

# NEWS HOUNDS



## Greyhound Adoption Program QLD Newsletter November 2024

*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 or are otherwise in need of a family.*

## FROM THE CANINE HEALTH OFFICERS Cane Toad Toxicity



In the Queensland Summer months, cane toads are more wide-spread and are toxic. Animal poisoning occurs when the toad releases its toxins and animals come into contact with the toad - via the mucous membranes - the gums, eyes, nose and tongue.

The toxins are released by the toad when they are threatened or attacked. It is fast acting and will absorb into the animal's bloodstream via the mucous membranes into the blood stream where it can target the heart, GI tract and nervous system.

It is important to remember that cane toads are poisonous at all stages of their life cycle - even when they are dead. Animals are only safe once the toad has completely decomposed.

If you suspect your greyhound has encountered a toad, the first priority should be to remove the toxin from their gums, and follow these steps:

1. Use a damp cloth/towel to wipe the gums, tongue and roof of mouth (NEVER use a hose to clean out the dog's mouth).
2. Wash the cloth thoroughly between wipes.
3. Continue this process for 10-20 minutes until the slimy coating is removed.
4. In mild cases, the above first aid steps will be all that is needed. However, the survival rate for animals exposed to toad poisoning decreases the longer you wait. So, please check with your vet even after the toxin is removed.

## ADOPTION UPDATE

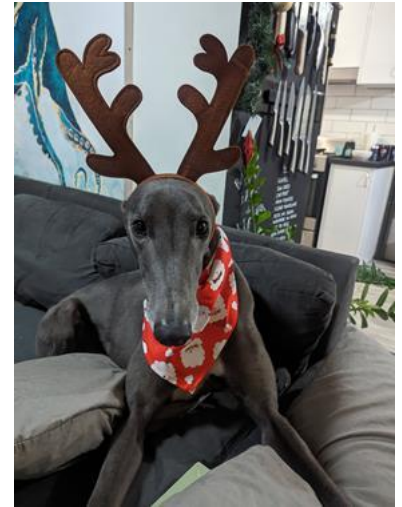
If you are interested in adopting, more information including the adoption process can be found [here](#).

If you are welcoming a newly adopted greyhound into your home over the Christmas period or opening up your home to host a greyhound for the holidays, then these simple tips will help both you and your new house guest settle in quicker.

**Establish a routine.** Dogs need consistency to settle in especially during the festive season when everything is out of the ordinary. Stick to a regular schedule for meals, walks, toilet breaks and bedtime (even if you're on holiday) so your dog is ready when your schedule returns to normal.

**Ease separation anxiety.** Over the holidays, dogs may get used to constant company. Help them build independence by scheduling alone time with treats, toys, or the radio on. When you leave or return – do so calmly to reduce anxiety.  
**Go Slow.** During the first few months, avoid crowded areas and focus on calm, quiet walks. This will help train your dog and allow it an opportunity to adjust without stress.

**During the first three months** your greyhound will go through a range of settling in stages. [View these milestone expectations and tips here](#).



## NEWS FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND



The GAP team recently attended the **Townsville Canine Carnival** with greyhound's Chloe and Princess. We were very busy with pats and info requests about the program, and congratulations to Chloe who came second in the fancy dress parade, we are so proud of our girl.

## BEHAVIOUR NEWS

### Desensitisation: the value of a well-handled dog

We all love to give our dogs a good pat. Have you thought about the benefits of your dog being able to enjoy pats on different areas of their body?

Teaching your dog to tolerate, and hopefully enjoy being held and handled allows us to safely take our dog to places like the Vet for their annual needles, check-ups or in times of sickness. It enables us to take our dogs to the groomer for their bath without stress. To be able to clip our dogs' nails without fear of them pulling their leg away. Actively teaching your dog to have their collar handled so, that when we need to put them onto their lead there is nothing but a happy compliance.

With safety in mind, begin working within your dogs' comfort levels to touch and look inside both ears, look at and run your hands over both eyes and look inside their mouth if you are confident enough to do so and the dog allows. Hold each paw and feel the webbing between their toes for short times to begin with and then extend those times. Handle the tail and also the area around their legs. Of course, don't forget the rest of the body, under the arms and the belly area.

You can start introducing grooming tools like brushes and nail clippers when you feel both yourself and the dog are ready to tackle this next level.

Keep these actions short and sweet to begin with and always shower your dog with praise when they give you the best that they can.



## WHAT'S ON 🧐

### Homeward Hounds – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month

Homeward Hounds is back, and this month we are bringing Christmas early! You can still chat with our GAP Team to explore adopting or fostering opportunities with a greyhound that's a perfect match for your lifestyle, and enjoy plenty of pats and cuddles from our lovable greys, but also...

🎅 **Santa Paws** will make an appearance from 9am – 10:30am for photo opportunities with your greyhound and family.

🐕 **Leash Manners and Recall Training Session:** capacity has been reached, [email us](#) to be notified of our next training session.

🎨 **Kids Christmas Colouring and Craft Corner:** decorate-your-own Christmas tree ornament and greyhound Christmas activity booklet.

🎄 Collection of “Host a Hound for the Holidays” greyhounds

📅 Saturday 16 November

🕒 9am – 12pm

📍 Albion Park Harness Racing Club, Yulestar Street, Albion 4010

[Click for more details and to register your attendance](#)

# GREEN COLLAR ASSESSMENT



If you didn't adopt your greyhound with 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*.

[More information can be found here](#)

## FOSTER FAMILIES ❤️

Fostering plays an important role in our retired greyhounds transitioning to pet life. Foster carers provide essential care through enrichment activities such as walking and making friends as well as everyday interactions with new sights and smells.

Our GAP team provide ongoing support and advice to our foster families. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, visit [here](#).

### Meet Sally

Sally is one of our senior girls and shares the apartment with Ninja the cat! She is settling in beautifully to her new routine and foster home. She's showing more of her personality and quirks each week.

She is currently not available for adoption...just yet.



## ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT 🐾🐾



[View BJ's profile](#)

BJ has a great mind for learning, and he would like a home that is willing to help him become the best version of himself.

He is still working on his excitement when seeing new dogs. He would like a family that will be patient with him and help him grow. BJ listens well and enjoys learning, especially when treats are involved!

DOB: 6 April 2020

Colour: Red Fawn

- ✅ He could live with older kids/teens
- ✅ Could live with a medium/large breed dog
- ✅ would like a yard to play in

# GAP UPDATE

From 1 July - 31 October 2024, 97 greyhounds have been adopted through the Greyhound Adoption Program.

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



## 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.

