

Dear Potential Adopter,

Thank you for your interest in our adoptable greyhounds. Enclosed are an adoption application along with some general information about greyhounds as pets.

Please return the completed application (Sec. III of the following pages) to the fax number or to the address listed on page 13. When we have received your application, an adoption representative will contact you and ask you a number of questions. Once your application has been approved, we will contact you again to set up a day and time to meet you at the boarding facility where the adoptable greyhounds are kept. You will be able to spend time with the greyhounds and choose your new family member. The greyhound will then go to have its veterinary work done. After the veterinary work, your greyhound will spend at least one week in a foster home to help get it acclimated to life in a home. The adoption will take place in your home. The adoption process can take up to four to six weeks. Please be patient.

The adoption fee of \$225.00 includes spaying/neutering, teeth cleaning, deworming, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm testing, collar, leash, ID tag, and a squawker, which can be used in the event that your greyhound should ever get loose.

Thanks again for your interest in these kind and gentle dogs. We look forward to talking to you soon.

Sincerely,
Greyhounds Only, Inc.



SECTION I

Is a Greyhound in Your Future?

Why am I interested in adopting a greyhound?

Is it for myself, for the kids, or to replace a deceased canine cherished by the whole family? It is important to be sure not only that your reasons are sound and not motivated by whimsy or impulse, but also that your **expectations of greyhound adoption are reasonable**. For instance, it is unreasonable to expect that getting a dog will teach your children responsibility; that's a parent's job. Ask yourself why you are interested in greyhounds specifically. Make a list of the pros and cons of adopting an ex-racer. Although greyhounds make fine pets, they are not for everyone.

Does everyone in the family really want a greyhound?

Invariably, despite good intentions and promises to the contrary, at least 75% of a dog's care tends to fall on the domestic leader of the household. More often than not, it's the adult homemaker. To pick up the remaining 25% of the responsibilities, it's important that **all members of the family really want a dog** and are willing to pitch in. A dog that starts off unwanted or resented by even one member of the family can hardly expect to live a happy life.

Will a greyhound fit my family's lifestyle?

Do you maintain a regular schedule? After all, dogs are creatures of habit. Would you rather go directly home at the end of the day to walk the dog or get together with friends for a beer or a game of tennis? Will anyone be home during the day with the greyhound, especially if you are gone for very long hours? If no one is home, do you have a friend, neighbor, or dog walker who can come in during the day to walk the dog? Do you truly have enough free time and energy to put into the necessary care, training, and companionship of a greyhound? Greyhounds are happiest in environments where they can be with their family as much as possible.

Can my fastidious nature tolerate having a dog in the house?

If you're someone who keeps an immaculate home, be prepared for a big change in your outlook, or rethink the whole idea, because greyhounds absolutely cannot be kept in an outdoor kennel. Greyhounds are clean dogs by nature, but they are still dogs, **capable of dragging in mud or having an accident** on your Oriental rug.

Am I prepared for the expense of a greyhound?

Food, licenses, training, routine veterinary costs, and emergency vet visits can quickly put the financial feasibility of dog adoption out of the question for many.

Do I accept ALL the responsibilities that come with being a good dog adopter?

This includes licensing requirements, local laws, the etiquette of being a good dog neighbor (stooping and scooping), the willingness to provide proper nutrition, grooming, pet care, training, etc. Adopting an ex-racing greyhound means agreeing never to allow the dog to run free unless in a safely fenced area. If you cannot adhere to this requirement, then a greyhound is not for you.

Am I prepared to do the research?

Basic reading recommendations for those seriously interested in an ex-racing greyhound are *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* (available in our online store) and *Greyhounds: A Pet Owner's Manual*. You should also visit with a greyhound to get a better idea of what the breed is all about. Greyhounds Only is available to answer your questions and help you decide whether a greyhound is in your future.

Think you're ready for a dog?

Sharing your home with a greyhound is very rewarding. You receive unconditional love and a friend that is happy simply being with you, hanging on every word you say. But it is also a big commitment, an expense, and a lot of work. Many people rush out and buy an adorable puppy only to discover a few months later that being responsible for a dog wasn't what they had anticipated! **If you're seriously considering adopting an ex-racing greyhound, giving yourself a two-week test can help you make the decision that's in the best interest of you, your family, and the greyhound.**

Find your neighborhood dog park and dog-walking areas. Pick one and go there at the same times every morning and evening, just as you would if you had a dog. That's every day, rain or shine, blizzard or heat wave, and weekends, too.

Use your 1-1/2 to 2 hours of daily park time for research. Introduce yourself to other dog owners and let them know what you're doing. Ask them about what it's like to own a dog - ask for positives and negatives.

Visit a few pet supply stores to find out what you can expect to spend on a crate, food bowls, leash, collar, chew toys, and dog beds. Also research how much high-quality dry kibble costs. Will the monthly food bill be a burden? Visit a veterinarian and find out how much basic health care costs, including

annual vaccinations, heartworm tests and medication, and flea control. Ask how much emergency vet visits can cost. Inquire about pet health insurance.

