

Introducing a New Greyhound

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Introducing a new greyhound into a household with pre-established pets requires patience, common sense, and caution. Expect the worst possible reaction and be pleasantly surprised with anything less. The following list of tips is helpful to minimize trauma and stress for all.

1. If the new greyhound has been tested as “cat-safe,” it is best to take this label with a grain of salt. Don’t trust the new addition until the trust has been earned. Watch for signs of acceptance toward your feline, or even better, absolute ambivalence.
2. Make certain that you do not ignore the incumbent pets. Give them as much or more attention than normal. You don’t want your faithful companions to doubt their importance in your life.
3. Introduce your new addition in a neutral environment to help expedite the new relationship without the threat of territorial behaviors.
4. A muzzle is a must for a greyhound because they have very thin skin and can be injured easily. Greyhounds grow up wearing muzzles and can eat, drink, and play while wearing one. Have one muzzle available per animal. Know your pets’ personalities and use the muzzles until you are confident that they have settled into a harmonious existence. Continue to use these protective devices well beyond what seems to be necessary. You will never regret being overly cautious.
5. Muzzles are often necessary indefinitely for some greyhounds whenever they are running free (in a fenced area, of course). A muzzle is a piece of safety equipment, no different than a collar. In a multiple-dog setting, a muzzle can prevent injury and unnecessary veterinary bills.
6. Minimize the availability of toys, bones, and stuffed animals in the beginning. The task of introducing a new dog is tough enough without adding the complication of jealousy over material possessions. These objects can be offered when your pets are crated. If crating is not part of your routine, make sure to supervise your pets when these material objects are present.
7. Always supervise mealtimes unless the dogs are fed in their crates. A fight over food can cause unnecessary injury to you and your pets.

Multiple-dog households can be the source of great joy and happiness for all. Common sense and caution can help to avoid stress, injury (or worse), and vet bills.