



REGAP OF ILLINOIS, INC.
Pet Greyhound Adoption Application

Name		Date	
Address		City	State Zip
(Area Code) Home Telephone	Best Time To Call	E-Mail address	
(Area Code) Cellular Telephone	(Area Code) Cellular Telephone (Spouse)	E-Mail address (Spouse)	
Employer's Name		(Area Code) Work Telephone	
Address		City	State Zip

1. How did you hear about REGAP?			
2. Why do you want to adopt a Greyhound?			
3. Have you any preference as to Age, Sex, or Color? What would you prefer?			
4. What other pets do you have now?			
5. If you have cats, specify indoor or outdoor.			
6. What pets have you had in the past?			
7. Is there someone home during the day? If not, when?			
8. What area do you live in?	<input type="checkbox"/> City	<input type="checkbox"/> Suburban	<input type="checkbox"/> Country
9. What type of dwelling?	<input type="checkbox"/> One Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Family	<input type="checkbox"/> Apartment/Condo
10. Do you own your own home?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	11. If "NO", does your landlord allow pets?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
12. Supply your landlord's name, address and telephone number.			
13. Do you have a fenced area where your Greyhound can safely be let out without having to be led to it?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
14. What is the size of this fenced area?	15. Describe the fence:		

16. List the Names and Ages of the people in your home, **including yourself**:

First and Last Name	Age	First and Last Name	Age

Note that all children living in your home must be at least 5 years old.

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Please put your initials next to each of the following answers:

17. Do you agree to always keep your greyhound on a leash or within an enclosed fenced area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
18. Do you intend for your greyhound to live in the home with you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
19. Are there stairs where your greyhound would live? If yes, please describe them	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
20. Are you willing to take your greyhound outside four to six times each day to relieve himself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
21. Do you agree to keep your greyhound on heartworm preventative?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
22. Do you agree to keep your greyhound exclusively as a house dog and agree never to use it for commercial racing, scientific or laboratory research, or as anything other than a family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
23. Do you agree to keep a collar bearing identification on your greyhound at all times and notify REGAP at once if your greyhound should ever get lost?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
24. Do you agree to notify REGAP if you cannot keep your greyhound and to never give your greyhound to a pound, shelter, or any other person or group without written permission from REGAP?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
25. Do you agree to promptly answer a yearly questionnaire on how your greyhound is doing?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

26. References:
27. Name, address, and telephone of all your veterinarians:

I certify that the above information is true and complete:

Signature _____ Applicant

Please return application and vet release form to:

REGAP of Illinois, Inc.
Mona Moore
4107 E. 3rd Road
Mendota, IL 61342
815-538-DOGS

The fee for a Greyhound is \$275.00. This fee is for the following services: spay/alter, rabies, DA2PP vaccinations, tick panel, worming, heartworm test, teeth cleaning, and grooming. Plus a \$10 Avid chip activation fee.

Remarks:

REGAP OF ILLINOIS, INC. "RETIRED GREYHOUNDS AS PETS"

**Veterinarian Reference
Medical Information Release Form**

I hereby authorize and approve the release of any and all medical information regarding my current and/or previously owned animal(s) to Mona Moore, of REGAP OF ILLINOIS, INC. Mona Moore reserves the right to call the veterinarian, the veterinarian's office and any other physician/veterinarian who may have treated any currently and/or previously owned animal(s) and receive any and all information.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____
Signature

Print Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Home Phone: _____

Greyhounds as Pets

Retired racing greyhounds make wonderful pets. Surprised? Have you ever gone to the dog track and seen only a long, lean running machine attired in a racing jacket and a muzzle? Perhaps you surmised, "They must wear that muzzle to sheath those teeth! And all that energy! Racing greyhounds must need to run all day, every day just to calm down even a little!" Actually, racing greyhounds wear muzzles as a state requirement and have all that energy because they are about to do what they were bred for – a quick sprint around the race track. Unlike most sporting dogs, who were bred to be able to run all day, greyhounds are capable of expending enormous amounts of energy in a few minutes; but after the race, it's back to the business of kennel life: a drink of water, a turn in the exercise pen, and a three-day rest in the kennel before racing again.

Greyhounds belong to a family of dogs known as sighthounds, so called because they hunt with their eyes rather than with their noses. In fact, greyhounds can see a moving object up to half a mile away. They are one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest, breeds of dog known to man. Their image is found on the walls of tombs of Egyptian royalty. Their name in Britain seems to stem from the Saxon word *Greu* which means running dog. For centuries common Brits were not allowed to own dogs. This to prevent poaching of game and thus spoiling the "sport" for the wealthier class. Indeed, prior to the signing of the Magna Carta (the inspiration for our own Bill of Rights), destruction of a greyhound was considered a serious crime.

