

Caring for Greyhounds When the Cheering Stops

April is National Adopt-a-Greyhound Month

Graceful greyhounds race one another to the finish line to the sounds of enthusiastic crowds but what happens to these dogs when they are retired and the cheering stops?

Each year, more than 20,000 retired racing greyhounds are cared for by adoption groups throughout the country as they wait to be adopted into permanent, loving homes. That number will increase in the coming months and years as race tracks close their doors as a result of some states passing new legislation banning greyhound racing. The country's economic crisis has resulted in less adoptions and more surrenders because owners can no longer afford to care for their greyhounds and other pets.

April is National Adopt-a-Greyhound Month. Second Chance Greyhounds is a Georgia-based nonprofit organization with a dedicated group of volunteers working to place former racing Greyhounds into adoptive homes. These Greyhounds are unique in that they are fostered and trained by State inmates. This teaches inmates patience and responsibility, relieves idleness in the prison facilities, and allows the inmates to experience unconditional love. In turn, the Greyhounds are provided a foster home, one-on-one attention by the foster inmate, and the training necessary to complete Canine Good Citizenship testing. It's a very special partnership that benefits both humans and Greyhounds.

For many reasons, a Greyhound is an ideal breed choice for almost any home. Stereotypically, Greyhounds are calm, relaxed, and easy going. Most are quiet and shed minimally. Although they stand tall, they tend to curl up for sleeping in an amazingly small space. Some Greyhounds are tolerant of cats and other small animals, and get along well with children of all ages. "There is a common misconception that greyhounds are high-energy. They are actually very laid-back and gentle creatures, making wonderful pets for many types of households," says Patti Peterson, who chairs the greyhound group. "When considering adding a pet to your home, please consider adopting a former racing greyhound."

For more information about greyhound adoption and Second Chance Greyhounds, please visit <http://www.secondchancegreyhounds.org> or call 1.877.67GREYS (1.877.674.7397).