

# Greyhounds

## Greyhounds are sight hounds, in the same group as Salukis, Borzois and Afgans.

They are all bred for speed and elegance. Unlike other sight hounds, greyhounds have been bred almost exclusively for racing for centuries. Consequently they are amongst the most physically sound breeds in the world and are generally placid towards humans and other dogs. A few greyhounds are bred as show dogs and are managed in a similar manner to other sight hounds.

Racing greyhounds have been bred and trained to chase a lure - which is a replica of a rabbit. Therefore, unless retrained, they will tend to chase anything that moves, but in particular, anything smaller than themselves. This places added responsibilities on the owners of racing and retired racing greyhounds.

Greyhound Racing SA has strict rules about the care and management of greyhounds. Any person considering purchasing or training a racing greyhound should contract Greyhound Racing SA for Information and advice.

The owners of greyhounds have specific rights and responsibilities under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Section 35 of the Act provides that business dog registrations are applicable to greyhounds, if the dogs are being held for training or breeding purposes. This would not usually apply to pet dogs. For further information on the comparative benefits of 'individual' and 'business' dog registrations please refer to the 'dog registration information sheet' on the GoodDogSA website [www.gooddogsa.com](http://www.gooddogsa.com).

The Act states that Greyhounds must be restrained by a lead not exceeding two metres in length and they must be muzzled when in public. The Dog and Cat Management Board can accredit greyhounds that have been retrained to be in public and exempt those dogs

from wearing muzzle. The owners of greyhounds that have so accredited must carry an authorization card issued by the Board if exercising their dogs in public without the muzzle. Further Information on the accreditation of greyhounds is available from the Board.

The *Dog and Cat Management Act* allows councils to make by-laws limiting the number of dogs held on a property, regardless of breed. Most councils which have introduced such by-laws, permit two dogs in a standard house block or one dog in a strata title type unit.

The Local Government Act and the Development Act also contain provisions relating to land use and animals - so any person intending to establish a greyhound kennel for any purpose, should contact their local council before the planning process is too advanced.

Greyhounds, whether retired racing dogs or bred as pets, do make excellent companions. They have a short coat and very little body fat and are more likely to feel the coat than some other dog breeds. Consequently, they need a heat source if kept outside in the - but would much prefer to sleep indoors with the family. They are highly social dogs and suffer boredom and loneliness if kept in isolation.

The Greyhound Adoption Program works with Greyhound Racing SA to rehome suitable ex-racing dogs. Please contact either of these organisations directly for further Information about this wonderful breed.