

## Don't be an April fool! Adopt a Greyhound this National Pet Month

Local charity GRWE explains how greyhounds make 'grey-t' pets as this year's National Pet Month commences

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### Press Release – Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011

**April sees the start of 2011's National Pet Month, an annual event to celebrate all things pet related. The aims of National Pet Month are to promote responsible pet ownership, make people aware of the mutual benefits of living with pets, increase public awareness of the role of pet care specialists and to raise awareness of the value of working and assistance companion animals.**

Greyhound and Lurcher Charity GRWE is getting behind National Pet Month by trying to overcome some common myths about greyhound ownership in a bid to increase awareness and understanding of the breed, and to help some of their adorable needy hounds to find new loving homes.

Philip Mansbridge, GRWE Trustee, explains: "Greyhounds make absolutely great pets but many people still have the impression that they are a very specialist or high maintenance dog. This is really not the case - and the most common misconceptions that we are working on overcoming this month are exercise, temperament, and living with children."

"Most people's image of a greyhound is it racing around a track at mind boggling speeds. But, once they have finished their racing career (often when they are only 2-3 years old), what happens next – surely they need lots and lots of exercise and walks and a large house and garden? Not true! For the lucky greyhounds that are being rehomed you will find that they are actually surprisingly lazy, and a surprisingly low maintenance breed!

Greyhounds are built for quick short bursts of speed and don't have amazing endurance for very long distances. What this means is that they spend most of their days laying on their bed or much more likely, laying on your sofa! Like most dogs, they just need a couple of short walks per day, plus any toilet walks (or outdoor access) that they may need if they are house trained.

The next most common misconception is about their temperament. All dogs are individual, but as a breed they are surprisingly easy going and most love people of all ages – including children, and many live happily with other dogs, and even cats! They tend to be very gentle and very docile," he adds.

If you think you may be able to offer one of our needy Greyhounds (or Lurchers) a loving, permanent home, please get in touch on 07000 785 092 or visit our website on [www.grwe.com](http://www.grwe.com).

Philip adds: "Don't forget, even if you can't rehome a dog from us, there are still many ways to help, including Sponsoring a Dog, donating, becoming a member, or even volunteering, so please visit our website for more details."

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Notes to editors:

- 1) National Pet Month is a charity (Reg Charity Number 1114880) whose aims are to:
  - Promote responsible pet ownership
  - Make people aware of the mutual benefits of living with pets
  - Increase public awareness of the role of pet care specialists
  - Raise awareness of the value of working and assistance companion animals

GRWE and National Pet Month are not in any way affiliated, and this release has been written independently of National Pet Month, but in line with their charitable objectives. National Pet Month runs from 2<sup>nd</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May, and more details can be found at: [www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk](http://www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk)

- 2) Greyhound Rescue West of England (GRWE) is a Registered Charity (Reg. Charity No. 1131399) and the largest independent greyhound rescue organisation in the UK working specifically to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned and abused greyhounds and lurchers. Last year GRWE rehomed 862 dogs across England and Wales.
- 3) GRWE receives no funding from the racing industry, is run entirely by volunteers, and is entirely funded by donations. More information about the charity can be found at [www.grwe.com](http://www.grwe.com) .