

NIGHTRAVE GREYHOUNDS

www.nightrave.co.nz

Fatima Avdic & Rachel Rae

Feilding, Manawatu

021 472 243



Notes for New Greyhound Owners

General routine:

Set up your crate/dog bed in a quiet corner of the room/area where you spend most of your time. Your greyhound needs a soft bed such as a folded duvet or minky, cot mattress or similar. Do not allow your new dog to freely roam all over the house unsupervised. Confine him in one or two rooms for the first week or so. This minimizes stress on the dog and lowers the chances of toilet accidents.

Your dog is house trained, but will require guidance in his new home. He is unlikely to bark or whine to go out. Watch for pacing behavior. Also put your dog outside before and after meals, and when he gets up in the morning or after a nap.

Never bother the dog on his bed. Everyone needs a place to be undisturbed and your dog is no exception. If the dog is sleeping on his bed, he must not be patted, hugged etc. This is a sure way to stress the dog and lead to an incident where he growls at a family member.

If you want to give him affection, sit on the couch and call him, and when he comes to you, you can give him as much affection and cuddles as you wish etc. Do not EVER feel sorry for him PLEASE, no matter what the situation, no matter how stressed /scared/upset he might be – dogs do not understand that emotion, they see it as your weakness, which stresses them even more (as you are their sole provider and they understandably get stressed if they think you are weak). So do not fuss, do not worry, and do not feel sorry for him. Just be calm and appear happy to the dog.

It is good for greyhounds to have more than one bed – perhaps one outside, and one in the hall or a bedroom as well as one in the lounge. You don't need to buy expensive beds from pet shops - an old folded duvet will do.

Please google "Greyhound smile" (to see what grinning greyhounds look like). Greyhound grin looks very much like a snarl! So if you have kids, do show them the pictures. Also, many greyhounds sleep grinning, with all their teeth on display. Many greyhounds also sleep with their eyes open. Do not assume your dog is awake and use this as an excuse to go and bother him. You know the old saying "Let sleeping dogs lie" – it is very true. Don't bother him in his bed and teach your kids they must never do so.

Bedding

Your greyhounds NEEDS a soft bed. He will like a couch or your bed, but you don't need to let him on the furniture. But you MUST provide a comfortable alternative, whether in a crate or a quiet corner.

Don't place a thin blanket on the floor and then growl him when he gets on the couch. Would YOU like to sit on a thin blanket on the floor and watch the rest of your family sit in comfort? I don't think so.

If he's not allowed on the furniture, get him a nice dog bed. You don't have to spend a fortune. Great, budget choices exist in K-mart, Crackerjack, the Warehouse, and many Emporium and Uncle Bill's type stores, plus online using things like Wish, 1-day etc. Foam cot mattresses are also excellent choices.

Your greyhound's bed should be minimum 90cm long, 1m if he's big, and 70cm wide. If you are purchasing a crate for your greyhound, the budget options on TradeMe are perfectly acceptable. The best size is the XXXL, which is 122cm long. Smaller greyhounds will also be comfortable in the XXL, which is 106cm long. (Look for these lengths when choosing a crate – they are relatively standard sizes). Choose a metal crate rather than fabric – some greyhounds will paw your fabric crate and rip a hole in it in minutes. If you don't like the look of a metal crate, remember you can drape a blanket or throw over it so it looks just how you want it to – your greyhound will like this.

Unless we have advised you otherwise due to the needs of a particular dog, your new greyhound MUST be provided a crate to begin with. This will reduce stress for you and for the dog. Talk to us about where to get a crate – if you are local to one of our kennel bases we may be able to loan you one. If you have cats, other dogs, or children under ten the best advice we can give you is to purchase your own crate.

As well as the bed/mattress, your dog will need blankets and duvets for snuggling, and so you can make other beds for him around the house. Mink blankets are great – a queen size folded in four is enough for a bed if you have thick carpet, or as an alternative to the couch, if he's allowed on furniture. Op shops usually have a good range of minkys and duvets so you don't have to spend a fortune.

Food notes:

A greyhound is a BIG DOG. He needs his meal in a suitably sized bowl. The bowl you choose for his water should be approx. 2 litres or bigger. The bowl you choose for his food should be nearly the same size. Many bowls on the market are 1.75 – 1.9 litres in size, these are fine. PLEASE don't feed your dog from a tiny bowl.

