



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) - the charity

Q. What is GRWE?

GRWE is a registered charity dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of abused and abandoned greyhounds and greyhound cross-breeds. Originally set up in the west of England the organisation has, since becoming a charity in 1996, grown considerably. We are now the UK's leading independent greyhound rescue charity and now cover the majority of the UK. We find caring, permanent homes for almost 600 greyhounds and greyhound cross-breeds each year. Run entirely by volunteers, we receive no funding from the racing industry and are totally dependent on donations from the public to fund our rescue work.

Q. Where do you get your dogs from?

GRWE takes in greyhounds and greyhound cross-breeds from members of the public, veterinary surgeries, dog wardens and the police. We also help responsible trainers and owners rehome their racing greyhounds. GRWE takes in greyhounds of all ages, from puppies to geriatrics! GRWE never destroy a healthy dog. All our dogs receive a complete health check, are fully vaccinated, neutered and microchipped.

Q. How can I help GRWE?

- Adopt a greyhound/greyhound cross-breed
- Become a Friend of GRWE and receive our magazine Talking Greyhounds twice a year
- Sponsor a dog and receive a certificate, picture and regular updates
- Volunteer for GRWE – volunteers are always needed to help with fundraising, dog walking, transporting dogs, fostering etc.
- Make a donation to GRWE
- Leave a legacy to GRWE
- Please refer to our website for more information, www.grwe.com

Greyhounds make great pets!

Q. Are greyhounds good with children?

A. As good as any dog and better than most! Because of their characteristic gentleness, greyhounds also make ideal pets for retired people.

Q. Are there character differences between a dog and bitch?

A. In terms of temperament, there is little to differentiate between the sexes.

Q. How much exercise do they need each day?

A. Only 20 minutes twice a day, or one 40 minute walk a day, is usually more than enough. Greyhounds are sprinters and their energy gets used up in short bursts,

Q. How do greyhounds get on with other dogs?

A. Normally ok. There will be an initial wariness as most greyhounds would have spent their life only with other greyhounds, but familiarity and slow introduction to other dogs will help to ensure they settle with other breeds.

Q. How do greyhounds get on with other animals?

A. Like many breeds of dogs some greyhounds will instinctively chase smaller animals, the only difference with greyhounds is that they have the speed to catch what they're chasing. However, there many greyhounds live comfortable with other animals such as cats, chickens, and rabbits.

Q. Are greyhounds easy to train and do they come back when called?

A. Yes, but it needs patience. Like any dog, a greyhound loves to please and can be trained. Greyhounds are sensitive dogs and do not respond well to punishment in any form – instead gentle praise and food rewards should be used to encourage your dog.

Q. Are greyhounds highly strung?

A. No. They are naturally calm and gentle dogs. As a breed they are one of the oldest pedigree dogs on earth and have been living with man as a companion dog for many thousands of years.

Q. Are greyhounds aggressive?

A. Greyhounds are generally gentle, docile and patient creatures and not prone to aggression. Often this misconception comes from the muzzle they wear for their own protection during racing.

Q. Will I need a special bed for the dog?

A. No. An old quilt folded in two is perfect. But they are used to sleeping off the ground and will need no encouragement to take over your bed as well as your sofa. They do like to stretch out and make their beds.

Q. Do greyhounds require much food?

A. Greyhounds eat the same amount and type of food as other dogs of their size.

Q How long can greyhounds be left at home on their own?

A. Like any other dog we would recommend that a greyhound is not left for more than four hours at any one time on their own at home. Dogs will need regular access to the garden or 'spending' area outside.

Q. How long do greyhounds live for?

A. Around 12 – 14 years of age.

Q. What is the difference between the show greyhound and a rescue greyhound and should I get a greyhound from a breeder?

A. There is no difference whatsoever, they are both the same pedigree dog. The numbers of greyhounds bred for show and pets are relatively small while there are thousands of retired racing greyhounds who desperately need homes every year.

Q. What is a lurcher/greyhound cross-breed?

A. A lurcher is a cross-breed that has some greyhound in its parentage. This makes him small if there is whippet, or any size up to very large if there is some wolfhound in him. He can also be any colour and can be smooth or rough coated.

Giving a home to a rescue greyhound

Q. What do I need to consider if I wish to adopt a rescue greyhound?

A. Dogs must be housed inside and not outdoors. The garden must be secure, ideally with tall fencing all around. Dogs must not be left on their own for longer than four hours each day. Dogs will need to have two 20 minutes or one 40 minute walk each day. You will also need to purchase water and food bowls, collar, lead, coat, dog bed and we highly recommend pet insurance.

Q. What is the rehoming process?

A. All homes are home checked so we can match the right dog to your lifestyle requirements. We do not charge a fee for our dogs but as it costs around £600 to rescue and rehome a dog, we do encourage a donation towards our rescue work. After dogs have been placed in a home we are always there to offer advice and answer any questions. We have a helpline and offer all rehomers access to qualified dog behaviourists who will help with any issues that arise.

Greyhound Racing Welfare Issues

Q. What are the issues surrounding greyhound racing?

A. More than 10,000 greyhounds retire from racing in the UK each year. Some live out happy retirements but many thousands are cruelly abandoned or destroyed. Around 6,000 greyhounds disappear each year without a trace. Some may be exported abroad to continue racing in appalling conditions, and some are just abandoned or destroyed, often using inhumane methods. Racing greyhounds retire at an early age,

usually between three and five years old, either because of injuries or because they are simply too slow to race. Retired racing greyhounds make wonderful pets.

Crufts

Q. Why is Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) attending Crufts given all the controversy following the BBC's Panorama Programme (Pedigree Dogs Exposed)?

A. GRWE is a registered charity dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of abused and abandoned greyhounds and greyhound cross-breeds. We have had a stand at Crufts for many years and we do this because it offers us the opportunity to showcase and inform people about the suitability of rescued ex-racing greyhounds as pets, raise awareness of our charity as well as generating much needed funds for our rescue work. We were shocked by many things exposed in the BBC's Panorama programme about pedigree dogs, the Kennel Club and the welfare issues regarding the breeding of dogs to show standards.

We have carefully considered our attendance at this year's show, consulted our supporters and have made the decision to attend in light of the Kennel Club's decision to conduct a systematic review of all breed and judging standards to address the issues raised by the programme and ensure the health and welfare of pedigree dogs. GRWE are monitoring the outcome of the review and subsequent improvements to assess whether we will attend future shows.