

“Alone Training” for Your New Greyhound

Primary Resources:

Greyhounds for Dummies – page 72 -74 – Helping Your Hound Stay Home Alone

Prison Greyhounds Adoption Handbook: Bringing Home Your Retired Racing Greyhound – pages 18 – 19 (LIST LINK TO WEBSITE RESOURCE)

Additional Resources:

Canine Separation Anxiety by Dr. Cooper - <http://www.greytdogs.com/cooper.html>

The Process: Steps to Helping Your Greyhound Adjust to Being Home Alone

Alone Training makes a huge difference in how your new Greyhound will feel and act when left home alone. Start by either placing your Greyhound in his crate or in a "dog-safe" room with a baby gate. Now act like you are really leaving by picking up your keys, putting on your coat, etc. It is very important to **NOT** say goodbye or talk to your Greyhound when you leave. Just calmly leave, like it is no big deal. Leave for 3-5 minutes, being sure to come back into your home before the dog starts to whine or becomes stressed out.

Remember when coming back into your home you must totally ignore your Greyhound for a few minutes. Do **NOT** talk or pet your Greyhound for at least 2-3 minutes. This tells the dog that your coming and going is nothing to get excited about. When your Greyhound has calmed down and his/her attention is **NOT** on you, then pet him/her, in a calm voice tell him/her "good dog" and give a small treat for being calm.

Gradually increase the time your Greyhound is left alone by a few more minutes each time and practice leaving at different times during the day and night. Keep doing "Alone Training" until you are able to leave your Greyhound alone for at least 30 minutes. Generally, if your Greyhound is fine with being left alone for 30-50 minutes then he will likely be comfortable for longer periods of time. Statistically, if a dog is going to have a bout of separation anxiety it will usually happen within the first 30-50 minutes of being left alone.

If your Greyhound has an accident, chews up something or demonstrates signs of true separation anxiety while alone, do **NOT** scold him/her it will only make your dog more anxious. Clean up the mess and start at the very beginning of Alone Training. Alone Training can take a few days, a few weeks, or up to a few months depending on the individual dog.