

Adoption Handbook:

Bringing Home Your Retired Racing Greyhound or Lurcher



Revised October 2022

PRISON
GREYHOUNDS



adoption group
... beyond the race.

***Please read this handbook before your first home visit
and then read again right before you bring your new
greyhound or lurcher 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 or lurcher is exciting and rewarding!

But for the retired racer or hunter, adjusting from a professional athlete to a family pet takes time.

This handbook is the dog's perspective of why he needs space, time, and patience as he makes this big transition. As you earn your dog's trust (by respecting his need to transition at HIS pace and not yours) you will someday become his best friend.

We just caution you not to expect this to happen in the first week!

Let him approach you for affection, rather than always 'interrupting' him. Do not smother your new arrival, and you will be off to a much better start. Do not hug or cuddle him until he has fully adjusted to being a family member, and you are certain that he likes it. It is better for you to lavish extra attention on your current canines. This prevents jealousy,

but it also demonstrates to your new hound that you are a good person. Your new greyhound or lurcher is watching you more than you realize! Your interaction with the other family pets speaks loudly to him.

Even if your dog had a head start through one of our Prison Greyhounds foster homes, he will still need to re-adjust to this next new environment: *your* home. He needs time, time, and time. And most of all, he needs your patience.

Follow these suggestions to make the transition easier:

- ▶ When he first arrives at your home, immediately offer him the chance to relieve himself. Walk your dog back and forth in a small area, keeping him on leash.
- ▶ Walk him around the boundaries of the yard (while on leash) so he knows where the fence is.



- ▶ While on leash, allow him to investigate hazards in the yard (barbecue grills, fire pits, planters, etc.)
- ▶ When it is time to come inside, use a leash to take the dog on a guided exploration of the house, room by room. Walk through every room as he sniffs and explores. Use the words “leave it” as a very strong command, stronger than “no,” if he investigates something not for him (like the cat’s litter box, baby’s bottle, etc.). It is easier to establish good habits early than to correct bad ones later.
- ▶ 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. He 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, or make a big blue X with painter’s tape on the glass, at the dog’s eye level. He may even 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 during house training. 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 new greyhound or lurcher. Keep things quiet — delay the welcome home party! Having friends and family over should wait until your dog is settled in. If you do have guests, make sure your dog has a place to get away from company if he becomes overwhelmed by the new faces or noise.
- ▶ A new hound needs a place of his own to rest undisturbed. A crate is an excellent choice — even if only short term. Metal crates provide better ventilation and visibility — your dog can see out, and you can see him. (Never use plastic airline crates.) Our favorite is: Midwest iCrate Double Door Folding Metal Dog Crates, 48L x 30W x 33H. Double-check the measurements when you order. These are rather large crates, but an otherwise successful adoption can get off to a bad start if your crate is too small.
- ▶ Some hounds do better in an exercise pen rather than a crate. Depending on which dog you choose, we may recommend this. The best option is Midwest's Folding Metal Exercise Pen, 42" or 48" H, with a single door. This exercise pen occupies a 4 x 4 foot square of the floor, but can be structured in a variety of shapes. It can also serve as a gate or extension of a crate indoors. It has no flooring or covering; it is just a pen for indoor use only. It is NOT a substitute for a fence nor is it meant for outside use. Some hounds may even knock it over. It is especially useful for dogs who spend a lot of time in their crates, or those who have repaired fractures.
- ▶ We already shared that your new hound will bond faster and feel more secure if he sleeps in your bedroom at night. If your new dog is a retired greyhound, then he is not used to being alone overnight. He will object if this is expected of him! A lurcher is more than likely already used to sleeping alone. He will make an easier transition. But he will still benefit from the habit of sleeping in the master bedroom.
- ▶ If you do not want your pet on furniture, don't allow it! It is easier to enforce a rule from the beginning than to tell the dog "NO!" later.

A letter from your dog: **WARNING! Let Sleeping Dogs Lie**

The following letter explains a big difference in the past life of a retired racer and that of a lurcher. However, the advice is still relevant to both.*

Dear New Adopter,

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."

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. 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 workers. (We figure a loud hello deserves a good breakfast!)

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. A retired racing greyhound that is fresh off the racetrack is simply 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. The crate door should be left open, so that we can 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 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 just 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 home. Humans, 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.

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)



**Incidentally, if your new dog is a lurcher, he may not understand your resident retired racing greyhound's expectation that he should not "get up in their face, their stuff"! The lurcher may not understand that your resident greyhound (or other breed of dog) may not appreciate the new guy getting on his bed with him, or inside his crate with him. Retired greyhounds understand (through their unique upbringing) that these things are not to be shared. So take precautions until your canines are fully blended. Better to go too slow than to go too fast!*



Securing Your Home and Yard: Protect Your Dog

A loose greyhound or lurcher is in grave danger — at risk of car accidents, encounters with other animals, injuries from weather or rough terrain, etc. They have no street sense, travel far and fast, and do not understand traffic. They can be stolen.

The best way to avoid a bad outcome is to take precautions in the first place. Remember, it is better to be too cautious than not cautious enough:

- ▶ **Train everyone who enters your home to close the door behind them immediately.**

Do not allow guests to converse with the door partly open. Communicate this with cleaning people, delivery people, repair people, babysitters, children's friends, relatives, etc. Through years of racing and hunting, your dog has been conditioned that an open door or gate — even a narrow slot — means “Bolt and run like the wind!” These dogs are drawn to open passageways.

- ▶ **Padlock all gates to your yard.** Many absent-minded yard workers, neighbors, relatives, tree trimmers, and cable workers have been the cause of loose dog searches. Unfortunately, not all have ended happily. Don't trust your dog to someone else's reliability.



