

# Adoption Handbook:

## *Bringing Home Your Retired Racing Greyhound*



Revised August 2020

**PRISON**   
**GREYHOUNDS**  
A new race. A new life.

***Please read this handbook before your first home visit and then read again right before you bring your new greyhound home.***

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On the cover: Money (BJ's Money Pile) One of the six no-cat black Sunburst boys who survived Hurricane Michael while at Ebro!

**Bringing home a greyhound** is exciting and rewarding. But for the greyhound, adjusting from a professional athlete to a family pet takes time. So we developed this handbook from the greyhound's perspective of why they need space and time. As you earn your dog's trust (by allowing him space and time, respecting his need to transition at his pace and not yours) you will someday become his best friend. *We just caution you not to try to be this in the first week.* Let him approach you for affection, rather than always 'interrupting' him. Do not hug or cuddle him until he has fully become a family member, and you are certain that he likes it. Do not smother the new arrival, and you will be off to a much better start. Your dog had a head start through the Prison Greyhounds program, but he will still need to re-adjust to this next new environment, your home. He needs time, time, time. And patience. Here are suggestions to make the transition easier:

- ▶ The first time he comes home, offer your greyhound a chance to relieve himself immediately. Walk your dog back and forth in a small area, keeping him on leash.
- ▶ While on leash, let him investigate hazards in your yard, such as a barbecue or planter.
- ▶ Walk him around the boundaries in the yard while on leash so he knows where the fence is.
- ▶ Use a leash to take your new greyhound on a guided exploration of the house, room by room. Walk through every room as he sniffs and explores. His offender-handlers or foster home taught him the words "**Leave it**" as a very strong command, stronger than "No" if he investigates or takes something not for him (like the cat litter, baby's bottle, etc.). It is easier to establish good habits early than to correct bad ones later.



*Rebel (O Ya Rebel),  
home foster.*

- ▶ Show him the water bowl. Let him have a good drink, if desired. Nervous new dogs need more water.
- ▶ Sliding glass doors, windows, mirrors, reflective fireplace covers are new to your dog. They may not realize they are solid. Tap on the glass while directing your dog's muzzle to it. We suggest you tape sheets of paper to the glass at the dog's eye level. He may also think his reflection is another dog and bark at it!
- ▶ Close off rooms to limit his access. This makes it easier to keep an eye on the dog. As he earns your trust, give him more freedom. Most "accidents" inside are caused by giving a dog too much access too fast, without adequate supervision. Use crates, baby gates or exercise pens inside. You must transition his brain to recognize that this new place is his new larger kennel.
- ▶ The first few days, even weeks, can be stressful for your greyhound. Keep things quiet — delay the welcome home party!
- ▶ A greyhound needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed. A crate is an excellent choice; even if only short term. We only use the metal crates and not the plastic airline crates because the metal crates provide better ventilation and visibility. He can see out and you can see him. He is familiar with this type. We use Midwest iCrate Double Door Folding Metal Dog Crates that are 48L x 30W x 33H. Double-check the measurements when you order. This is a very large crate, but an otherwise successful adoption can get off to a bad start if your crate is too small. You can buy these at most of our Meet & Greet stores, or online through AmazonSmile (select Prison Greyhounds as your charity of choice, and they will send us a donation for your purchase!). Extra-large crates run from \$75 to \$90.
- ▶ Some greyhounds do better in an exercise pen during their transition time than a crate. Depending on which dog you choose, we may recommend this. Midwest has a black exercise pen that is either 42 or 48 inches with a door built in one side. The exercise pen occupies a 4 x 4 foot square of the floor. It has no flooring, nor covering. Some greyhounds will knock it over, but others respect the boundaries. If your greyhound will spend a lot of time in it, and if he is a repaired fracture greyhound, he may need the extra space for comfort. Some repaired fracture legs get cramped in a crate. Please note these exercise pens are for indoor use only, and not a substitute for fence!
- ▶ Your grey will bond faster and feel more secure if he sleeps in your bedroom at night. He is not used to being alone overnight, and he will object if this is expected of him.
- ▶ **The patterns you set in the first few days are the ones you will live with the rest of your greyhound's life.** If you do not want your pet on the furniture, don't allow it!

## WARNING: “Let Sleeping Dogs Lie”

I confess, I have sleep startle! And I need to have my boundaries respected ... I’m a retired racer named “YourNewGreyhound.” I’m here to teach you about “sleep startle” and my need for space. These needs are very common to new greyhounds (or other canines). In the *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* book they call it “sleep aggression” (page 53, last paragraph). But I am not aggressive at all, even though I have these characteristics, so I prefer the word “startle.” I don’t mean to hurt anyone. I have to take you way back to our days in the racing kennels to explain. A racing greyhound is given his own space: a kennel, cage, crate, whatever you prefer to call it. It is our safe spot. And it is TOTALLY OURS. We sleep and eat in it. The thing we like best is that we can close our eyes and sleep, sleep, sleep. Undisturbed! Greyhounds love to run, but we also love to sleep! A lot! In our kennels, we can totally let our guard down. We don’t have to watch to see what or who is coming. So greyhounds at the racing compound are safe, secure, and happy at rest in our crates. By the time the kennel workers arrive early in the morning to turn us out and feed everyone breakfast, we are wide awake. Mister I’mALoudMouth hears the truck pull up and he will be the one that starts us barking to greet the kennel people. (We figure a loud hello deserves a good breakfast!) So no one ever gets anywhere near our kennels when we are asleep. We are wide awake. If we doze off during the day, our kennel workers are very savvy to wake us up before reaching into our crates. We never wake up with a human hovering over us while we lay on our dog beds. So a retired racing greyhound that is fresh off the racetrack is not used to being touched when asleep. Some will outgrow it. But that is one reason why some adopted greyhounds prefer to have a crate, or a designated “safe



bed” where we can retreat to. The crate door can be left open, so that we come and go as we please. But the rule is that NO ONE touches us when we are in that spot. This is a “must teach” for children, and also for adults, especially the smothering kind. You see, I bit my Forever Friend on his finger. I hurt him. I had no idea, it was a reaction. My new best friend is a big dog lover and he was so excited to greet me. He doesn’t know yet to respect our space. He is new to greyhounds. I was sound asleep

and he lovingly scratched my whiskers. It STARTLED me! So I growled, snapped and actually bit him. I'm sorry. That's not me. It is just my instinct. So let me warn all adopters, especially when your greyhound first goes home. Give us dogs **TIME** and **SPACE** to adjust, even if we were first fostered in a prison or a home. Please stay off our beds. We will get up and greet you when we are ready. Don't be so quick to try to show us how much you love us. In time we will learn we can trust you. We have a lifetime together now! All this does not mean we had a rough life at the racetrack. We didn't. It just means that life is different, and I am sharing my house with people now. And please, no hands or fingers reaching into our crates. So if we are asleep, wake us up first with a loud clap, or foot stomp, or rattle the crate. Call our name. (We can sleep with eyes part way open, too.) The most startling thing is to be touched when asleep! And until I really know you, please give me extra space. Let me come to you at first, rather than approaching me. Grab a leash and show it to me if you want me to move. Now I'm going to go make amends with my New Best Friend today. I know that neither of us meant any harm, we are both just learning about the other.

