



QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION

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GREYHOUND FOSTER CARER INFORMATION



GREYHOUND

ADOPTION PROGRAM QLD

www.qric.qld.gov.au





The Greyhound Adoption Program of Queensland

Foster Carer Information

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Thank you for being a Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) foster carer. This manual has been produced to guide you through the fostering of a GAP greyhound.

GAP of Queensland is operated by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (the Commission) and is dedicated to finding homes for greyhounds that have retired from racing. While the GAP is funded and managed independently of the racing industry, it works closely with owners and trainers to take on greyhounds and prepare them for adoption in retirement.

For more information contact the GAP QLD on 1300 087 021 or email gap@qric.qld.gov.au

Visit the website gapqld.com.au

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ABOUT GAP FOSTER CARE

Foster care is a vital part of the GAP's activities. Foster care provides opportunities for the GAP to learn more about how greyhounds respond to living in a home environment.

Foster homes can provide greyhounds with valuable exposure to life as a pet and allow individual greyhounds to be provided with tailored training and conditioning while in a family environment.

All greyhounds offered for foster or adoption have successfully passed our green collar assessment program.

This provides an exemption under the

Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 from muzzling of the greyhounds in local council areas where it would otherwise be required by local laws.

However, some greyhounds require further individual attention prior to being offered for adoption, and these dogs will benefit from spending time in a foster home.

The greyhounds that will benefit most from fostering will be those that are sound sensitive, shy or nervous in new environments, or those that are unsure of new environments.

Greyhounds in foster care benefit from gentle and positive experiences with people and other animals.

HOW DO I BECOME A FOSTER CARER?

To become a foster carer you must submit an expression of interest online.

This application is available on our website at gapqld.com.au

If you have any questions or queries, you contact the GAP team by emailing gap@qric.qld.gov.au or calling 1300 087 021

WHAT TO EXPECT AS A FOSTER CARER

Life in a kennel provides a greyhound with limited exposure to life as a pet.

By taking a greyhound into your home you can offer the greyhound many new experiences.

Your new arrival may take time to adjust to your home.

Initially you may see signs of stress,

such as pacing, heavy panting, barking, whining, lack of interest in food and licking of the paws.

These can all be signs of anxiety and should settle in a few days.

Life in your home is a new experience for the greyhound, and you will need to be patient, allowing the greyhound time to settle in.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?

The GAP team will provide advice and support to help you and your greyhound achieve success.

In addition, the GAP team provides ongoing support via phone, email or in person as required.

The GAP team will provide advice on introducing children and other animals to your foster greyhound.





CARE AND PATIENCE

These are vital. Your foster greyhound is learning how to be a pet.

If your greyhound makes a mistake, this gives you the opportunity to correct it and teach your foster greyhound the right thing to do.

SOCIALISATION AND EXPOSURE

The GAP requires all foster carers to enable their greyhounds to become comfortable in new and unfamiliar situations and environments.

The GAP team will provide a plan to meet the needs of you and your individual greyhound.

The following are some examples of new experiences that may be suitable for your foster greyhound:

- Exposure to dogs of all different sizes and breeds while on regular walks.
- Exposure to different flooring surfaces such as carpet, concrete, tiles, wood floors and bricks.



- Travelling inside a car, learning to enter and exit the car calmly without needing to be lifted.
- Exposure to a variety of noises, including children and family sounds, televisions, radios, cars, trucks, motorbikes, lawn mowers, trains, household appliances, vacuum cleaners and glass doors.
- Learning to go up and down stairs unassisted.

RESOURCES

Foster carers just need to welcome the greyhound into their home with a lot of love and patience.

All food and equipment will be provided by the GAP, including:

- Muzzle
- Dry dog food
- Bowls
- Bed and bedding
- Green collar and lead
- Car harness/buckle
- Winter dog coat
- Dental chews
- Flea and worming preventatives

COMMON QUESTIONS

DO GREYHOUNDS MAKE GOOD PETS?

Greyhounds can make fantastic pets. As with any breed of dog, they are individuals. Some are high energy and rough and tumble, others are lazy and laid back. However, in general, they are quiet and gentle dogs that can learn to thrive in a home environment.

DO RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS ADJUST QUICKLY TO LIFE AS A PET?

Yes. With assistance and patience from their new owners, greyhounds adjust well to their new role as a family pet. The GAP team will offer lots of advice to help you and your foster greyhound with the process.

ARE RETIRED RACING GREYHOUNDS TOILET TRAINED?