- ▶ **Confirm gates are closed and fences are secure before letting dogs into fenced yards**, especially in the event of severe weather like wind, storms, or snow. Many lost dogs escape due to damaged fencing or gates that have come unlatched, simply because no one bothered to look before opening the door to the yard. Make sure part of your yard maintenance routine includes checking for loose fencing, holes, or other possible issues.
- ▶ **IF YOUR DOG DOES GET LOOSE**, let us know immediately! Call the number below, as well as your adoption representative, and we will do our best to notify volunteers who may be available to help with the search. Do not waste time. Your dog is in real danger. Be sure to leave a message. If we can find available volunteers, we will send help as soon as we can.

**Call 317-259-7419
immediately if your dog gets loose!**

- ▶ **First, go out and SEARCH!** Take a leash.
- ▶ If the immediate search does not end in the capture and return of the lost dog, post a photo and description of your dog on [Indy Lost Pet](#), as well as other Indy area social media sites, including [Nextdoor](#). Don't forget to notify your microchip company ASAP. They will send Lost Dog bulletins to those in your area.

Collars and ID Tags MUST Be Worn at ALL Times

Every adopted greyhound and lurcher will come with their own matching leash and collar (in addition to their muzzle). However, adopters will want to have a personalized ID tag, ideally even before your dog comes home. Your dog may have a foster ID tag on when we deliver him, but Prison Greyhounds keeps these tags.

- ▶ Prison Greyhounds recommends the contoured metal tags designed to fit the 1-inch wide martingale collar that he comes with. These are available at www.collartags.com. Order the Adjustable Collar Tag, Size L, for a 1-inch wide martingale collar. (These prevent accidental strangulation, a risk with other styles of tags that hang down off the collar.)
- ▶ If you plan to change the name, but have not yet decided upon a new name, make sure YOUR name and contact information are on the tag instead. (The finder of a lost dog does not need to know the dog's name, just YOUR name and how to reach YOU.)



Only use a martingale collar on your greyhound or lurcher. Martingales are designed for sighthounds, specifically. Once properly fitted, they are unable to back out of them. Otherwise they can easily slip out of a regular collar due to their smaller heads and muscular necks. If you would like to use a harness in addition to your dog's martingale with ID tag, we recommend the Julius K-9 Power Harness. For best fit, visit any Hollywood Feed Store for assistance. They may also be ordered online.

Prison Greyhounds will microchip the new dog for you.

A microchip is a permanent identification, should your dog's collar fall off, or be deliberately removed. (Dogs unfortunately get stolen.) Under emergency or suspect conditions, the microchip is a convenient way that a vet, shelter, or anyone with a microchip scanner, can reconnect you with your dog.

- ▶ However, the presence of a microchip is not an excuse for your dog to go without a collar and ID tags at all times. A lost dog is more quickly identified by his ID tags

because it does not require the Good Samaritan dog finder to first take the dog to a vet or shelter.

- ▶ This microchip will be transferred to you after the adoption is complete. There is never a need to pay for additional 'annual' memberships, nor to order any of their ID tags or products. We covered all necessary expenses.
- ▶ Remember to update your microchip with any new contact information if you move or change numbers in the future.
- ▶ Prison Greyhounds is also listed as a permanent alternate contact, in case the finder is not able to locate the primary contact.
- ▶ It is always a good idea to periodically ask your vet to check your dog's microchip on their annual visit to make sure it has not migrated and it is reading properly.

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. Familiarize yourself with these. A good place to start is the [ASPCA's Animal Poison Control website](#).

Other poisons and dangers to be aware of include:

- ▶ **Xylitol** is very commonly used as a sweetener in gums, candies, toothpaste, and even peanut butter. It can cause canine seizures in a very short period of time. Xylitol is now also marketed as wood sugar, birch sugar, birch bark extract. Sounds temptingly sweet, but actually very lethal to unsuspecting canines.
- ▶ 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 medications away from countertops, bedside stands, etc., preferably in a high cabinet. This includes pet medications — your dog can overdose on their own medications, too.
- ▶ The lid to your **kitchen trash** must be tall and durable enough so that your dog cannot

raid it. In addition to toxic foods like grapes, etc., there are many dangerous treats like chicken bones, corn cobs, etc. that your dog would love to snack on!

- ▶ **Counter-surfing** is so much fun for a new hound, 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 is a good deterrent if you can catch them in the act.

- ▶ **Essential oils and fragrant air diffusers** are popular trends right now. Be aware that **MANY** of these are toxic to canines. Do your research, never assume.



Feeding Your Greyhound

- ▶ A new hound may not eat or drink much in his first few days. After all, he does not yet understand that he is home forever! It's okay if he takes a couple of days. We have never lost a new dog yet to starvation!
- ▶ On the other hand, dogs who are feeling separation stress consume much more water during transition. The best way to handle this is to let him drink as much as he wants and increase his trips outside. Restricting water access during the day will likely aggravate the problem.
- ▶ Many greyhounds and lurchers have been fed only one meal per day for all, or most, of their lives. Start by immediately transitioning him to two meals per day. This helps prevent “bloat,” which we’ll discuss later.
- ▶ Your dog will be used to rising early for breakfast. But he will adapt to your schedule gradually, even if the first few days are not ideal!
- ▶ Feed beef-based kibble: Racing greyhounds are primarily raised on beef, and most lurchers are as well. Greyhounds performed better, stayed satisfied longer, and digested beef better than any other protein. Consequently, feeding your hound beef-based kibble is the way to go. If they don't handle beef well, or don't get too enthused, chicken is the next best option.



