

Finding Greyt Homes for Greyt Hounds

**FAST FRIENDS
GREYHOUND RESCUE, INC.**

www.greytdogs.org



A 501 (c) (3) Corporation

ADOPTION APPLICATION PACKET

Mail Application to:

Hettie and Bill Ballweber
6654 Gilardi Road
Boonsboro, Maryland 21713
Phone: 301-416-2028
Email: Hettie@myactv.net

Fast Friends Greyhound Rescue, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation consisting of a group of dedicated greyhound owners and interested volunteers who work hard to place retired racing greyhounds into loving, long-term adoptive homes. Our mission is: (1) to educate the public about the value of greyhounds as loving, gentle pets; (2) to advocate for the rescue and adoption of retired racing greyhounds; and, (3) to facilitate the process of finding the proper life-long home for each greyhound. We will also provide continued support for all of our adopted greyhounds and their families.

The Adoption Fee

The adoption fee is \$215 (non-refundable) for each dog. This fee can be adjusted based on special circumstances or if multiple dogs are adopted. We will discuss this with you as you work through the process. At a minimum, this fee will include:

- Transportation to Boonsboro or Middletown from our suppliers
- Spaying or Neutering
- All up-to-date immunizations
- All available veterinarian records
- Complete dental
- Worming
- Heartworm test
- Track records if available
- Ancestry if available
- Greyhound collar and lead
- Greyhound muzzle
- Fast Friends Identification Tag and Number
- A Copy of Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies
- Fast Friends Adopter's Guide

The Adoption Process

Once that you have made the decision to adopt a greyhound, you can fill out and submit the attached adoption application. Please provide as much information as possible as it will help us find the right dog for you. We ask for comprehensive information, but we only want to make sure that you find the best match so neither you or the dog will be disappointed. We want our greyhounds to find life-long homes. We can usually comply with special requests such as gender, age, color, or personality, but the most important goal is to find your best fast friend.

After we have reviewed your application and checked your information and references, we will check our available dogs either in our foster homes or through our contacts at the tracks for the most suitable match. Please mail the attached application (only) to the address on the front page of this packet.

We will also provide:

- A thorough washing and grooming
- The first topical flea and tick preventative application
- Training for navigation of stairs
- Beginning of house training
- Testing for small animal tolerance
- Testing for startling, aggressive tendencies, shyness, etc.
(and recommendations)

Thoughts Before Applying for Adoption

You have expressed an interest in adopting a retired racing greyhound. Your decision to adopt a new fast friend is a major step for you (and the dog) and it should not be taken lightly. If you have previous experience with dogs in your life, then you understand the commitment and responsibilities. However, there are some important aspects of greyhound adoption that you need to consider before taking the next step.

Greyhounds will come to you as adults. They have already been socialized at the track and that is their **only** life experience. They have spent virtually their entire lives around people and in the company other dogs, so it should not be a surprise if they suffer from separation anxiety if they are suddenly left alone. They aren't familiar with toys, small children, small pets other than dogs, stairs, and navigating through a house. They aren't familiar with walking on tile floors or other slick surfaces, and they have never been around mirrors or windows. Large open spaces may confuse them at first. Their whole world has consisted of the track, their turn-out pens, and their crates (for over 22 hours a day).

Although they are crate and leash trained, they are not used to relieving themselves on a leash and they will surely have accidents in your house until they learn that it is like their crate. Since they have never had anything of their own, they may not know how to share at first. They also do not know that the food on your counter or in your trash can is not meant for them. They are not used to being awakened by touch and may react in a defensive way. They can be overwhelmed with too many people and too much attention at first as they have never had this experience.

The good news is that greyhounds are gentle and docile and creatures of habit. If you are truly committed to your new dog, you can easily get past the initial "settling in" period and find that you have one of the best companions you could ever hope for. Generally speaking, the up side to greyhound adoption is that they are highly socialized and they love people and other dogs. As puppies, they spend much more time with their mother and siblings and are given plenty of time to do "dog" things like run, chew, play, bark, sniff, etc. Because they have been trained at the track from the time they were puppies,

they learn quickly if given the right amount of time and attention. They are used to small spaces (because of the time they have spent in their crates) and they don't need or take up a lot of room. Because of this, they actually require less space than other large-breed dogs. They have short coats and seldom shed and they lack the oils in their skin that create doggy odors. Unlike other large-breed dogs, greyhounds are not prone to hip dysplasia or other congenital diseases.

