

## The timid or fearful greyhound

Your greyhound will be comfortable in their kennel environment, racetrack and exercise yard but may shut down if they are in an unfamiliar place or routine.

Getting them out and about around new places, new people and a lot of reassurance can help build their confidence.

We can organise for your greyhound to spend a day out at GAP walking with other dogs and spending time with GAP staff to have them out of their usual routine (they must be up to date with their vaccinations).

This may assist in their successful transition to retirement.



## Does your greyhound resource guard?

This could be toys, food, people or bedding. These can all be high value items to greyhounds. As part of the assessment process, we introduce greyhounds in our care to a range of toys.

If they do show signs of resource guarding, we trade a treat like a piece of cheese or kabana for the toy. Food is often more valuable to the greyhound than the toy.



Once the toy is removed and the piece of food you are offering is in place, praise your dog with “good boy/girl, yes good job”.

Implementing these things with your greyhound while they are waiting to enter the program makes it easier for GAP staff to work with them and can make the progress through the program a lot faster to finding their retirement home.

## Teaching your greyhound “wait”

The word “wait” is taught to the greyhounds in GAP’s care.

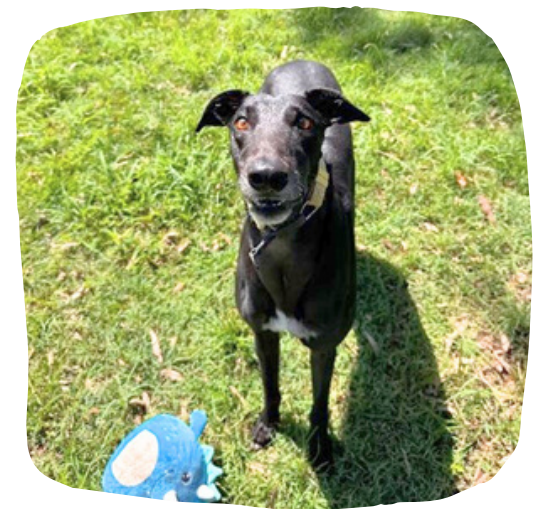
We don’t open the kennel door until all 4 paws are on the ground and the greyhound is showing calm behaviour.

Having your greyhound understand this term is a huge benefit to them when being considered for a retirement home.

Teaching them this simple command means your greyhound is easier to handle.

A dog that doesn’t jump up and shows calm behaviour can possibly be placed in a family home with younger children.

The best place to start learning “wait” is with you.



## Helping your greyhound feel safe at mealtimes

Food is important to both animals and people. When your greyhound is assessed for a green collar, we observe how they behave around food, toys, and people.

As your greyhound adjusts to pet life, they might eat on the patio or in the kitchen, where people walk by and other pets may be nearby.

To help your greyhound feel safe while eating:

- Walk calmly around them.
- Speak softly and gently to reassure them.
- Gradually get them used to people being near during mealtimes.
- If comfortable, you can gently stroke their back or pat them while they eat.

If your greyhound shows any resource guarding behaviour (protecting food or toys), please let GAP know during their green collar assessment. This helps us support you and your dog better.



## Walking out in the big wide world



Going to new places or walks around your neighbourhood can assist your greyhound in getting them used to things they would not normally see.

Your greyhound will also see other people, dogs, children, cars, trucks, buses and many other things they may not have encountered yet.

The more your greyhound is exposed to, the more confident and comfortable he or she will be. This will assist them in a successful transition to retirement.

Most adoptive families love to walk their greyhound along the beach, so if you haven't done this before and have the time, give it a go. Just remember your dog must be on a lead and always muzzled.



## Tips for getting your greyhound ready for the GAP Participant Rehoming Program



**GREYHOUND**  
ADOPTION PROGRAM QLD