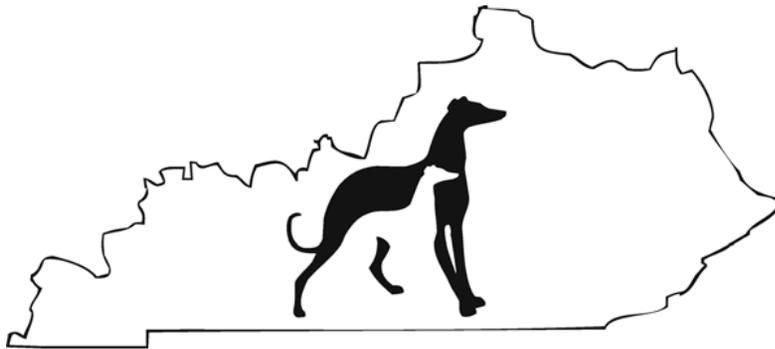


# Considering Adopting a Companion Pet?

*Make a Fast Friend . . .*

## Adopt a Retired Racing Greyhound from



**Greyhound Pets of America  
Louisville Chapter**

## About Greyhounds . . .

Greyhounds have been favored for hunting, coursing, racing and as companions for humans since the times of ancient Egypt. Greek art and coins depict short-haired hounds virtually identical to modern Greyhounds, making it fairly certain that the breed has changed very little since 500 BC. To learn more about the fascinating history of Greyhounds, visit [www.fastfriends.org](http://www.fastfriends.org).

### Breed Characteristics

Greyhounds are friendly, affectionate dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship. They are often described as intelligent, sensitive, sweet, non-aggressive and unsurpassed as companion dogs. As a result of lifelong encounters with other Greyhounds on the racing circuit, these dogs socialize well and are generally tolerant of other family pets – including cats and small dogs.

Their temperament makes most Greyhounds wonderful around children. It must be remembered, however, that these are adult dogs who may have never been exposed to small children, with their quick movements and high voices. Children *must* be taught the proper respect for a Greyhound, as with any pet. We recommend reading the book, *Childproofing Your Dog*, available at Amazon.com.

There are 16 recognized Greyhound color combinations, including white, fawn, red, black, blue (gray) and many shades of brindle.

Greyhounds have virtually no body fat and little odor. In general, they are very clean and do not require a lot of grooming beyond nail trimming, gentle brushing, cleaning their teeth and occasional baths.

The average female Greyhound weighs between 50 and 70 pounds. The average male weighs between 65 and 80 pounds. Most retired racing Greyhounds stand between 26 and 30 inches tall.

Greyhounds are strictly indoor pets and cannot tolerate extreme heat or cold. They are short-haired and considered minimal shedders.

Racing Greyhounds are usually “retired” between the ages of two and five years. With proper care, their life span is 12 years or more. This long lifespan allows the Greyhound to become an essential part of a loving family for many years.

Adopted Greyhounds quickly become attached to their new owners and enjoy pleasing their new family members. Greyhounds love comfort as much as they love to run and will spend hours curled up on a soft bed. If allowed, most Greyhounds enjoy sleeping with their

with their new owners – if not in the same bed, certainly in the same room.

Housebreaking is usually easy since they have been taught to keep their kennels clean. If a newly-adopted Greyhound is let out frequently, if the owner has a fenced yard and if the dog is walked frequently for the first few days in a new home, he or she will soon learn to relieve him/herself outside and to keep its new home clean.

Unless in the house or in a securely fenced area, Greyhounds **MUST ALWAYS BE KEPT ON A LEASH**. There can be no exceptions to this rule. GPA/Louisville does not require adopters to have fenced yards but if you do not have a fenced yard, you must make a long-term commitment to walking your dog several times a day – rain or shine.

Greyhounds are sight hounds. They hunt by sight, not scent. For the last 6,000 years, they have been bred to hunt by outrunning their prey. With their excellent eyesight, any moving object (a small animal, a leaf, etc.) in the distance can trigger the dog's instinct to chase at speeds of up to 45 miles per hour. Oblivious to traffic and distance, this high-speed, frenzied chase can easily end in tragedy.