Love,

YourNewGreyhound (Status: recently adopted)



*Prison graduate Sunspot  
(Mohican Sunspot).*

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## Securing Your Home and Yard: Protect Your Dog

- ▶ Train everyone who enters your home to **close the door behind them immediately**. Do not allow guests to converse with the door partly open. Through years of racing, your dog has been conditioned that an open door — even a narrow slot — means “Bolt and run like the wind!” Communicate this with cleaning people, delivery people, repair people, cable installers, babysitters, children’s friends, relatives, etc., etc., etc!
- ▶ **Padlock all gates to your yard**. A loose greyhound is in grave danger. They have no street sense, travel far and fast, do not understand traffic, and have no homing instinct. Many absent-minded yard workers, meter readers, neighbor children, tree trimmers, cable workers, dry cleaning or dairy product delivery people, UPS, FedEx, have been the cause of many loose greyhound searches. Not all have ended happily. Don’t trust your dog to someone else’s memory.
- ▶ **IF YOUR DOG GETS LOOSE**, let us know immediately and we will do our best to notify volunteers that may be available to help with the search. Do not waste time. Your dog is in real danger.

**Call 317-259-7419**  
**immediately if your dog gets loose!**  
**Be sure to leave a message. If we can find available volunteers,**  
**we will send help as soon as we can.**



*Elly (DB's Gotta Go).  
Photo courtesy Michelle  
Padilla/Jon Kerns.*

## Prevent Canine Poisoning

- ▶ There are many lists of various plants, foods, artificial sweeteners in gums and candy, flea collars, rodent poisons, and more that are toxic to dogs. Xylitol is one such sweetener — very common in gums and candies — that can cause canine seizures in a very short period of time. Familiarize yourself with these. A good place to start is the **ASPCA's Animal Poison Control website:**

<https://www.aspca.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control>

- ▶ However, the number one cause of canine poisoning is accidental consumption of human medications (prescription and over-the-counter), even if they are in a plastic bottle. Put all meds away from countertops, bedside stands, etc.
- ▶ The lid to your kitchen trash must be tall and durable enough so that your grey cannot raid it.
- ▶ Counter-surfing is so much fun for a new greyhound, but not for us! Be careful what you leave out. Clap your hands, smack the counter, anything to get their attention quickly with a stern NO or **LEAVE IT!** A spray bottle of water misted in their face is a good deterrent if you can catch them in the act.



*Tappin (Tapping In), Prison graduate  
November 2015.*

## Identification **MUST** Be Worn at **ALL** Times

- ▶ Adopters will want to have a **personalized ID tag** before your dog comes home. Your greyhound will not have any ID on him when we deliver him, nor is he microchipped.



If you have not yet decided upon a new name, simply use the word GREYHOUND with your last name following. (The finder of a lost dog does not really need to know the dog's name, just YOUR name and the breed.)

We like the adjustable collar tags designed to fit contour on the 1-inch wide martingale collar that he comes with. These are available at

[www.boomerangtags.com](http://www.boomerangtags.com). Order the Adjustable Collar Tag, size L for a 1-inch wide martingale collar (\$12.49 with free shipping).

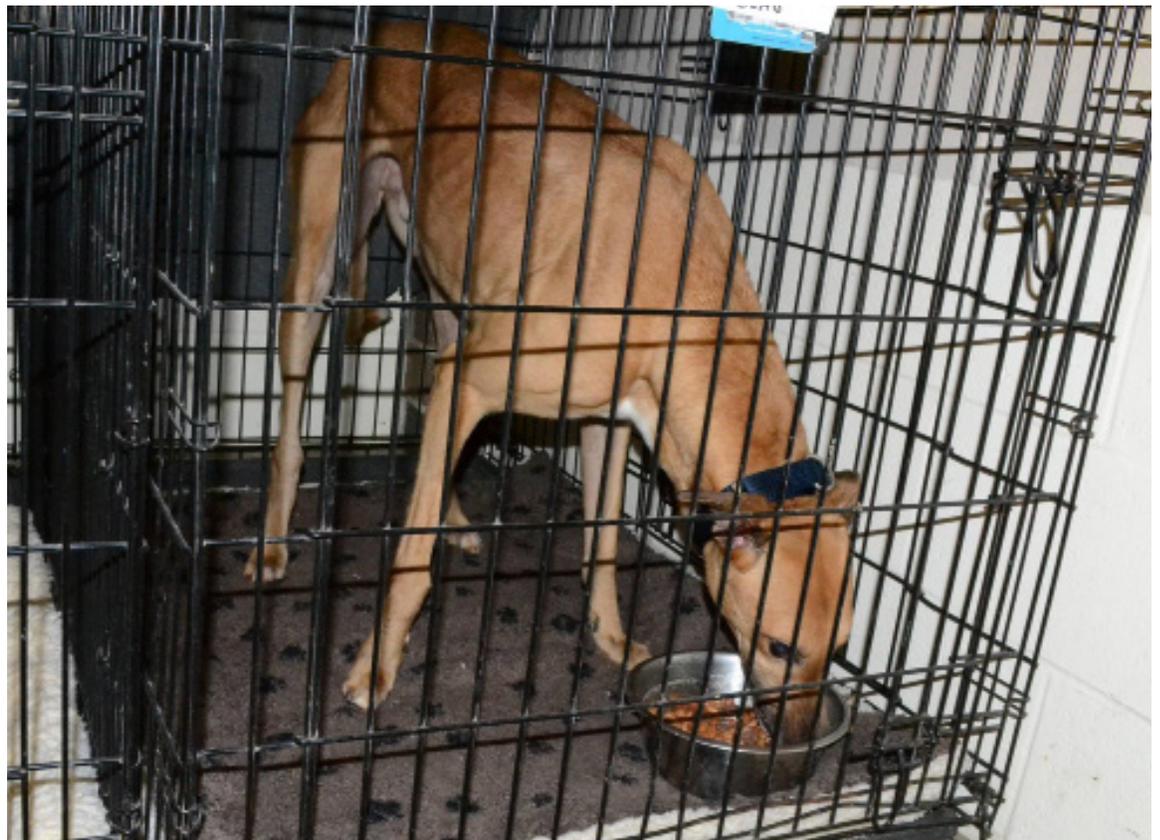
- ▶ Only use a **martingale** (sighthound collar) on your greyhound.
- ▶ A veterinarian (\$50) or local animal shelter (\$10-\$20) can **microchip** your dog. Even with ear tattoos, a microchip is important. Should anyone find your lost dog, they will not know to look for tattoos, or what to do with that number. They may not even know he is a greyhound. Tattoos fade and can be hard to read. Even though your dog has a collar with ID tags, microchips are permanent, should the collar fall off or be deliberately removed. Under emergency or suspect conditions, this is a way people can reconnect you with your dog. There is no need to sign up for the annual membership, just the initial chip and registration.