- ▶ Avoid kibble (or treats) containing any lamb. Check labels! Greyhounds have a difficult time digesting lamb. Their livers often do not process lamb proteins correctly. Presumably, lurchers would have a similarly difficulty given their 80% greyhound genes. Turkey, and a fish-based diet also tend to be proteins that do not work for these hounds as well as beef or chicken.
- ▶ Do not feed a grain-free diet to these dogs. This is one of the latest fads to avoid. Due to their size and shape, greyhounds and lurchers are at high risk for DCM (dilated cardiomyopathy), which has been linked to grain-free diets. While no definitive causation has been proven, most vets agree sighthounds should avoid grain-free diets. They gave their best performances while racing/hunting by eating grains in their diets, and should continue to do so. Dogs that are satiated perform and sleep better, cause less problems with scavenging, and are happier.
- ▶ There is quality dog food to fit any budget. 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. The best advice we can give is that if it does not work for your dog, try a different food! Prison Greyhounds currently suggests Rachel Ray Nutrish Beef & Rice (which can be found almost anywhere, reasonably priced), or Purina ProPlan Complete Essential Beef & Rice as a starting point. Diamond has a good quality beef, and so does Victor.



- ▶ Always add water to your dog's dry kibble (think of it like cereal). This prevents many from "coughing it out" while eating. It also hydrates the dogs more.
- ▶ Another great option is feeding raw. Dogs love it! Look in the refrigerated sections of better pet food stores, like Hollywood Feed. As always, check labels for ingredients.
- ▶ Be aware of BLOAT! Do not let your greyhound or lurcher run or play vigorously an hour before or after a meal. This can cause the stomach to turn and knot up, trapping gases inside. This is very serious, usually fatal. Dogs suffering from bloat will be uncomfortable, as if they cannot find a comfortable position to lay in. They pace and pace, often arching their backs. They may attempt to throw up but are unable to do so. Their enlarging stomach will become hard to the touch. There are additional symptoms and signs you can read about online. Look for a video to educate yourself. Bloating dogs start foaming at the mouth, with stringy, ropery saliva. If you believe your dog is suffering from bloat, you should contact your vet immediately (or the nearest emergency vet) as this is a life-threatening situation if not treated immediately.
- ▶ It is also believed that elevated bowls may help prevent bloat. Regardless, it will be easier on a long-necked dog to eat from an elevated bowl.
- ▶ Fresh water should always be available. Never restrict water from your dog (except when a veterinarian advises for a particular procedure). Tired of refilling the water dish? Use a bucket instead, but still change it every day! And we never recommend the self-replenishing water bowls.
- ▶ Do not free-feed your dog (leave food out all day for him), especially if you have more than one dog. A regimented feeding schedule will help your dog to regulate his bowels. It also prevents over-eating.
- ▶ Your dog may have loose stools during periods of stress, such as the first week he is home, or when transitioning to a new food. If he is being treated for parasites this will be another cause. Adding a couple of tablespoons of low-fat cottage cheese, or unsweetened, non-fat yogurt, or plain canned pumpkin (not pie filling) to his dinner can help add fiber and/or probiotics.
- ▶ Sighthounds are the right weight when you are able to see a slight definition of the last two or three ribs. If your new dog is a racing greyhound, find out his registered racing weight and keep him within five pounds of that. Realize that most vets will not recognize when a greyhound or lurcher is overweight! For a more complete explanation and additional guidelines, please check the [After Adoption Resources](#) on our website.

Introducing Other Dogs in Your Family

We are going to assume that if you 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 or lurcher that is “Cat Tolerable.” This is to ensure the protection of your small dog! Some “No Cat” higher-prey dogs can live 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 this. (Your adoption representative can also advise you on this.) This also assumes that your smaller dog can behave in an acceptable fashion when around the new, larger dog. No one should allow the littler dog to behave like a dominant bully!

Follow these steps for a successful introduction:

- ▶ Introduce your lurcher and the other dog(s) 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.” Best practice is to muzzle both the greyhound and the lurcher.
- ▶ 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 lurcher.
- ▶ If you have multiple dog introductions to do, you may use an enclosed backyard. Take the new dog into the fenced yard by themselves. Allow the new greyhound or lurcher to relieve himself in the yard, and to be off leash (unless you are concerned that your



fence may not be tall enough). Then put the leash back on the new dog if he is lurcher. Bring the family dogs out, also leashed, one at a time. Allow them to meet. Return the first resident dog back inside the house, and bring out the next resident dog on leash. Never allow your newly-adopted dog to feel “rushed” by all the family dogs charging him at the same time. If your new dog is a lurcher, he may need your help learning not to get too exuberant with the resident greyhound. Remember, lurchers have different socialization while growing up compared to the retired racer. Above all, remember that no one likes to be ganged up on, so remain in cautious control.

- ▶ Any growling or aggression should be met with a quick pull of the leash and a sharp “NO”!
- ▶ Until you feel confident that both dogs are comfortable with the new arrangement, you should not let them out loose in the yard together. If all the dogs are greyhounds or lurchers, continue to muzzle each greyhound/lurcher.
- ▶ Supervise play very closely, especially if any of the dogs are smaller. Muzzle your new greyhound or lurcher as necessary. A playful chase and lunge could be too rough for an older dog or smaller breed. Teach your lurcher appropriate play styles.
- ▶ Always, always, always feed the dogs separately. Feed the dogs in their crates or ex-pen, with the crate door closed. One dog should never feel threatened that another dog is coming for his food if he does not eat fast enough. This can create a dog that is food aggressive, or resource guarding. Never feed the dogs from a shared feeder or bowls adjacent to each other.
- ▶ Make sure each dog has a space they can retreat to for time alone. This means at least one bed or crate for each dog, so they are not fighting over a single bed.
- ▶ Some of the most common reasons for returns include dog fights or “attitude issues” caused by resource guarding over food, beds or crates, and toys. Prevent these issues from arising in your home by ensuring that there are enough resources to go around, and no dog has a reason to feel like their resources are being threatened. Try putting favorite toys away for a while.
- ▶ **Remember, you are in charge.** Muzzles might be necessary for 48 hours, or it might take longer — it depends on the personality of the dogs. Muzzles are not cruel, they are a fabulous tool! And your dog is already used to wearing them.

Introducing the Family Cat

Congratulations if you are one of the lucky adopters of a “Cat Tolerable” hound!