### **Adopting from GPA/Louisville**

All dogs placed by the Louisville chapter of the Greyhound Pets of America are either spayed or neutered. Prior to placement, they receive thorough physical exams and will be up to date on their DHLPP booster shots and rabies inoculations. They will have been tested for heartworms and other common parasites. Their teeth and ears will have been recently cleaned as well as a nail trim.

Prospective owners must complete an adoption application. After it is received, representatives of GPA/Louisville will visit the prospective family's home to talk about the breed and to answer questions. We do this to ensure that our Greyhounds go into homes where the entire family is eager to adopt and where the adopters are prepared to devote the time necessary for the dog to make the transition from professional athlete to family pet. We also try to establish a profile of the Greyhound best suited to the adoptive family's lifestyle and needs.

At the time of adoption, GPA-Louisville asks for a tax-deductible donation of **\$300** to recover some of our cost in retrieving the dogs from the track and providing veterinary care. Each dog comes with a GPA identification tag, a Martingale safety collar and a matching leash. This donation also covers the cost of micro-chipping.

GPA/Louisville adopters are invited to participate in our e-mail discussion group and to join us for our monthly dinners and our occasional Sunday afternoon walks in area parks. Just drop us an email at **GPA@GPALouisville.org** if you need more information. To obtain an application form, please call the phone number listed below, visit one of our Meet & Greets at several local area petstores or download one from our website at **www.GPALouisville.org**, where you can also find our current Meet & Greet schedule.

### **About GPA**

Greyhound Pets of America, Inc. is a national, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible pet homes for retired racing Greyhounds. Donations to GPA or any of its chapters are tax-deductible.

GPA also strives to educate the public about what excellent, loving pets these beautiful and gentle animals make.

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**GREYHOUND ADOPTION APPLICATION**

NOTE: We highly recommend all potential adopters read *Adopting the Retired Racing Greyhound* by Cynthia Branigan and, if they have children, we suggest *Childproofing Your Dog* by Brian Kilcommons. Both of these books, and many others, on the subject of *Greyhound adoption* are available from Amazon.com through the link on our [www.GPALouisville.org](http://www.GPALouisville.org) website.

Applicant(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Best time to call you: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Work# \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Work# \_\_\_\_\_

Your Cell# \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group of Applicant(s):     Under 25    25-35    36-45    46-55    Over 56

Number of People in the household:    Adult(s): \_\_\_\_\_    Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children under 16: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you read any books about retired racing Greyhounds as pets?    Yes    No

If so, what books have you read? Any other research you've done? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you visited any of our Meet & Greets?    Petsmart    Feeders Supply    Tractor Supply

Rural King    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What has motivated you to adopt a Greyhound? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you considered adopting a Greyhound? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied with any other adoption group?  Yes  No

If yes, explain the status of the application: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you meet your first Greyhound? \_\_\_\_\_

If you adopt, will your Greyhound be in regular contact with children or pets other than those in your family?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to jog/run with your Greyhound?  Yes  No

Do you intend to obedience train?  Yes  No

Do you  own your residence or  rent your residence?

In what type of residence do you live?  Single Family Home  Multi Family Home

Mobile Home  Duplex  Apartment  Condo/Townhouse

Do you currently have any pets?  Yes  No

If so, what species, gender, age and type? \_\_\_\_\_

Are they indoor or outdoor pets?  Indoor  Outdoor

Are they spayed/neutered?  Yes  No

Current on heartworm preventative?  Yes  No

Do you have stairs inside or leading into your home?  Yes  No If yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

If you rent, does your landlord allow dogs?  Yes  No  Don't Know

Landlord's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Landlord's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

May we conduct an in-home interview with you?  Yes  No

Where will your new dog sleep at night? \_\_\_\_\_

Where will your new dog spend its time while you are at work? \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours a day will your new dog be alone? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to use a crate?  Yes  No

