

MANAGING MULTIPLE DOGS IN THE HOME

Many greyhounds thrive in homes with other dogs and enjoy canine companionship. However, bringing a new dog into an existing household requires patience, planning, and understanding to help everyone settle successfully.

Every dog is an individual, and it is important to allow relationships to develop naturally over time.

Preparing for your new arrival

Before bringing your new greyhound home, consider:

- Having separate beds and resting areas for each dog
- Providing individual food and water bowls
- Having enough toys and enrichment items to reduce competition
- Creating safe spaces where each dog can relax undisturbed.

Remember, your resident dog and new greyhound may need time to adjust to sharing their home and routine.

Introductions matter

When possible, introductions should be calm and positive. Helpful tips include:

- Introduce dogs in a neutral environment before entering the home
- Keep initial interactions relaxed and supervised
- Allow dogs to investigate each other at their own pace
- Avoid forcing interactions or expecting instant friendships.

Some greyhounds become best friends quickly, while others may take days or weeks to feel comfortable.

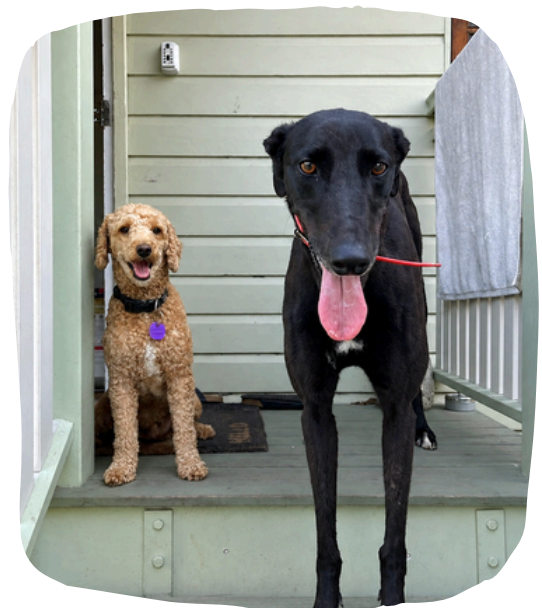
Feeding time

Food can be a valuable resource and may create tension between dogs if not managed appropriately.

To help prevent issues:

- Feed dogs separately
- Pick up food bowls once meals are finished
- Avoid leaving high-value treats unattended
- Monitor interactions when treats or chews are provided.

Giving each dog their own space during mealtimes helps everyone feel secure.



Managing toys and resources

While many greyhounds share happily, some may become protective of toys, beds, or favourite resting spots. To encourage harmony:

- Provide multiple toys and enrichment items
- Supervise access to high-value items
- Ensure each dog has their own comfortable resting area
- Respect each dog's personal space.

One-on-one time

It is important that each dog receives individual attention. This may include:

- Separate walks
- Individual training sessions
- One-on-one playtime
- Quiet bonding time with family members.

Individual attention helps build confidence and strengthens your relationship with each greyhound.



Understanding canine communication

Greyhounds communicate through body language, so, learning to recognise signs of stress or discomfort can help prevent conflict before it occurs. Watch for:

- Stiff body posture
- Freezing or avoiding another dog
- Growling or lip lifting
- Resource guarding behaviours
- Persistent pestering or unwanted attention.

If you notice these signs, calmly redirect the dogs and provide space where needed.

The importance of supervision

During the settling-in period, supervision is essential. We recommend:

- Monitoring interactions closely
- Separating dogs when unsupervised if necessary
- Gradually increasing freedom as relationships develop
- Being patient and allowing trust to build naturally.

How we help create successful matches

At the GAP, we carefully assess each greyhound's social skills and compatibility with other dogs.

When placing a greyhound into a multi-dog household, we consider:

- The temperament of resident dogs
- Energy levels and play styles
- Previous experience living with other dogs
- Individual needs and personalities.

Our goal is to ensure every greyhound is matched with a home where they can feel safe, comfortable, and supported.

Remember

Most dogs can successfully live together when given appropriate guidance, structure, and time to adjust. Patience, supervision, and understanding are key to building positive relationships and creating a happy multi-dog household.

If you have any questions about introducing a greyhound to your existing pets, the GAP team is always there to provide advice and support.