Please be mindful that even with a cat-friendly dog, there are still steps to safely introducing your new dog to your family cat(s):

- ▶ Before you begin, go to the Prison Greyhounds website and download the “[How to Introduce Your Greyhound to Cats](#)” PDF. You’ll want to read it before you move any further!
- ▶ Shut the cat in one room as your new hound explores the house.
- ▶ After the initial exploration, one adult should take the greyhound or lurcher 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 correct sharply if he tries to dart for the cat. Use the “Leave it” command as necessary.
- ▶ After the initial introduction, you may either drop or remove the leash, but keep the muzzle on until you feel confident.
- ▶ You should **not** leave your unmuzzled greyhound (or especially a lurcher) and your cat(s) free to roam with each other when you are not home to supervise for a significant period of time after adoption. For some people, this is may be weeks or months; other people always prefer to muzzle, crate, or separate their dog from their cat when they leave. Whatever is right for you and your pets!
- ▶ Be aware that a cat inside is not as tempting as the exact same cat outside and running in the yard.
- ▶ Provide your cat with a “safe place” where he can get away from the dog. A room baby-gated off from the dog usually 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 safe spot, secure from the hound’s access. This is to prevent the dog from helping himself to the litter box. Also, if the cat does not feel safe, he will not use the box.
- ▶ Finally, be advised that your cat has an opinion also! Some cats will never accept a new dog. If your dog continues to be bullied or harassed by your feline, please return the new dog so that he can find a different home where he can feel safe and happy. It happens.

Greyhounds, Lurchers, and Children

The greyhound and lurcher are two of the most easy-going dogs, but they are, nonetheless, still dogs. To establish a loving relationship of mutual respect between hound and child, review the following ideas and discuss them both PRIOR to adoption, and AFTER the new dog arrives:

- ▶ A dog is not a toy. He deserves respect and responsible care. Your children will NOT be the dog's caretaker, and YOU (as the adult) 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 Let Sleeping Dogs Lie in this handbook.
- ▶ Under no circumstances should children ever crawl or reach into a crate, ex-pen, dog bed, or food dish. This is the dog's safe spot.



- ▶ Always feed your hound in his crate with the door shut.
- ▶ Children often want to hug or cling onto the dog. Teach your children that this is scary for any dog, but especially a new dog. Encourage gentle stroking of the neck and shoulders instead.
- ▶ Tails and ears are not playthings!

The main rule to keep in mind concerning children and dogs is **SAFETY FIRST**.

This applies to both the dog and the kids. Do not leave young children and new dog alone together. If you cannot supervise, crate your dog. Use the muzzle as necessary.

Housebreaking Hints

Your new greyhound or lurcher is likely not housebroken, although his foster family may have gotten a head start on his training! But they are smart dogs and can learn quickly if you are consistent and patient.

- ▶ Initially, let your dog out frequently (every one to two hours) to avoid indoor accidents. This will help him to not associate the indoors with relieving himself
- ▶ When you first bring your hound home, leave the leash on him. If he tries to relieve himself indoors, you can redirect him outside quickly without needing to startle him by grabbing his collar.
- ▶ Limit access to which rooms he can get to, even when you are supervising him. Otherwise he will wander out of sight to relieve himself.
- ▶ Develop a schedule and stick as closely to it as you can. A good routine is:
 - ▶ Out first thing in the morning and just before bedtime
 - ▶ Out before and after meals, and out after naps
 - ▶ Out before you leave and when you return home
- ▶ Go outside with your new hound and praise him when he potties outside. Offer a small training treat or verbal praise immediately after he finishes (not after he comes inside; but



immediately after he finishes his business — any longer and he will not know what the praise/treat was for).

- ▶ Some adopters are not able to “read” their new dogs. If housetraining is complicated by the fact he does not have a very distinct “tell” to signal his need to go outside, you may try teaching him to use chimes or bells at the door to indicate he would like to go out. Hang the chimes from the door (or a nearby hook) where he can touch them with his nose. Ring the bells or chimes whenever you let him outside. This teaches the dog to replicate the sound whenever he needs to go out. It can be a valuable training tool in the first weeks and months.
- ▶ Do not be afraid to try disposable male wraps or female diapers for your dog to wear while inside and loose in the house. This is an easy solution that can speed up housebreaking. Dogs don’t like soiling them, so it motivates them to learn.
- ▶ Having a regular meal schedule can assist your results, too, as potty breaks become more routine.



- ▶ A new hound experiencing separation stress can be expected to drink a lot more water, as mentioned. Offer him a lot more bathroom opportunities as well.
- ▶ If you have other pets, they may have left scents inside the house that can cause your new hound to think it is acceptable to also relieve himself indoors. Use pet enzyme cleaners to treat the area.
- ▶ If your new hound 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.
- ▶ Do not scold if you do not catch them at the exact time of the act ... they will not remember what they did wrong.
- ▶ Speak firmly, but no yelling, or he might become fearful of you! You can damage his trust in you.
- ▶ Dogs are NOT being vindictive, angry, or stubborn 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. Often you will find these “accidents” are learning opportunities for adopters — times we did not pick up on some cue our new dog provided. Try to listen to and “learn” your dog instead of getting frustrated.
- ▶ 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!
- ▶ Remember, this is your new best friend!
- ▶ Reach out to your adoption representative for additional ideas if housetraining issues persist.

Other Basic House Manners

Dogs learn at different speeds. Consequently, learning house manners largely falls on you as the adopter, although our foster families give the dogs a head start.

