

Signs of good oral health:

- Pink gums with no signs of redness/swelling
- No bad breath
- White teeth with minimal or no tartar accumulation
- Moist gums
- Lips and jowls equal, with no evidence of thickening/swelling

HOW TO PREVENT DENTAL DISEASE

Most greyhounds will need some form of dental treatment throughout their life, but the below steps can help reduce the severity of the dental disease and frequency of treatment:

- Yearly dental checkups with your local vet
- Daily brushing of your greyhounds' teeth
- Feed your greyhound a high-quality kibble
- Daily oral rinses and gels that are greyhound-friendly
- A variety of treats, chews and toys



Osteoarthritis in greyhounds

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease. It's a progressive inflammation caused by the breakdown of joint cartilage which usually acts as a cushion, allowing the joint to move through its natural range of motion. Osteoarthritis can develop in younger greyhounds due to their athletic history prior to retirement.

To minimise the risk of osteoarthritis, ensure your greyhound has regular veterinary checkups (especially as they age), maintain an active lifestyle and healthy weight, and have appropriate nutrition.

Early identification is key to ensure appropriate management is initiated to help keep your greyhound active and maintain a good quality of life.

COMMON SIGNS OF OSTEOARTHRITIS:

- Stiffness, lameness/limping, difficulty getting up particularly on cooler days
- Lethargy
- Reluctance to run, jump, use stairs or play
- Weight gain
- Irritability or changes in behaviour
- Pain when petted or touched
- Unusual licking or chewing over certain areas
- Difficulty posturing to toilet or having accidents
- Loss of muscle mass over limbs or spine
- Know your dog's normal, so you notice the abnormal!



Always consult your local vet if you think your greyhound may be showing signs of arthritis or you aren't sure. There are many treatment options available, and the vet will help tailor a program specifically for your greyhound.



Greyhounds and winter

Greyhounds are more susceptible to the cold due to their thin skin and low body fat, which means their bodies have to work harder during winter to stay warm and keep their vital organs at a stable temperature. As a result, they burn more energy and may require dietary adjustments to maintain their health and wellbeing throughout the colder months. It's important to regularly monitor your greyhound's weight, body condition, and the health of their skin and coat so you can make any necessary changes to their diet and ensure they stay happy and healthy all winter long.

Winter health tips

If you notice a decline in your greyhound's weight, body condition or skin/coat health, they may need their daily food intake increased. If you're not sure or concerned, chat to your local vet.

- It is vital to ensure your greyhound stays warm throughout the cooler months.
- If sleeping outside: provide a raised bed off the cold floor, blankets and appropriate shelter free from leaks and wind.
- Use coats and jumpers, especially during the evenings/overnight (start with a simple coat for new/nervous greyhounds).
- Your greyhound is at an increased risk of injury when cold
- Signs of osteoarthritis are often more prevalent during cooler weather.
- If it's cold enough for you to wear a jumper, it's usually cold enough for your greyhound to be in one too.



What should be in my greyhound first aid kit?

Putting together a greyhound First Aid Kit is essential for all greyhound owners. Accidents and minor health issues can happen at any time, and having the right supplies on hand can make a big difference in providing immediate care before seeking veterinary attention.

Cohesive bandage	Thermal blanket
Soffban	Chux/hand towel
Adhesive tape	Emergency Vet contact details
Non-adherent dressing	Handheld pet clippers
Gauze swabs	Thermometer
Saline	Betadine
Sterile lube	Scissors
Gloves	
Tick tweezers	



Regularly checking and updating your kit ensures you're always ready to handle unexpected situations and keep your greyhound safe and comfortable.



WINTER HEALTH CARE

Dental Disease

Dental disease is the most common health issue in greyhounds. They are prone to periodontitis, with at least 40% of greyhounds reported to have some form of dental disease throughout their life. It is vital to implement a routine dental care plan to ensure the health and welfare of your greyhound. Poor dental health has been linked to other systemic issues including heart, liver and kidney disease.

Signs of poor oral health:

- Tooth discolouration
- Lack of appetite/not wanting to drink
- Appearance of tartar/plaque
- Reluctance to play with toys
- Bad breath
- Dropping food from mouth
- Red/swollen gums
- Pawing/rubbing face regularly
- Tooth wear/fractures
- Swelling under the eye
- Sores, ulcers or blood in mouth
- Excessive drooling