*Rush (CET Rush),  
repaired fracture, home  
foster.*

## Feeding Your Greyhound

- ▶ A new greyhound may not eat or drink much in his first few days. After all, he does not yet understand that he is home forever! On the other hand, many greyhounds who are feeling separation stress consume much more water during transition. The best way to handle this is to let him drink, and just increase the trips outside. By restricting water access during the day, you can aggravate the problem.
- ▶ Your dog has been fed **two meals per day**. *Warning:* He may start off as an early riser! You can gradually adjust to whatever schedule works best for you, but keep him on two meals per day. This helps prevent BLOAT.
- ▶ FEED BEEF kibble: When we asked the greyhound trainers at Daytona and Wheeling for advice on feeding a retired racer, they said that these dogs were raised on beef as their main protein. Greyhounds performed better, stayed satisfied longer, and digested beef better than anything. The worst we are told is lamb. Lamb protein is difficult for their livers to break down and can cause vomiting and lethargy. However, lamb is often a recommendation by veterinarians for any dog having digestive issues. Good for other breeds, but not greyhounds. Likewise, avoid turkey. Read the label of your food to determine what the main protein is, but make sure that lamb is not listed in addition to the beef. Chicken is okay with greyhounds, but they generally still do better with beef



*Geno (Country J Geno),  
Prison Graduate January  
2016.*

as the main protein. Consider the special nutritional needs of your greyhound. While the newest fad of grain-free and high-protein food might be okay for regular dogs, your greyhound has different needs. Greyhounds have always required some grain in their diet, starting way back on the farm. If desired, you can substitute a good quality starch like sweet potato. Feeding properly creates firmer stools. Many of us switched our greyhounds from chicken kibble to beef kibble, with noticeable improvements, including with some dogs that had previously been diagnosed as sensitive. There are many good quality dog foods to fit every budget. Every adopter should do their own research and decide which quality dog food fits your budget, and which food you feel is healthy for your greyhound. There are many beef kibble options available, as the pet food market is always changing. There are also many sources where you can gather research. Do your homework and try a food within your budget. The best advice we can give is that if it does not work for your dog, try a different food!

- ▶ Greyhounds are the right weight when you are able to see a slight definition of the last two or three ribs. Find out their recorded “racing weight,” and let them gain only a few pounds above. Or look at their weight when vetted in Florida, included in your Adoption Packet. That is a good weight to maintain. For a more complete explanation and guideline, please check the After Adoption Resources on our website.
- ▶ Always add water to their dry kibble (like cereal). This prevents many from “coughing it out” while eating. It also hydrates the dogs more in the summer time, and many greyhounds prefer this.
- ▶ **BLOAT!** Refer you to your greyhound books on this serious, often fatal risk. Do not let your greyhound run vigorously before or after each meal. It is also believed that elevated bowls may help.
- ▶ Fresh water should **always** be available.
- ▶ Do not free-feed your greyhound (leave food out all day for him), especially if you have more than one dog. A regimented feeding schedule will also help your dog to regulate his bowels.

## Introducing Other Dogs in Your Family

We are going to assume that if you already have a toy breed at home, or a high-energy hyper small dog, or a small white fluffy dog, that you will select a greyhound that is also CAT TOLERABLE (cat safe). This is to ensure the protection of your small dog! *Some* NO CAT higher prey greyhounds can co-habitate with small dogs, but it often requires much experience and effort on behalf of the adopter. This is not something to try if you are new to greyhounds. Your Adoption Representative can advise you on this. This chapter addresses introductions between the new greyhound to medium or larger dogs.

- ▶ Introduce them on **neutral ground**, such as down the block from your house. This means having each dog on a leash and allowing them to meet in an area your current pet doesn't "own."
- ▶ After the initial sniffing, walk the dogs together for a short time and bring them into the house **TOGETHER**. This is like having your other dog act as a host to the new greyhound.
- ▶ If you have multiple dog introductions to do, you may use an enclosed backyard. Allow the new greyhound to relieve himself in the yard, and to be off leash. Bring the family dogs out, leashed, one at a time. Return each resident dog back inside before the next dog meets the new greyhound. Never allow the new greyhound to feel "rushed" by all of the family dogs charging him at the same time.
- ▶ Any sign of growling or aggression should be met with a quick jerk of the leash and a sharp "NO"!
- ▶ The dogs should be fed **SEPARATELY**.
- ▶ Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you

