

# NEWS HOUNDS



## Greyhound Adoption Program QLD Newsletter December 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.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE GAP TEAM

Thank you to everyone who contacted the GAP team in 2024. The team has thoroughly enjoyed showing off our GAP greyhounds and chatting about how great they are as family pets.

Our GAP events have been so well attended, including our lead and manners classes, that we are making these classes permanent at our Homeward Hounds events. These classes book out quickly so, please register your greyhound's attendance. The GAP team will also be expanding canine health chats to further support the community in keeping their greyhound in tip top condition. The team have also been working on some exciting events for 2025, so keep an eye on our social media for these announcements.

If you have any suggestions on how we can support you and your greyhound, please send your ideas to [gap@qric.qld.gov.au](mailto:gap@qric.qld.gov.au).

From all the GAP team, wishing our Greyhound Community a very Merry Christmas and a safe 2025.

### FROM THE CANINE HEALTH OFFICERS

**Christmas time treats – please avoid giving these to your greyhound and keep an eye out for other hazards.**

Christmas is a season of sharing but many holiday foods and treats can be harmful to pets because they're not made for their digestion.

To keep your greyhound safe, here's a list of festive foods to **avoid**:

- Christmas ham and fatty offcuts
- Chocolate
- Grapes, sultanas and raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Cooked bones
- Onions/garlic
- Alcohol

Also, please ensure these don't create a hazard:

- Christmas trees and decorations/lights
- Batteries
- Xylitol
- Lillies/house plants.



## ADOPTING A GREYHOUND

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

## BEHAVIOUR NEWS

### The many meanings of 'The Bow'



This incredibly adorable action that our greyhounds perform where their front of body lowers, and their rear ends stay raised has a few different meanings. And, the circumstances surrounding when this happens can provide you with a good indication as to what your dog is telling you.

#### **The 'I Just Got out of Bed' Bow**

This one is probably the clearest cut of them all. In almost all circumstances, this bow is done in preparation of movement by helping stretch those back and tummy muscles and to prepare them for the next task at hand. Technically this is known as pandiculation.

#### **The 'I Love You' Bow**

This is a fantastic way to be greeted by your dog. A great number of dogs will do this particularly when you just get home to let you know how happy they are to see you. It doesn't have the intensity and cheekiness behind it like the Play Bow. This is a sign of affection from your dog to you.

### **The 'Play' Bow**

This is a signal to people, dogs, or other animals that they are ready to play. An invitation by your dog to engage someone else in some fun. It is quite often coupled with a soft wagging tail, a cheeky look in their eye and a grin from their slightly open mouth. This is an attention seeking behaviour performed by your dog.

### **The 'Prey' Bow**

This is a tougher one to pick to the untrained eye and in most cases the tail is in a much higher position and the dog's body has a slight backwards lean. This allows them to spring forward quickly chasing after the object they are intently fixed on. The mouth is typically closed in this circumstance as tension for the chase is building up.

### **The 'On Command' Bow**

You can teach your greyhound to bow on command if you have the time and patience to do so. As always, rewards such as treats can help in this situation. The only other thing that needs to be thought about here is which word and hand signals you are going to use to ignite the action.

### **The 'Excessive' Bow**

If your greyhound is bowing a little too regularly and at times that seem odd, it could be a sign of an underlying medical condition. As always, seek veterinary advice if this is the case.

## **NEWS FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND**

### **Homeward Hounds**

Exciting news! Our Homeward Hounds event is heading to Townsville just in time to welcome a new family member for Christmas. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

### **What's on the menu: helping your dog beat the heat in North Queensland**

Here are some 'cool' treats to help your greyhound chill out this summer:

#### Frozen breakfast

- Place 2 cups of dry food in ice cream container
- Fill it with water
- Add a teaspoon of vegemite
- Freeze overnight
- On the next morning, take the container out and feed it to your greyhound for breakfast.

#### Yoghurt ice-creams

- Using a silicone cupcake tray, place yoghurt (this can be watered down) in the tray
- Use a chicken neck as the stick and stick it in yoghurt
- Allow to freeze overnight.

Billy, who was fostered by our North Queensland GAP team, recently found his family home. As hard as it is to say goodbye, it is always worth it when the team gets to see them happy in their retirement homes.



# WHAT'S ON 🐾

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

### **Brisbane:**

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 is a perfect match for your lifestyle and enjoy plenty of pats and cuddles from our lovable greys. You can also book in for:

🐾 **Leash manners and recall training session:** 8am – 8:45am, and 9am – 9:45am (capped at 10 greyhounds per session, registration required), starting early to beat the heat.

👤 **Holiday health chat: keeping your greyhound happy, safe and protected this season:** 10am.

🎨 **Kids Christmas colouring and craft corner:** decorate-your-own Christmas tree ornament and a take-home greyhound Christmas activity booklet.

📅 Saturday 21 December

🕒 9am - 12pm

📍 [Capalaba Greyhound Racing Club, 16 Old Cleveland Road, Capalaba 4157](#)

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

### **Townsville:**

Come and join the GAP team and meet and pat all our GAP greyhounds that are available for adoption! If you find one that's impawisible to walk away from, same-day adoptions are available as well as dog collections for finalised applicants.

📅 Saturday 21 December

🕒 8am - 12pm

📍 [Townsville Showgrounds, West End, Ingham Rd, Townsville, QLD 4812](#)

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

## GREEN COLLAR ASSESSMENT



Did you know you can still have your retired racer assessed for a green collar even if you didn't adopt your greyhound with GAP?

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](#).

## ADOPTION SPOTLIGHT



Andre is a lovable boy who is looking for his person. He is a soft natured boy that would enjoy a quiet/relaxed home.

DOB: 15 November 2019

Colour: Red Fawn

- ✓ He could live with older kids/teens
- ✓ Happy to be the only dog in the house

[View Andre's profile](#)

## GAP UPDATE

**From 1 July - 31 November 2024, 117 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 to a happy home.

