

The GREYHOUND guide to online “My K9 Behaves” course

To the adopter of a retired racing greyhound,

Thank you for purchasing this class from Donna Chandler! When you purchase through our website link, **Prison Greyhounds receives a \$50 donation from each enrollment! (Greytly appreciated!)** Thank you!

There are some things unique to retired racing greyhounds that we need to discuss while you take this class. Also, it could be that you are looking at this class and have already encountered more serious challenges or problems. (Such as those listed under Chapter 34, which will require her personalized coaching.) Donna Chandler is our main canine behaviorist that we recommend, and she can help you one on one. However, Donna is going to require that you take this class *before* you hire her for additional expertise. This is because you must first have a good understanding of the basics; this is the foundation upon which she will build her personalized approach for your greyhound’s issues.

Chapter 1 (Introduction) – Donna explains that after you have completed this online class, if necessary, you can hire her to address the more serious problems for only \$100 extra. We (Prison Greyhounds) agree that you must understand the basics before you can build a better, working relationship with your dog. Of course, not every adopter will need this information!

Chapter 2 (Dog Whispering) – Donna explains that the words “dog whisperer” have often been twisted to a meaning which is inappropriate. Dog Whispering should first and foremost be KIND.

Chapter 3 (Guidelines for Children) – As Donna explains guidelines for children, please take the time to reread page 4 of the Adoption Application for Prison Greyhounds. It can be found on our website. You have probably forgotten a lot of the guidelines on that page....One wonderful thing about adopting a retired racer is that most greyhounds are raised on farms where they have had good exposure to supervised children. Also, the trainers often bring their kids along to the kennels so the dogs get healthy exposure. However, this does not mean you should ignore the way that even a greyhound may respond if children do not know how to respect a dog.

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Chapter 4 (Operant Training) – Maintain a relaxed state of mind. We have seen firsthand the negative effect of a dog’s temperament being made worse when trained through negative reinforcement. We have had the greyhound returned to us, and then require rehabilitation because they were emotionally damaged from bad training techniques. That was a motivating factor for us to offer this online class to our adopters.

Chapter 5 (Fear Period x 2) – Retired racing greyhounds have the benefit of being raised with their entire litter. In addition, they are with their brood mamas a lot longer than dogs from other breeders. They learn a more highly developed canine communication language. This is why greyhounds respond with much more enthusiasm to their own breed! This is why the greyhound you adopt has already had so much socialization with their pack.

Chapter 6 (Training Aides and Concepts for a Smooth Process) -

Chapter 7 (Life-Changing Walking Formula) – Commands – Keep in mind that another way dogs bond with you is while walking. Very important to include children on the walks! Just remember – the cheeseburger biscuits are for your family, not for the greyhound!

Chapter 8 (Habitual Behavior) -

Chapter 9 (Indoor Leash: Date Off) – With greyhounds, we need to caution you on the use of the indoor leash. Do not tether your dog, even on a leash, to anything. You will see video of a small Westie tethered to her crate. Because a greyhound can go to very high speeds in a very short burst of energy, never tie (tether) your greyhound to anything. He may break his neck or cause injury or paralysis. When your dog is outside with you, this is another reason we cannot use a clothesline connected to a collar or halter why training for recall. You will also see this demonstrated successfully on other breeds. Your greyhound is literally twice as fast as the average dog, even a greyhound who was a lousy racer! Outside, you must be in a secure fenced in area or your greyhound must be on a leash, but never a long tether of clothesline.

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Chapter 10 (Treats / Food Motivation) - Cheerios are good little bite size training treats! There are teeny tiny milk bones too. So many options!

Chapter 11 (Marking Behaviors with a “Voice Clicker”) – If your greyhound is a prison graduate, we used the “Yes! Thank you!” exclamation for the reinforcement, the praise reward! We cannot take clickers into the prison and we find it impractical to have to carry a separate tool around. So we like this idea very much! This is a very helpful chapter!

