



### Greyhound Health, Welfare & Safety

The American Greyhound Council was formed in 1987 by breeders and track operators to fund and manage a variety of greyhound welfare programs, including:

- Grants to adoption groups to assist in placing greyhounds in adoptive homes;
- Transport of greyhounds transitioning into adoption programs;
- Adoption training, educational conferences and event sponsorships;
- Regular inspection of farms and kennels to ensure proper greyhound care;
- Publication of educational textbooks and videos on greyhound care;
- Participation in veterinary and track safety symposia;
- Funding of clinical research to benefit greyhound and canine health;
- Maintenance of on-line database of international scientific research on greyhound health topics.

### Greyhound Adoption: A Success Story

Greyhounds make wonderful pets because they're so comfortable around humans.. Socialization is an important part of their early training, and continues when the dogs move from the farm to the track, where they interact daily with trainers, lead-outs, veterinarians, visitors and adoption volunteers.

Nearly 95 percent of all racing greyhounds are adopted or returned to the farm as pets or breeders when they retire. Combined with the dramatic reduction in breedings over the past few years, the goal of 100 percent placement of all adoptable greyhounds is well within reach.

If you're interested in adopting a greyhound, please contact your local track or the American Greyhound Council, 1-785-263-4660, [www.agcouncil.com/adoption-programs](http://www.agcouncil.com/adoption-programs).



[www.agcouncil.com](http://www.agcouncil.com)

# Everything You Need to Know About Racing Greyhounds





# The Real Facts About Greyhounds

## Great Care Means Great Greyhounds

Greyhounds are among the healthiest and best-cared-for dogs in the world. It's just common sense that greyhounds need great care in order to perform at their best. Anything else would defeat the purpose of owning and racing these amazing dogs.

Greyhounds are fed a highly nutritious diet of meat, vegetables and cereal. The meat used in greyhound feed is also used in most commercial pet foods. While it's unsuitable for human consumption, it's perfectly healthy for dogs.

Greyhounds are exercised 3-4 times daily. When they're not running, which consumes huge amounts of energy, they love to sleep. That's why retired greyhounds are often referred to as "45 mile per hour couch potatoes."

When greyhounds return to their crates to rest after a race, they have plenty of space to stand, sit, turn around and lie down in comfortable bedding. Kennels are often darkened to help greyhounds rest and relax.

## The Facts About Greyhound Injuries

Despite the claims we often hear from racing opponents, the fact is that the vast majority of greyhounds reach retirement without suffering serious injuries.

Academic studies on racing injuries in the U.S. show a range of 1.0 to 2.66 injuries per 1,000 greyhounds starts, with almost all of those injuries being treatable, according to the veterinary textbook, "Care of the Racing and Retired Greyhound." That's about one quarter of one percent.

In practical terms, that means that the vast majority of injuries in greyhound racing are minor enough to allow greyhounds to return to racing within a few weeks.

Even in the rare cases where an injury prevents a return to racing, greyhounds transition smoothly to retirement as adopted pets.

## Greyhounds: Born to Chase

Since the time of the Bible, greyhounds have been admired for their speed, grace and sleek elegance. Pharaohs of Egypt and crowned heads of Europe, including Queen Victoria, kept greyhounds as a privilege of their royal status.

The racing of greyhounds actually has its origins in rural communities, where neighboring farmers would gather informally to watch their greyhounds chase rabbits.

Today, greyhounds don't chase rabbits, but mechanical lures. In fact, both industry rules and state laws prohibit the use of live lures in training and racing.

When greyhounds are trained to prepare for racing, the only thing they really need to learn is how to follow the oval shape of the track as they chase the mechanical lure. They don't need to be trained to chase; they do it entirely by instinct.