

GREYHOUNDS WITH CATS AND SMALL DOGS



CAN GREYHOUNDS LIVE WITH CATS AND SMALL DOGS?

Many, but not all greyhounds, are cat and small dog tolerant. In our experience, we have found that about 70% of greyhounds can live with cats and small dogs if introduced properly and monitored. The Irish greyhounds are not cat tested before they arrive, but if you have cats, we will cat test the greyhound you choose to make sure he or she is cat and small dog trainable or tolerant. Many of the greyhounds we get have been around small dogs, but you need to be sure he or she will get along with **your** small dog or cat. We refer to greyhounds as cat trainable or cat tolerant—not cat safe. We cannot guarantee that there will never be a problem.

About a Greyhound's Instinct to Chase a Small Moving Object: As a sight hound, it is a **Greyhound** training for racing is based on this natural instinct. This instinct to chase is also the reason that your greyhound may be best buddies with your cat or small dog in the house, but if they are out in the yard together and the small pet takes off, your greyhound will almost certainly chase, and probably catch it. This is also another reason to be careful when your greyhound is **part of a greyhound's genetic make up to naturally chase small, moving objects.** at a dog park and another person, not knowing about the greyhound's instinct to chase, brings a small dog into the large dog area. If this happens, you should immediately leash your greyhound and leave to prevent any accidents.

Introducing Your Greyhound to Your Cat or Small Dog: It is important to keep your greyhound on a leash and muzzled when introducing him to your cat or small dog to be certain they will get along. We suggest that you keep him muzzled and leashed for at least the first 24 hours. Always use a small room to cat or small dog test with a still cat or dog. Let the dog sniff the back end of the other animal at first. If a greyhound doesn't seem to be interested in the cat or small dog, or if it turns its head away, that is a good sign and the greyhound should be praised. Continue to praise the greyhound each time he walks past the cat or small dog, looks the other way, or shows no interest. If your cat still has its claws and is not afraid to stand up to the greyhound, this may hasten the introduction process. A cat that hisses or stands its ground will definitely discourage a greyhound from getting too close. Many times, one swipe across the nose will be all that it takes for a greyhound to learn to respect your cat. After a little while you can get the cat or small dog to move slowly—do not let the cat or small dog run. If the greyhound is not interested and seems to ignore the cat or small dog, we label that greyhound

as cat tolerant. If he shows some interest, but is quickly corrected, we refer to that greyhound as cat trainable, and we suggest using the same type of introduction several times until your greyhound ignores the cat.

Fearful cats are another situation entirely. They tend to run and this will initiate a prey drive, even in cat friendly greyhounds. Only a very calm and cat tolerant greyhound will be able to live with a fearful cat. The same is true for kittens. They tend to be too playful. We do not recommend you get a greyhound until your kittens are grown.

Make sure that someone is always present during the introduction period. We do not recommend leaving your cat and greyhound alone when you are not there to supervise. At any rate, you should always give your cat an escape route through a raised baby gate or cat door.

Introducing Multiple Pets: Introductions should always be done with one animal at a time. Do not overwhelm your greyhound with too many animals at the same time. Each animal should be given enough time to get used to each other's scent, look and behavior. Once your greyhound seems totally comfortable with that animal, introduce the next one. Chances are that your pack will all get along, but it is still better to take your time and slowly introduce them.

Indoor Cats and Outdoor Cats: Even if your greyhound is totally tolerant with your cat inside the house, when outdoors all bets are off! A greyhound outside will tend to chase, especially if the cat runs. A greyhound will not recognize that the cat in the yard is the same as the indoor cat. It will consider squirrels and any cat that comes into the yard as prey! Never allow your indoor cat to go outside with your greyhound.

With proper introduction and supervision, many greyhounds can live harmoniously with cats and small dogs. Here are a few examples:



(L to R) Lucy with kitty friend, Pebbles meets small dog, and Hanna with small dog housemate, Millie