- Choose a high-protein kibble; greyhounds do not do well on cereal-based diets - they are similar to cats when it comes to nutrition. Make sure that the protein content of the kibble is above 25%, ie. not cereal-based. Good foods are:
 - PURINA PRO PLAN SHREDDDED BLEND dog food (many greyhounds do GREAT on this)
 - You can buy “Working Dog” brands of many popular dogfoods via Farmlands/FarmSource. These are usually very suitable.
 - Particularly Coprice Working Dog, which is the main kibble we use here. This is a cost-effective, quality food which suits most greyhounds well.
 - Greyhounds often don’t have good teeth so sourcing a Dental Diet from your vet, animates or pet.co.nz and feeding it half-and-half with a more budget option is a great idea
- Nutrience – we recommend “Original Medium Breed”
 Orijen and Acana are expensive brands but wonderful foods.
 Most greyhounds do well on a raw diet should you wish to go this way. If you wish for help with this we can refer you to an excellent Facebook group.

Greyhounds must be fed 2 smaller meals a day, not one large one. They have a small stomach, and feeding one large meal could cause gastro problems.

- When you are feeding kibble or biscuits, add something moist and tasty. Greyhounds with their narrow noses are inclined to bolt dry kibble and may vomit. Many dogs refuse dry kibble completely (you probably wouldn’t want to eat dry cornflakes!). You put kibble in the bowl and then mix it well with the topping. Some suggestions for topping:
 - a handful of pet-mince (or people mince) mixed with half cup warm water, to form a 'gravy'. You can buy fresh Jimbos pet mince in your petfood chiller, or cheaper frozen petmince, usually in the frozen fish freezer.
 - a handful of K9 Natural (<http://www.k9natural.com/>) frozen meat pellets, mixed with ½ cup of warm water
 - a small can of tuna/sardines/salmon in spring water, mashed
 - a sachet of dogfood or catfood (economical and easy cleanup)
 - one egg mixed with a little milk (not every day)
 - pet milk/lactose free milk/goats milk/goats milk baby formula/organic raw whole milk (NEVER feed trim milk to your pets!) - about a quarter cup
 - acidophilus or natural/organic yoghurt (never use yoghurt, or any product, with artificial sweetener in for your pets)
 - chopped dog roll (choose a brand without garlic or your dog may pong!) mixed with some water (chop very small or the dog may pick out the dog roll and leave the kibble!)

Greyhounds thrive on:

-chicken necks and chicken carcasses. Chicken carcasses are sold in "Mad Butcher" as 'soup bones', and also they are sold in New World and Countdown, but not as well priced as at Mad Butcher (in supermarkets you also sometimes you have to ask for them as they

dont always put them out). Basically - it is a skeleton of a chicken which is left after filleting. We often feed one chicken carcass as a meal itself.

-Chicken necks are great - but do not feed only that as a meal, they are very fatty. 2-3 chicken necks as a treat or side dish a day is more than enough. Chicken necks also have sinew and cartilage which has natural anti-inflammatory properties, and it is GREAT to feed them to older dogs and cats.

- We use POSSYUM ROLL as treats - you simply take a small slice and chop it up in small pieces and use to that to treat the dog. This is a much healthier and more cost effective choice than the treats from your supermarket aisle.

This roll is made in NZ and has few cereal additives. It is called POSSYUM and it is stocked in FARMLANDS, some vets, some Countdowns and most New Worlds. The link is here:

http://www.superiorchunky.co.nz/possyum_pet_food.php

- Often, we buy chicken nibbles when they are on special: we feed only 2-3 nibbles as a treat or part of dinner. Chicken legs and chicken wings too. Mad Butcher sells awesome huge turkey wings and turkey legs ☺

-Meaty bones – all kinds but pork. Please do not buy dried bones from Pet Shops, they are full of chemicals.

-Pet Essentials (<http://www.petessentials.co.nz/>) or Raw Essentials have a wonderful range of raw food (like rabbit, alpaca, hare etc) - most greyhounds love raw meat as that is what they are fed when racing.

VITAMINS and SUPPLEMENTS:

These oils are great to support joint health in all dogs:

1. NZ -made vitamin product called MyBeau. It has been developed at Massey and it is truly amazing! It is stocked in ANIMATES stores and most vets have it too.

