

## ADOPT A BLACK GREYHOUND



Here are Irish black greyhounds (clockwise from left) Chloe, Finn, Raven, Seamus, Kensie, and Aoife. All are graduates of the prison training programs and have been adopted.

Did you know that on average, black dogs, especially large black dogs, spend much more time waiting to be chosen for adoption than do light colored dogs. The same is true for black cats in shelters and rescues. This is a trend all over the country for all large black dogs, and it holds true for greyhounds.

In the adoption world, this is known as Black Dog Syndrome (BDS). In the greyhound breed, black is one of the most prevalent colors (along with brindle), so we take a lot of black greyhounds into our adoption program. Most of the greyhounds we receive from Ireland are black, as this has proven to be a prominent color there. The Irish Greyhound Trust (IGT) shows mostly black greyhounds as adoptable dogs on their website as well.

We have heard many reasons why people do not want to adopt a black greyhound. The one we remember particularly is the person who said they wanted a greyhound, any color but black, since black dogs are scary! We have also heard such statements that a black dog is not wanted because their black hair would show on the potential adopter's light colored carpet—definitely not

true! It is truly sad that this type of sentiment is out there, but it is a fact that we at BAGA have to face, as do all other adoption groups and animal shelters.

Other reasons we have heard for not adopting a black dog is that they look older than other dogs of the same age. It is true that black dogs' faces tend to show gray or white more quickly than lighter colored dogs. This is because you are seeing the white or gray against a darker background. A fawn or white dog develops just as much grey on their face as do darker dogs, but it is not as noticeable. Also, just because a dog has a white or "ghost" face, it doesn't mean that they are old. We often see 3 or 4 year old greyhounds, especially black and brindle dogs, with the beginnings of ghost (white) faces.

The truth, of course, is that black greyhounds are just as healthy and just as loving as any other greyhounds. It is truly sad that they must wait longer for their forever homes simply because of their color.

If you are looking for a greyhound to adopt, please consider our black greyhounds. They are wonderful dogs that deserve just as much love, and have probably been waiting longer than the other foster dogs to find a home. We guarantee that you will love your black greyhound and be glad you gave him or her a chance for a great home.