Know your local ordinances relating to dog adoption. Some cities have leash laws. Leash laws mean that your dog is not allowed to wander off-lead. **EX-RACING GREYHOUNDS CANNOT BE EXERCISED OFF-LEAD UNLESS IN A SAFELY FENCED AREA REGARDLESS OF YOUR CITY'S LEASH LAWS** . You should scout your neighborhood for suitable exercising areas, such as fully fenced baseball diamonds, or ask friends and neighbors if you can borrow their yard.

Toward the end of your two-week test period, you'll have a better idea of what dog ownership entails and whether you're ready for it. The activities outlined above take time, patience, and money. So does successful and responsible dog ownership. If it's all too much hassle, then consider why you want a dog.*

If you're considering getting a dog "for the kids," please be realistic. Regardless of all the pleading and promises, the reality is that you will end up doing the bulk of the dog walking, feeding, care, and training.

Even the most conscientious child probably won't be able to restrain an adult dog that decides to bolt or is attacked. In-home and backyard play will need to be supervised **AT ALL TIMES** by an adult. Children tend to get bitten when play gets rambunctious, and most kids who are bitten are wounded by their own dogs or those belonging to friends or neighbors. Too many people mistakenly believe that they'll train their dog to accept abuse from children. Children must learn when to leave the dog alone. No dog deserves to be teased, mistreated, or abused.

* From Greyhound Pets of North America - Wisconsin (414) 681-3200. Copyright: Adopt-A-Greyhound of Central Canada, Inc. Reprinted with Permission.

SECTION II

Greyhounds and Children

Greyhounds are loyal and docile once they have become accustomed to family life, but they need to be acclimated to children. For this reason, Greyhounds Only requires all adopting families with children under 16 to take a two-hour course on greyhounds and children, which we offer at regular intervals. **No family with children under 16 will be given a dog prior to taking this course.** This course will cover many topics, including some of the ones below.

Although Greyhounds Only does not bar families with children under six from adopting a greyhound, we do encourage them to think very carefully about this. **Our experience with bite incidents over the years indicates that families with children under six are most prone to trouble during the first six months of adoption.** This is true any time you adopt an adult dog of any breed that has not been acclimated to children. A greyhound may perceive a small child as a competitor in the same way that it is trained to perceive other greyhounds at the track. This perception could put a small child at risk until the greyhound has acclimated to your family. A family with small children may want to consider instead going to an animal shelter to adopt a puppy that can more readily endure the clumsy handling of small children.

If you have children and decide you want to adopt a greyhound despite the potential for problems, here are some things you should keep in mind:

1. During the first six months in a family, a greyhound may retain its “track mentality” and engage in dominance struggles with small children, whom the greyhound will consider subordinate to it because of their small size. Your attention will be required at ALL times when your dog and your child are interacting to protect your child from growls and bites and to protect your new hound from rough attention.
2. Greyhounds take approximately six months to one year to make the transition from racetrack animal to loving in-home pet. **During this transition period, children should not be left alone with your new hound.**

Children are at bite height when interacting with your new greyhound, and if there is a biting incident, your child will be bitten around the face or arm. A greyhound can knock your child over and cause bruising to children (and adults!). Remember: a greyhound is a big animal and when excited can be very exuberant.

3. Especially during the crucial six-months to one-year transition period - you must take special care to ensure that your greyhound doesn't get nippy from the excitement of having a child around. PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS A BITE! The earlier we intercede with problems, the more we can do to help you. You must be sensitive to when the dog has had enough of the children.
4. Do NOT allow your child to discipline your dog. A child does not have the stature to back up a command with the posture necessary. The dog will consider your child to be subordinate and will not recognize a child as its master. An adult must be the disciplinarian.
5. Do NOT let your child play tug-of-war games or wrestle with your dog. These are dominance games that your hound will win, and the small child may get hurt in the process.
6. Do NOT let your child near your hound when it is eating or chewing on a bone or toy. Your hound might consider a small child a threat and defend its food or toy from approach from a small child. You will need to work with your hound while it is eating a rawhide chew until you have determined that the treat can be taken away from the hound without a growl or a snap. During the transition period, your hound will test your discipline.
7. Do NOT let your child "hug" your greyhound - particularly around the neck. During the initial transition period, a greyhound may view this behavior as a holding maneuver used at the tracks. It will not understand that your child (or you) are trying to show it love. This will come with time, but you must be willing to give your hound that time to understand family life, a concept that is completely foreign to a greyhound when it leaves the track. One to two weeks of fostering will not overcome the greyhound's strong urge to be physically dominant.

Section III

Greyhounds Only, Inc. Adoption Application

Name of Applicant: _____ Age: _____

Spouse/partner's name: _____ Age: _____

Applicant's e-mail address: _____

Applicant's address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home phone: (_____) _____ Best time to call: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ ext. _____

Work-shift time: _____

Hours per day at work: _____

Spouse/partner's business phone: (_____) _____ ext. _____

Work-shift time: _____

Hours per day at work: _____

Name, address, and phone number of nearest relative not residing with you:

Greyhounds Only, Inc., wants both pet adopter and greyhound to be happy. It is our goal to make the best possible match between dog and prospective adopter.