Here is the link about it:

http://www.mybeau.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=34&Itemid=68

2. Flax seed oil (canine) from www.fourflax.co.nz – also stocked at vets. Check out their homepage for detailed stockists

Walking your dog

Perhaps you have visions of your new greyhound happily gamboling at your local beach, surrounded by thirty other dogs of all shapes and sizes.

And perhaps, when you have had your new greyhound for 12 months or more, that might even be able to be a reality. BUT YOU CANT COUNT ON IT.

Why not? Don't all dogs love dog parks and beaches?

No. They really really don't. If you have children, I'm sure you've noticed that not all kids at daycare, kindy, school get on. Some hate it. Some are quiet and introverted. Some are loud and rambunctious bullies, and although they are having a good time, no-one near them is.

How about at work, or at the gym, or even out with your friends at a club or pub? Do you love everyone you meet every day, and are you really happy with all of them sharing your personal space, leaning over your shoulder and reading your text messages, stalking you on Facebook? You're really not.

Neither is your dog. Especially not your newly-retired, newly-adopted, adult dog, who is dealing with a huge change in his life already. And now you want him to socialize with every canine he sees, whether he feels like company or not, whether they are polite or rude, whether they look like a rabbit, or like a giant furry bear.

A few greyhounds are social enough to want to do this. So are a few border collies, a few terriers, a few toy dogs. Don't blame your dog (of any breed!) for not enjoying the company of every single canine he meets. At least you get to block people on Facebook or choose not to answer your phone. He doesn't get that option!

Never take your new greyhound (or new adult dog of any breed) to a dog beach, dog park, or a walking area where multiple dogs run offlead and will rush up to him. This is something you will work up to, after finding out your dogs socializing preferences (by walking with friends with dogs, perhaps attending some obedience classes or a doggy daycare (with professional qualified staff capable of assessing your dog's needs and placing him and advising you accordingly).

Your new greyhound is probably dog social and you will have been advised on some of his socializing preferences when you adopted him. But we have never subjected him to being rushed by rude, bullying off-lead dogs, nor have we allowed him to play chasey games where he might decide to be the bully himself.

You wouldn't let your child do that. And you wouldn't drop your kid at a huge, busy playpark and "leave them to it". Your dog needs your help just like your child does – maybe even more so.

So where should I walk my greyhound?

To begin with, walk your greyhound around your neighbourhood streets. This helps your greyhound orient to where he lives.

Later on, you might meet up with small groups of your friends and their dogs, and go for quiet walks either on streets or on quiet tracks, or on leash-only tracks.

Another great way to socialize your new dog is to join your local dog club. Greyhounds excel at CGC type training classes and some even take to competitive dog sports if you find you enjoy it. In any case, both you and your dog will make many new friends.

You will soon get a sense of what your new dog likes, socialization-wise. Listen to him!

You can begin socializing him to running in groups by meeting up with a couple of friends with medium/large size POLITE dogs in a FENCED area, and letting them sniff around and maybe play together. Don't have your dog bullied, or allow him to bully.

Don't allow him to run with a small dog until he and the small dog have had multiple interactions on lead, and then loose inside, and then loose in a confined area. Dogs don't know what size they are! Your greyhound is a big, fast dog. He can easily hurt a small dog without ever meaning to. And if a dog gets a fright and starts yipping or squealing, doggy instinct means there is every chance the other dogs present might "pack up" and really scare it or worse, hurt it. (This applies to your greyhound, too, if he gets a fright!)

None of this is specific to greyhounds. All of this is valid for any new, adult dog in your life.

Take it quietly. Don't let your dog "get in over his head". Help him face new situations the same way you would help a child. In this way you set him up for success.

Family structure

A retired racer has had a strong and reliable person whom he could rely on to be in control of his environment all his life (his pack leader) – this person was his trainer. He relies on the presence of this person in his life – actually all dogs of all breeds do. Once a dog goes to his new home – the first thing he will do is look to figure out who the person in charge is. This is because he wants to make sure there is SOMEONE in this new house that can take care of him. IF the dog cannot locate and recognize this person – the dog will get VERY stressed. And stress in dogs, don't forget, manifests itself in different ways than in humans, because they are DOGS (more on this below).

