

Country and urban myths about greyhounds

- They're just not like other dogs
- Can NEVER be trusted with cats, small animals... or children!
- Need hours of exercise every day
- Will eat you out of house and home
- You can NEVER 'train' them
- Greyhounds are vicious, they HAVE to be kept muzzled or they will tear each other to pieces – and likely to bite you too

Try as he might, KC can't get Charlotte to play



De-bunking the Myths...

Like ALL dogs, greyhounds are a product of their breeding and how they have been treated. Ex-racing greyhounds DO have the capacity to adapt to a new home, new people, and live in harmony with other family pets, including cats and rabbits.

A greyhound that is brought into a home for the first time, is just like a young puppy away from its mother for the first time – everything is strange and possibly frightening – yet the speed with which they adjust and become loyal companions is so much quicker than bringing on a new puppy.

As they are no longer racing, greyhounds only need 'normal dog' amounts of food for their bodyweight, which would be on a par with a small Labrador. They are generally happy with two 20 minute walks a day and somewhere comfy to lie, be it a soft dog bed or your sofa! But if you have more time and enjoy longer walks they will happily accompany you, as what they enjoy most is just being 'their family' – especially as they can have waited years for their chance of being allowed to form that special bond.



'Let's see if we can snuggle up a bit closer'

To illustrate what happy and relaxed family dogs greyhounds are, the photographs we have used on this leaflet are all of Irish bred racing greyhounds, just going about their current 'pet' lives living in the home and being loyal companion dogs.

What about lurchers?

Whilst they are many lurchers in Ireland who are also in need, they are not bred in such numbers as the greyhound, nor are they part of such a large commodity industry and therefore their experience of life (as they are not necessarily raised as kennel dogs) can be very diverse.

A lurcher, which can be any mix of sighthound (dogs such as greyhounds which hunt by sight) and any other breed, depending on particular characteristics sought by its breeder, so its 'breed' traits are likely to be varied, and not necessarily similar to that of greyhounds.

Much of the support we aim to provide in helping your greyhound adjust to life as a house dog may not therefore be relevant to many lurchers. If we can help we will, but our focus is primarily upon greyhounds.

**A group founded to promote
greyhounds as companion dogs and
family pets**



**Rescued-Greyhound Owners
(Ireland)**

Background

Rescued-Greyhound Owners (Ireland) was founded to promote the many excellent qualities of the greyhound and its suitability as a family and companion dog. Greyhounds are intelligent, sensitive, loyal and affectionate dogs, surprisingly relaxed and sociable.

In promoting them as pets we aim to help prevent the destruction of healthy dogs once their racing careers are over. We want to help to change the perception of the public at large and show that these dogs are not mindless killers – but that with a little understanding they make the most loyal and loving of companions to both individuals and families.



Feidhlim makes sure Gwen stays warm and safe all night

When racing days are over...

It is very much a lottery for a greyhound as to how its life turns out.

Some never make the grade for the track in the first place, and so some dogs find themselves unwanted at under a year old, other dogs sustain injuries along the way and some have a racing career that will last a number of years. But regardless of how long they are within the racing system, each year many, many dogs find themselves no longer suitable for racing.

Some owners/trainers will pension off their dogs, and they live along side their other greyhounds, or ensure their dogs are re-homed directly by themselves or placed with a recognised greyhound re-homing organisation. Also, whilst not the most desirable choice, some will humanely euthanise their racing dogs, even if they are healthy and have a good temperament.



Sadly it is also a fact that some dogs are abused, dumped and abandoned, and equally appalling, others are sold on to Spain where the greyhound racing industry is particularly brutal, and falls far short of the standards prescribed by both the Irish and British greyhound governing bodies.

Unfortunately one contributing factor to the destruction and disappearance of thousands of greyhounds every year is the fact that so many people are under the misconception that greyhounds are unsuitable family dogs, or are in some way 'different' from other dogs. So each year the number of dogs finishing their racing careers far exceeds the number of pet homes available to greyhounds.



It's great to meet up with your friends...

Where we fit in

If you would like to find out more about bringing a greyhound into your home, or join us for one of our 'Greyhound Gatherings', where greyhound owners – and potential owners – can get together with their dogs, please contact us.

We are also able to put you in contact with a number of organisations that re-home greyhounds in Ireland



Sofa surfing is how Micheál likes to spend his days

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