The following pages contain questions to help us match you with a dog.

1. How did you hear about Greyhounds Only (PetCo, PetSmart, Internet search, etc.)? _____

2. What is your reason for choosing the greyhound breed? _____

3. Number of adults in your household: _____

4. Number and ages of children in your household: _____

5. Number and ages of any other children who may interact with your dog (such as neighbors, grandchildren, nieces, and/or nephews):

6. Describe the area in which you live:

- Suburban
- City
- Rural

7. You live in a:

- House
- Apartment
- Condo
- Townhouse
- Mobile Home

8. Do you:

- Own
- Rent
- Lease

If you rent or lease, please provide your landlord's information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____

9. Is your yard completely fenced in? (circle one) YES NO

If yes, what is the approximate size of the fenced area and the height and type of fencing materials? _____

10. How would you describe your household (e.g., lots of activity; rather easy; very quiet; often gone on evenings/weekends; other...)? _____

11. In addition to regular life at home, in what other activities would your ideal greyhound participate (e.g., goes to your place of business with you; is a playmate for your children; jogs or walks with a family member; other...)?

12. Do you have a preference regarding the dog's sex? (circle one)

YES NO Please specify: _____

13. Do you have a preference regarding the dog's age? (circle one)

YES NO Please specify: _____

14. Do you have a color preference? (circle one)

YES NO Please specify: _____

15. Do you have a specific dog in mind? (circle one)

YES NO Please specify: _____

16. Would you be willing to provide a home for a "special needs" dog? This would be a dog with a physical restriction, with an unusual personality, or that requires a special situation? (circle one) YES NO

17. Would you be willing to provide a home for a greyhound that might have a physical impairment, such as a limp? (circle one) YES NO

18. Would you be willing to provide a home for a senior greyhound? A senior greyhound is seven years or older, and a greyhound's average lifespan is 12-14 years. (circle one) YES NO

19. Are you willing and able to modify your daily schedule to accommodate a greyhound's needs, such as going outdoors into a fenced area to perform its bodily functions or taking walks at least four times per day? (circle one) YES NO

20. How many hours per day will your greyhound be at home alone? _____
If your greyhound will be home alone for a period of time, would there be someone available to let the dog out to relieve itself? (circle one) YES NO

21. How many pets have you owned in the past ten years? _____

Please list each pet's name, breed/species, sex, and age below. If you no longer own the pet, please explain why:

Veterinary References *(please print)*

Veterinarian's name: _____

Name of veterinarian clinic: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone number: (_____) _____

Names of pets seen by this vet: _____

I would like a vet recommendation from GO, Inc.

Conditions of Adoption

Greyhounds are very special dogs. For this reason, prospective adopters must agree to, and abide by, the following conditions of adoption. Your initials in the spaces provided signify your understanding and acceptance of these terms.

1. I will keep my greyhound exclusively as a pet. INITIALS _____
2. I will keep an ID tag and collar on my greyhound at all times. INITIALS _____
3. I will never tie my greyhound outside to a runner or any other stationary object. INITIALS _____
4. I will never allow my greyhound to run free at will. I understand that greyhounds can only be exercised in a fenced-in area or under my control at all times (i.e., wearing a collar and leash). INITIALS _____
5. I will notify Greyhounds Only, Inc., if my greyhound is ever lost or stolen. INITIALS _____
6. I understand that adoptions are not transferrable, except through Greyhounds Only, Inc. If I am unable to keep my greyhound, I will notify Greyhounds Only, Inc., immediately so another home may be found. INITIALS _____
7. I will NEVER give my greyhound away or place him/her into a pound, shelter, or humane society. If I should have to give up my greyhound, I will return him/her ONLY to Greyhounds Only, Inc. INITIALS _____
8. Are you willing and able to accept full and immediate responsibility for the ownership of the greyhound, including all health care costs and necessary burdens and responsibilities of owning a pet? (circle one) YES NO
9. Will you agree to keep your greyhound as a pet and never attempt to use it for any experimental purposes whatsoever? (circle one) YES NO
10. Your greyhound is important to us. Will you notify us of any serious illness or death? (circle one) YES NO
11. Greyhounds must live in the house. They cannot be kept in an outdoor kennel or doghouse. Do you agree to keep your pet inside the home? (circle one) YES NO

If no, please explain: _____

I certify that the information contained in this application is true.

I understand that any misrepresentation of the facts may result in my losing the privilege of adopting a greyhound.

I understand that Greyhounds Only, Inc., has the right to deny my request to adopt a greyhound.

I authorize investigation and verification of all statements contained in this application.

Name of applicant: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

After you have completed this application, please mail it to:

Greyhounds Only, Inc.
1441 N. Cleveland, Unit B
Chicago, IL 60610

OR fax to: (773) 453-3179

Adoption Fee
\$225.00 *(cash or check)*

Included in the adoption fee:

Neuter or spay	Teeth cleaning
Vaccination certificate	Collar and leash
Heartworm test	Squawker
Greyhounds Only ID tag	Microchip

Payment is due at the time of final adoption.