*Greyhounds run muzzled in prison dog yard.*

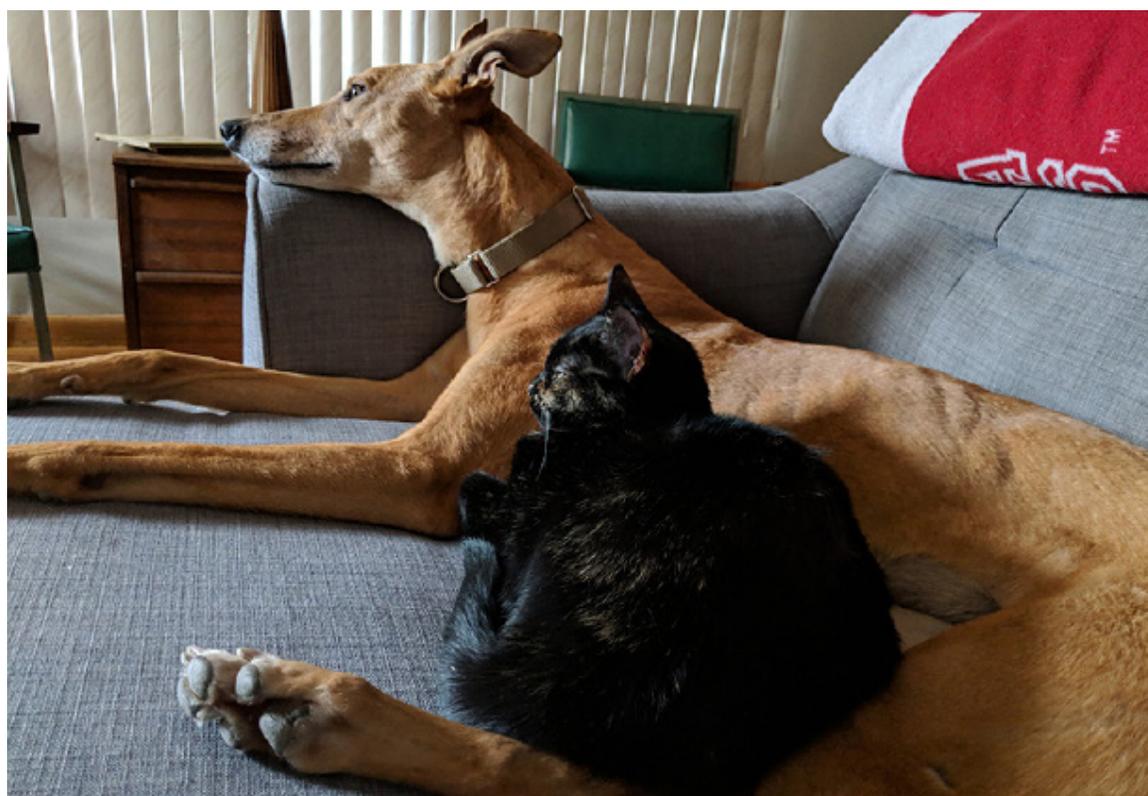


should not let them out loose in the yard together. If all the dogs are greyhounds, muzzle each greyhound.

- ▶ Supervise play with very small breeds closely. Muzzle your greyhound as necessary. A playful chase and lunge could be too rough for a toy breed. Teach your greyhound otherwise. **Remember, you are in charge.** The muzzle might be necessary for 48 hours, or it might take longer, it depends on the personality of the dogs.

## Introducing the Family Cat

- ▶ Shut the cat in one room as the greyhound explores the house.
- ▶ After the initial exploration, one adult should take the greyhound on leash while the other lets the cat out of its room.
- ▶ Keep the dog on a leash with his muzzle on.
- ▶ You don't need to lead the dog, but you should follow him and be able to jerk and correct sharply if he tries to dart for the cat. Use the “**Leave it**” command as necessary.
- ▶ After the initial introduction you may remove the leash, but keep the muzzle on until you feel confident.
- ▶ Be aware that a cat inside is not as tempting as the same cat outside loose and running in the yard.
- ▶ Be sure to provide your cat with a “safe place” where he can get away from the dog. A room baby-gated off from the dog works well. Another alternative would be a high shelf or a cat door to escape through.
- ▶ The cat's litter box will need to be located in a spot safe, secure from the greyhound's access.
- ▶ Arm yourself with a misting bottle filled with plain water. Spray your dog's face if necessary.
- ▶ If you need more ideas or additional help, read the After Adoption Resources on our website.
- ▶ There is also a detailed section on introducing your greyhound to cats in the book *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, pages 20, 58 to 60, and 219.



*Kotia (Atascocita Kotia)*  
–164 races, 32 wins,  
brood mama to six pups.

## Greyhounds and Children

The greyhound is one of the most easy-going dog breeds, but is nonetheless, still a dog. To establish a loving relationship between greyhound and child, it is a wise idea to review the following ideas and discuss them:

- ▶ The greyhound is **not** a toy. He deserves respect and responsible care. Recognize that your children will NOT be the dog's caretaker. And **YOU** will need to be the dog's defender from over-exuberant children!
- ▶ No living creature enjoys being pounced on while sleeping. Call the dog's name before startling any sleeping dog. Please refer to pages 5 and 6 in this handbook.
- ▶ Under no circumstances should children crawl or reach into a crate or dog bed. This is the dog's safe spot.
- ▶ Children often want to hug or cling on the dog. Teach your children that this is scary for a new dog. Encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders instead.
- ▶ Tails are private things — not play things.
- ▶ The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is easy — SAFETY FIRST. This applies to both the dog and the kids. Do not leave young children and dogs alone together. If you cannot supervise, crate your dog. Use the muzzle as necessary.



*Wages (Viva Las Wages),  
Prison Graduate  
November 2015.*

## Housebreaking Hints

Your graduated prison dog is housebroken, trained by his offender-handlers or foster home. He understands to only relieve himself when turned out into the yard. However, any dog in a new environment will have an accident or two before he realizes this is his new home. Only YOU can teach him this. Crate training during the adjustment period is helpful. If he has an accident in the house, a firm “No” followed by quick redirection to outside helps, but only if you catch him in the act. Develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can. Having a regular feed schedule will also assist in better results.

**OFFER POTTY BREAKS OFTEN!** The scent inside a house of other pets may cause problems. Praise him when he potties outside. Do not scold or yell if you do not catch them at the exact time of the act ... they will not remember what they did wrong. It doesn't take long for them to learn. The basics to keep in mind are:

- ▶ Out first thing in the morning, out last thing before bedtime
- ▶ Out before meals, out again after meals
- ▶ Out after naps
- ▶ Out before you leave, out when you return home

*Race (Race to the Top),  
Prison Graduate  
August 2015.*



- ▶ Dogs are not being vindictive or angry, when they pee in the house. They are just not yet fully housebroken in their new environment. Assuming there is not a medical issue causing the problem, take a few steps back in your expectations. Lee Livingood, author of *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, says adopters often mistakenly expect instant results while a new pet needs to adjust to their new home and schedule. Be patient. These incidents are not really doggie “accidents” so much as they are training things we have not yet built into our new dog. You could call them people “accidents”!
- ▶ A new greyhound experiencing separation stress can be expected to drink a lot more water, as mentioned. Offer him a lot more bathroom opportunities as well.