If yes, have you purchased a crate?  Yes  No

If yes, what type of crate (open wire, plastic/airline type)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a fenced-in yard?  Yes  No

If yes, what type of fence? \_\_\_\_\_ How high? \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not have a fully fenced yard, are you willing to provide on-leash walks for a Greyhound at least four (4) times a day?  Yes  No

**You can never ever put a Greyhound on a chain run or tie-out. It can literally break its neck!**

What type/brand of dog food do you plan to feed your dog? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Premium, high-quality kibble (free of corn and soy) is recommended for retired Greyhounds*

Do you travel often?  Yes  No

If yes, will you take your Greyhound with you?  Yes  No

If no, what arrangements will you make for your new dog? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you anticipate major lifestyle changes in the next year?  Yes  No  
(ex: new job, retirement, moving, new baby, etc.)

Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

What do you consider valid reasons for giving up a pet?

Allergies  Divorce  Too Expensive (vet costs, food, etc.)  Financial Problems

House Remodeling  Having a Baby  Owner's Illness  New Marriage

Job Loss or Relocation  Moving into a Smaller Home/Apartment

Problems with housebreaking/discipline  Destruction of Property

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a preference regarding age or sex in a companion dog?  Yes  No

Would you consider a special needs Greyhound or a senior (age 8 or more)?  Yes  No

Have you ever surrendered a pet to a rescue or animal shelter?  Yes  No

Please explain the circumstances of the surrender: \_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

Your Veterinarian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal References (other than relatives):

(1) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (2) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## COVENANTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS

### Initials:

- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that a retired racing Greyhound may never be permitted off leash except in a securely enclosed, fenced area.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that a Greyhound shall never be put on a tie-out chain, overhead line or rope. Greyhounds can easily reach speeds of up to 45 MPH in only three strides. If tied out, the dog can easily break its neck in a matter of seconds!
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that all Greyhound must be housed exclusively indoors and may never be left in an unheated/non-air-conditioned space or left outside except for supervised exercise and to relieve itself. A Greyhound may NOT be left in a garage or shed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that all Greyhounds adopted from GPA/Louisville must be kept current on all vaccinations each year. Further, annual heartworm tests will be given and such dogs must be kept on heartworm prevention all year long (*i.e.*, Heartgard or Interceptor).
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that adoption of a Greyhound from GPA/Louisville means acceptance of full responsibility for any such animal's care and welfare, and the release of any previous owner as well as GPA/Louisville and its representative from any liability concerning the dog.
- \_\_\_\_\_ GPA/Louisville reserves the right to repossess any Greyhound adopted from said organization if any of the covenants contained herein or any provision of the subsequent Adoption Contract are violated.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that if the adopting family or individual is unable to keep the Greyhound adopted from GPA/Louisville, the animal will be relinquished to the adopting organization. In the event of failure to do so, GPA/Louisville has the right to take legal action based upon these covenants and/or the subsequent Adoption Contract.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that any dog placed by GPA/Louisville will be spayed or neutered and microchipped prior to adoption.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that GPA/Louisville has express permission to confirm with the veterinarian named above the health and medical history of pets currently owned by the undersigned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is acknowledged by the undersigned that a **non-refundable** donation of **\$300** is expected by GPA/Louisville at the time of adoption to defray the organization's expenses in retrieving dogs from the track, providing pre-adoption veterinary care and microchipping.

**It is certified by the undersigned that all information on this application is true and correct. Further, express permission is hereby granted by the undersigned for GPA/Louisville to contact the landlord (if applicable), veterinarian and personal references set out above.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

HEARTWORM NOTICE: If our veterinarian's check shows positive for heartworms, Greyhound Pets of America/Louisville Chapter will not place the affected dog in a pet home. We cannot, in good faith, adopt out a dog who will need the prolonged expensive medical care which heartworm treatment involves.

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*If you cannot adopt a Greyhound at this time, you can still help our efforts on behalf of these wonderful dogs by making a tax-deductible donation to Greyhound Pets of America.*