From their very beginnings, greyhounds have been bred to outrun their prey. Traditionally they were walked on a lead until game was sighted and then they were released. From that moment on, they pitted their grace and intelligence against that of their quarry. The necessity of making their own hunting decisions has made them self reliant and quick witted. Subsequently, the prestige of owning the fastest running dog led gentlemen to race their dogs against each other. Often with a substantial bet on the outcome. If, in the context of the race, a dog interfered in any way it was put down immediately. Centuries of this type of genetic selection have created a very peaceful dog.

While many may think that the retired racer is not a good choice for the family dog, their long history says otherwise. They possess a calm and gentle nature. They do well in small houses, needing only their special soft spot upon which to sleep and rest. A walk once a day and an opportunity to run off leash occasionally in an enclosed ball field or park, are all that is necessary in terms of exercising a retired racer. (They should also be given opportunity to go outside four or five times a day to empty themselves.) A more loyal and devoted companion you will not find anywhere. They are known as watch, not guard, dogs. They are gentle and intelligent and not given to fits of barking.

Before you go on...

Please consider these questions carefully. If in all honesty, you have to answer "no" to one or more, adopting a greyhound wouldn't be in the best interest of you or the dog right now.

Am I willing to share my home with a greyhound? Greyhounds are *house* pets and *people* animals who should be exercised on the lead and off the lead only in enclosed areas. A greyhound is so quick that one allowed to roam free won't live long if there's traffic anywhere near. A greyhound must never be chained up or left neglected in a yard to be miserable, bored and lonely.

Do I have the time to explicitly follow instructions for helping a greyhound adjust to life in a home? Greyhounds learn quickly, but they need you to *teach* them where to go to the bathroom, how to climb stairs, stay alone, get along with other pets, adjust to a new diet, etc.

Am I a firm but gentle disciplinarian? Greyhounds are sensitive creatures who want to please. They will *not* respond to a loud voice or threatening manner. Violence will be fatal to your relationship. Any dog will make "mistakes" at first. Can you be patient with him?

If you can answer "yes" to all these questions, you'll have one of the smartest, most devoted pets you'll ever know.

Retired Racing Greyhound Care

The Adjustment Period

Recognizing the adjustment period and successfully managing it, is a very important part of any Racing Greyhound adoption. It must be remembered that becoming a pet involves a dramatic change in routine which can be stressful for a Greyhound, and he must be given time to adjust to his new surroundings. In this regard, a quiet Greyhound may be fretful, a good eater reluctant to eat, a perfectly housebroken Greyhound may have an accident. Give your pet time to settle in and don't worry about any odd behavior during the first few weeks. Your love, patience and understanding will help your Greyhound through this adjustment period which usually lasts from a few days to a few weeks.

Greyhounds are friendly, affectionate dogs who thrive on attention and human companionship and make terrific pets once they get used to their new homes. Raised with their littermates, where they competed for affection, Greyhounds love becoming the center of attention as pets.

Housebreaking

Your Greyhound has been housed in a large crate in his trainer's kennel. He is used to being put outside in a fenced-in pen to relieve himself four times a day. He may be used to getting up early (about 6 am) to be taken outside. To avoid accidents in the house, we recommend that you take him outside as soon as he gets up. You can gradually get him used to sleeping later.

If your dog has an accident in the house, a verbal reprimand should usually suffice – then take him outside and praise him when he relieves himself. Do not hit your dog or put his nose in the “accident” as your dog will respond more quickly and more positively to kindness.

If your dog is a male, he may attempt to lift his leg in a few places around the house to “mark his territory.” Watch him carefully as he walks around the house and try to catch him before he does it. If this should happen, it does not usually go on for long, so try to be patient.

If your dog has an accident, clean the spot, then rinse the area with a solution of white vinegar and water. This will neutralize the odor and discourage his going in that spot again.

For the first few days, it's a good idea to walk your Greyhound more frequently than you ordinarily would – as often as every couple of hours. This teaches your Greyhound where his new home is and where he's supposed to “go”, helps relieve the tension of being in a strange place and prevents accidents. Also, some Greyhounds are not used to “going” while on a leash and must learn how.

Bedding

Provide your Greyhound with as soft a bed as possible. Greyhounds not only love comfort, they require it, as they have very little padding on their elbows and can develop a fluid condition if forced to sleep on a hard surface.

