

Frequently Asked Questions

How old is the retired racer?

Retired racers are usually between two and five years old, but some are younger and some are older.

How long do they live?

With proper care, retired racing greyhounds will live, on average, 10 to 14 years.

What color are greyhounds?

Greyhounds are many colors and color combinations – 56 actually, including brindle, blue, white, black, fawn, red, or any combination of these. The name “greyhound” is not derived from the color of the animal, but may have roots in Latin or Greek history.

Is there much difference between males and females?

Other than size, not really. Males and females are equally calm, loving, and sociable.

How big are greyhounds?

Male greyhounds average 26 to 30 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 65 and 85 pounds. Females stand 23 to 26 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh 50 to 65 pounds. Of course there are exceptions—some dogs are smaller or larger.

How fast can they run?

Greyhounds can reach a speed of up to 48 miles per hour.

What do greyhounds eat?

They usually eat four to six cups of high-quality dry dog food mixed with warm water each day. Crunchy dog biscuits supplement their diet and help keep their teeth clean.

Are greyhounds difficult to housebreak?

At the track, greyhounds are "turned out" four times a day to relieve themselves. They have been trained to go outside and to keep their kennels clean. At home, the retired racer quickly learns that the house is the kennel and outside is where they go to relieve themselves. Frequent walks, supervision while out of the crate, and use of a crate when you can't supervise your dog or you are not home help the greyhound adjust to home life.

How are greyhounds with kids?

Greyhounds are calm, gentle dogs and make great companions for people of all ages. As with any dog, children should be taught to play nicely with the greyhound. No animal should be expected to tolerate painful treatment or constant teasing.

Do they get along with other pets?

Greyhounds spend their racing lives in the company of other dogs. They are friendly and sociable by nature. Most greyhounds have never been around small animals, but with time and care they learn to accept other animals as members of the family. A small minority of retired racers have a high prey drive and need to live in homes without cats or other small pets.

Do they make good watchdogs?

Not really. Some greyhounds will bark at strangers, but that is usually out of excitement, not because they are aggressive. Their size may be intimidating to those who do not know them, however. Greyhounds are friendly and quiet, and not very threatening.

Aren't greyhounds high-strung and don't they need a lot of exercise?

Not at all! They are among the most docile of breeds and form strong bonds with their families. Greyhounds are as active as their owners. Like other dogs, they enjoy a daily walk. Now that they are retired they no longer need to run. In fact, your greyhound will be healthier if it is not allowed to run.

Can greyhounds be allowed to run off-leash??

Only in completely enclosed areas. Otherwise, the greyhound should never be allowed to run off-leash. The risk of injury or loss of the greyhound is just too great. (Leash laws also prohibit owners from allowing their dogs to wander off-leash.) Greyhounds are taught to walk on a leash at an early age and enjoy the exercise as well as the attention they receive from people who pass by.

Will invisible fencing keep a greyhound in my yard?

We do not recommend invisible fencing for your greyhound. When a greyhound hits the perimeter of your yard at 40-plus miles per hour, he or she will barely feel the shock from an invisible fence and will just ignore it. The only thing on the greyhound's mind at that point is the squirrel in the yard across the street. Once beyond the fence, the greyhound is gone. Also, invisible fencing does not keep other animals from entering your yard.

Can a greyhound be tied out on a lead?

Never. Greyhounds are not use to being tied up. Due to their quick acceleration, they can severely injure themselves when they come to the end of a tie-out.

How do they tolerate winter weather?

Greyhounds are indoor dogs. They cannot live in outdoor kennels. Because of their short, thin hair and low percentage of body fat, they cannot tolerate extended periods of exposure to extreme heat or cold. A greyhound gets through a cold winter the same way we do—with the aid of a warm sweater or coat and boots.

How old do our children have to be before we adopt?

It is the policy of Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption not to adopt to families with children under the age of six.

How much does a retired racing greyhound cost?

Northern Lights Greyhound Adoption's fee is \$300 plus tax. This nominal fee includes:

- Your beautiful greyhound
- Physical exam
- Full blood chemistry profile
- Complete blood count
- Heartworm/tick testing
- Intestinal parasite exam
- Worming
- Thyroid level testing
- Spaying or neutering
- Dental prophylaxis
- OraVet tooth sealant
- Vaccinations
- Microchip and lifetime registration
- Bath
- Nail trim
- Martingale collar and leash
- Lifetime support from our volunteers