Chapter 12 (Aggression Games: tug-of-war, chasing and free elevation) – Donna explains why tug of war is never a good option for a greyhound! Even if your dog is not high prey, you can create some possessive aggression. We have had greyhounds returned to us, dogs that graduated from our prison program. The offender-handlers succeeded at teaching their greyhound not to play tug of war, only to have the future adopter unknowingly create a possessive aggressive dog that was therefore returned to us! The dog was lunging and biting because he had been taught it was okay by the adopters. They were ignorant of their mistakes, but the bad habits were just as real. ...What about greyhounds on furniture, or in beds? What does Donna mean by “No free elevation”: This is another main reason we have seen greyhounds returned to us. The adopters did not understand the principals that Donna teaches. Or the adopter thought THEY could be the exception. In this chapter, Donna teaches WHEN (if) a dog can be allowed (or invited) up onto the furniture. And Donna explains the risk to children in your house if you do not understand her guidelines. You are elevating the greyhound to a position of more dominance, and you must be aware of the risk for higher rate of return. But there are ‘safe’ ways to go about this process with certain dogs.

Chapter 13 (Bite Inhibition: Teach Your Dog Not to Bite) – Again, another advantage of adopting a retired racing greyhound is that Mama Greyhound was around a lot longer to teach her pups bite inhibition! We like Donna’s use of the word “OUCH” and the removal of the dog from your company into his crate, for 20 minutes. Or you just simply ignore him. The punishment is not the crate, but the fact that he no longer has your attention, whether in the crate or outside as you ignore him!

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Chapter 14 (“Gentle Leader Head Collar” and “Gentler Leader Easy Walk Harness”) – We suggest that a Gentle Leader or Gentle Leader Harness is not appropriate for greyhound’s build. There are better halters to use, specific to greyhounds, if desired. We would not trust that a greyhound who decides to bolt could stay in his Gentle Leader or Gentle Leader Harness. Our favorite harness for a greyhound is the Julius K-9 Power Harness found at PetPeople (and other locations) for about \$55. Be sure that you fit it correctly, never loosey-goosey! We still recommend that every greyhound adopter learn to use “the greyhound grip” while walking their dog, whether connecting the 6 foot leash to his martingale collar or to his greyhound harness. NEVER use a retractable leash, nor a leash longer than 6 feet.

Chapter 15 (Other Canine Products) – Greyhounds should NEVER be kept in an electric / invisible fence. Never. Your sighthound will bolt at the first moving object or animal, and he will be 2 houses away before the electric shock registers! These dogs have little (if any) homing instinct, and will run or chase for blocks! The instinct to chase will override the knowledge of the dreaded shock from their invisible fence. And a loose greyhound is in grave danger. They have no street sense.

Collars: You must use a martingale collar as explained in your greyhound books. No choke chain collars, pinch collars, prong collars, nor electric collars. And we repeat: no retractable leashes. No tie out cables, no tethers, no clotheslines (even if you are with your dog at the time) as we explained in Chapter 9.

Toys: Many greyhounds like Nyla bones, rubber Kong cones or rubber Kong bones. (Black is for the most powerful chewer, sometimes red is sufficient.) And VERY thick braided rope toys. There are many varieties coming out of great chew toys. Tennis balls must be softball size (regular size tennis balls sometimes lodge in a greyhound’s throat). No tug of war toys.

Male wraps used to be custom made by seamstresses in washable fabrics, and some still are. But they also come as disposable accessories to help teach a male dog not to hike his leg in the house. This can be especially

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helpful when a newly arrived greyhound first enters a building or home that is new to him. Don't order these by the weight of the dog; with greyhounds you will need to get the measurement around his back, including that his privates get covered! The boys usually learn pretty fast, most never even use up their first package.

The anxiety wrap we highly recommend if needed is the Thundershirt! It REALLY works if a greyhound has storm phobias, fireworks phobia, and even to help a shy dog feel more comfortable walking the neighborhood. We call it the Super Hero shirt every time our greyhound comes running to us to let us know a storm is coming!

Dog clothing – In winter states, a winter coat is a MUST for a greyhound. You should understand this from your research books. The best coats are from Gini's Greyhound Fashions. High quality, colorful selection of fabrics, and the easiest on & off. These are custom designed for greyhounds.

Squawker – Every greyhound home needs one. In the event that your greyhound ever gets loose, this squawking whistle is your best tool for recall. They can be bought on Amazonsmile (choose Prison Greyhounds as your charity of choice) or any hunting store.

