

HOW TO ADOPT A GREYHOUND. . .



The adoption process is easy! You will need to fill out and submit an adoption application, which can be found on the home page of this website.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Our adoption protocol requires that your pets be spayed or neutered, current on all required and recommended vaccines, and have proof that they are on heartworm prevention (In Florida, dogs must be on heartworm prevention year round.) We will verify this information through your veterinarian. If you are purchasing heartworm medication on-line, please provide this information with your application. If you are obtaining vaccines for your pets through a service other than your regular vet, we will also need that. If you are renting, we will need to have permission from your landlord for you to have a dog the size of a greyhound (normally 55-85 lbs.). If you have a home owners' association, we will need to have permission from your HOA for you to have a greyhound. Many HOA's have breed restrictions for insurance purposes, but a greyhound is normally not a restricted breed.

OUR RESTRICTIONS

Although we try to accommodate as many families as possible, for the safety of the greyhound and for compatibility with your family, we have a few restrictions: We do not adopt greyhounds to families that have open-backed stairs into the home. We have found that these stairs can sometimes be dangerous as the dog can easily slip, especially in rainy weather when the stairs are slick. This is a situation that we find with some apartments. If you are considering adopting a greyhound and will be moving shortly, you might want to consider moving to a downstairs apartment, or one without open-backed stairs.

We require that all children in the household be at least 4 years old. Although greyhounds are gentle, non-aggressive dogs, they have not been raised with children and will become frightened if a small child inadvertently falls on them while they are lying down. Greyhounds also can become stressed by the high pitched sound of a baby crying. All in all, it is best to wait to adopt a greyhound until your children are old enough to understand how to be gentle with a dog.

Finally, any cats you have should be grown. A kitten is far too playful and tends to run from a greyhound. A kitten would not do well with even a cat tolerant dog.

TIMELINE: WHEN CAN I GET MY GREYHOUND?

Your adoption application can normally be approved within one week. If you have chosen a greyhound that is ready for adoption, your adoption can be done quickly. If you have chosen a greyhound that is in the prison program, we will have a pre-determined date when he or she graduates. You may take your dog home immediately after graduation. The prison trained greyhounds are available for adoption every 10 weeks, but are usually chosen while they are in foster care, and before they go to the prisons. The graduation date for each greyhound is listed on their profile.



Irish greyhound Wadaya, sleeping with his "Scooby Do" pillow

ADOPTION COSTS

The adoption fee we request depends on the age and level of training of the greyhound you choose, and is shown on the profile of each adoptable greyhound. Your adoption fee only covers a portion of our costs for shipping from Ireland, veterinary expenses, cost of the prison program, and care of your greyhound while in foster care. The remainder of our cost is paid for by donations from the public, charitable grants, and the fund raising efforts of our volunteers.

For your adoption fee, you will receive:

- Spay/neuter of your greyhound
- Shipping from Ireland to this country
- Current on all required vaccines, including rabies vaccine.
- Testing for heart worms and internal parasites and treatment if necessary
- Dental examination and cleaning with scaling and polishing if necessary
- Greyhound bathed, ears cleaned, and nails trimmed
- Greyhound microchipped
- Martingale collar and matching leash (This is a safe type of collar for a greyhound)

- Adoption packet containing your greyhound's pedigree, racing record, medical records, and other important information.
- Journals and other information from the prison where your dog was trained



ITEMS TO HAVE ON ADOPTION DAY

Prior to bringing your greyhound home, you will need to have a few supplies on hand:

- Two quart food and water bowls. We recommend stainless steel.
- High feeder, approximately 15-16" high, available at most pet stores., or can be ordered on line. Many come with stainless steel bowls. They normally come with two bowls, one for water and one for food. Plant stands of the same height also work well.
- Dog bed and/or comforter. If you have stairs inside your home, you may want to have a dog bed for upstairs and one for downstairs. (Your greyhound will follow you around.)
- A bag of good quality dry dog food. Avoid dog food where the first ingredient is corn. We are currently using Purina One Chicken and Rice formula at the prisons. If you want to use a different food, buy a small bog of Purina One to mix with your food over the first week. Most greyhounds will require from 3 ½ - 4 cups per day, divided into two feedings.
- Dog Treats: We recommend the Milk Bone type crunchy treats. "Greenies" are excellent for cleaning your dog's teeth as they chew. (Stay away from pig ears, cow hoofs, and any dog treats not made in the United States.)
- ID tag for your greyhound with your phone numbers. You can find them at most pet stores or on-line. After you bring your greyhound home, you will also need to purchase your county rabies tag, either from your vet or from Animal Services in your county.

You will NOT need to purchase a collar and leash (the greyhounds come with them) or a crate for a greyhound that has been prison trained. However, crates can be handy if you are in an area that will flood in a hurricane. You will need one if you go to a shelter during the storm.

Thank you for giving a deserving greyhound a home!