It is important that you supervise your pet, especially at first. This gives you the opportunity to praise your dog for doing the right thing and also to keep an eye on him!

## Basic House Manners

Greyhound Training Goals during the prison program were all about basic house manners. Different dogs learn at different speeds. Some offender-handlers are better at shaping their greyhound than others. In addition, sometimes a greyhound will transition one of his two handlers, thus requiring the new handler to slow down while he bonds with his new dog. Handlers transition the greyhound from a professional athlete to a family pet. They assimilate their racers to an environment that is totally different from their racing kennel, but more similar to their future life in a house. **On Dog Adoption Day, YOU will continue the rest of this transition.**

Below are the goals that the prison program focused on:

- ▶ The commands of “No” and “Leave it”: “Leave it” is a much stronger, more serious command.
- ▶ “Kennel up”: Trying to keep the greyhound compliant to crating when necessary.
- ▶ The greyhound grip is the only secure way to hold a leash with these fast, strong dogs.
- ▶ Control of dog on leash: Dog walks on handlers’ left, with some exceptions.
- ▶ Dogs were kept off the bunks.
- ▶ Dogs were kept calm when left alone in crate: The message taught is, “I will return. Things are okay.”
- ▶ Dogs do not mouth human arms or limbs, even in play.
- ▶ Dogs eat twice daily inside their crates, at regulated times. As racers, they ate only in crates.
- ▶ Dogs sleep through the night. No whining. Usually this is only a challenge on the first night or two.

*Slider (JS Malibu Slide),  
Prison Graduate  
November 2015.*



- ▶ Dogs do not jump on people.
- ▶ Dogs are not taught to bark on command, which can develop into an annoyance!
- ▶ Dogs are housebroken, and go to the bathroom outside.
- ▶ Walking up / down stairs: This training is dependent upon handlers access to steps and individual schedules

Additional training in prison if the greyhound and handler team were ready:

- ▶ Sit or down. Many greys cannot sit, it bothers them. So down is a good alterna-

tive that we allowed. “Down” means to lie down (or sit). It is NOT the command to correct a dog from jumping up on people or the counter! “Off” is the command to “get off” a person they are jumping on, or furniture, counter surfing, off a window sill, etc.

Greyhounds are easily trainable, but only after you have earned their trust. The role as leader of your greyhound is a serious responsibility.

- ▶ Be consistent. Don't allow him to do something one day and not the next.
- ▶ In most instances, a firm sharp tone of voice will be enough to reprimand your greyhound.
- ▶ Another effective way to reprimand is to firmly scold him, and then ignore him for several minutes. Greyhounds crave your attention and approval.
- ▶ Even with his transitioning while in prison, home life is a new experience for your greyhound. Simple things such as stairs, glass doors and slick floors may frighten him at first. He has been exposed to them sparingly. Take the time to show him that these new things are no big deal and easily mastered. Note that going downstairs is harder than climbing upstairs.
- ▶ Introduce toys and dog beds ... he will love you for it. They may not care for toys at first. Some never like toys; they get to decide. This is what retirement is all about!

**Always praise your greyhound when he has been good.** Throughout the dog's life, he has relied on someone to set boundaries for him. First his mother, then his trainer, offender-handler or foster home, and finally his forever adopter. He is counting on you to tell him what is good and what isn't.

For additional training tips, you can subscribe through our website to **Donna Chandler's My K9Behaves** online video class. Prison Greyhounds is an affiliate of Donna Chandler's video class. If you are considering any sort of additional training for your greyhound, or if you ever need the help of a canine behaviorist, Donna is who we recommend. There seems to be more BAD trainers (behaviorists) out there than there are ones that can benefit your greyhound. However, even with Donna's online class, you will need to use it in conjunction with the free **Greyhound Guidelines to My Canine Behaves Class**, created by Prison Greyhounds, specifically for greyhound adopters. Both the subscription link and the Greyhound Guidelines can be found ONLY on our website under After-Adoption Resources, at the bottom of the page. For a detailed description of the 27 videos, please browse through the free Greyhound Guidelines to help you determine if you want to subscribe.

## Leaving Your Greyhound Home Alone – Is He Ready?

Racing is a very different than being a house pet. The simplest, common things can be foreign and a little intimidating. **Patience and a lot of love will help the adjustment.** When leaving him home alone remember: one of the hardest things for your greyhound to adjust to will be loneliness. This dog has lived his entire track life with littermates, kennelmates and people coming and going most of the day. He was never alone, always with hundreds of dogs. In prison, he has been used to 24/7 company of the handlers and other greyhounds.

