SENIOR GREYHOUND CARE GUIDE

Why choose a senior greyhound?

Senior greyhounds are so often overlooked simply due to their age, and as a result they tend to wait longer than younger dogs to be connected to a family, and a home. Yet, despite that wait, they still have just as much love, loyalty, and gentle companionship left to give, making them incredibly special dogs to welcome into a family.

Senior greyhounds are gentle, soulful, and deeply devoted. They don't need long walks, just a soft place to land and someone to love.

In return, senior dogs offer quiet companionship, unwavering loyalty, and a special bond.

When you adopt a senior greyhound, you're giving a gift, and receiving one just as meaningful in return.

When is a greyhound a senior?

Greyhounds are considered senior from around seven years of age. Greyhounds typically live 10 – 14 years of age, and many enjoy happy, relaxed lives well into their later years.

What to expect as they age

- Increased need for rest and sleep (completely normal)
- Stiffness, especially after resting, most noticeable when they are trying to stand up
- Lower energy levels
- Changes in vision, depth perception, and hearing
- Increased sensitivity to cold and heat.

You may also notice behaviour changes in your senior greyhound. Some greyhounds become more unsettled by things like storms or loud noises as they age, often due to changes in hearing and brain function. They may also try to completely avoid stairs as their depth perception changes, stairs become tricky to manage, especially on the way down.

Ways to keep them comfortable

- Soft, well-padded bedding in warm areas
- Ramps or steps for areas difficult to climb into, such as couches, beds and cars
- Non-slip flooring to prevent slipping
- Raised bowls can help so your dogs don't need to crouch as much to eat, avoid if your dog gulps food.

Exercise

- Daily, gentle walks are still important
- Let them set the pace and rest when needed
- Sniffing and exploring on a shorter walk is just as enriching as faster walking.

Vet care

Regular veterinarian visits are essential to:

- Detect age-related conditions early
- Monitor mobility, dental health, and organ function as well as check for any lumps
- Provide guidance on diet, supplements, and create a pain management plan.

There are now many effective treatments available to manage pain and conditions like arthritis in older greyhounds, so they can stay comfortable and enjoy a good quality of life.

Diet and weight

- Feed a high-quality senior diet
- Adjust portions as metabolism slows
- Keep your greyhound lean to reduce strain on joints.

An extra kilogram of weight on a dog is roughly the same as a human carrying an extra 10kgs of weight and greyhounds are not built to carry extra weight.

Your vet may recommend supplements to add to your pet's food such as:

- Joint support
- Glucosamine and chondroitin
- Omega-3 fatty acids
- Green-lipped mussel.

Choosing a senior greyhound is choosing compassion

Adopting a senior greyhound is giving them the chance to spend their final years in comfort, safety, and love, something every dog deserves.

And while their time with you may be shorter, the bond you build will be just as deep.