

# The Greyhound

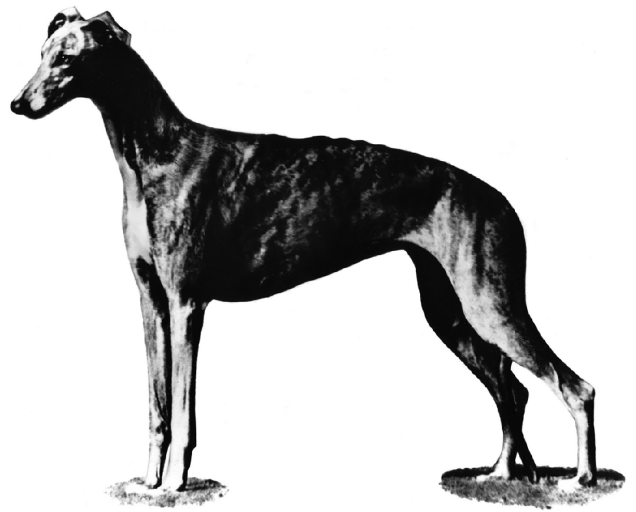
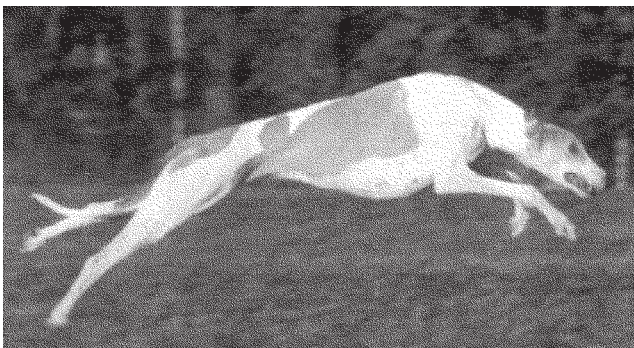
*Congratulations! You have just acquired one of the noblest of breeds. The Greyhound has been the ultimate hunter of many kinds of prey, as well as the personal companion of kings and queens.*

Greyhounds have been depicted through many centuries, hunting a wide variety of game from large to small, on Greek vases, on Flemish tapestries, in Italian paintings, and in French books on hunting. More recently, Greyhounds in England went from being used in large-scale hunts with the nobility in royal forests, to the more contemporary sport of coursing hare in judged competitions, like the famous Waterloo Cup. The Greyhound is a member of the Sighthound family, which pursues game by virtue of keen vision and speed. Like most hounds, Greyhounds are independent in mind and spirit, but centuries as treasured companions have made them sweet and personable. As pack dogs, they enjoy and thrive in the company of other dogs.

## Activity and Identification

An active dog when outdoors, but not wise in the ways of the modern world, the Greyhound needs a large, fenced area, safe from cars and other dangers. Its instincts are such that to deny its heritage of free running is to deny its very reason for existence. If allowed ample exercise on a daily basis, you will be rewarded with a dog that is sound in mind and body, and is a joy in the home. Greyhounds participate in AKC lure coursing events, obedience trials, agility trials, and Canine Good Citizenship events.

Protect your greyhound in case it is lost by identifying it with a collar and tags. A permanent identification with a microchip or tattoo can be registered with AKC Reunite. A 24-hour toll-free hotline helps locate the owners. There is a 100% re-homing rate with enrolled animals. For information, call (800) 252-7894.



## You and Your Greyhound

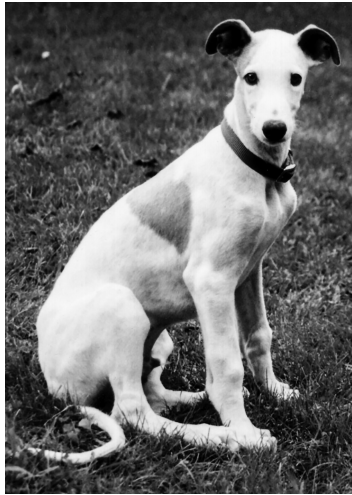
Besides the pleasure of his company, there are many activities available to enjoy with your Greyhound. If your dog is show quality, conformation showing is fun and interesting. Obedience training can develop a great rapport with your Greyhound, if you have the gentle patience to work with a dog who is smart and has a heritage more inclined to independence than service. Agility's fast pace can be suited to the breed's lively nature. Tracking can be a rewarding challenge. Lure coursing can appeal to the instinct and desire to run that most Greyhounds inherently possess.

