

GREYHOUNDS AND OFF-LEASH AREAS

Why we don't recommend off-leash dog parks for GAP greyhounds

At the GAP, our priority is helping every greyhound transition safely and successfully into life as a pet. While many greyhounds are social and enjoy the company of other dogs, we do not recommend taking GAP greyhounds to off-leash dog parks or unfenced off-leash areas.

Every dog is different

Greyhounds adopted through GAP have undergone the green collar behavioural assessments and have demonstrated the ability to safely live as pets. However, no assessment can predict how a dog will respond in every situation, particularly in busy, unpredictable environments such as dog parks.

High-speed play can be misunderstood

Greyhounds are one of the fastest dog breeds in the world and can reach remarkable speeds within a matter of seconds. Their style of play often involves chasing, sprinting, and sudden changes of direction. While this may be completely normal behaviour for a greyhound, other dogs may find it overwhelming or threatening, potentially leading to conflict.

Likewise, some greyhounds may become uncomfortable if unfamiliar dogs approach them too enthusiastically or without appropriate social manners.

Unpredictable environments

Off-leash dog parks contain dogs of varying sizes, temperaments, training levels, and social skills. Owners may not always have effective control of their dogs, and interactions can escalate quickly.

Even well-socialised greyhounds can feel overwhelmed in these environments, particularly when approached by multiple dogs at once or when unable to move away from unwanted interactions.

Safety risks

Because of their lean build and thin skin, greyhounds are more susceptible to cuts and injuries during rough play. What may be a minor scuffle for another breed can result in significant injury to a greyhound.

Additionally, if a greyhound becomes startled and runs, their speed can make them difficult to safely recall and manage in open environments.

Alternative ways to socialise

Instead of off-leash dog parks, we recommend:

- Walking with familiar dog friends
- Organised play sessions with known, compatible dogs
- Securely fenced private areas
- Enrichment activities and training sessions
- Breed-specific or supervised social events where appropriate.

These options allow your greyhound to socialise in a more controlled and predictable environment.

Our recommendation

Many GAP greyhounds enjoy meeting other dogs and can live successfully with canine companions. However, for the safety and wellbeing of all dogs involved, we recommend avoiding off-leash dog parks and choosing controlled social opportunities instead.

If you have any questions about your greyhound's social skills or suitability around other dogs, please contact the GAP team for advice.

