

## Greyhound Pets of America-Wisconsin

PO Box 2115  
Madison, WI 53701-2115

(414) 299-9473 Milwaukee Area or General Voice Mail  
(608) 223-9227 Madison Area  
(507) 895-3578 LaCrosse Area

[www.gpawisconsin.org](http://www.gpawisconsin.org)



Dear Potential Greyhound Adopter:

Thanks for your interest in our adoptable greyhounds!  
Enclosed is an adoption application along with some general information about greyhounds as pets.

After your reading and consideration of the material, the next step in our adoption process is to complete the written application. Please return the completed application to the address listed on the back of the application. Once we receive your application, an adoption representative from GPA will then call you to obtain additional information and to set up an appointment for you to see one or two greyhounds in your own home, as well as for us to help ascertain what greyhounds we have available might be good candidate dogs for your adoption... and hopefully a little "greyhound magic" will occur.

If we mutually agree on an adoption, GPA-Wisconsin views Greyhound ownership as a serious commitment for the lifetime of the animal. We truly believe that if you will follow the advice in written resources and call us early and often to discuss any problems, you will decrease the chances of an unsuccessful adoption and a return of the Greyhound to us to almost zero. The return of a Greyhound is a "no win" situation for everyone involved – it is an emotional wrench for the adopter, it requires GPA-Wisconsin to find a foster home for the dog (thus displacing another Greyhound which could have been brought from the track), and it is difficult for the Greyhound, who must make yet another transition into a new home. We recognize that some returns are unavoidable, but we believe that many returns can be prevented with a healthy mixture of adherence to the guidelines provided by GPA-Wisconsin, and your commitment, patience, and love. We can assure you that your time and effort in working with your new Greyhound will be repaid many times over by his unconditional love and affection!

The adoption fee of \$200 includes spaying/neutering, deworming, dental, vaccinations, heartworm testing, a new "greyhound-safe" collar and leash, a new ID tag, and the support network of GPA-Wisconsin for the life of the adopted greyhound.

Thanks again for your interest in these kind and gentle dogs. We look forward to talking to you soon.

Sincerely,

GPA-Wisconsin

## **Think You're Ready for a Dog? Take This Test and Find Out!**

Dog ownership is very rewarding. You receive unconditional love and a friend that is happy simply being with you, hanging on every word you say. But it is also a big commitment, an expense and a lot of work. Many people rush out and buy the adorable puppy in the pet store window only to discover a few months later that owning a dog isn't what they had anticipated! If you're seriously considering adopting an ex-racing greyhound, giving yourself a 2-week test can help you make the decision that's in the best interest of you, your family and the greyhound.

- ♥ Begin by finding your neighborhood dog park or dog walking areas. Pick one and go there at the same times every morning and evening, just as you would if you had a dog. That's every day, rain or shine, blizzard or heat wave, weekends too.
- ♥ Use your 1 to 2 hours of daily park time for research. Introduce yourself to other dog owners and let them know what you're doing. Ask them about what it's like to own a dog—ask for positives and negatives.
- ♥ Visit a few pet supply stores to find out what you can expect to spend on a crate, feed bowls, leash, collar, chew toys and dog beds. Also research how much high quality dry kibble costs. Will the monthly food bill be a burden?
- ♥ Visit a veterinarian and find out about basic health care costs, including annual vaccinations, heartworm tests and medication, flea control. Ask how much emergency vet visits can cost. Inquire about pet health insurance.
- ♥ Obedience training is a great idea so you learn to control your dog. Ask a few dog owners for recommendations and then call and talk to a few trainers. Sit in on a class or two. Many local kennel clubs offer very low-cost training.
- ♥ If you're considering buying a dog "for the kids", please be realistic. Regardless of all the pleading and promises, the reality is that you will end up doing the bulk of the dog walking, feeding, care and training.
- ♥ Even the most conscientious child probably won't be able to restrain an adult dog that decides to bolt or is attacked. In-home and backyard play will need to be supervised at all times by an adult. Children tend to get bitten when play gets rambunctious, and most kids who are bitten are wounded by their own dogs, or those belonging to friends or neighbors. Too many people mistakenly believe that they'll train their dog to accept abuse from children. Children must learn when to leave the dog alone. No dog deserves to be teased, mistreated or abused.
- ♥ Leash laws mean that your dog is not allowed to wander off lead. **EX-RACING GREYHOUNDS CANNOT BE EXERCISED OFF-LEAD UNLESS IN A SAFELY FENCED AREA.** You should scout your neighborhood for suitable exercising areas, such as fully fenced ball diamonds, or ask friends and neighbors if you can borrow their yard.
- ♥ Buy and read a good, practical dog owner's guide such as *Good Owners, Great Dogs* by Brian Kilcommons. Also do research on greyhounds—read Cynthia Brannigan's book, *Adopting the Racing Greyhound*.