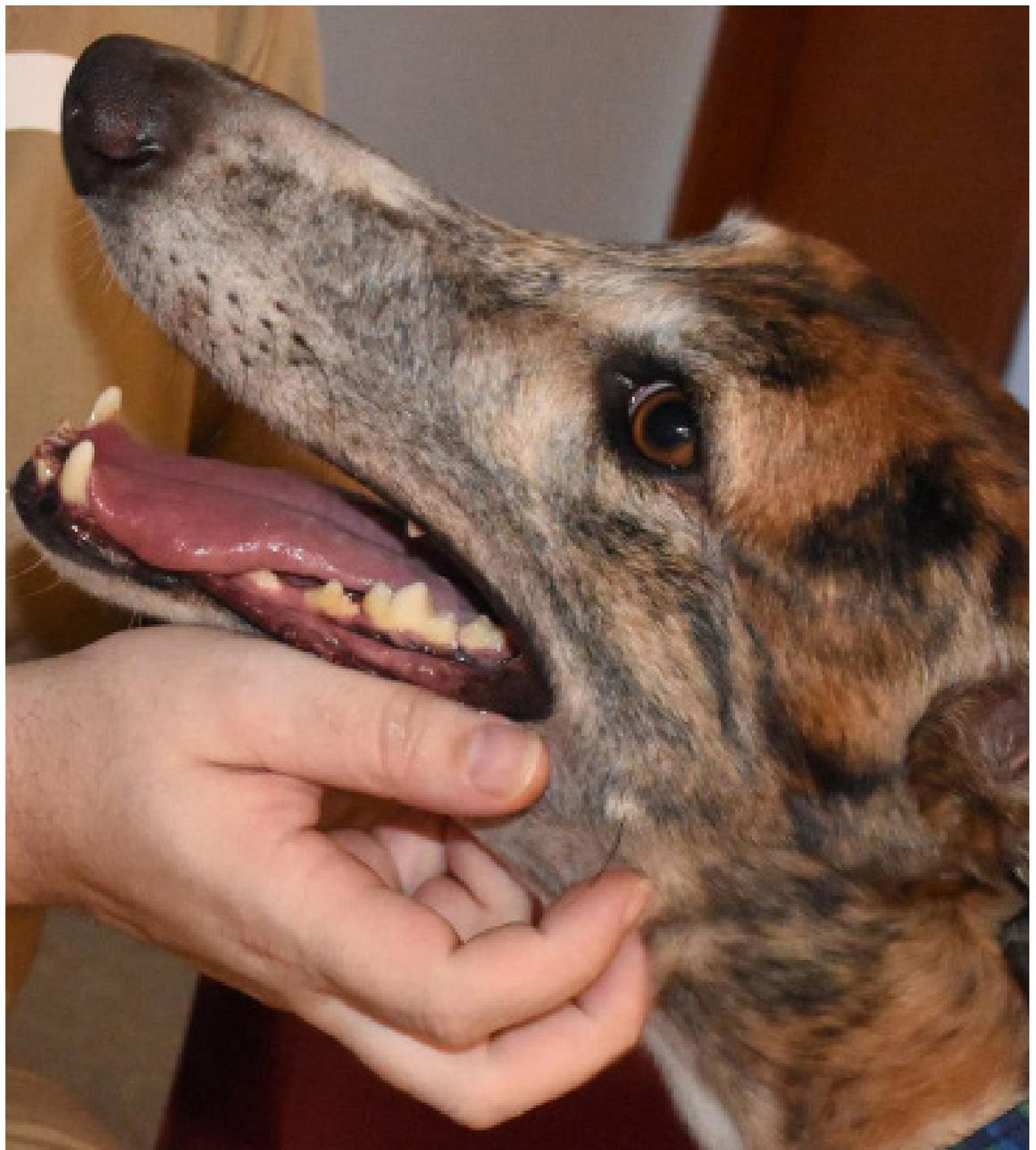
- ▶ Plan the first few days of his arrival so you can be home more than usual, but not EVERY minute.
- ▶ Before leaving your dog for an extended period, practice leaving for short time intervals and then build up. “Train” your greyhound gradually that when you leave, you always come back.
- ▶ We recommend that you start off with a crate or an exercise pen, even if just for the transition period. These provide the security your dog needs as well as protecting both the dog and your house from each other. However, they must be the proper size with crates **NO SMALLER** than 48L x 30W x 33H and exercise pens either 42 or 48-inches tall and 4 x 4 feet square. We do not allow plastic airline crates, which can create claustrophobia. When the family is gone, the greyhound will be happiest when the crate is placed in the family room or wherever people congregate, rather than isolated in a distant bedroom.



*Ali (Crowning Ali), a repaired fracture greyhound.*

- ▶ His offender-handlers or foster parent taught him the command “Kennel up” whenever it was time to go into the crate, whether day or night. You may reward with small treat if desired. Avoid peanut butter which goes right through a greyhound’s digestive tract and can contribute to loose stools.
- ▶ Start out with just 10 minutes alone. Gradually build up. Do not leave the first time for five hours and expect him not to be stressed or destructive.
- ▶ You may prefer to continue crating or penning your grey after the transition period, or you may baby-gate him into part of the house. There are greyhound owners who crate every time they are gone, and others put the crates away after transition. You may give him free access to roam after he has earned that trust. To first test your greyhound outside of his crate while you are gone, start by leaving his muzzle on when free-roaming the house. Put it on right as you leave. This will minimize some of the potential damages while you are gone and he is learning to be alone. This is often a good transition while you are moving him away from needing to be crated whenever you leave the house.
- ▶ The crate or pen will provide an escape for your dog if children are harassing him. Of course, the strictly enforced rule is that no one bothers the dog when he is in the crate, as this has always been their safe area.
- ▶ Your greyhound has been used to background noise at the racetrack kennel and at prison. Some dogs prefer a radio or TV left on when you are away. Some prefer the silence; you will discover what your dog likes.
- ▶ All dogs, including greyhounds, have a need to chew. It relieves tension and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large Nylabone, large braided rope toy, or rubber Kong toy (especially the ones shaped like large bones) for your dog to chew while you are away. (Skip the peanut butter inside the Kong. We learned the hard way that too much peanut butter can cause diarrhea with greyhounds!) Children should understand that these are strictly the dog’s toys and not to be taken away from the dog.
- ▶ Never shut a dog into a small closed-in room like a bathroom. In a crate, a dog can still see his familiar environment. Bathrooms are foreign environments (porcelain, tile, mirrors) that are visually closed off. We’ve seen dogs demolish a bathroom very quickly.
- ▶ Garages are *not* animal friendly. Besides unhealthy temperatures, there are sweet smelling toxins like antifreeze, and scary unfamiliar smells of gasoline, tires, etc. Your dog should NEVER be left in a garage.
- ▶ Never leave your dog in the yard when you are gone. Too many dangers, including weather sensitivities.

- ▶ Never tie your greyhound outside on a rope, chain or “runner,” as greyhounds are not used to being tied to something stationary. They can get tangled up and injure themselves, or will pull, wiggle or chew their way out. They also could forget they are tied, take off running at blazing speed and snap their neck when they hit the end of the line, causing temporary paralysis, or worse. Never tether your greyhound inside the house.
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the services of a professional dog walker, petsitter, or doggie day care. Your grey may benefit from midday walks or visits while you work. The website for Pet Sitters International, [www.petsit.com](http://www.petsit.com), has great tips under the button “Find a Local Pet Sitter.” Also, check with your veterinarian for a professional dog walker. For greyt boarding options please check out our last page on sponsors!



*Woolly (Lazy K Woolly)  
Putnamville Correctional  
Facility Class # 32.*

## All Dogs Need Exercise

A popular myth about greyhounds is that they are high energy. They are not. However, they still need exercise. They are not *really* couch potatoes.