Adaptil Diffuser plug in starter set- You will find this on Amazonsmile (choose Prison Greyhounds as your charity of choice) – clinically proven within 4 weeks to significantly calm and comfort a stressed animal. Again, we have seen results! You may not need this product forever, just during transition.

(We will add other helpful products to this list as we come across those most effective)

Chapter 16 (Commands and Exercises Intro) -

Chapter 17 (First Two Weeks: Bringing Home A New Puppy or Older Rescue Dog) – First Two Weeks- The first 2 weeks of bringing your greyhound home, we suggest that he sleep at night in your master bedroom with the door closed, or baby gated in your bedroom. You may need the crate in the bedroom for the first few days, but most can easily

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transition to a dog bed. If you have cats, take precautions longer. If you have only 1 crate, set the crate up in the living area where the family gathers the most. Then, even when he is alone, he will not feel as secluded as he will by being shut in the bedroom, or crated in the bedroom.

Eventually you may be able to leave him loose in the house with his muzzle on. Refer to the Alone training pages in your Dummies Book and on the website under Adoption Resources. Most greyhounds can eventually be trusted to be loose in their house. And some greyhounds do better in a 4-foot square Ex-Pen (which does not have a top to it). Never use a crate smaller than Midwest LifeStage Folding Metal Crate 48L x 30W x 33H. We have seen issues that could have been resolved simply by using a proper size crate. Likewise, always use a wire cage and never a plastic airline travel crate. (See chapter 18 for more on crating.)

During initial introductions, every greyhound should be muzzled. Never feel hesitant to use his muzzle. He is used to it, and they are comfortable with it on. It is not cruel to muzzle, it is smart!

On the video, Donna has you leash the dogs being introduced. If you can muzzle, it is a better way to do introductions! Neutral territories are best!

Even after adoption introductions, we tell adopters that if you have neighbors who have small dogs that do not respect your space when you are out walking your greyhound, or neighbors that allow their small dogs or children to “charge” your greyhound, use the muzzle! It is a nonverbal way to get their attention (and respect) to allow your new greyhound his space!

Chapter 18 (Crate Placement) - Please refer back to previous notes under chapter 17.

Chapter 19 (“Kennel Up” Command) – Kennel Up means “Go inside your crate”. Please note that when you use a crate, do not use the dangly type of ID tags. We like the adjustable collar tags that fit contour to the martingale collar, purchased at www.CollarTags.com for martingale collars. (Only \$11 including shipping!) A tag that hangs down is a choking risk. At the very least, if it catches on the crate the dog will panic and forever be afraid of crates! We also suggest that you don’t really need to have your

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dog wear his vaccination or microchip tags if he has this ID tag one.

Remember: Never talk to your greyhound in his crate!

Chapter 20 (Five Golden Rules of House Training) –

Chapter 21 (House Breaking Bells to Avoid Potty Accidents) – This lesson is one that you have to understand how unique your racing greyhound is. Your dog, even if he was the slowest racer, is twice as fast as the average dog. He can go from 0 to 40mph in less than 3 strides. So he should NEVER be tethered to anything, even his crate. You risk paralysis (it has happened) or injury to the back & neck. As Donna mentions, never hit or spank your greyhound either. Of all breeds, greyhounds are very sensitive and you can create a reactive, aggressive dog. We know you don't want to do that!

Chapter 22 (Your Voice / Giving Commands) -

Chapter 23 (Intro to Commands - “Off” Command) -

“Up” means “come up” or “jump up”

“Off” means “get off”

“Down” means to “lie down” (note- We don't use the indoor leash, for reasons explained in Chapter 27.)

Please pay attention to Donna's advice not to let the greyhound elevate onto the furniture for at least 45 days. To allow free elevation too early encourages possessive aggression. We have seen this in more than one greyhound, and it has been the cause for their return! Sadly, it could so easily have been prevented. After 45 days, when (if) you invite the greyhound to join you on the furniture, the rule must be that when you get up, the greyhound gets off the furniture too. If you have children in the house, never allow the greyhound on the beds. You 'may' have a greyhound that never becomes a problem this way, but you won't know until it is too late. Again, we have seen too many returns because the adopter lacked this knowledge.