Below are the basic house manners we try to instill in the foster dogs while they are in our care:

- ▶ The commands of “No” and “Leave it.” “Leave it” is a much stronger, more serious command.
- ▶ The “greyhound grip” is the only secure way to hold a leash with these fast, strong dogs. Ask us to demonstrate.
- ▶ Foster dogs are not permitted on furniture while living in their foster home.
- ▶ Foster dogs are taught to stay calm when left alone in crate: The message taught is, “I leave, and I will return. Things are okay. I leave again, and I will return. Things are still okay. I always return.”
- ▶ Dogs do not mouth human arms or limbs, even in play.
- ▶ Counter surfing or garbage raiding is not allowed.
- ▶ Foster dogs are taught to sleep through the night, on schedule with their foster families.
- ▶ Foster dogs are not permitted to jump on people.
- ▶ Foster dogs are trained on housebreaking/crate-training.
- ▶ Foster dogs are trained to go up and down stairs, but only if accessible in the foster home.



These dogs are very trainable, but only after you have earned their trust. The role as leader of your new hound is a serious responsibility. Sometimes people tell us that their new greyhound or lurcher does not know his name. He does! It is YOU that he does not know. But your dog will study you, and he will learn to trust you.

- ▶ Be consistent. Don't allow him to do something one day and not the next.
- ▶ In most instances, a firm, sharp voice will be enough to reprimand your hound.

NEVER strike or hit them, or you will have violated a silent trust. He will remember. He will begin to fear you. Only positive training techniques should be utilized, even when correcting.

- ▶ Another effective way to reprimand is to firmly scold him and then ignore him for several minutes. Greyhounds and lurchers crave your attention and approval.
- ▶ Home life is a new experience for your new hound. Simple things such as stairs, glass doors and slick floors may frighten him at first. 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. He 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 or lurcher when he has been good. Throughout the dog's life, he has relied on someone to set boundaries for him. First his brood mama, then his trainer, kennel workers, foster home, and finally YOU (his forever adopter). He is counting on you to tell him what is good and what is not!

Leaving Your New Greyhound or Lurcher Home Alone

Racing and hunting are very different than being a house pet. Even simple, common things can be foreign and intimidating. Patience and a lot of love will help this big adjustment for your new pet. When leaving him home alone remember: if he is a greyhound, one of the hardest things for him to adjust to will be loneliness. Greyhounds are always used to having many other greyhounds around. However, this is usually an easier adjustment for most lurchers. A lurcher experienced being alone at a much younger age.

Both dogs will still need help transitioning from professional athlete or hunter to family pet. Being home alone for hours in a quiet, empty home is a very different environment! Luckily, there are ways you can help prepare your dog to reduce any separation anxiety:

- ▶ Plan the first few days of your hound's 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 dog 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.

- ▶ Consider utilizing multiple crates or ex-pens to help with the transition. One can go in the master bedroom to help secure the new hound from wandering the house at night. This also allows him to bond with you faster, by sharing a bedroom. However, the best location for a crate (ex-pen) while you are gone from home (and he is left alone) is in the same room where the family hangs out while you are home. Perhaps a family room? Or a great room that overflows into the kitchen? This way he does not feel so isolated and shut away back in the far bedroom. So there are benefits to starting off with two crates, but if you only have one, place it where you spend the most time. This is where the dog should stay during initial transition whenever you are gone.
- ▶ Use the command “Kennel up!” Reward your hound with small treat.
- ▶ Start out with just 10 minutes alone. Gradually build up. Do not leave your dog alone the first time for five hours and expect him not to be stressed or destructive.
- ▶ You may prefer to continue crating or penning your hound after the transition period, or you may baby-gate him into part of the house. Most adopters are able to eventually put the crates away after transition. You may give him free access to roam, but only after he has earned that trust.
- ▶ To test your newly-transitioned hound 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.
- ▶ Your hound is likely used to background noise at their kennel. 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 yours, have a need to chew. It relieves tension and anxiety. We strongly recommend a large Benebone shaped like a wishbone, large braided rope toys, or rubber Kong toy (especially the ones shaped like large bones) for your dog to chew while you are away. Ask our friends at Hollywood Feed to recommend a savory long lasting chewie.
- ▶ Never shut a dog into a small closed-in room like a bathroom or laundry room. 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 new 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. NEVER leave your dog in a garage.
- ▶ Never leave your dog in the yard when you are gone, even if just for a few minutes. Even in the safest of yards, there is always the possibility of theft or injury to your dog, or a delay that prevents you from returning as quickly as expected. As an adopter, you have promised us (and your new hound) that his "living-outside-days" are over!
- ▶ Never tie your lurcher outside on a rope, chain, or "runner." Yes, lurchers were often kept on a 6-foot rope attached to their dog house — but those days are OVER for an adopted lurcher! Greyhounds were never tethered, because sighthounds can easily become tangled up in ropes or chains and injure themselves. A hound as fast as these can 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. (This is why the lurcher was only allowed 6 feet of tether.) It is simply not safe to tie your hound to a



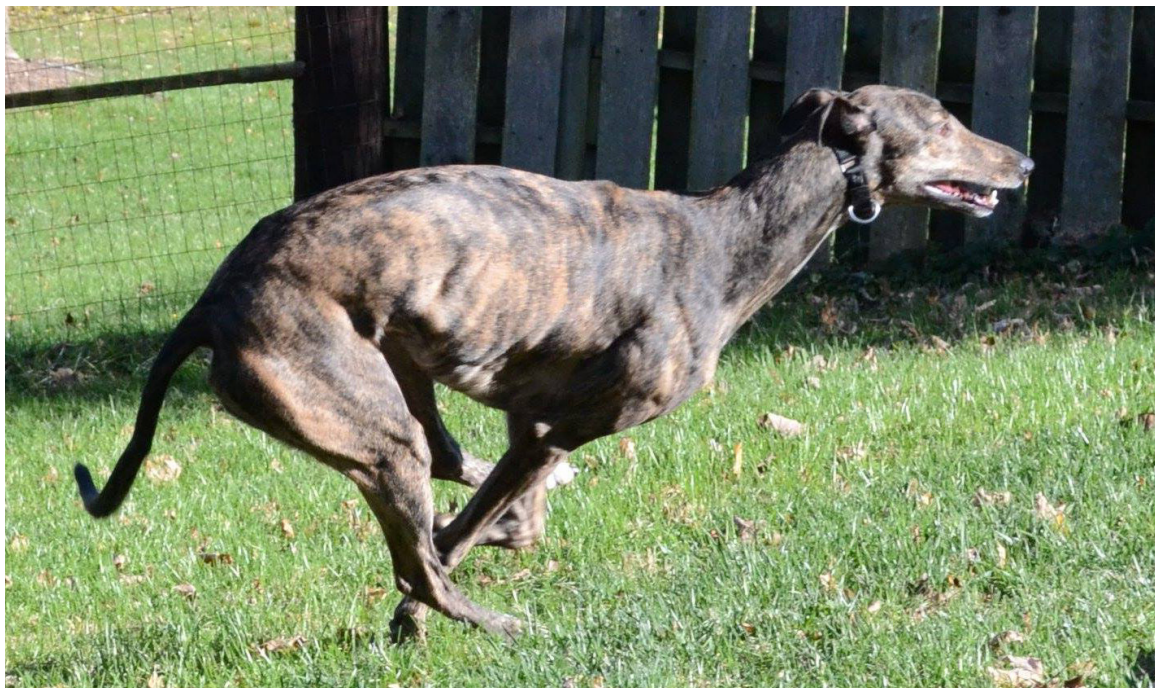
stationary object in this way. Never tether your hound inside the house, either.

