilson
- *Good Dogs, Bad Habits*, Jeanne Carlson
- *Living with Dogs and Kids without Losing your Mind*, Colleen Pelar
- *The Other End of the Leash*, Patricia B. McConnell, PHD
- *I'll Be Home Soon, (About Separation Anxiety prevention and treatment)*, Patricia B. McConnell, PHD
- *The Cautious Canine, (About Conquering fears)*, Patricia B. McConnell, PHD
- *On Talking Terms with Dogs*, Turid Rugaas

**Check out our website for lots of interesting information and links to other web sites!**

[www.gpa-nw.org](http://www.gpa-nw.org)

## 5,000 YEARS -- FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE

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Imagine a dog, a regular dog, in fact: imagine a mutt. Imagine this mutt is a very happy go lucky, average sized male who possesses instincts and traits handed down to him by ten different breeds of his family tree. He has a good temperament, our imaginary mutt: he is friend to both animal and man. His behavior is generally good: he comes when he's called.

When out for a walk with this mutt, or a game of chase-the-ball his behavior is predictable and safe. If you're out at the park with the mutt and you lose sight of him, there is no need for worry. One shrill whistle will bring him running back to you from behind whatever tree or bush he was investigating.

The point is this: he's safe. He's safe because we know what makes him tick, we know what he will do, and when he will do it. He shares the common behaviors and physical limitations of almost every dog you have ever seen throughout your whole life; you know exactly what to expect from him.

Now, just for fun, let's do some genetic engineering to this imaginary mutt. The first thing we'll change is his personality; alter his patterns of thought and reactions with instinctive behaviors that most dogs do not have. From now on, imagine our mutt has the uncanny ability to perform hunting tasks. Then again, almost all dogs have hunting ability, don't they? Well, let's enhance our mutt's abilities beyond those of most dogs. Let's imagine our mutt enjoys the benefit of, oh, let's say five thousand years of single purpose breeding; the purpose being pursuit and capture. Hunting.

Let's change him even further. Let's give this mutt the physical enhancements he would need to fully exploit his new instincts. First, we'll change his vision, giving him larger eyes so that he can spot his prey even if it's a kilometer away. We'll make his vision sharp and clear so that he can tirelessly scan the horizon, looking for targets.

Now, in order for our mutt to be able to catch what he spots so far away, we'll give him great speed. Imagine that we can re-create his heart and lungs to be larger and stronger and alter his skeletal frame and musculature to be more efficient, powerful, aerodynamic. With this new body design, our newly enhanced mutt can go from a standstill to sixty kilometers-per-hour in about three seconds. We will also add to his great speed the power of agility, giving him the ability to corner and change directions at high speed, so he can easily capture what he chases.

Let's summarize our changes. Our mutt has single mindedness now, and determination to hunt; he possesses instinct centuries old. Our mutt also has the physical ability to back up this powerful instinct; he can hold his own with the fastest land animals in the world, and he can spot prey with the proficiency of an eagle.

What else does he need? What other changes should we make to this mutt to compliment

intelligence for the chase. Imagine that this mutt has the instinctive intelligence to go around fences, bushes, walls, and buildings to catch what he sees. He no longer just stops and barks like a fool when something comes between him and his target.

Finally, there is one last change we should give our imaginary canine creation. He should have the power of camouflage. He will possess a calm demeanor and a tranquil, loving attitude. It will not be obvious that he has such great powers.

Wow! We've imagined quite a super dog! All he needs is a name. Maybe "Feline Terminators"? Or "Squirrel's Nightmares"? Then again, in keeping with his personality, something low key would be more appropriate; let's just call him "Greyhound."

Now -- when you take this re-created animal out to run and play, will you forget his new abilities? Will you allow his powers of calm tranquility to lull you into believing he's just a dog?

Will you let him off the lead in an area that's unfamiliar to both of you, or unsafe? An area where the sight of another dog, car, bird, squirrel, or white piece of floating trash could send him streaking at sixty kilometers an hour across a traffic-filled road? He would appear out of nowhere, instantly; a driver would have no chance to even attempt to hit the brake. Will you expect this "Greyhound" to stop, or come to you, when he can't hear you calling out over the thunder of his own legs striking the ground in full sprint? Would you expect him to respond to your panicky shouts when the only thing he can hear is his huge heart pounding, the panting of his own breath, and the relentless howl of centuries of instinct?

Your answer should be "no." A Greyhound is a specialized animal possessing physical ability and instincts beyond normal dogs. A responsible owner must never forget that. The "mutt" in this article is a metaphor; our final imaginary product, the Greyhound, is real. You own one, and I own one.