Toward the end of your 2-week test period, you'll have a better idea of what dog ownership entails and whether or not you're ready for it. The activities outlined take time, patience and money. So does successful and responsible dog ownership. If it's all too much hassle, then re-consider why you want a dog.

## **Is a Greyhound in Your Future?**

### ***Why am I interested in adopting a Greyhound?***

Is it for myself, for the kids or to replace a deceased canine cherished by the whole family? It is important to be sure not only that your reasons are sound and not motivated by whimsy or impulse, but that your expectations of Greyhound ownership are reasonable. For instance, if you expect that getting a dog will teach your children responsibility; that's a parent's job. Ask yourself why you are interested in Greyhounds specifically. Make a list of the pros and cons of owning an ex-racer. Although they make fine pets, they are not for everyone.

### ***Does everyone in the family really want a Greyhound?***

Invariably, despite good intentions and promises to the contrary, at least 75% of a dog's care tends to fall on the domestic leader of the household. More often than not, that's the woman of the house. To pick up the remaining 25% of the responsibilities, it's important that all other members of the family really want the dog and are willing to pitch in. A dog that starts off being unwanted or resented by even one member of the family can hardly expect to live a happy life.

### ***Will a Greyhound fit my family's lifestyle?***

Do you maintain a regular schedule? After all, dogs are creatures of habit. Would you rather go directly home at the end of the day to walk the dog, or get together with friends for a beer or a game of tennis? Will anyone be home during the day with the Greyhound, especially if you are gone very long hours? If no one is home, do you have a friend or neighbor who can come in during the day to walk the dog? Do you truly have enough free time and energy to put into necessary care, training and companionship of a Greyhound? Greyhounds are happiest in environments where they can be with their owners as much as possible.

### ***Can my fastidious nature tolerate having a dog in the house?***

If you're someone who keeps an immaculate home, be prepared for a big change in your outlook, or rethink the whole idea, because Greyhounds absolutely cannot be kept in an outdoor kennel. Greyhounds are clean dogs by nature, but they are still dogs, capable of dragging in mud, or having an accident on your Oriental rug.

### ***Am I prepared for the expense of Greyhound ownership?***

Food, licenses, obedience classes, routine veterinary costs and emergency vet visits can quickly put the financial feasibility of dog ownership out of the question for many.

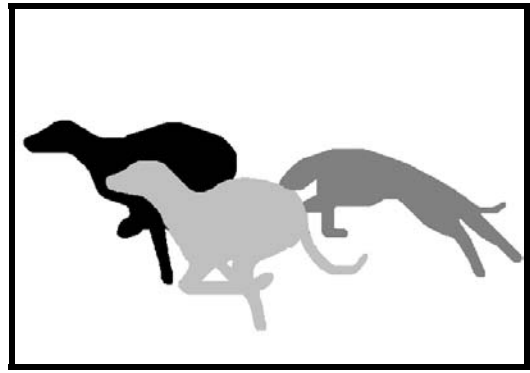
### ***Do I accept all the responsibilities that come with being a good dog owner?***

This includes licensing requirements, local laws, the etiquette of being a good neighbor ("stoop and scoop to get rid of poop"), the willingness to provide proper nutrition, grooming, vet care, etc. Owning an ex-racing Greyhound means agreeing to *never* allow the dog to run free unless in a safely fenced area. If you can't adhere to this requirement, then a Greyhound is not for you.

### ***Am I prepared to do the research?***

A basic reading requirement for those seriously interested in an ex-racing Greyhound is Cynthia Brannigan's *ADOPTING THE RACING GREYHOUND*. You should also visit a Greyhound to get a better idea of what they are all about. GPA-Wisconsin is available to answer your questions and help you decide whether a Greyhound is in your future.

# Adopting a Greyhound!



## ***How much does it cost and what do I get?***

Bringing any animal into your home and family is a financial commitment for the lifetime of the animal. The initial adoption donation is just the beginning, but it is reasonable to ask what services are included in the adoption donation.

When you adopt a greyhound from Greyhound Pets of American-Wisconsin, the \$200 adoption fee includes:

- ✧ **Spaying or neutering**
- ✧ **Deworming if required**
- ✧ **All vaccinations including rabies vaccine**
- ✧ **Dental cleaning**
- ✧ **A new “greyhound-safe” collar with matching leash**
- ✧ **An I.D. tag**
- ✧ **A lifetime of advice and support from GPA-Wisconsin**
- ✧ **Guarantees to take the dog back anytime during the life of the dog should it be required**

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**GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA-WISCONSIN**

*Make a fast friend... adopt a greyhound!*

[www.gpawisconsin.org](http://www.gpawisconsin.org)

**In Milwaukee: 414-299-9473**

**In Madison: 608-223-9227**

Greyhound Pets of America - Wisconsin  
Pet Greyhound Adoption Application

Name(s) of Applicant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Best Time to Call: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA wants both the greyhound and the pet owner to be happy. It is our goal to make the best possible match between dog and prospective adopter. The answers you provide on this application will help us find a greyhound best suited to your particular home.

