



# Greyhound Rescue West of England

## Greyhound Care and Health

### **Bedding**

Your greyhound will like a soft thick bed, such as an old duvet. They like to stretch out, so they sometimes find basket type beds too constricting. They will make a beeline for the sofa, so if you don't want them to use it you will need to set some ground rules. Putting obstacles on the sofa when you are not in the room will help.

### **Teeth**

your dog will have been checked by a vet and given dental treatment where required whilst in our care. Chews will help to keep teeth healthy, and you can use special dog toothpaste and gently brush his teeth clean. Do not use human toothpaste.

### **Fleas!**

Your dog will have been checked for fleas and treated whilst in our kennels, but fleas can be difficult to shift if a dog has had a large infestation, so do keep re checking and make sure you use a good flea preparation provided by your vet. Off the shelf preparations are not strong enough.

### **Feet**

Greyhound claws need regular trimming. If this is neglected the dog will walk awkwardly causing further problems. It is best to let your vet do it at first while you watch before attempting to do it yourself. Greyhounds often have soft feet having been exercised on sand tracks during their racing career. Beware of walking them so much that they get sore feet. You can harden their feet by massaging with surgical spirit daily for a few weeks.

### **Collars**

You will need to have a collar ready when you collect your dog. Most people buy the wide greyhound/lurcher collars. A small greyhound will need a size 5 and a very big one will need a size 7 as a rough guide. Greyhounds have tapered necks and tiny ears so a loose collar can easily slip over their heads which is very dangerous when out on a walk. Make sure that the collar is adjusted whilst it is at the top of the neck and cannot slide off. If in doubt, or if you have a nervous greyhound, use a harness as well. You can get a lead which will clip to both the collar and harness and keep your dog really safe.

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



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### **Injuries**

Your dog may have been retired from racing through injury. The centrifugal forces of the sharp bends on a track put enormous strain on the dog's wrist joints and toes. Injury may be caused by falling or colliding with other dogs at speed. This will not always be obvious but just like us, your dog may become prone to arthritis later on.

### **Coat/Skin**

Greyhounds often come to us with hair less patches where they have been lying on the hard floor in racing kennels. Sometimes their coats are patchy and scurfy. You will find that once they are in a home they will lose this kennel coat and a beautiful shiny, sleek coat will appear, Grooming and good feeding (see feeding leaflet) will help speed this process up.

### **Worming**

Please remember to worm your dog regularly. A vet will advise you.

### **Vaccinations**

Your dog will come with an up to date vaccination card It is a GRWE requirement that the yearly vaccination booster is kept up to date at all times.