



Is a greyhound the right dog for me?

Greyhounds as pets

Greyhounds, whether retired racing dogs or bred as companions, can make excellent pets. They are amongst the most physically sound breeds in the world, with short coats, very little body fat, they require only moderate exercise and generally do not bark. They are more likely to feel the cold too, requiring warmth and shelter from elements.

The Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) works with Greyhound Racing SA to re-home suitable ex-racing dogs. If you feel owning a greyhound suits you, contact either of these organisations for information about adding a greyhound to your family. All greyhounds adopted from GAP are desexed, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed and health checked. During the foster process they quickly make the transition from racing dog to pet.

We understand...

...That greyhounds can make great pets

Pet Greyhounds: the facts

- Greyhounds can make great pets. They are gentle, affectionate dogs that easily transition from the racing track to household family life.
- In public, greyhounds must wear a muzzle (unless an exemption has been given), be on a lead and maintained under effective control.
- With appropriate temperament and retraining, Greyhounds can be good house mates with cats and other small animals.
- Before you adopt or purchase a greyhound, consider whether your family, finances, yard size and time for training and play make a good fit
- Because of early training, retired greyhounds have never been alone, nor had the opportunity to really be a puppy. They may act out some puppy behavior, like chewing, which they typically outgrow.
- Most greyhounds are not suited to living outside due to their thin coat.

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Greyhounds are quick learners

A greyhound is a sight hound that hunts prey using vision and speed, as opposed to tracking prey from scent. Bred almost exclusively for racing and trained to chase a lure unless retrained, greyhounds can have the tendency to chase anything that moves, particularly smaller dogs, cats and other animals.

Like any dog, greyhounds vary widely in their temperament, behaviour, levels of activity, and in virtually all other aspects of their personality. They tend to be outgoing, happy and sociable with people, and generally placid to dogs of a similar size.

Specific responsibilities relating to greyhounds

Section 45C of *The Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* requires greyhounds must wear a muzzle (unless an exemption has been granted) and be on a lead of not more than 2 metres, even in 'off leash' areas.

The legislative requirement for physical restraint of the greyhound overrides any local council by-laws permitting dogs to be off leash in designated areas and/or dog parks.

Muzzling exemption

Although greyhounds must, by law, wear a muzzle, you can apply for an exemption through the Dog and Cat Management Board.

This process involves a behaviour test, carried out by the RSPCA or Greyhound Adoption Program, and if successful allows your dog to be exercised in public without a muzzle.

However, you'll still need to keep your dog on-lead at all times, and carry a special photo ID provided by the Board, that shows your dog has passed this important behavioral assessment.

Failure to carry this ID can result in fines and expiations, so it pays to keep it in your wallet, or in a pouch attached to your dogs' lead.

Should a greyhound be involved in an attack or harassment, the person registered as responsible for the greyhound is required to notify the appropriate council and the Dog and Cat Management Board immediately. The muzzling exemption may be revoked immediately and the registered owner will be subject to infringement in accordance with the relevant sections of the *Dog and Cat Management Act, 1995*.

To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit dogandcatboard.com.au



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at www.lga.sa.gov.au View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at www.dogandcatboard.com.au