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the services of a professional dog walker, pet sitter, or good doggie day care. Your dog may benefit from mid-day walks or visits while you work. The website for Pet Sitters International, 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!

All Dogs Need Exercise

An assumption about greyhounds is that they are high energy. Yet other people say that greyhounds are couch potatoes. They are neither. Both are exaggerations. Retired racing greyhounds have quick spurts of energy, but even in the height of their racing career, they ran *sprint* races, not marathons. Lurchers, if compared to greyhounds, have higher energy levels, but not like a labrador or a terrier! Of the two, lurchers were more the marathon dogs. However, both need exercise. So how do you exercise your new hound?

- ▶ The easiest answer is in your own fenced-in backyard! The typical retired racer or new lurcher enjoys a few laps around the yard at top speed and then is finished within 10 to 15 minutes, a couple of times a day. (Lurcher laps are probably jumpier and less speedy than you're used to if you're a previous greyhound owner.)
- ▶ The first time your dog exercises in your yard off leash should be in daylight and under supervision. Remove obstacles like rakes and low branches. Do a quick check for holes or sharp edges that could cause injury.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ A fenced yard does not eliminate the need for walks, which are great a brain exercise if allowed to sniff!
- ▶ NEVER use electric fences for greyhounds or lurchers. They are not appropriate.



- ▶ Greyhounds do not make good running or jogging partners. But a lurcher does! Please start slowly.
- ▶ 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. (If your dog is panting, they are not cooled down yet!)
- ▶ Cold weather presents other hazards for greyhounds and lurchers. A coat made for greyhounds/lurchers is a must for snowy winters. Check your dog's feet for snow packing. Wipe salt and ice-melt chemicals off the paws with lukewarm water or disposable paw wipes.
- ▶ Generally, younger dogs enjoy higher activity levels than senior dogs (7 and older).
- ▶ Exercising your dog off leash in an area that is not entirely enclosed is asking for disaster. Your hound could take off on instinct if he sees or smells something that triggers his instinct to track/hunt/run/chase the way he has been trained and bred to do. Even if he has been taught recall, he may speed past you, ignoring your attempts to stop him. Always keep your dog on leash unless you are in a fully enclosed area.

What about Off-Lead Doggie Parks or “Bark Parks”?

- ▶ One of the greatest joys of owning a sighthound 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. SOME of these parks are suitable for SOME sighthounds — but only *after* you know your dog.
- ▶ Be aware that small dogs may trigger your lurcher's prey drive instincts. If you have any doubts, leave, as your dog 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. Never muzzle your dog in an off-lead area if there are other big dogs who are unmuzzled — you are putting your dog at risk.

Heartworm, Flea, and Parasite Protection

Adopters have agreed to keep their hound on monthly heartworm preventative to extend their life, even during winter. A good one will also prevent fleas and other parasites. Greyhounds and lurchers are sensitive to chemicals and pesticides. The use of a flea collar or medallion, or even a big box store flea spray could make your dog very ill. Never use a heartworm preventive that contains Ivermectin: Heartgard Chewable, Heartgard Plus, IverHart Plus, Iverhart Max, Tri-Heart Plus, etc. Our Canine Ophthalmologist taught us that too much Ivermectin has sometimes been the cause of PRA (an eye condition causing blindness.) Your dog was more than likely heartworm tested before he was cleared for adoption.

There is particular parasite problem unique to the NGA greyhound, but not relevant to a greyhound lurcher. Currently, all greyhounds coming off every race track or any



greyhound farm, during the last five years or so, arrive with a drug-resistant strain of hookworm. This is in EVERY greyhound, every state. No getting around it. But we have figured out a treatment plan that actually WORKS! We will include the instructions for anyone adopting a greyhound from us that requires this treatment. Just know that it will take a minimum of six months to treat. The medications, although easy to dose, will cost an additional \$200 from a source we can refer you to. We call these the “Frankenstein hookworms.”

If your new hound is a lurcher, he may test positive for hookworm (or other parasites) but it is EASY to get rid of, much faster! It is NOT the Frankenstein hookworm of the greyhounds! In general, lurchers are not treated with parasite preventives during their careers prior to retirement. So they are often impacted by a wide range of parasites; fleas, ticks, ringworm, roundworm, hookworm, and heartworm. Advocate (Advantage Multi) is the medicine that Prison Greyhounds has always used as a heartworm preventive, and more recently to effectively treat the Frankenstein hooks. It is also used to prevent many of those other conditions. We have used this specific product effectively since 2012. It is our preferred option now, and we have used a very reasonable online source. We have ordered Advocate and Drontal Plus from PetSupplyExpress.com since 2012.

