

## ADOPTION PROCESS

Greyhound Pet Adoption seeks qualified adoptive owners committed to responsible pet ownership. We have established formal procedures to ensure that retired racers are placed in loving homes with people who will take good care of their new pets.

After learning about greyhounds, decide if one is right for you and your situation. Adoption applications can be obtained by calling one of our GPA representatives or by viewing our website at [gpacape-mo.org](http://gpacape-mo.org).

Upon reviewing your application, one of our volunteers will arrange for a home visit. This brief visit serves two purposes: you get to ask any questions about owning a greyhound and our GPA Cape volunteer gets to know you, and makes a quick inspection of your home environment. If you currently have pets, a veterinary check will be done.

Following the home visit, a GPA Cape, MO representative will contact you to let you know if you are approved as an adoptive home. From ongoing conversations, a greyhound will be matched with your lifestyle and environment.

Calls and visits, as needed, are made to ensure that each new greyhound's transition is a happy one. We know you will be rewarded with years of love and enjoyment.



### Can't Adopt?

You can help GPA Cape Girardeau, MO by making a tax-deductible donation or by volunteering your time to help promote its programs. The dogs will thank you!

Suggested reading is [Adopting the Racing Greyhound](#) by Cynthia Branigan and [Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies](#) by Lee Livingood.

## ADOPTION CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

The final step in the adoptive process is the signing of the Adoption Contract, which signifies your acceptance of the following terms.

You agree to make a non-refundable donation of \$250 which entitles you to:

- A spayed/neutered greyhound with up-to-date vaccinations, heartworm test, fecal test, any needed dental work, and groomed
- A one month supply of heartworm preventative and flea/tick preventative
- A complete greyhound information packet
- A martingale collar, leash, and muzzle
- A GPA Cape Girardeau identification tag and microchip
- Chapter membership for remainder of year
- The unconditional love and companionship of a devoted, affectionate, and loyal retired racing greyhound!

**You promise** to keep the dog in good health by providing for regular veterinary care, including vaccinations.

**You promise** to have your dog wear a collar at all time with the GPA Cape Girardeau, MO ID tag attached. You promise to notify GPA Cape Girardeau immediately if the dog is lost or stolen.

**You promise** that in the event problems develop that prevent you from keeping the dog, you will return your greyhound to GPA Cape Girardeau, MO.

**You promise** to keep the dog as a pet and will not, under any circumstances, use the dog for racing, breeding, hunting, research, or experimentation.

**Violation of the Adoption Contract will result in Greyhound Pet Adoption repossessing greyhound.**



Greyhound Pet Adoption is an organization dedicated to providing information and education about retired racing Greyhounds. We strive to promote adoption of Greyhounds as pets into responsible, loving homes. As a tax-exempt, non-profit organization, GPA depends on donations and volunteers to accomplish its goal.

This brochure is published by Greyhound Pet Adoption of Cape Girardeau, MO which serves Southeast Missouri and Southern Illinois.

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**CAPE GIRARDEAU,  
MISSOURI**

### Adoption Representatives

Southeast Missouri: Robin Harbison  
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Southern Illinois: Jon and Laurie Geiger  
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Greyhounds are one of the best natured breeds - smart, sweet, calm, and loving. With their gentle dispositions and good temperaments, these retired racing dogs can easily make the transition from the racetrack to a loving home. If you are considering adopting a pet, why not let a retired greyhound race into your heart?



## BACKGROUND ABOUT GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds have been bred for speed for centuries, making them one of the oldest and purest breeds of dogs in the world. They can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where drawings of greyhounds were found inside the tombs within the great pyramids.

Greyhounds measure between 26-29 inches at the shoulder, and weigh between 55-80 pounds. Females are usually smaller than males.

Colors can be black, fawn, red, blue, several shades of brindle and white with a combination of these colors.

The average life expectancy of a former racing greyhound is 12-15 years.

**Come see what greyhounds are like!**

**Cape Girardeau PetCo  
Last Saturday of each month**

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**Alto Vineyards in Alto Pass, Illinois  
Second Saturday of every odd month**

**Both events held 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

## THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU ADOPT

Because of their training and racing career, greyhounds have some unique characteristics.

### Age of retired racers

Greyhounds placed through the GPA adoption program are usually between two and six years old. Younger dogs may not have qualified for racing. Older dogs are recently retired from racing because they are no longer competitive. Others may come from local animal shelters or from families whose living situations have changed such that they can't keep a dog.

### Exercise

Greyhounds enjoy moderate exercise. In most households, the shared experience of a brisk walk two or three times a week is enough to keep both the adopter and the adoptee in good physical health. The most common misconception about racing greyhounds is that a dog capable of great athletic feats is a dog in perpetual motion. In reality, they are rather lazy and greatly enjoy lounging with the family. Remember they've lived in crates most of their lives, so they really are 45 MPH couch potatoes!

### Diet

During their racing careers, greyhounds are fed a high energy diet to help them perform at their peak. For retired racers we recommend starting with a good canned food mixed with dry kibble. You can gradually transition to a diet of only dry food. A high-quality, adult maintenance dry food costs about a dollar a day, provides good nutrition, and prevents weight gain.

### Medical Needs

Greyhounds only require routine visits to the vet. However, because they have a low level of body fat, they do require special anesthesia for surgery. And since they are fed a diet of soft-food in the kennel, many need dental care for their teeth.

### Living Environment

Due to their lack of body fat, greyhounds cannot take extreme changes in temperature and therefore, **must** be an indoor pet. Also since they are sight hounds, greyhounds **must always** be kept on a leash when outside a fenced area. They will follow their instincts and run without heed.

### Housetraining

At the track, racing greyhounds are accustomed to being let out of their crates several times a day to relieve themselves. Because of this, a similar routine in a new home makes housetraining relatively easy. When the adopter employs patience and common sense, the greyhound's natural cleanliness will assist in the process. The use of a crate can be of great assistance in helping the dog adjust to a new routine and environment.

### Adjustment to new life

Greyhounds are very friendly and thrive on human companionship. Consequently, bonding is usually established within a matter of days, and getting used to a new environment and routine may take a few weeks. During this period, you need to teach the dog the rules of the house. It helps to limit how much of the house the dog has access to at first, gradually increasing their territory as they gain confidence.

### Children

Greyhounds are very tolerant of children, and will usually walk away when they've had enough rather than snap or growl. However, every dog has its limits. Because greyhounds are gentle by nature, most are fine with children eight years and older if they have been taught respect for animals. Most adoption groups are hesitant to place any breed of dog in a family with toddlers unless there are specific assurances that strict parental supervision will be provided over both the child and dog.

### Other Pets

Greyhounds generally socialize well as a result of their exposure to other greyhounds at the racing kennel. If other dogs live in the household, common sense must be exercised during the introductory period with regard to food, treats, bones, and special toys. Feeding in separate areas is always recommended in a multi-pet household. Some greyhounds can learn to get along with other companion animals, including cats.

### Training

Greyhounds crave affection and are very responsive to your mood and tone of voice. They are sensitive and eager to please you.