- ▶ The easiest answer is in your own fenced-in backyard. The typical greyhound enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished within 10 to 15 minutes, a few times a day.
- ▶ The first time your dog exercises in your yard off leash should be in daylight and under supervision. Remove obstacles like rakes, or low braches with sharp edges.
- ▶ When you return home, a dog who is crated during the day will require more exercise to stretch his legs than the same dog with free access in his house. He will have more energy to expend.
- ▶ Likewise, a greyhound with no fenced yard will require more walks, or longer walks, than a greyhound who can run in a fenced yard.
- ▶ A fenced yard does not eliminate the need for walks, which are a great brain exercise if allowed to sniff! Electric fences are neither safe nor appropriate for greyhounds.
- ▶ If you plan to use your greyhound as a partner in a walking or jogging fitness program, start slowly. Be aware that some greyhounds will never learn to enjoy jogging, they only want to walk or run full speed at a pace that you will never achieve!
- ▶ Care should be taken during extreme temperatures. Your dog is susceptible to heat stroke. Make sure your dog is completely cooled down before feeding. REMEMBER, no strenuous exercise before or after eating for one hour.



*Fireball (Kay Fire Eater),  
Prison graduate April  
2015.*

- ▶ Cold weather presents other hazards for this breed. A coat made for greyhounds is a must for snowy winters. Check your dog's feet for snow packing. Rinse salt and ice-melters off the paws with lukewarm water.
- ▶ Generally, younger dogs (2-year-olds) enjoy higher activity than older dogs (4 or 5 and older).
- ▶ **Note of Caution:** Exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for disaster. The greyhound has been bred to scan the horizon and run after anything that moves. Something blowing across the street in the distance could result in your dog's death. Once your pet has focused in on this moving object, he no longer hears you. He is running on pure instinct. NEVER let your dog off lead in an area that is not totally fenced in. This applies even if your dog has been taught to recall in an obedience class

### **Off-Lead Doggie Parks or "Bark Parks"**

One of the greatest joys of owning a greyhound is watching him run at top speed. However, finding an appropriate fenced-in area can be difficult. Many dog parks have opened up in the past few years. In our opinion, *SOME* of these parks can be suitable for certain greyhounds when used with caution.

Greyhounds were bred to be sight-hound hunters. A small dog running in a dog park can be misinterpreted as the perfect lure if yours is a higher prey greyhound. Some of these parks separate the big dogs from the smaller ones. Other greyhound adopters will always want to be on the alert for dogs that may decide to bully your greyhound, seeing him as an easy target. You cannot trust your greyhound to stay by your side. He will most likely chase such a dog, especially if other dogs are joining in and a yelp or squeal ensues. At best, you leave the wrong impression of the breed to those at the park who see your "vicious greyhound" tormenting a small helpless dog. At worst, your greyhound could kill someone's beloved pet. Don't think that a muzzle is the solution. A muzzle will put your dog at a disadvantage or in peril with other large breed dogs that are not muzzled. An alternative would be to find a public fenced-in ball field or a friend with a fenced-in yard. Get together with some other greyhound owners, muzzle your dogs, and have some fun! Arrange a greyhound walk or play date! Well monitored doggie day cares can be another good option for your greyhound to run off energy while you are at the office working.

### **For Those Without a Fenced-In Yard**

Be patient the first couple of weeks. Your grey may not be used to eliminating on a leash.

- ▶ Take your dog out often, at least five to six times a day initially. You may gradually decrease to four to five times a day, unless he requires more activity.
- ▶ Praise your dog every time he urinates or defecates outside.
- ▶ Let the dog take his time smelling the ground, trees, etc. Male dogs like vertical objects to urinate on.
- ▶ Avoid distractions like busy traffic, kids playing or other dogs. Your dog needs to feel safe and secure. Your greyhound needs to feel you are protecting him when he is the most vulnerable, which (in his mind) is when he is on leash and not able to run away.
- ▶ After your dog has done its business, don't quickly rush inside. Doing so teaches him that when he eliminates he goes back in, so he will hold it until he is ready to go in, which usually is longer than the dog walker had in mind! Allow him to walk around even after he finishes. This will encourage him to go as soon as he gets outside.



*Axle (Barts Tax Credit)  
a graduate of the prison  
program in June 2019.*

## Heartworm, Flea, and Parasite Protection

You have agreed to keep your greyhound on monthly heartworm preventative to extend his life, even during winter. A good one will also prevent fleas and other parasites. Greyhounds are extremely sensitive to chemicals and pesticides. The use of a flea collar or medallion, or even a grocery store flea spray could kill your dog.

- ▶ Your dog was heartworm tested (and negative) before he arrived from Florida.
- ▶ While incarcerated or fostered, your dog was treated for a hookworm problem that persists in ALL greyhounds from every state, every racetrack, every farm with very few exceptions. There is a very detailed document on our website under After Adoption Resources that we include also in our Adoption Packets. No matter who/where you get your greyhound from, expect this problem. The good news — it is not terminal. The bad news, treatment is lengthy; but not necessarily difficult nor expensive. The same medicine that we use as a preventive for heartworm, fleas, ticks, and other parasites is THE cure for hookworm. We treat only with Advocate (Advantage Multi) and Drontal Plus. The Advocate contains Moxidectin, the ONLY effective hookworm medication for a newly-arrived greyhound. Greyhounds that were adopted as recently as four or five years ago (or longer) did not have this specific hookworm. The parasite has morphed, and most veterinarians are not familiar with it at all! We refer you to our hookworm document for further instructions on discovery, dosing, and prevention of future problems. We share with adopters how they can obtain the same effective, low cost medications that we have used since we started this group.

*Fireball (Kay Fire Eater),  
Prison graduate April  
2015.*



- ▶ **Never use:** Flea collars, flea-killing medallions, or long lasting flea dips. (A bath in regular Dawn dishwashing liquid soap will kill all fleas instantly.)
- ▶ **Never use:** Some over-the-counter parasite medications are not safe for greyhounds, usually found in the discount big box stores. When in doubt ASK your veterinarian. Better to be safe than sorry.

