



Greyhound Rescue West of England

Your First Night

Dogs will respect you more if they do not share your bedroom with you. It will also help them learn that there are times when you can't be with them and they must settle on their own. But do expect that you will have an interrupted night. It may pay to explain to your neighbours and ask them to bear with you this first night.

Before you go to bed take him out for his last toilet visit. Take him on the lead. At Kennels the dogs are kept warm at night using heat lamps so they are often not used to going out in complete darkness and will easily panic. For this reason it often helps if you leave a little night light on, at first, in the room where he sleeps.

Although your dog may have a soft warm bed, be aware that greyhounds and lurchers have thin coats and their backs soon get cold. If it is winter and the heating goes off at night he will be cold. Covering him with a blanket will not work as dogs turn round in the night just like we do but they don't have hands to catch hold of the bedding and take it with them like we do. Your dog will need a warm fleece on cold nights which you can get from our merchandise catalogue or web site.

Don't make a fuss when you leave him for the night. You could leave him with something to chew if he is not sharing with another dog. It is usually best to keep dogs that are new to each other in separate rooms for the first few nights (or use an indoor kennel for one of them) until you know they will live in harmony.

If he cries try to ignore him. If you go down when he cries or scratches the door he will know that that is the best way to make you come to him, and he will never settle. If you have a dog that really won't settle after an hour or two, you may feel the need to come down and sleep with him, or take him up with you for a few nights but that often makes it even harder to go back to leaving him downstairs. How well you manage on the first night sets the pattern for the future. After all, he slept on his own in kennels so he is used to being alone at night. But please don't get cross with him. He is crying because he is distressed and bewildered, you will only make him feel worse.

Dogs that frequently can't get through the night

Greyhounds and lurchers have small digestive systems and often find it difficult to go through the night without a toilet visit. Here are some tips to help you with dogs that wake you up in the night.

- 🕒 Is he cold? - Put a fleece on him.
- 🕒 Is he scared? - Leave him a night light and a quiet radio close the curtains.
- 🕒 Does he need the loo? - Water down his last night food and he will drink less before bed time.
- 🕒 Did he really spend his last night let-out wisely? - Go out with him. If you put him out, he may just stand by the back door till you let him in again. Wait with him till you have seen him perform.

If you take him out 2 or 3 times during the evening, getting up and going out often makes him more likely to 'off load' before bedtime.

For more help and advice please visit www.grwe.com or call our 24 hour help line on **07000 785092**