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Chapter 24 (“Up” Command) – Very helpful also for greyhounds that need extra encouragement to jump into a vehicle.

Chapter 25 (“Fetch” - “Drop it” Commands) – Greyhounds should play fetch ONLY in a fenced area, never on a long rope as you will see demonstrated with another breed in the video. Your greyhound will be running top speed before he ever reaches the end of that rope! (See explanation on chapter 21). And please listen to Donna’s advice that tug of war games between a dog and a person (adult or child) breed aggression. Sadly, we have seen this far too often from adopters who were not aware. Things escalate, bites and growls and snaps get serious, and Prison Greyhounds has to rehabilitate a greyhound that returned because the adopters ignored this advice. If your greyhounds want to play tug of war with each other that is fine, they can decide among themselves if they want to. But PLEASE do not think your greyhound can be the exception, especially if he is high prey.

Chapter 26 (“Come”- “Sit” Commands) – We are not fans of the indoor leash on a greyhound because of his size and the speed to which he can bolt even when inside a house. It is bound to get caught on something and will have the same effect as being tethered. We have known people to leash the greyhound to themselves while inside, or to limit the greyhound’s access to the room the person is in at the time...Remember, no matter how well your greyhound learns the “Come” command, he will never be safe off leash unless he is also in a secure fenced area. And that is what you agreed to in your Adoption Application.

Chapter 27 (“Leave it” - “Take” Commands) – “Leave it” means “Don’t do it, stop doing it, or don’t touch it”.....The word “No” does not exist in a dog’s life!...We already covered why we do not suggest a gentle leader head collar for a greyhound.

“Leave it” and “Take”

Chapter 28 (“On Your Bed” - “Down” - “Stay” Commands) – “On your bed (or rug)”

“Down” and “Stay”

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Note: Please be very familiar with the article on our website under the Adoption Resources page: “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie” and “Dude: You’re In my Bubble” You will never understand why your greyhound has this need more than other breeds, and why he needs you to understand!

Chapter 29 (“Wait” Command) - “Wait” means “Freeze; Do not move” and “Stay” means “Stay where you are when I leave you, even if I leave the room”. “Wait” is for a short pause.... “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

Chapter 30 (Ignoring and Its Training Value) -

Chapter 31 (Hide & Seek and Mind Games) -

Chapter 32 (Socialization: Doggy Day Care and Bark Parks) – Doggy Day Care and Dog Parks – Make sure your greyhound is small dog friendly, or that the smaller dogs are segregated off. Both are good options if properly run.

Chapter 33 (Spaying and Neutering) -

Chapter 34 (Your Veterinarian is Vital to Your Pet’s Health) –

Veterinarians – Here are some tips on finding one: Ask your Adoption Representative or your adoption group. Look for a veterinarian that has been in practice for a while, not one who recently started his practice. Take your handout on the differences between Greyhound blood & other dog’s blood.

Canine Advanced Behavior problems: These problems will require personal consultation with Donna chandler, after you understand the basic concepts taught in this class of dog behavior training. Learn more later on how to get help with these issues.

1. Out of control older dog (ADHD)
2. Separation Anxiety, beyond the advice from your “Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies” book
3. Obsessive licking of themselves, humans, or toys

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4. Strong fear of thunderstorms, loud noises, trucks passing, noises on TV, fear of men with beards or in hats (Beyond the solution of trying a Thundershirt)
5. All forms of aggression
6. Sibling rivalry (2 dogs fight in the same house)
7. Very shy dog (beyond the normal transition time into a new home)
8. Submissive urination
9. Leg lifting by a male
10. Dog is not house trained
11. Inter-dog aggression (from your house they react when they see another dog outside, or they see other dogs on their walks)
12. Aggression to household members

Chapter 35 (Food & Plant Poisons) –

Chapter 36 (Let’s Review What You Learned)

Chapter 37 (Conclusion - Check-in with Donna) – Donna Chandler’s promise to class enrollees and graduates: “I’m not going to leave you out there! So if you want to contact me, please do.”

Contact Info for email service@mkK9behaves.com

These entire lessons are common to service or therapy dogs as a prerequisite for their training.....Have Better Best Friends!