

Midwest Greyhound Adoption

www.midwestgreyhound.org



P.O. Box 338, Sugar Grove, Ill 60554 (630) 466-4022

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for requesting an information packet and application from Midwest Greyhound Adoption (MGA). To start the adoption process, after reading this packet, please complete the enclosed application and mail it to: MGA, PO Box 338, Sugar Grove, IL 60554. Please do not send the adoption/lease fee with the application. This is payable at the time of the actual adoption.

Once your application is received, an MGA adoption coordinator will contact you by telephone within two weeks. The adoption process consists of one or more phone interviews followed by an in-home interview. **It usually takes 4-12 weeks from the time your application is received to the time you adopt a greyhound.**

The in-home interview will usually take place when MGA feels that we have a dog that will fit your family and lifestyle. At that time, MGA requires that the entire family be present because of the many different topics that need to be discussed, such as door security, medical needs, interaction with other pets, etc. This is a decision not only for the family but for the interviewer as well, and especially a decision for the greyhound.

By utilizing foster homes for the greyhounds until they are adopted, MGA is able to place the greyhound into a home environment that is best suited to the dog; for example the number and ages of children in the household, other small animals, hours the dog would be left alone, etc. This is the reason for all of the questions on the application.

Here are answers to some question most commonly asked:

Do I really need to have a fenced yard? YES..... A fenced are (this does not have to be large) is required for all but apartment/condo dwellers. A 4 foot fence is fine because greyhounds are generally not jumpers. A fence that is connected to the house and accessible from a house door is the best situation for you and your greyhound. Invisible fences are **NOT** acceptable. They do not work for greyhounds! Greyhounds run 40 mph and an electric shock will not stop them. Also, invisible fences do not prevent your dog from being stolen, or attacked by another dog.

Can I get a greyhound if I have a cat? Yes.... MGA greyhounds are cat tested. If they are cat friendly they will live in a foster home with a cat until they are adopted. However, the adoption process could take longer because more greyhounds are cat negative rather than cat friendly. Also, more males than females are cat friendly.

The most common colors of a greyhound are brindle (striped) and black, followed by fawn, with the least common colors being white and blue (grey).

Greyhounds that need to be crated must be put in a large enough cage. The size for a Vari-kennel would be the 700 series; the size for Midwest (wire cage) is 89Z.

MGA would like to request that you PLEASE BE PATIENT. Midwest Greyhound Adoption is run by all volunteers. These volunteers have full-time jobs, families and pets of their own. When there are dogs in need we drive whenever and wherever we have to, picking them up, dropping them off at the vet or a foster home, as well as searching for lost dogs. We work around the clock with “special needs” dogs whether they are sick, shy, lost or abused, until they are ready for just the right home. So, while adopting the greyhounds out to loving homes is important, caring for them and making sure they are well and safe is our #1 priority.

If you have any questions regarding either, the greyhounds, Midwest Greyhound Adoption, or the adoption process, please feel free to call the volunteer listed below:

Kari Swanson (630) 466-4022 whdog1@aol.com

The Midwest Greyhound Adoption Volunteers



Please read the enclosed material **BEFORE** filling out this application. If you have any questions, please call us at any of the phone numbers provided. Midwest Greyhound Adoption Thanks You!

Top Ten Reasons to Adopt a Greyhound

10. They truly know the meaning of retirement.
9. People will stare at your dog instead of you.
8. They can curl up to the size of a ball if they need to.
7. They can expand to the size of a bed if they want to.
6. They don't bark, keeping your neighborhood safe for burglars.
5. You can play with their ribs like an air guitar.
4. They are the only dogs who know how to really smile.
3. You can dress them up like reindeer for Christmas and bunnies for Easter, and they won't try to take it off.
2. They are never confused for poodles.
1. A greyhound in flight is the most amazing sight you'll ever hope to see in your fenced backyard.

Author: Unknown

ABOUT GREYHOUNDS

The paragraphs that follow will answer many of your questions about greyhounds. Also, included is the contract/lease agreement that you will be signing when you adopt your greyhound.

The greyhound you are adopting has lived his/her entire life in a kennel. They have never seen the inside of a house before coming into their foster home. While in their foster home, we try to work with the dogs to give them some idea of what is expected of them as a pet. Even though the greyhound has been fostered for a few weeks/months there will be a period of adjustment from foster home to adoptive home. This period of adjustment will usually last from a couple of days to a couple of months (possible longer with special needs dogs). Sometimes after being a perfect dog for weeks, your greyhound may test how far they will be able to push you. It is important to remember your greyhound's past and to be understanding and flexible. Here are a few of the areas our foster families work on with the dogs, to better prepare them for their new home.

