



Greyhound Adoption Program QLD Newsletter

August 2026

The Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) QLD is run by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC) and is dedicated to finding homes for greyhounds that have retired from racing.

From the Canine Health Officers 🐕

Seasonal allergies and itchy skin – coming into spring/summer



Spring can bring changes in pollen, grasses, and other environmental allergens. Some greyhounds may develop skin irritation or become noticeably itchier during certain seasons.

What to look out for:

- Increased scratching
- Licking or chewing paws
- Rubbing their face or body on furniture
- Red or irritated skin
- Repeated ear scratching or head shaking
- Hair thinning or bald patches from excessive licking/scratching
- Small scabs or areas of inflammation
- A sudden change from their normal skin and coat.

For greyhounds specifically, their short, fine coats mean skin changes can be quite easy to notice, so owners are in a good position to spot changes early.

It's time to speak to your vet if your greyhound:

- Is persistently itchy or uncomfortable
- Is scratching or licking enough to damage their skin
- Develops bald patches, sores, swelling, or scabs
- Has recurring ear irritation
- Suddenly develops significant skin irritation
- Seems uncomfortable despite removing the suspected irritant.

Fleas, ticks, and other parasites

As the weather starts to warm up, parasite activity can increase. Even greyhounds who spend most of their time indoors can still pick up fleas and ticks when exploring outdoor areas, walking through grass or coming into contact with other animals.

Fleas: Signs can include scratching, chewing at the skin, redness, small scabs, and excessive grooming. Some dogs can develop significant irritation from even a small number of flea bites.

Ticks: Greyhounds may pick up ticks when walking through long grass or bushy areas. Owners should regularly check their dog after walks, particularly around the head, ears, neck, between the toes and under the collar.

Intestinal worms: Spring is also a good reminder to make sure worming treatments are up to date, particularly for dogs that spend time outdoors or socialise with other dogs.

After walks, run your hands over your greyhound's coat and check their ears, paws, between their toes and around their collar. Finding a tick or irritation early can make a big difference.

Speak with your veterinarian about an appropriate parasite-prevention program to suit your greyhound.



Adoption update 🏠

We've had an incredible few months of adoptions, we couldn't be happier seeing so many of our greyhounds head off to start their next chapter.

We wanted to take a moment to say a huge thank you to all our amazing adopters and foster carers. Every greyhound who finds their forever home has a whole team of people behind them, and your support makes such a difference.

To our adopters, thank you for opening your homes and hearts to a greyhound and giving them the chance to experience life as a much-loved pet. We love hearing about their adventures, watching their personalities blossom and seeing them settle into their new lives.

To our foster carers, thank you for giving our greyhounds a place to land while they wait for their new families. Your patience, care and support help each dog take those important steps towards finding the right home.

Every adoption is special, and we're so grateful to everyone who plays a part in making these happy endings possible.

Here's to many more greyhounds finding their forever homes!

If you are interested in adopting, more information including the adoption process can be found [here](#).



News from the GAP team 🧑 🧑

On Sunday 9 August, the GAP team had the pleasure of attending the Ekka Sweepstakes, and what an amazing day it was!

It was a fantastic opportunity for our team to get out and about, meet so many wonderful people and spend the day talking all things greyhounds. We loved being able to interact with everyone who stopped by, answer questions and share more about the GAP program and life after racing.

A huge congratulations to the GAP greyhounds who placed in the Sweepstakes:

🥇 1st: Captain

🥈 2nd: Knight

🥉 3rd: Fergus

We were so proud to see these beautiful greyhounds representing the breed and showing everyone just how wonderful they can be.

Thank you to everyone who came along, stopped to say hello, and supported the event. We had such a great day and are already looking forward to the next one!

Didn't get a chance to see the GAP greyhounds strut around the sweepstakes ring at the Ekka?

[Relive the magic here 🎥.](#)



Greyhound behaviour 🏆



Enrichment is a great way to keep your greyhound's mind engaged, but it doesn't have to involve expensive toys, complicated activities, or hours of preparation. Some of the best enrichment can be made using things you already have at home.

Frozen treats

Freeze some of your greyhound's usual food or dog-safe treats in water to create a refreshing activity for a warm day. You can use an appropriate container or mould and adjust the size to suit your dog.