Either way, all adopters will be given instructions specific to their new greyhound or lurcher about the ongoing required medications they will need for any diagnosed situation. While a dog is in our foster care we keep him current on all these parasites medications. We send each newly-adopted hound home with their first month of treatment. So you must order more immediately upon adoption, so it arrives in time for the next dose.

Never use: Flea collars, flea-killing medallions, or medicated flea dips. (A bath in regular Dawn dishwashing liquid soap will kill all fleas instantly. Yes, the original blue liquid Dawn dishwashing soap in the plastic bottle at your grocery store aisle! We learned this trick from visiting the greyhound kennels.) It is okay to dose your dog with a single dose of Capstar to kill all immediate fleas, if ever necessary. But some over-the-counter parasite medications are not safe for these dogs.

Ongoing Veterinary Care

Your Adoption Packet will contain your dog's medical records, immunization records, etc. If there is a known medical concern or history, this will always be shared with us, and we always inform the adopters.

Your adoption fee offsets some of the vetting expense that we incurred on your new hound. This typically includes spay/neuter, dental, heartworm test, parasite treatments, rabies and other core vaccines that were chosen according to the area where your dog was vetted. On the lurchers we run fecal tests. However, we do not run fecal tests on newly retired greyhounds — we already know they are hookworm positive! And we know that our treatment plan for the greyhound hookworm will also kill any other parasite that would be confirmed in their fecal sample as well.



The due dates for your new hounds next vaccines will vary greatly. Some rabies vaccines are three-year; some are only good for one. Some dogs will need vaccines shortly after adoption, while some can go a full year. It just depends on when your dog last received vaccines according to the vet records. It is dangerous to over-vaccinate, so we cannot make a standard practice of vaccinating every dog at the time of adoption.

Choose a veterinarian with lots of sighthound/greyhound experience rather than one just starting in practice. We suggest Carter Veterinary Medical Center. Dr. Carter does all of our spays, neuters (including the difficult cryptorchids), dentals, vaccines, or whatever we need. He has MANY greyhounds and lurchers in his practice. Unfortunately, most veterinarians do not learn the unique nuances of specific

breeds in vet school. There are such a multitude of things to learn in vet school, that they simply cannot get into specifics on any one particular breed. Only after regularly encountering greyhounds or lurchers in their practice do they apply (and therefore retain) the necessary sighthound nuances.

You will find a chart in your Adoption Packet explaining why normal lab blood results for greyhounds are NOT the same as other breeds. The chart is for greyhounds, but considering a lurcher is 80% greyhound, his results should be similar to the greyhounds, but may fall in between the greyhound and other nongreyhound canines. Platelet counts, WBC, all are different! For example, if you are ever told your sighthound may be hypothyroid, consult us for additional info to show your vet. Greyhounds and lurchers have low body fat to body mass ratio, so there are unique concerns with anesthesia and certain medications. Sighthounds are sensitive to certain anesthetics and tranquilizers. We suggest that you tell your veterinarian (or emergency room vet) that your greyhound is allergic to Acepromazine. This eliminates 'Ace' from their options. It is just one of the common medications that no sighthound should ever be given, not for sedation nor for a behavior modifier.

Sadly, both lurchers and greyhounds seem to have poor dental health.

Aminocaproic acid* (ACA) is generic for Amicar

Before a greyhound or lurcher undergoes any surgery, or a dental procedure in which you expect a possible extraction, ask your veterinarian for a prescription of Aminocaproic

acid. You should ideally dose them PRIOR to, and following, the event. **WARNING:** If your vet is unfamiliar with ACA, your vet is likely not greyhound-savvy enough to perform the dental procedure on a sighthound.

Do not hesitate to contact Prison Greyhounds if you would like a veterinary hospital recommendation according to your geographic area if Carmel, Indiana, is not in your driving range.



**The Aminocaproic acid (ACA) is because one out of five greyhounds are “bleeders,” meaning their blood will not clot after surgery, or rip in their skin, or dental extraction. You cannot test for it like you can with other breeds. Even if they never bled excessively in past procedures, this is not an indication that they will not in the future. So we dose EVERY greyhound and lurcher for each surgery, dental extraction, and bad cut into their skin. Sometimes the excess bleeding shows up as bruising under the skin that spreads. It most often starts two to three days after the surgery. No other medication can address this risk — just ACA. It can be compounded fairly inexpensively at Nora Apothecary, or certain Walgreens, or your veterinarian can order it from Wedgewood Pharmacy. Unless your veterinarian is Dr. Carter of Carter Veterinary Medical Center in Carmel, you will probably need to educate your veterinarian on the need for this medication. (You can refer him or her to articles written by Dr. Guillermo Couto.) If a veterinarian ever refuses to write your greyhound or lurcher a prescription for ACA, find another veterinarian! It is that important. Most greyhound and lurcher adopters will want to keep some around for emergencies.*

Returning or Rehoming Your Hound

In the unfortunate circumstance that you ever need to return or rehome your hound for any reason, your adoption agreement contractually requires that you return the dog **ONLY** to Prison Greyhounds. The dog **must** return to us. This even includes adopted dogs that have moved out of Indiana.

Ideally, we would like to work with you to resolve any issues that may arise. We work to try to find solutions to your problems. The sooner you contact us, the better. Please do not wait until you are thinking of returning the dog to first let us know there is an issue — it is much easier to solve a problem when it is a small issue than when it has snowballed into a bigger problem.

However, there are times when a dog is simply not a good match for a certain household, and returns are unavoidable. There is no shame in admitting this. Life brings change, some that we cannot predict. We would rather have you tell us, than try to force the dog to fit into a situation where he will never belong. Too often, we have seen this end in lifelong problems for the dog due to the stress and anxiety caused by the situation.