Owners experience issues with their dogs (young and old, greyhounds and other dog breeds) when they have failed to give them clear signals that they are the leader of their pack. This does not mean "being the boss" of the dog. It means being in charge of the environment. The dog (and no doubt the rest of your family!) can rely on you to keep them warm and fed, to be calm in the presence of danger (or what the dog perceives as danger) and to show the dog how to remain safe.

This is the TRUE meaning of "pack leadership".

If the dog can't find the person in charge this leaves the dog with no option, it has to assume responsibility, it has to become a pack leader. It has to ensure the ongoing survival of itself and its pack. And as the dog reluctantly becomes the leader, now in

order for pack structure to work, he will HAVE TO see the other members of the household as lower pack members. This is their basic instinct.

NO DOG wants this - no dog wants to be a pack leader, especially not a greyhound, who has had a great pack leader (his trainer) all its life!!!

Stress in dogs can manifest itself in toileting in the house, growling at people and other dogs, yapping hysterically, digging, destroying furniture, howling, separation anxiety, not coming when called etc.

At the same time, the dog is trying to do the pack leader job: leading the hunt (going off to the distance and not coming back when called), pulling on the lead, stopping randomly when out on walks, refusing to walk on heel, having 'no ears', wanting attention on its terms, jumping on people (including his owners), telling other pack members off (yes, growling at family members) etc. This is WHAT THE PACK LEADER DOES. The dog is only doing the job that he HAS TO DO.

Separation anxiety in dogs is usually stress-related: the dog might have been given too much affection and too much attention on his terms, by humans in the house. So, he is still unsure whether he is expected to be a pack leader or not; so he is freaking out when lower pack members (you, your partner etc) are not home. Why does he think you are lower pack members? Because you give him those messages (loud and clear) and he thinks he has to do the pack leader job.

To make sure this does not happen, this is what you have to do with all dogs (greyhounds and non greyhounds):

1. make sure that you don't go to his bed and give him affection, don't give him treats if he did nothing to 'earn' them, don't pat him and give him affection when he comes to you on his own - ONLY do this when you call him and he comes to you. Same outside etc- don't pat him and cuddle him and try not talking to him or giving him any affection if you don't call him to you first. I know it is hard, as he is so cute, but he needs those messages from you. When you call him, and he comes to you, give him affection -but NEVER when he comes uncalled and demands it. If he comes to you, say, while you are sitting on the couch, and puts his head on your lap, you need to turn your body away from him, not make eye contact and make sure you ignore the dog 100%. He will be VERY happy when you do this, as this will reinforce your pack leadership status in dog's mind and all the stress will go away.

If you give him affection when he wants it, or just unprompted (going to his bed and petting him) just like all dogs, he will get confused with these messages and think he is expected to be in charge of the whole pack. The issue is - most dogs don't want to be in charge, and this freaks them out, they stress. And that stress manifests itself in destruction, toileting inside, barking, digging, separation anxiety etc.

2. When you prepare his meal (and if he is watching you prepare food, as they do), do eat a cracker or a piece of fruit pretending that you are eating from HIS bowl. This is to give

him a message that a pack leader has already eaten from his bowl and he is getting 'leftovers'. If he is not watching you prepare the food, then simply stand in front of him with his bowl in your hand and eat that cracker/fruit so he believes you are eating from the bowl.

3. DO NOT LEAVE a bowl of food for him when you leave home! This further stresses the dog because he is now given control of food, WHILE the lower pack members (you) are out. Pack leader controls the food - and now, you have left, and he is in charge of the food, so in his mind, there is no doubt, he is now expected to be a pack leader! Always remove uneaten food at the end of a meal.

Sometimes you might leave him with a frozen kong or chew (don't leave him with a bone, always supervise when your dog has a bone) – this is a bit different, you have given him a long-lasting food item which he has taken to his bed to devour at his leisure.

