

GREYHOUNDS & CHILDREN

Greyhounds and children do go together- it just takes common sense, boundaries and careful introductions.



Buffalo Greyhound Adoption
Established in 1991



Greyhounds make wonderful pets and can make a family feel complete. At Buffalo Greyhound Adoption (BGA), our greyhounds go into foster homes once rescued, which gives us an opportunity to assess each dog in a home environment, as well as introduce it to different situations. One of the many things we are proud of is being able to match our dogs to the right home. Having said this, there are rules which have to be followed to ensure your children and greyhound are safe – it's not only the greyhound which needs to be taught to adapt, but also your children.

Our greyhounds come from a racing environment. Imagine not knowing anything besides living in your own kennel, never being touched without warning, eating meals on your own and never living in a home environment. This is exactly what a greyhound's life has been like, so careful introduction, rules and boundaries must be in place to make them feel comfortable and safe. Because rescued racing greyhounds are not used to being awakened by touch, BGA recommends **NOT** allowing your greyhound on a couch or human bed. Touching a sleeping greyhound (some sleep with their eyes open, so you think they are awake) can cause them to startle, and the greyhound may jump up and snap.

Welcoming a greyhound into your home is very exciting for everyone, and is the perfect time to establish rules. When your child is around your greyhound, they should always behave in a calm and quiet manner; it is best to let your greyhound approach your child, rather than have your child greet your greyhound.

We cannot emphasize enough, children should **never, EVER** approach your greyhound when they are lying down or asleep. Greyhounds often sleep with their eyes open. If your child touches them, it may startle the greyhound, causing them to jump up and possibly snap. Remember the saying "let sleeping dogs lie". It's important for your greyhound to have their own space in the house where they can relax, as well as feel and know they are safe – which is exactly why a crate is critical. Children should be taught the greyhound's crate is off limits – it's not a play area – it belongs to your greyhound. Your child should never be allowed to go into the crate, even if your greyhound is not in it. This is your greyhound's safe place - somewhere for them to go to feel relaxed, and sleep peacefully.

Since greyhounds love comfort and will search out the best places they can claim as their own, we strongly advise **not** permitting your greyhound to sleep on the sofa or human bed.

Greyhounds can be the same height as a small child, which means they can easily see and take food out of a child's hand. The easiest way to stop this is to have children eat in a different room from the greyhound. Also, when your greyhound is eating, they should be allowed to do so uninterrupted - meaning, your child should never approach or interfere. This also applies when giving your greyhound treats.

Children should always be taught to be kind to animals. It's important to let your children feel helpful in looking after your greyhound, but always under supervision, even after your greyhound has had time to settle in. A child should never be allowed to take the lead to walk your greyhound on their own; however, they can be included by adding an extra lead, so they can learn to walk calmly beside them. Gentle grooming is another way to include children in your greyhound's care.

Be careful with doors: Make sure your child never opens an outside door without first verifying your greyhound is secure. If your greyhound does get out, they move fast and could be down the road in seconds. Always teach children to secure your greyhound before opening doors. Better still, do not allow them to open the door, but to always call you.

Unfortunately, this is one of the most common reasons for an adoption not to work, and it's totally preventable! **ALWAYS** call your greyhound before approaching when they are asleep, to let them know you are there.

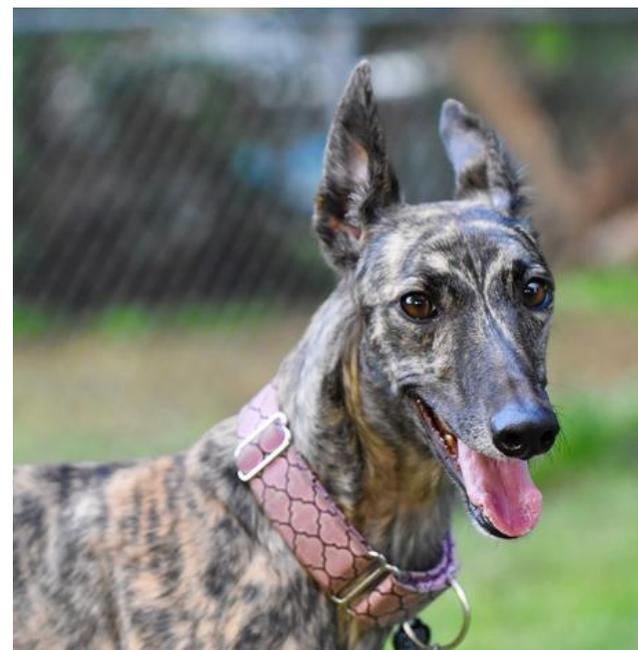
ALWAYS REMEMBER:

-  Make careful introductions.
-  Always supervise. Never ever leave your child and greyhound together, alone.
-  Always let sleeping dogs lie. Never approach your greyhound when sleeping or in their crate.
-  Do not allow your greyhound on the sofa or human bed.
-  Let them eat undisturbed.
-  Never open a door to outside without ensuring your greyhound is secure.
-  Teach your child to be gentle and kind to all animals.
-  BGA is always available for advice. Please contact us with any questions.

It takes **3 days** for a greyhound to decompress, **3 weeks** to begin to know your routine and **3 months** to start to feel at home.

BE PATIENT. GIVE THEM A CHANCE.

Greyhounds are gentle giants and make fabulous family pets. However, in the racing world they have never had contact with children. BGA assesses the dogs and will only offer them for adoption with children if we think they are suitable. Sometimes, depending on the dog's personality, it may be recommended for older children.



CONTACT US

Buffalo Greyhound Adoption, Inc.
PO Box 1096
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

716-873-1165
buffalogreyhound.org