HOUSEBREAKING

Greyhounds are kennel trained when they come into the Midwest Greyhound Adoption program. This means they realize they should not go to the bathroom where they sleep. We work with the dogs to help them understand what the phrase "go out" means. They are usually quick to figure out that this does not mean the living room carpet, but actually means "hold it" until they are outside. This process usually takes a day or two; however, in some instances it has taken up to a few weeks. When you adopt your greyhound, the foster family may be in some stage of this housebreaking, they will inform you as to how the dog is progressing. If your dog has an accident in the house, a verbal reprimand should usually suffice. Take the dog outside and offer praise when the dog relieves itself. Do not hit your dog or put their nose in "the accident"; your dog knows this is not acceptable, but its new surroundings look different than the foster home and accidents may happen. Your greyhound may try to "mark" a spot or two. Keep an eye on your dog. If it looks like it may lift its leg or squat, try to catch them and take the dog outside right away. This may be a test to see if their new owner will get upset by this act. If your dog does have an accident, listed below are some of our methods of clean up. The following products are used on a regular basis by our foster homes. Nature's Miracle, Resolve carpet cleaner, Woolite carpet cleaner, Carpet Science carpet cleaner, a mix of household vinegar and water, and when all else fails, steam clean the carpet (it probably needs it anyway!). It is a good idea to take your dog out more frequently the first few days so they get the hang of "this is where I go potty".

STAIRS

Greyhounds have never seen, or had to deal with stairs while at the race track or kennels. If there are stairs in the foster home, our dogs are taught how to go up and down them. If the foster home did not have stairs, teaching your new dog this skill is not difficult! All you need to do is place one front paw on a stair, then the other front paw and then repeat this process with the hind legs. Make sure there is always a stair in between the front paws and the back paws. Usually in a few hours they will be skilled stair climbers. If he/she balks at stairs, pick your dog up and place him in the middle of your stairway. Make sure to keep their leash on them. Now they must tackle those stairs. You will need to work with your dog to give him the confidence he needs so he won't attempt to jump all the stairs at once. Even though your dog may have mastered carpeted stairs, tiled or open back stairs may be difficult for your greyhound.

GLASS ITEMS

Other confusing household items that may baffle your greyhound are full-length mirrors, television sets, sliding glass doors, and glass dining tables. I'm sure if you asked any foster family they would have some story about one nutty foster that had a hard time understanding glass. For example: Zeus, while being fostered would continuously try to eat spilled food on the glass kitchen table from the underside and couldn't understand why he never got any food, but always a bump on the head. Another good story was Curly Joe. He went into his adoptive home and saw himself in a full-length mirror for the first time. He kept looking behind the mirror to find where the rest of that other dog's body was.

BEDDING

A general rule of thumb with your new friend is if it is soft, your greyhound will like it! While being fostered, your greyhound has had the pleasure of experiencing carpeting for the very first time and loving it. If you prefer that your greyhound stays off of the furniture, we suggest a comfy blanket for them on the floor near you. A blanket at the side of your bed at night will make a perfect sleeping spot for your greyhound. Make sure to use a baby gate or something to keep your greyhound in the room with you. In this way, you can hear if they wake up and need to go potty.

DISCIPLINE

Unless your greyhound was a special needs dog, it has no clue about furniture, so it is up to you to teach it the habit of jumping up on the couch. Greyhounds are extremely sensitive animals who cannot be disciplined roughly. A stern tone of voice should be all that is needed to keep your greyhound off the sofa or bed if you do not want him/her there. The wrong disciplinary tactics will only teach your dog to be afraid of you. Always be sure to be consistent with discipline, do not change the rules. If your dog is not allowed on furniture, then don't ever let him on the furniture, etc.

CAGES

It is extremely important to remember that before coming to MGA, your greyhound spent the majority of its life in a cage and some of its "foster life" in a cage. If you have no other dog when you adopt your greyhound, when you leave the house for the first time that will be the very first time in your greyhound's entire life that it has been left alone. This can be scary for them as you can well imagine. Because of this we will usually recommend using a crate when the greyhound is being left home alone. We work with the dogs slowly in the foster home to make them feel secure and loved when they are left alone and out of their crate. We start out a few hours at a time giving them the run of the house, testing them on how they behave, and seeing how long they can be left alone before having to relieve themselves. In most cases MGA recommends using a crate until you and your greyhound are comfortable that no harm will come to your house or your dog. Please do not feel guilty for putting your greyhound in a crate when you leave. Think of how awful you would feel if they ate or destroyed something in your house, and got injured or sick. Usually your new greyhound will only need this cage for a few weeks and then be done with it. For this reason MGA has cages available to rent on a month-to-month basis. Just let the MGA member know that you are interested in renting one.