## Ongoing Veterinary Care

- ▶ You will receive your dog's medical records, immunizations, etc.
- ▶ Your adoption fee has been used to offset some of the vetting expense that we incurred on your greyhound. This could include spay/neuter, dental, heartworm test, rabies, parasite treatments, and core vaccines that were chosen according to the area where your greyhound was vetted. The due dates for the greyhound's next vaccines will vary greatly. Some rabies vaccines are three-year, some are only good for one. Some greyhounds will need vaccines shortly after arrival, some can go a full 12 months. It just depends on when your greyhound retired, and if the dog was due. Because of the danger in over-vaccinating, we can no longer guarantee that your greyhound was newly-vaccinated if certain vaccines are not yet due. Please ask us for specific details on the greyhound you select. We will often not even know this info on New Dog Day, as the vet records arrive with the dog. However, if there is a known medical concern or history, this will always be shared with us. And we always inform the adopters.
- ▶ Shortly after adoption, visit your veterinarian for an introductory visit and microchip.
- ▶ The Greyhound Resort can administer the Bordetella vaccine at the time of boarding.

Choose a veterinarian that has been in practice long enough to have gained greyhound experience. Unfortunately, veterinarians do not learn the unique nuances of specific breeds in vet school, including greyhounds. There are such a multitude of things they must learn that they cannot get specific on any breed. However, we have found that only after regularly encountering greyhounds in their practice do they apply (and therefore retain) the necessary greyhound nuances. You will find a chart in your Adoption Packet explaining why normal lab

*Bogart (Pat C Bogart),  
Prison graduate  
November 2015.*



results for greyhounds are NOT the same as other breeds. For example, if you are ever told your greyhound may be hypothyroid, consult us for additional info to show your vet. Platelet counts, WBC, all are different! Greyhounds have low body fat to body mass ratio, so there are unique concerns with anesthesia and certain medications. Greyhounds are sensitive to certain anesthetics and tranquilizers. Do not hesitate to contact Prison Greyhounds if you would like a veterinary hospital recommendation.

## Showing Appreciation to the Offender-Handlers

We are often asked by adopters if they can express their sincere appreciation to the offender-handlers for their role in the greyhound's life. Can they send a letter, or a card, or a token gift? Can they meet the handler? The answer is no, you cannot. We cannot even tell you who they were, nor do we ever tell them who you are. This is not allowed for many reasons. However, if you really want to convey a message, we have an idea. You may make a donation to Prison Greyhounds on behalf of your new greyhound. Or you may contribute to "A Ticket Home" through our website. We will always tell the handlers that the adopter of their greyhound did this. It means the world to them, knowing that they are very limited in what they themselves can do while incarcerated to ensure that the funding keeps the program going. When we tell them that the adopter of their greyhound made a special donation, they feel as if they had a part in keeping the greyhounds coming to Putnamville Correctional Facility!

### **Staying Connected with Prison Greyhounds**

We thank you for choosing Prison Greyhounds. We look forward to a long relationship with you! Even before your greyhound is adopted, even while you are still in the approval process, please subscribe NOW to our eNews From Prison Greyhounds (email communication). You can find the subscription link at the bottom of each website page. Visit our website, [prisongreyhounds.org](http://prisongreyhounds.org), often. Our Volunteer Application is also found on our website. After your dog arrives home, please keep in contact with your assigned Adoption Representative. They will want to know how your new greyhound is adjusting. Please ask for any assistance that you may need. Feel free to contact us yourselves as well.

As time goes by, in the unfortunate circumstance that you ever need to return or rehome your greyhound, for whatever reason, your adoption agreement requires contractually that **you can only return the greyhound to Prison Greyhounds**. If you know of an interested person that may desire to adopt the greyhound, you may refer them to us. However, legally you (or your heirs) can only return the greyhound to us, for the purpose of us finding an appropriate "next home" for the dog. Please be certain to mention this in your Last Will & Testament.



## Every retired racing greyhound needs **A TICKET HOME**

Many tracks and farms have closed.

We can help each greyhound  
find his way home.

**Will you help?**

**Here's how your tax-deductible donation would work:**

**A TICKET HOME:** \$100 per dog transport fee

**VETERINARY EXPENSE:** \$400 to vet a retired racer or farm greyhound

**ANY AMOUNT HELPS:** Give what you can so together we can bring them home

Donate online at  
[www.prisongreyhounds.org/donate](http://www.prisongreyhounds.org/donate)

Make checks  
payable to:

Prison Greyhounds  
5868 E. 71st Street  
Suite E357  
Indianapolis, IN 46220



**THANKS**  
for our  
**Ticket**  
**Home!**

***Why Prison Greyhounds?** We are a 501c3, all volunteer greyhound group that continues to adopt out greyhounds, even when COVID-19 discouraged others from continuing adoptions. We chose instead to bring up three times the number of greyhounds! The need had become urgent, even larger in scale. We utilize both an Indiana prison and volunteer homes for fostering/transitioning professional athletes into family pets. During COVID restrictions, our prison program had to temporarily stop receiving greyhounds, but our foster home volunteers stepped up in larger numbers. Your financial partnership makes this possible.*

## Support Our Supporters!



The Greyhound Resort in Whitestown caters to all your greys' needs while you are out of town. Visit [greyhoundresort.com](http://greyhoundresort.com). Owners Bruce and Katie McDonald are big supporters of ours, donating foster dog boarding, foster dog Bordetella vaccines, dog beds, toys, and financial support.



Canine Retreat in Westfield, Indiana is the location for our Greyhound Play Dates. Visit [www.CanineRetreat.net](http://www.CanineRetreat.net). Owner Mary Hession is a long time greyhound advocate and has invited us to share her property for these special events.



When shopping at Amazon, use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Prison Greyhounds as your favorite charity. With each eligible purchase, AmazonSmile will donate .5% to Prison Greyhounds.



To order apparel with Prison Greyhounds logo, you may contact **Marjorie Dunbar** at [Kruzinregal@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kruzinregal@sbcglobal.net). Marjorie is one of our adopters and key volunteers. She will be happy to help you, and often has apparel for sale at New Dog Days. You may also order at [Uberprints.com](http://Uberprints.com) (Uberprints should have our logo on file when you contact them).



Prison Greyhounds is proud to have been selected as one of Tony's Crew Charities since 2012.



Metazoa Brewing Company is a craft brewery in downtown Indy that will donate 5% of their profits to pre-selected animal organizations, one of which is Prison Greyhounds! Metazoa's selection was done through a grant application process. Watch for announcements of specific events hosted in their new brewery, but feel free to visit (and thank them) all year round!



PetPeople hosts our annual Charity Dog Wash, and every newly-arrived or newly-adopted Prison Greyhound dog receives a free bath at PetPeople.