Sniffari walks

Enrichment doesn't always mean walking further. Allow your greyhound time to stop, sniff, and investigate their surroundings. A slow, relaxed walk where they get to follow their nose can be just as valuable as covering a lot of distance.

Cardboard box games

A clean cardboard box can become a simple enrichment activity. Hide some treats or kibble inside and let your greyhound investigate. Always supervise and remove the box if they begin eating the cardboard.

Scatter feeding

Rather than putting their entire meal straight into a bowl, try scattering some of their normal kibble across a safe area of grass and allowing them to sniff it out.

Find it!

Hide a few treats around a room and encourage your greyhound to use their nose to find them. Start with easy hiding spots and gradually make the game more challenging as they understand the activity.

And sometimes, **rest is enrichment too**

We often think enrichment means keeping our dogs busy, but giving a greyhound the opportunity to relax, sleep and choose how they spend their time is just as important. A quiet afternoon stretched out on a comfy bed can be exactly what they need.

The best enrichment is something your greyhound enjoys and feels comfortable doing. Keep activities positive, supervise where necessary and remember, enrichment doesn't have to be complicated to be worthwhile.

Green collar assessment 🟢



If you didn't adopt your greyhound through GAP, did you know you can still have your retired racer assessed for a green collar?

Green collar accreditation provides an exemption from muzzling in a local council area where muzzling would otherwise be required under the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008*.

[Further information can be found here.](#)

What's on 👁️

Great Global Greyhound Walk

The Great Global Greyhound Walk is an annual dog-walking event that brings together greyhounds, lurchers, other sighthounds and their owners to raise awareness of the breeds and show the public just what wonderful pets they make. GAP QLD is hosting Brisbane and North Queensland events as we join with walk events happening throughout the world.

TOWNSVILLE

Sunday 27 September

8am

The Strand North Ward, Townsville 4810

👉 [For more details, and to pre-register your greyhound/s attendance](#)

BRISBANE

Sunday 27 September

9am

Leslie Patrick Park, Arana Hills 4054

👉 [For more details, and to pre-register your greyhound/s attendance](#)



We can't wait to see you and everyone's beautiful hounds there!

Adoption reminders 🐾

Our adoption fee is \$100. All GAP greyhounds have a uniquely numbered green collar, are desexed, heartworm tested, receive a full dental assessment including a scale and polish, are vaccinated, microchipped, and they come to you with up-to-date flea, tick and worming treatments and a greyhound starter kit to assist you on your adoption journey.

All GAP greyhounds receive lifetime registration with Central Animal Records microchip registry.

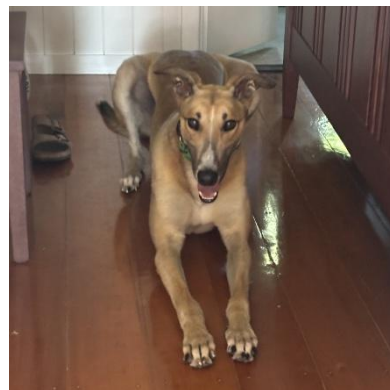
More information on our adoption process can be found [here](#).

Adoption Spotlight

Do you need another greyhound in your life? Or know someone who does? Then meet:



[Cassidy](#) | 29 Feb 2016 | SEQ



[King](#) | 24 Apr 2022 | SEQ



[Demba](#) | 28 Nov 2022 | NQ



[Baz](#) | 31 Aug 2022 | NQ

If Cassidy, King, Demba or Baz are not your perfect match, check out all GAP greyhounds looking for their retirement home on our [website](#).

GAP update 🐶

We are very excited to watch our GAP family grow. We would like to welcome all our new GAP family members. Don't forget to send us your updates: gap@qric.qld.gov.au.



All your greyhound questions answered 🧑🏻

Do you have questions on our adoption process, behaviour, or health? Check out our website that is jammed-packed with fact sheets.

A topic not covered? Want more information? Reach out to our GAP team at gap@qric.qld.gov.au.

More greyhound care and behaviour tips can be found [here](#).

Our team are here to help you.

Bark about us!

We have greyhounds available now who are looking for their 'retirement homes'. Can you help?

Follow and share the GAP's updates on social media, forward this newsletter to your friends and tell the dog lovers in your life about the GAP! Help us to match our greyhounds with a happy home.

GAP Facebook

GAP Instagram