OTHER PETS

We are often asked how greyhounds get along with other pets. It depends on the greyhound and what other pets you have in your home. Most greyhounds get along well with other dogs. Take care, however, to watch them at first as the “old dog” may be jealous of the newcomer. We cat test all of our dogs before they go into a foster home. This is very important because if a greyhound passes cat testing (meaning it likes cats for friends) then it is fostered with cats before it goes into an adoptive home. Not only is cat testing important for a dog that will live with cats, but this usually means that this greyhound also gets along with toy breed dogs. Be assured, we would never place a cat negative dog into a home with cats, toy breeds, or puppies. This means your cat negative dog should never come in contact with cats, toy breeds, or puppies. This does NOT mean that a cat negative dog is vicious. It just means that particular dog has a high prey-drive.

GREYHOUNDS AND CHILDREN

Greyhounds and children get along well with each other. As a matter of fact, greyhounds are one of the best breeds to coexist with children. However, even the most mild mannered greyhound has its limits. No animal likes to have its tail pulled, eyes poked, or to be sat on by a child that has never been taught how to behave around animals. The first few days, your new greyhound may need a little extra breathing room – especially from excited children that want to play with and parade around their new pet. Your greyhound will need some time to adjust and relax in its new surroundings and most importantly to be a part of a loving family.

EXERCISE

Greyhounds need no more exercise than any other dog. If you have a fenced yard...wonderful!! Make sure the yard is secured and let him go. If you don't have a fenced in yard, the only option you have is a sturdy leash and strong dedication to walk the dog. Because of their special nature there are some things you can **NEVER** do:

- Greyhounds can **NEVER** be left off of a leash without a fence. Some owners have tried to do this with disastrous results.
- **NEVER** tie your greyhound on a rope, chain or runner. They can get tangled up, injure themselves or break loose.
- **NEVER** leave a greyhound outside for long periods of time. Greyhounds are unable to tolerate extreme temperatures.

All greyhounds love to run. However being sprinters, they usually only run for a few minutes before becoming tired. If you are an apartment/condo dweller and do not have a fenced yard, you may want to treat your pet to an occasional run at the home of a friend or relative who has a fenced yard. Or perhaps borrow the local tennis court or fenced ball field so your greyhound can enjoy a short run. Be sure to walk the perimeter of the fenced in area to check for any openings before turning your hound loose.

THE PROPER FOOD

We recommend finding your new greyhound a quality dog food. Nutro-Max, IAMS, Bil-Jac, Natures' Recipe, Science Diet, Pro Plan are some example (do not use store brands). We will make sure and tell you what the foster home has been feeding your greyhound. Try a small bag (5-8 lbs.) until you find the best food for your dog. A product that works well for one greyhound sometimes won't work with another. When your greyhound reaches six or seven, it should be switched to food for seniors. As a rule, dogs should NEVER be given table food.

Regular dog treats (dog bones, rawhides, biscuits, and other treats) can be given often, but should not be a substitute for regular meals. As with all dogs plenty of fresh, cool water should always be available.

GROOMING

Grooming a greyhound consists of four areas: Coat, ear, nails and teeth

- The coat needs occasional brushing. A rubber dog brush will work fine. When your new companion starts smelling like a "dog", it is time for a bath.
- Ears should be cleaned at least once a month with an ear cleaner designed especially for dogs.
- It doesn't matter if you trim your dog's nails yourself or have your vet or groomer do the job, but they should be clipped at least once each month depending on your dog's rate of nail growth. The MGA kennel staff will be glad to trim nails or clean ears when asked.
- Chewing on bones is not enough to keep your dog's teeth healthy. You need to brush your dog's teeth at least once each week. Use only a toothbrush and toothpaste designed specifically for dogs.

VETERINARY CARE

Remember that your pet is 100% dependent on you for his care. When you adopt your greyhound, they will have had all of their shots and a full veterinary checkup. You will be responsible for annual care such as heartworm check and preventative, and booster shots. If you sense your dog is feeling under the weather, he probably is, so please don't delay in getting your hound medical care.

Many flea collars and pills cannot be used on your greyhound. Only a few are acceptable. Please consult your vet or product list for these alternatives.