Greyhounds that have lived in a kennel environment may not be toilet trained. Nevertheless, they are generally very clean dogs, and even when living in a kennel environment, they do not like to soil their sleeping quarters, and will wait until taken outside to relieve themselves. When first brought into the home, take your foster greyhound on lead outside to where you want him/her to toilet and show your foster greyhound where to go. This includes taking the greyhound outside every couple of hours for the first week or so, especially after meals, playing and sleeping. During the first few weeks, watch the greyhound closely when it is inside your house, so that you may correct

any unwanted behaviour immediately. When catching the greyhound “in the act”, use a firm “no” and immediately take the greyhound outside. When the greyhound toilets outside, praise him/her enthusiastically. Do not chastise the greyhound if it has an accident inside. Correcting the greyhound after the event will only serve to confuse and frighten him/her.

HOW LONG WILL A GREYHOUND BE IN FOSTER CARE?

Foster carers house a greyhound for a minimum of six weeks. This allows time for the greyhound to settle and learn skills they need to succeed as a pet.

ARE GREYHOUNDS GOOD WITH CHILDREN?

Although not all foster homes will have children, it is helpful to ascertain a greyhound’s reaction to young children. Exposure to young children often occurs during regular walks or from friends or family visiting. As with any breed, close supervision is essential.

ARE GREYHOUNDS GOOD WITH OTHER DOGS?

As sighthounds, greyhounds usually have a well-developed chase instinct, however, this varies from greyhound to greyhound and many greyhounds can comfortably co-exist with other pets. Greyhounds that have been raised in kennels may have not have interacted with other dogs. They may not be used to the sight and behaviour of other breeds of dogs, and they may not have interacted with them in a way we would

expect of other pet dogs.

All introductions to new pets should be supervised, and the greyhound must wear a muzzle at all meetings with other animals.

ARE GREYHOUNDS GOOD WITH OTHER ANIMALS?

Like all breeds, the behaviour and temperament of individual greyhounds will vary. At the GAP, we aim to find a suitable match between a greyhound and its adopter. Many greyhounds learn to accept other pets when introduced slowly, carefully and always with strict supervision. Any new introductions should always be carried out on lead, and with the greyhound properly muzzled, until its reactions can be assessed. Risks should never be taken with the safety of your own pets.

CAN GREYHOUNDS BE LET OFF-LEASH?

No. For the safety of your greyhound, you should not let your greyhound off-leash when in public. This includes off-leash dog parks and beaches. Remember, greyhounds have been bred for centuries to chase.

DO GREYHOUNDS HAVE TO BE MUZZLED IN PUBLIC?

All GAP greyhounds are temperament tested and receive a green collar certification prior to being fostered. The green collar certification allows them to be in public in Queensland without wearing a muzzle, as per *The Animal Management Act (Cats and Dogs) 2008*.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I NEED TO RETURN MY FOSTER GREYHOUND?

If a foster greyhound does not fit in with your household, contact the GAP staff and we will arrange the safe return of your foster greyhound.

Problems can arise in foster homes that have cats and/or other pets, where a greyhound does not settle well, or begins to display aggression or fear over time. We ask that you exercise common sense to ensure your animals are safe until the greyhound can be safely returned to the GAP.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE GREYHOUND TO THE VET?

All GAP Greyhounds undergo a health check prior to being fostered and, unless specified or there is an emergency, should not need to go to the vet during their foster placement.

In the case of an emergency please contact a GAP staff member immediately and arrangements will be made for the emergency veterinary treatment.

WHAT IF I FALL IN LOVE WITH MY FOSTER GREYHOUND?

Great! This is a common occurrence. Foster carers can become attached to their foster greyhound. Before the greyhound is offered for general adoption, his/her foster carers are always offered the first option to adopt.



FEEDBACK

This is the most important aspect of fostering as it is your information that allows us to place the greyhounds in the most suitable homes.

We ask that you provide us updates on the greyhound's behaviour, how they settled into the home and any interesting quirks your foster greyhound may have. We love receiving photos of greyhounds in foster care.

A picture really does paint a thousand words and is an essential part of the rehoming process. Please send any photos of your foster greyhound to gap@qric.qld.gov.au

RESOURCES AND IMPORTANT CONTACTS

GAP contact	
Emergency vet	

Contact us

Website: gapqld.com.au

Email: gap@qric.qld.gov.au

Phone: 1300 087 021

Facebook: [@gapqld](https://www.facebook.com/gapqld)

Instagram: [#gap_qld](https://www.instagram.com/gap_qld)

NOTES:

NOTES:



QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION



Help keep racing
integrity on
track

CONTACT US
1300 087 021
gap@qric.qld.gov.au

Our goal is a sustainable, fair and safe
racing industry, where everyone can
compete on a level playing field.

* This information is provided as a guide only and is not legal advice.
It is your responsibility to refer and adhere to the current national and
local Rules of Racing.



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