You will be surprised at how quickly your Greyhound becomes attached to you, and what a difference your presence makes to him. Do not shut your Greyhound in a separate room to sleep – he will much prefer to sleep in the same room with you (in the same bed, if you let him!). He'll feel more secure and is less likely to cry or cause damage.

Discipline

Greyhounds are extremely sensitive animals who cannot be disciplined roughly. A stern tone of voice should be all that is needed to keep your Greyhound off the sofa or bed if you do not want him there. The wrong disciplinary tactics will only teach your dog to be afraid of you.

Other Pets

Your Greyhound should get along well with other dogs as he has had lots of “socialization” experience in the racing kennel. Take care, however, to watch them carefully at first as the “old dog” may be jealous of the newcomer.

Always separate your dogs when you feed them. Dogs can get very feisty over food.

Many of our Greyhounds live in homes with cats and get along well with them. They should, however, be introduced carefully. When introducing your Greyhound to your cat, put the dog’s muzzle on him. Then put them in the same room and allow them to get acquainted. Don’t push it and don’t be overly concerned. If the dog chases the cat, the cat will probably swat him, and the dog will learn he’s not dealing with a “bunny”. When the dog no longer chases the cat, take the muzzle off. Never leave them alone together, in the beginning, when you’re not home.

Stairs

Your Greyhound has never had to go up or down flights of stairs. He may find them intimidating at first. He will learn, but you must be patient with him. If you encounter a problem, start by carrying him almost to the top of the stairs. Then put him down and allow him to climb the last few steps. Gradually increase the number of steps he climbs. Reverse the procedure for downstairs. When first teaching them to climb stairs, put their leash on so you can help them up the stairs, and more importantly, prevent them from going down the stairs too quickly. Do not push him – if frightened, he may try to jump all the way down the stairs and get seriously hurt.

Equipment

Proper equipment made especially for the Greyhound will provide for the safety and well-being for your dog. (1) an inexpensive ¾ - 1" flat, webbed buckle, snap or side release collar for your dog’s ID’s MUST be worn at all times – this type of collar prevents hair loss on the front of the neck; and (2) an outer walking collar/leash combination featuring a “martingale” closure. Martingale lead sets come in one-piece and two-piece configurations. Warning: with the two-piece detachable lead set, we do not recommend keeping the collar portion only on your dog. We have seen incidences where dogs can get hooked on a kitchen cabinet with the possibility of getting choked. Again these are safe walking sets. They must be sized and used properly. A third safe alternative would be an adjustable harness. Do not use retractable leashes as these leashes do not provide enough control should your dog spot something interesting. Never use a chain choke on a Greyhound. You can damage his windpipe.

Never tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain or “runner”. Greyhounds are not used to being tied, they could get tangled up and injure themselves, or they will pull, wiggle or chew their way out. They can also snap their necks at the end if they decide to give chase.

Exercise

In retirement, a Greyhound’s exercise needs are no different than any other dogs. Your Greyhound should be taken out on three to four short walks daily or out in your entirely fenced yard on a regular schedule so he can relieve himself. He can be taken to a fenced-in yard (if you don’t have a fenced yard) or a safe enclosed dog

park on occasion so he can romp and gallop at will, but it is not necessary. It helps during the initial adjustment period to keep your Greyhound well exercised to work off his tension and nervous energy.

Greyhounds can become jogging, or long walks, companions once they learn to adjust their stride to yours and increase their endurance. You must remember that Greyhounds are sprinters, not marathoners. Surprisingly, Greyhounds who regularly jog with their owners need to build up their stamina for the task. Summer's heat and winter's salt can injure his pads, however. Keep this in mind when choosing a place to jog with your dog. If your Greyhound does any strenuous running, give him a chance to relieve himself afterwards and again about an hour later to prevent kidney tie-up.

NEVER take your Greyhound outside without his leash on. He may become confused or scared and run away, or he may chase a cat or other small animal. He does not know about traffic and, if permitted off leash, is likely to run into the street and be hit by a car.

Your Greyhound is a sight hound, which means he hunts "by sighting on" to an animal, not scenting it. He can see for a distance of half a mile and can reach forty miles per hour in three strides. If he sees the neighbor's cat (or squirrel or rabbit) in the distance, he will not only chase it, he will probably catch it!

Toys

Racing Greyhounds prefer plush toys, i.e., the fake lamb's wool toys at pet stores are ideal. If giving a human toy to your Greyhound, make sure any decorations that can be swallowed have been removed. Greyhounds will also go through "stages" of preference, i.e., suddenly they'll prefer squeaky rubber toys and play only with them. Many Greyhounds do not respond with curiosity to balls.