4. When you leave him to go out do not go and say goodbye to the dog, cuddle him etc. This would stress the daylight out of any dog. It is important that you realize that to dogs, this behavior by their owners (saying goodbye, petting, cuddling just before you leave) means that you are SCARED to go out, and by petting them, you are asking them to protect you from the world out there. But of course, they can't - they are locked in the back yard. So then they start stressing: barking, jumping, destroying anything they can get to, digging, howling, peeing inside (if they have access to it) etc. So -when you leave, do not acknowledge the dog in any way. Do not make eye contact, Do not talk to him. Do not pet him. Act like he does not exist. He will be very happy when you do this - as the pack leader acts this way. Dog won't stress :) If you must say goodbye to the dog for yourself, do so ten minutes before you leave. When you do leave the house, do so quietly and with the minimum of fuss concerning the dog.

5. Even more important; when you come back from being away DO NOT greet the dog! Do not pet it, do not cuddle it, do not look at it. If the dog comes to greet you and is wagging and jumping around you, wanting to say hello -you need to IGNORE him like he does not exist, walk around him, make no eye contact. Unlock the door, do not look at the dog, get sorted, and once the dog is lying on his bed, or has gone off outside etc, call him to you in a very excited voice! When he comes to you -THEN you give him affection, kisses cuddles etc. The message for a dog is crystal clear: he does not have to worry about you anymore -you are acting like a pack leader.

6. He can be on your bed, that is fine. Just make sure you invite him up. Your bed is a pack leader den - you don't want to stress the dog further by giving him exclusive access to pack leader den. Remember - this will stress him. IF you invite him up -that is fine :)

7. Read the book we recommend to all dog owners, "The Dog Listener " by Jan Fennel. It explains all this in detail, in simple terms. It is not a thick book and is easy reading. Even we (who are dog trainers) often still refer to parts of it. Here are the details and our writeup about the book:

<http://greyhoundsnz.blogspot.co.nz/2010/12/amichien-bonding.html>

Children notes:

- Children love to hug dogs. They should be taught not to. EVER.
- Dogs and young children should not be left alone together. Even the most tolerant dog cannot stand up to badgering. Kids are kids and dogs are dogs and that's why there are crates/ or safe spaces for dog to go to, where children DO NOT go. Dog's bed is one of such places. When you are busy or need an hour or so do something, you need a place to put the dog when you just can't handle one more thing. No matter how busy your household is, it is your job to ensure the welfare of the dog and make sure children DO NOT go to the dog's safe space and interact with the dog while you are busy elsewhere in the house.
- If you cannot teach your children to respect this, or they cannot be trusted to remember it, then buy a crate, put the dog inside and lock it so the child cannot disturb the dog (obviously, a few hrs is the maximum time you should leave a dog in crate). Contact us for crate specs suitable for your greyhound.
- Children are loud. This can confuse dogs. It's common for dogs to associate loud noises with trouble. This is when a dog can become nippy and jumpy in his play, if he is confident, or fearful and growly if he is not. When children are playing loud games ensure the dog is away, ideally in his crate.

None of the above refers to Greyhounds alone. Each of these below are from Brian Kilcommons' book Child-Proofing your Dog. They apply to all dogs, all breeds, and all families.

- *"The dog snapped at my child for no reason."* There is always a reason. You just didn't recognize the signs. Adults can read dog body language (if they look!), kids can't.
- *"But I thought my family was matched to a dog who liked kids! And now he is growling at them!"* . Yes, it is true that the dog loves kids –but dogs, as above, need to be treated properly and respected by the children too. It goes BOTH ways. No matter how much he might like children, he certainly will not like to be constantly badgered, hugged, chased, disturbed by them. He needs and deserves his quiet time (in his bed) where he is SAFE and UNDISTURBED. He is a dog, not a toy.

There are steps that should be taken to correctly set up the dynamics to introducing a Greyhound (or any dog) to children and a new home. Lee Livingood's book *Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies* is also good reading, as well as Jan Fennel's *Dog Listener*.

This is not just "Child-Proofing Your Dog" 101 but also "Dog-Proofing Your Child." You need training, the children need training, the other parent needs training, and the dog needs training. It is a team effort. Just like in raising children, the dog requires consistency in training. Why should your children obey you and do what you want if at first you say no and then change your mind? They quickly learn that if they can wear down your patience they will eventually get what they want. Dogs know that too.

That's how kids get spoiled and that's how dogs get spoiled. A spoiled dog has an attitude problem that you don't need when you have children.