Most importantly, you must remember that the greyhound you adopt is being given a second chance at life and you are the person who will be responsible for this. If you remember how your greyhound used to live and are ready to make the commitment to give it a good home, you will be rewarded beyond your expectations.

You may not feel comfortable with the questions we ask, but keep in mind that we want to help you through the process, not challenge your ability to care for a dog. We want your success to be a testimony for greyhound adoption!!! The volunteers at Fast Friends Greyhound Rescue, Inc. are willing to support you throughout the life of your greyhound. We will gladly answer any questions you have along the way and address any concerns. Please feel free to call or email us at any time.

Cost of an Adopted Greyhound

We have often been asked about how much it costs to have a greyhound. While we can't say exactly, we estimate that a single greyhound can cost up to \$800 per year to provide food, preventative medications (for heartworm, fleas and ticks), scheduled vet care for immunizations, and toys, etc. This is typical of other large breeds of dogs. In addition, it is highly recommended that you have the following:

Crate: To make your life as well as your greyhound's life easier, it is important that you use a crate in the beginning. We recommend a wire dog crate (48" X 30" X36"). Since they are used to being in a crate at the track, this will help them transition into your home (which should be done gradually). A greyhound will feel more secure in the crate.

Bedding: A large dog bed is great, but so is a used bedspread or heavy blanket. A greyhound likes to "nest" and find a comfortable spot. Whatever you use, it should be soft and comfortable – they are thin skinned and need the softer bed.

Martingale type collar: Because of their thicker necks and thinner heads, a greyhound cannot use a regular dog collar because it will pull off easily. You will be supplied with a proper collar from us, but you must remember to always use the typical greyhound collar.

Toys: Greyhounds love soft, fleecy, squeaky toys and will collect them!

Raised Food Bowls: (Approximately 12-18") from the ground to prevent digestive problems.

FAST FRIENDS GREYHOUND RESCUE, INC.

ADOPTION APPLICATION

Name _____ (please print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email Address _____

What attributes are you looking for in a greyhound? Describe below:

Color _____ Sex _____ Age Range _____

Temperament _____ Other _____

What other pets do you have? _____

Name _____ Name _____

Age _____ Age _____

Type of Pet _____ Type of Pet _____

Do you work? _____ Will your greyhound be left at home for any length of time alone? _____ Do you have anyone else to watch your greyhound? _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address and Phone Number _____

How many people in your household? _____

What are the ages of your children? _____

If you rent, do you have permission to have a dog? _____

Do you have a fenced-in yard? _____ If no, how do you intend to allow your greyhound time outside? _____

Can you commit to taking your greyhound outside four times a day in all types of weather? _____

Do you understand and agree that your greyhound will never be off a leash when in an unfenced area, anywhere at any time? _____

Do you understand that your greyhound must reside only in the home's living quarters and be kept indoors at all times with the exception of being outside only to relieve itself or travel with you?_____

Do you understand that your greyhound must never be tethered inside or outside?_____

Have you ever returned a pet before?_____ Explain_____

Do you understand and agree that if for some reason you cannot keep your greyhound, that you will return it to Fast Friends Greyhound Rescue, Inc. only and forfeit all of the adoption fee?_____

Do you agree that, in the event your greyhound is lost, you will contact us immediately?_____

Are you willing to accept full responsibility for ownership of your greyhound and take on all financial responsibilities?_____

Are you willing to invite us to your home to help you get ready for your new greyhound?_____

Please provide us with a veterinarian reference:

Name of Vet_____ Phone Number_____

Please provide us with three personal references:

Name_____ Phone Number_____

Name_____ Phone Number_____

Name_____ Phone Number_____

Do you agree to permit Fast Friends Greyhound Rescue, Inc. to conduct a follow-up six-month and/or one year visit to your home?_____

Do you understand and agree that if you do not meet the requirements set forth in the adoption contract (which you will sign prior to receiving your greyhound), that you may relinquish ownership of your greyhound to Fast Friends Greyhound Rescue, Inc?_____

I certify that I fully understand the above questions and all answers and information provided are true and correct. I authorize my veterinary reference to release any and all information regarding services provided, or lack thereof, involving all animals in my care, past or present.

Signature_____

Date_____

Approved_____

Date_____