Feeding schedule

Greyhounds should be fed (most ideally) twice a day at the same time every day, or once a day (with a small treat in the morning) if everyone in the household works. They will tend to "potty the meal before" 5 to 10 minutes after eating and then about twelve hours after eating, so plan mealtime accordingly. (Don't feed at 5 pm unless you want to get up at 5 am.) If someone is home all day to let them out, you can also consider "free feeding", which means there is food available at all times. Eating small portions periodically throughout the day will reduce the risk of bloat, a dangerous flipping of the stomach which will result in death if not treated immediately. To reduce the risk of bloat, never let your greyhound eat or drink a large amount an hour before or after exercise.

Avoid giving "treats" as these will turn your Greyhound into a beggar and a finicky eater. A small milk bone given at the same time every day is OK. Keep fresh water available at all times.

Choosing a dog food

Reputable rescue groups who place Greyhounds will suggest feeding a lamb and rice formula dry kibble. There are several brands out on the market. Many groups like Nutro Natural Choice Lamb & Rice, Iam's Lamb & Rice or Nature's recipe Lamb & Rice formulas. The ultimate chooser of the correct brand will be your Greyhound. If your Greyhound is on something else, make the switch gradually. If he is on a particular brand and has excessive gas or a consistently loose stool, by all means, switch to another brand until you hit on the right one but be sure to give each food a few weeks before changing again. (NOTE: loose stool signals worms – make sure you rule this condition out.) In any event, protein content in a Retired Racing Greyhound should not exceed 25%. Feeding in excess of recommended protein levels long term can cause kidney dysfunction later in life.

Vitamins: Pet Guard (garlic and yeast chewable tablets) for natural flea protection (fleas don't like the taste of the non-odorous garlic in the skin of a dog taking this supplement). Pet Guard contains other beneficial vitamins for your pet's health and well being. There are now other products similar to Pet Guard that contain similar ingredients; check the labels.

Vitamin E: liquid - 5 to 10 drops in food per day. This can be obtained at any health food store, and it's an antioxidant. Increases your dog's energy level (beneficial for older dogs). Can be used topically for dry elbows, pressure points, and common seen "bald behinds" (kennel cage rub) to stimulate new hair growth.

Vitamin C: Sodium Ascorbate (powder) only. One quarter teaspoon in your dog's water. Good for stress and fights infection. (Do not use other common forms of Vitamin C, for example, Ascorbic Acid, because it is too harsh on a dog's stomach.)

Dog Bones: the safest, longest lasting, most economical bone is the "beef shank bone" without the knuckle. Obtained from a butcher and cut to approximately 8" long. Boil the bone for 10 minutes to get the blood off of it. Give to your dog in the kitchen until he polishes it the first day. After that, the bone should be clean enough to be carried around the rest of the house. This type of bone will last a long time. If the ends get sharp, cut the ends off with a hand saw. We do not recommend rawhide bones without supervision. Ingesting too many broken-off pieces can cause an intestinal blockage.

Grooming

There are four points to grooming a dog: coat, ears, nails and teeth. Greyhounds are short-haired dogs that shed little. Frequent brushing will eliminate shedding. Ears can be cleaned with a Q-tip (very carefully) and mineral oil. Nails can be trimmed at home or by your vet. It is very important that your Greyhound's teeth be kept clean, as plaque build-up will result in gum infection. If plaque is built up on your Greyhound's teeth, get their teeth scaled (you can buy a tooth scaler or have your vet do it). After that, daily brushing with a dog toothpaste and toothbrush will keep your Greyhound's teeth clean. For dry, flaky skin, try vitamin E liquid in your Greyhound's food (5 to 10 drops). Vitamin E can also be used topically for dry elbows and pressure points. Omega 3 capsules do wonders for their fur and helps with shedding.

Vet care

Your Greyhound should start on heartworm preventative pills immediately after adoption. We recommend Sentinel or Heartgard. DO NOT let your vet give them the six month Pro-Heart shot. Also, a follow-up stool check for any other lingering worm conditions should be done. If a worm condition is persistent despite treatment, tell your vet to automatically treat for "Giardia" worms (common in Racing Greyhounds but uncommon in the general dog population). Do a stool check twice a year and then every year during their annual checkup.

NEVER use a flea collar or internal flea preventative pill on your Greyhound. We recommend Frontline Plus, please do not use anything generic.

Greyhounds require only one-fifth of the anesthesia that would be used on another dog of the same size. This is because they are lacking in certain enzymes with break down the anesthetic in their systems. It is very important that your vet know this, as an overdose can be fatal.

ENJOY YOUR NEW FAMILY MEMBER AND KEEP THEM SAFE!!