There are guidelines to introducing an ex-racing Greyhound to a home with younger children. If you can commit to following these steps without exception you are up to the challenge:

1. Don't get a Greyhound FOR your child, to grow up with your child, or to teach your child responsibility. This is a family decision and a family dog. It may be your intention to have the Greyhound be your child's dog but your dog will bond first and closest to the person who feeds it, lets him outdoors, generally cares for him, and spends the most time with him. These days kids' schedules often call for the children to be away from home more than the adults, so guess who he will bond with first? The more the child participates with feeding, caring for, and training your dog, the more the dog will respect your child and seek out his attention. But it cannot and in all probability will not be the child's responsibility.
2. If you cannot trust your children not to disturb the dog, buy a crate and use it for housetraining and a safe place for the dog to be in when he needs peace and quiet.
3. Most dogs, of any breed, do not like to be hugged or kissed on the face, etc. Many dogs, including Greyhounds, will warm up to this eventually but for the first few months don't let any child, yours or others do this. (Don't do it yourself, either.) Most dogs would rather be scratched on the chest. They see a face coming into theirs as threatening, especially from a being their own size and one as active and confident as a child. Let the dog come to you and the child when you call him.
4. Don't let your kids or their friends chase your new Greyhound. This includes crowding him or backing him into a situation he feels like he can't escape from. This provokes fear biting. His safe place is off limits to everyone- he should be able escape to it when he needs to and teach all children not to disturb him there.
5. Don't let your kids approach the dog while he is eating. If this seems to be a problem, after a few days when it is feeding time and, UNDER SUPERVISION, let your child feed the dog kibble from his hand, flat palm up. Don't let your children stand and stare at the dog while he eats. If a behaviour would be annoying to an adult human, it will be EVEN MORE ANNOYING to your new dog.
6. Walking! Don't let your child walk your dog alone at first. At first you need to walk him with your child tagging along. You need to get a feel for how well your dog walks on a leash. If he is a puller, there are corrections for this. Of course Greyhounds may take off after any small moving creature. Be prepared with your hand placed through the leash loop, and call the dog and distract him from thinking about the chase (if he is keen to). Your child will learn from you how to

correctly hold the leash and walk the dog. After you feel confident, let the child put on the leash (don't tolerate jumping up and excitement while attaching the leash, wait until he calms down) and walk the dog under your supervision.

When you are comfortable with the situation, the child (over the age of 14) can walk the dog on his own. Of course this is your call, depending on the child's level of responsibility and the walking situation in your neighborhood. No, Greyhounds don't NEED tons of exercise. They are happy to lie around your house. But, as we like to say, "a tired dog is a happy dog" especially with all the nervousness of being new. A walk is good for everybody...just be aware of those neighborhood kids at first who run up and want to hug your new dog around the neck. Don't let them!

If there are roaming dogs in your neighbourhood never allow your child to walk your dog unsupervised.

7. Don't spoil the dog. This dog came from professional life at the track to having all these sounds, smells, people and whatnot at your house. How would you react? He is not used to a lot of attention and even if he demands it, don't give it to him.
8. Greyhounds are not normally rough and tumble dogs. DO NOT let kids play tug of war games or similar rough housing for the first few months. Games such as these, boost the dog's confidence and can lead to dominant behaviors especially towards children (this applies to all dog breeds, big and small). Once your dog knows his place in the pack, these can be fun games to introduce. To begin with, play fetch or games where the dog runs from one child to another.
9. OBEDIENCE training is a fun way to aid bonding. Your dog needs a job to do and a way to earn treats. You have to earn his respect and he has to learn to respect you.
It is an excellent tool for you and your child in relating to your dog's place in your home. Go to an obedience class with your dog and your child and eventually have the child give the commands. If the dog won't obey the child, have the child stand in front of you (as if you were one person) at first so the dog knows to obey both of you. Don't let him get away with only obeying you. Treat for all good behaviors.
10. Most people know not to approach a dog sleeping on a bed. It actually goes further than that. Don't allow kids to approach a dog lying down anywhere, period!

If he is lying down even with his head up, it is his quiet time and he doesn't want to be disturbed. That includes lying on the floor, on the dog bed, next to the dog bed, or even close to him when he is on the floor. Depending on the dog's personality he may eventually tolerate close company, but this would be months

from now when you really feel comfortable with him. If you want to play/train or whatever with the dog, you can always call him to you.