



# Greyhound Rescue West of England

## Responsible Ownership

**Please remember that your dog must wear a collar with an identification tag at all times. This is a legal requirement.**

When you let him out in the garden off the lead the first few times, pop his muzzle on. This will give local cats and wildlife chance to register that a fast dog has moved in. Even if your dog is cat friendly he will regard other visiting cats in his garden as easy game.

When you walk him public he must be muzzled at first. Remember he may have recently come from the race track where he has learned that chasing small furry things with a view to kill is the **right** thing to do. It will take him some time to learn that you want a different response. If people you meet seem frightened by the fact that he is wearing a muzzle do take time to explain that he is not a dangerous dog, but that you are a responsible dog owner with a rescue dog.

**Never let a child hold the lead. These dogs can have huge power and acceleration; they could, on seeing a cat, rush into the road dragging your child into danger.**

Please spend time on teaching your dog recall. He may never have learned his name. He will never have been off the lead except on the racetrack. However good his recall is at home, when he is out, and he sees a rabbit he will forget all that he has learned, so it will be some time before you will be able to let him off the lead. When you finally feel he is ready to let off the lead find a safe, enclosed space where you can do it. Keep his muzzle on in case someone's kitten should wander across his path. Have titbits ready. He will be very fast and it is very scary to see the speed with which these dogs can disappear into the distance, so if in doubt – don't let him off. When he returns give him a titbit and let him mooch off again. Otherwise he will soon learn not to come back if it means being put on the lead straight away.

It takes time to rehabilitate ex racing greyhounds to being safe off the lead so please be patient. Don't worry if your dog is only getting lead walks. This is what they are used to. The world outside kennels is a big scary place and they feel safer on a lead beside you. They are sprint dogs and do not need lots of exercise. Their favourite past time is sleeping on a nice soft bed.

Please arrange insurance for your dog. He may get ill or injured and you could be suddenly faced with huge vet bills. He could also cause an accident and therefore liability insurance is essential.

**Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop, or unattended in your garden. These dogs are highly valued and frequently stolen for illegal racing, or dog napped for a ransom. It sounds melodramatic but it is true.**

For more help and advice please visit [www.grwe.com](http://www.grwe.com) or call our 24 hour help line on **07000 785092**