

NEWS HOUNDS



Greyhound Adoption Program QLD Newsletter April 2025

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.

APRIL IS NATIONAL GREYHOUND ADOPTION MONTH 🐾

April marks National Greyhound Adoption Month, a celebration of all things greyhound. This breed is truly unique, as greyhound owners will readily attest. They are sometimes graceful, sometimes athletic, sometimes funny, but most of the time snoozy. They keep us all entertained with their quirkiness, and their zoomies.

If you are thinking of adopting a GAP greyhound, April is your month! **With every adoption in April**, you will receive a greyhound starter kit. This includes a lead, collar, fluffy toy, car harness and first aid kit.

To find your new fast friend, head on over to our [website](#).

HELPFUL GREYHOUND CARE TIPS 📄

Keeping your greyhound healthy this winter



Greyhounds have thin skin and very little body fat making them more susceptible to cold weather. Therefore, their body often has to 'work harder' to keep warm and ensure their vital organs remain at a constant temperature. This means more energy is often required during the winter months and their diet may need to be adjusted. Additionally, your greyhound is more at risk of injury when cold.

What can you do to help?

- Ensure your greyhound is kept warm when the weather gets cold.
- If sleeping outside: provide a raised bed that is not on the cold ground, appropriate shelter that is free from leaks and draughts.
- Provide your greyhound with a warm coat or jacket, especially in the evenings and overnight. If your greyhound isn't used to wearing a jacket, we would recommend starting with a simple coat that just slips over their head and ties around their waist. This is also helpful for greyhounds that don't enjoy having their feet or legs touched. Give lots of treats and make it a positive experience for them.
- Monitor your greyhound's weight, body condition and skin/coat health.

If you notice a decline in any of the above, you may need to increase your greyhound's daily food intake. This may sometimes still occur even if you are keeping your greyhound warm.

NEWS FROM THE GAP TEAM

A day in the life of a Kennel Attendant



We thought we might give you a little insight into our daily routine with the greyhounds as we help prepare them for their adoption homes.

Our day starts early with some of the crew starting at 7am. First up, the dogs are taken for a short walk to get out of the kennels. They are then put into outside yards and fed their breakfast so the real fun can commence.

The kennels are then cleaned and towel-dried for our Greyhounds to come back into and have a nice rest after so much yummy breakfast and exercise.



Once we've had our break it's time for the actual most fun part of the day and that's when we get to interact with the greyhounds. There are a few activities we do with them, such as long walks, a visit to the Learning Space to get some confidence or a walk in the Sensory Garden where they can try the dreaded stairs. We choose a different activity every day to keep them interested.

Once all the dogs have had their exercise for the day it's time for our afternoon tea. After that the rest of the afternoon is spent getting their evening meals ready and then taking them for one last walk.



GAP Churchable is currently looking for casual Kennel Attendants. We are located [West of Ipswich in the Lockyer Valley](#). The GAP team are currently undertaking a recruitment drive so if you would like to join our team as a casual kennel attendant more information can be found [here](#).

GREYHOUND BEHAVIOUR 🏆

Sleep Startle

What is sleep startle?

Greyhounds have a great ability to decompress, and this involves a very deep sleep cycle. Most dogs don't like to be woken up and this is especially true for greyhounds. Making simple changes can help ensure you or others in your household don't wake a sleeping greyhound but rather "let sleeping dogs lie".

Waking up suddenly will take a greyhound by surprise and may lead to a short burst of energy or aggression – it's an instinctive reaction. It's also likely that you've startled or surprised them. It doesn't mean that your greyhound is aggressive, just that they were caught off guard.

Greyhounds have a great trick of sleeping with their eyes open, so don't assume that if their eyes are open that they are awake.



How can I manage sleep startle?

- Give your greyhound a quiet zone. A crate is a great option for a greyhound for sleeping and down time. Always respect the greyhound's sleeping area.
- Encourage your greyhound to sleep in its own bed/sleeping area or crate. Don't allow your greyhound to sleep on couches or human beds.
- Ensure any guests visiting respect your greyhound's 'safe space' and don't disturb them while they are sleeping. If anybody wishes to pat your greyhound, make sure you call them from their bed first.
- Small children should always have adult supervision when around sleeping greyhounds.
- Call your dog's name before approaching them and again when you are 1.5 meters from their bed to help wake them. Wait until your greyhound has acknowledged you before approaching their sleeping area.
- Once awake let your greyhound come to you.

If you are experiencing behavioural issues with your GAP greyhound, please [reach out to the GAP team](#).

MONTHLY FUN FACT 🧐

Greyhounds have a unique blood type that allows them to be universal donors for other dogs.

MONTHLY JOKE 😄

- Q. Why are greyhounds' terrible dancers?
A. Because they have two left feet.

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, making friends and 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



[View Rusty's profile](#) (L) and [view Kona's profile](#) (R)

Meet Kona and Rusty.

These two boys have been in foster care together and have bonded as BFFs. They would love to find a home together and are located in South-East Queensland.

Meet Pebbles.

Pebbles is a very timid girl with a big heart and wants to love you and be loved by her humans.

DOB: 28 November 2022

Colour: White and Black

Location: North Queensland

- Children over 6yrs
- Suitable with polite dogs
- Can live in an apartment



[View Pebbles' profile](#)

GAP UPDATES 🐾

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.



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.