Greyhounds require only one-fifth of the anesthetic that would be used on other dogs of the same size. This is because they are lacking in certain enzymes which break down the anesthetics in their systems. It is very important that your veterinarian know this, as an overdose can be fatal.

Greyhounds (and other sighthounds), are unique in many ways. It is important that the vet you choose is either familiar with sighthounds, or willing to treat your greyhound appropriately. We provide a package of information for your vet with each adoption.

We've given you information to look over and decide if a greyhound is the right companion for you. Below you will find a checklist that covers the areas of importance to consider when making your choice. For more information the book, "Adopting a Racing Greyhound", by Cynthia Branigan is an excellent reference. If you have any questions feel free to contact Midwest Greyhound Adoption at:

Main Number: (630) 466-4022
PO Box 338
Sugar Grove, IL 60554

Kari Swanson (630) 466-4022 (whdog1@aol.com)

WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR IN MY GREYHOUND?

(Listed in order of importance)

Personality

What type of personality would you like your dog to have? Happy, outgoing, laid back, or would you consider a special needs or shy dog... (A little extra work but you will be rewarded tenfold)

Activity Level

Do you want a very peppy dog or a couch potato?

Other Pets

Will your ex-racer get along with the pets you have now?

Children

Do your children understand that this is a special dog and they need to let the dog have some privacy now and then?

Why do you want a retired racer?

Are you looking for a companion or a protector? By nature Greyhounds are not aggressive animals and would not make good guard dogs.

Size

Is size a consideration? Greyhounds range between 55 and 85 pounds.

Age

Do you have a preference on age? Greyhounds are usually retired between 2 – 5 years of age. Would you consider adopting a senior...they have been known to give many years of great companionship to many families.

Gender

Do you have a preference to the sex of the dog? Greyhounds are unique dogs, just because you have had a female in the past does not mean you shouldn't consider looking at a male.

Color

Greyhounds come in 18 different colors and each one is beautiful!

MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION, INC.
CONTRACT/LEASE

P.O. Box 338, Sugar Grove, IL 60554 (630) 466-4022

REGISTERED NAME: _____ KENNEL NAME: _____

EAR NUMBERS: RIGHT _____ LEFT _____ SEX: M () F ()

COLOR: _____ CAT FRIENDLY? YES () NO ()

KENNEL RECEIVED FROM: _____

RACING OWNER: _____

SAMPLE

CONTRACT/LEASE

SAMPLE

I agree that I will keep this greyhound solely and exclusively as an inside house pet and not use him/her for breeding, scientific research or commercial racing. I agree that when outdoors, my greyhound will be kept on a leash or in a fenced-in yard. I will also never confine my greyhound with a chain or rope due to the risk of injury or death.

I understand that I am responsible for the humane care of this greyhound, from the date of this contract/lease. I do agree to obtain the services of a veterinarian to establish a schedule for preventative medicine. If the animal should be sick or injured, I will obtain immediate veterinary care and notify MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION of said injury/illness. I agree to advise MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION if the greyhound is lost, stolen or dead. I will not allow the greyhound to be destroyed/put to sleep (except in cases of illness, old age, emergencies as in strokes or seizures, or cancer) without the written/verbal consent of a MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION board member or placement volunteer.

My intention is to keep this greyhound for the remainder of his/her natural life. If some unforeseen situation prevents me from doing this, and I desire to relinquish custody, I promise to return the dog to a MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION representative at my own expense. I will NOT turn the dog over to another person, a pound, a humane society or an institution of any kind without written consent from MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION. I agree to notify MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION if I change residence.

I understand that the payment of \$275.00 adoption/lease fee is nonrefundable and I understand that I am leasing this greyhound for the lifetime of the dog. Any disputes MUST be submitted in writing and are subject to review by the board of directors of MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION.

I understand that actual ownership of the above described greyhound remains with MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION and that the term of this lease is for the lifetime of the dog.

I understand should legal action be necessary to facilitate the return of this greyhound to MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION I am liable for any and all court cost and legal fee.

I understand that my signature on this contract/lease binds my entire family/household to the terms and conditions of this contract/ lease.

I also understand that if I violate any terms or conditions in this contract/lease or if the greyhound is found in a state of abuse or neglect MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION can revoke this lease and reclaim the above described greyhound without notice.

I hereby release MIDWEST GREYHOUND ADOPTION, its representatives and all persons, owners and handlers from any and all liability incurred from this day forward for the health, condition and/or behavior of this greyhound.

Signature _____ Print name _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Print name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone # _____

E-mail address _____

MGA Representative _____ Date _____