## Health and Well Being

Like any athlete, your Greyhound needs high quality nutrition for optimal growth and energy throughout life. A premium meat-based dog food with adequate fat and protein is necessary for proper development of bone and muscle and continued good health.

The breed has few major health problems. Gastric torsion and bloat are life-threatening and require immediate action and treatment. You should familiarize yourself with the symptoms, and talk with your dog's breeder and veterinarian. Because they are athletes, Greyhounds can be subject to sports injuries such as pulled muscles, broken toes or split pads, and their fine, taut skin can be prone to tears and lacerations. The long, whip-like tails can split or break from impact. Grooming is a simple matter of routine brushing with a soft bristle brush or rubber curry, in addition to bathing when needed. Tooth-brushing should start early to prevent dental disease, a common problem for older greyhounds.

Many Greyhound Club of America members support health research for the Greyhound through the AKC Canine Health Foundation—a nonprofit charitable organization whose mission is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Supporting the Canine Health Foundation will help ensure a healthy future for all dogs. For more information about ongoing health research to help the Greyhound, call toll free 1-888-682-9696 or see: [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)



## Breed or Spay/Neuter

The Greyhound Club of America strongly recommends breeding be done by those with the history, experience and knowledge of the breed, so as to ensure the health, well-being and preservation of the classic Greyhound according to the AKC standard. Mentors are available to work with newcomers to help those with a strong interest in the breed. The Greyhound Club of America strongly advises the spaying or neutering of all pets. Altering not only allows them to participate in most AKC activities (except conformation), but more importantly can contribute to better long term health.

## The AKC Greyhound Standard:

How your dog should look to compete in conformation.

### Head

Long and narrow, fairly wide between the ears, scarcely perceptible stop, little or no development of nasal sinuses, good length of muzzle, which should be powerful without coarseness. Teeth very strong and even in front.

### Ears

Small and fine in texture, thrown back and folded, except when excited, when they are semi-pricked.

### Eyes

Dark, bright, intelligent, indicating spirit.

### Neck

Long, muscular, without throatiness, slightly arched, and widening gradually into the shoulder.

### Shoulders

Placed as obliquely as possible, muscular without being loaded.

### Forelegs

Perfectly straight, set well into the shoulders, neither turned in nor out, pasterns strong.

### Chest

Deep, and as wide as consistent with speed, fairly well-sprung ribs.

### Back

Muscular and broad.

### Loins

Good depth of muscle, well-arched, well cut-up in the flanks.

### Hindquarters

Long, very muscular and powerful, wide and well let down, well-bent stifles. Hocks well bent and rather close to the ground, wide but straight fore and aft.

### Feet

Hard and close, rather more hare than catfeet, well knuckled up with good strong claws.

### Tail

Long, fine and tapering with a slight upward curve.

### Coat

Short, smooth and firm in texture.

### Color

Immaterial.

### Weight

Dogs, 65-70 pounds; bitches 60-65 pounds.

### Scale of Points

General symmetry and quality .....	10
Head and neck.....	20
Chest and shoulders .....	20
Back .....	10
Quarters.....	20
Legs and feet.....	20
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100</b>

## Learning More

Attending a Greyhound Specialty is an excellent way to see many Greyhounds at one time, and to talk with their owners and breeders. The GCA can help you locate experienced mentors on the breed who will be valuable resources for more in-depth study. You can find both mentors and the GCA show calendar at:

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

The AKC Greyhound video, made with the assistance of the Greyhound Club of America, is an outstanding source of information, as well as a guided tour of the breed standard. The video is available from the American Kennel Club's website: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

The GCA publishes a quarterly newsletter, available from the Newsletter Editor, Cathy Gaido, ([gaidos@twinvalley.net](mailto:gaidos@twinvalley.net)). For more breed information, lists of resources, and upcoming events, please contact the GCA corresponding secretary, Cynthia Lange ([dobertrnr@gmail.com](mailto:dobertrnr@gmail.com)) or visit the club's website:

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