If you know of an interested person that may desire to adopt the specific hound you are returning, you may refer them to us. However, legally you can only return the dog to us. This also means that legally your heirs must return the dog to us. Please be certain to mention this contractual obligation in your Last Will & Testament. This is only to ensure we find an appropriate “next home” for the dog. We want to give his next family the tools and education needed to succeed as a greyhound or lurcher owner.



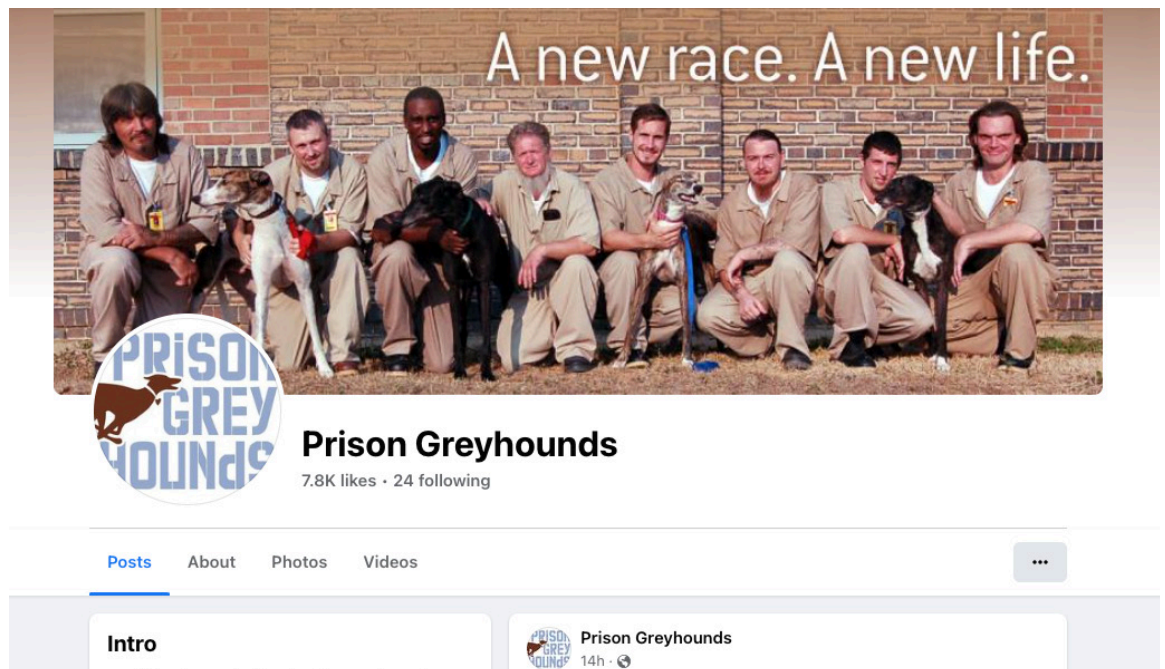
Staying Connected with Prison Greyhounds adoption group

Thank you for choosing Prison Greyhounds adoption group! We look forward to a long relationship!

Even before your greyhound or lurcher is adopted, even while you are still in the approval process, please subscribe now to **eNews from Prison Greyhounds**. You can find the subscription link at the bottom of our [website page](#).

After your dog arrives home, please keep in contact with us, through your Adoption Representative. They will want to know how your new hound is adjusting. Please ask for any assistance that you may need. Feel free to contact us directly through the Prison Greyhounds email as well. (Email communications are always better than Facebook messages for a better dialogue, faster response.)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) at Prison Greyhounds, too, to keep up on current events and news. We routinely have meetups, dog walks, play dates, classes, and other events that are announced through Facebook and/or eNews.





Every retired racing hound needs
A TICKET HOME

This includes the unsanctioned
underdogs of racing—
the greyhound-lurcher mix.

Will you help?

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

A TICKET HOME: \$100 per dog

A TICKET HOME + VETTING: \$500 per dog

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

Donate online at
www.prisongreyhounds.org/donate

Make checks
payable to:

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



Why Prison Greyhounds? Since 2012, we are an all-volunteer 501c3 nonprofit, finding homes for greyhounds. This includes the retired racers, plus the "farm" greyhounds that never raced and, now, we discovered the need to home the greyhound underdogs of mixed breed heritage. With track and farm closures, the number of NGA racers are rapidly decreasing. So our attention shifts to the greyhound mixed lurchers that no one seems to notice. These lurchers are the forgotten underdogs of the greyhound world. Special focus continues to be given to those with special needs. We were surprised to learn of the large numbers of lurchers who desperately need good homes. And they are almost in our own backyards!

Support Our Supporters!



The Greyhound Resort in Whitestown, Indiana. Providing specialized care for your greyhound (or lurcher) while you are away! Visit greyhoundresort.com. Owners Bruce and Katie McDonald are big supporters!



Canine Retreat in Westfield, Indiana is owned by Mary Hession, is often the location for our Greyhound Play Dates. Mary is a long-time greyhound advocate and would love to have the pleasure of boarding your hounds.



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



We chose Marjorie Dunbar as our official Prison Greyhounds vendor. To order apparel with the Prison Greyhounds logo, please contact Marjorie at Kruzinregal@sbcbglobal.net. Marjorie is one of our adopters and also an Adoption Representative. She is happy to help!



Prison Greyhounds is honored to be awarded one of **Tony Stewart Foundation's** grants every year since 2012.



Metazoa Brewing Company is a craft brewery in downtown Indy that donates 5% of profits to animal organizations, one of which is Prison Greyhounds! Watch for Facebook announcements of events hosted in this brewery.



Hollywood Feed. We pride ourselves on being "your local pet experts"! We thank Hollywood Feed for allowing foster hounds a free Dog Wash whenever desired! And for the use of their Community Room for group events.

Carter Veterinary Medical Center

Dr. Carter of **Carter Veterinary Medical Center**, Meridian Village Plaza, 13694 North Meridian, Carmel, IN 46032 (317) 844-6868