1. How did you hear about our organization? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you want to own a pet greyhound? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you currently own any dogs? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please give age(s): \_\_\_\_\_, breed(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
gender(s): \_\_\_\_\_. Have these dogs been spayed/neutered? \_\_\_\_\_.  
If not, why not? \_\_\_\_\_.  
When were the pets in your home last vaccinated? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have any other pets in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the name and phone number of your current veterinarian? \_\_\_\_\_

6. How many people live in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ What are the ages of any children in your household? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Is someone home throughout the day? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, what is longest period the dog would be home alone? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Do you own your own home? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What type of home? Single family \_\_\_\_\_; Two family \_\_\_\_\_; Condo \_\_\_\_\_; Apartment \_\_\_\_\_.  
If in a condo or apartment, are you allowed to have a dog? \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide the name  
and phone number of your landlord or condo association president.  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you have a fenced-in yard? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, is there a fenced-in area nearby where you can exercise your dog several times a week? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Are you willing and able to take your pet greyhound outside at least four times a day for necessary function? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you intend to do any of the following with your pet greyhound? Jog? \_\_\_\_\_ Rollerblade? \_\_\_\_\_  
Hike or camp? \_\_\_\_\_ Lure course? \_\_\_\_\_ Obedience class? \_\_\_\_\_ Other? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you have any preference as to gender or age of your pet greyhound? If yes, what and why:  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you have any concerns or questions at this time? \_\_\_\_\_

over please....

**CONDITIONS OF ADOPTION**

We at Greyhound Pets of America feel that Greyhounds are very special dogs. For this reason, prospective adopters must agree to, and abide by the following **Conditions of Adoption**. Your initials in the spaces provided signify your understanding and acceptance of these terms.

1. I will keep my greyhound exclusively as a pet. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
2. I understand that I will be unable to breed my Greyhound and that GPA Greyhounds must be spayed/neutered. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
3. I will keep an I.D. tag and collar on my greyhound at all times. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
4. I will never tie my Greyhound outside to a "runner" or other stationary object. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
5. I will never allow my Greyhound to run free at will. I understand that Greyhounds can only be exercised in a fenced-in area, or be under my control at all times (i.e. wearing a collar and leash). INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
6. I will never use my Greyhound for the hunting of live game. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
7. I will immediately notify GPA if my greyhound is ever lost or stolen. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
8. I will provide GPA will a yearly update on my greyhound. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
9. I understand that adoptions are not transferable, except through GPA. If I am unable to keep my Greyhound I will notify GPA immediately so that another home may be found. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_
10. I will never give my Greyhound away or place him in a pound, shelter or humane society. If I should have to give up my greyhound I will return him only to Greyhound Pets of America. INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the information given in this Pet Greyhound Adoption Application is true and correct. I agree to fully abide by the **Conditions of Adoption** stated above. Upon adoption, I accept and acknowledge full responsibility for the care and welfare of my Greyhound, releasing the Greyhound's previous owner and Greyhound Pets of America and its representatives from any future liability concerning this greyhound. GPA reserves the right to repossess any Greyhound at any time in the event of mistreatment or for the violation of the above **Conditions of Adoption** at the adopter's expense; which may include any legal fees.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the names and phone numbers of two references that have known you for at least two years.  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

GREYHOUND PETS OF AMERICA IS A REGISTERED 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. Donations are tax-deductible (EIN # 39-1886802)

Have you had contact with anyone from GPA-Wisconsin? Y/N If yes, please tell us who so that person can continue to be involved in your adoption. \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL YOUR APPLICATION TO THE VOLUNTEER NEAREST YOU:**



Western Wisconsin & Eastern Minnesota

GPA-Wisconsin  
c/o Sheryl Clouse  
525 August Hills Drive  
LaCrescent, MN 55947

Central Wisconsin:

GPA-Wisconsin  
c/o Rich McVicar & Laurel Losenegger  
1713 Violet Pl  
Middleton, WI 53562-3264

Eastern Wisconsin & Northern Illinois:

GPA-Wisconsin  
c/o Tonia Powers  
W182 N8284 Georgetown Drive  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Or Fax to: 262-253-1320

*We service the entire State of Wisconsin and surrounding areas. If you are uncertain where to send your application, please choose the volunteer nearest your location. We will make sure it gets to the appropriate person for processing.*