

# GREYHOUND

## Breed Information



THE KENNEL CLUB

Greyhound  
Trust



# Breed Standard *Last updated October 2009*

A Breed Standard is the guideline which describes the ideal characteristics, temperament and appearance including the correct colour of a breed and ensures that the breed is fit for function. Absolute soundness is essential.

Breeders and judges should at all times be careful to avoid obvious conditions or exaggerations which would be detrimental in any way to the health, welfare or soundness of this breed.

From time to time certain conditions or exaggerations may be considered to have the potential to affect dogs in some breeds adversely, and judges and breeders are requested to refer to the Breed Watch section of the Kennel Club website here [www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch](http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch) for details of any such current issues. If a feature or quality is desirable it should only be present in the right measure.

However if a dog possesses a feature, characteristic or colour described as undesirable or highly undesirable it is strongly recommended that it should not be rewarded in the show ring.

## **General Appearance**

Strongly built, upstanding, of generous proportions, muscular power and symmetrical formation, with long head and neck, clean well laid shoulders, deep chest, capacious body, slightly arched loin, powerful quarters, sound legs and feet, and a suppleness of limb, which emphasise in a marked degree its distinctive type and quality.

## **Characteristics**

Possessing remarkable stamina and endurance.

## **Temperament**

Intelligent, gentle, affectionate and even-tempered.

## **Head and Skull**

Long, moderate width, flat skull, slight stop.

Jaws powerful and well chiselled.

## **Eyes**

Bright, intelligent, oval and obliquely set. Preferably dark.

## **Ears**

Small, rose-shape, of fine texture.

## **Neck**

Long and muscular, elegantly arched, well let into shoulders.



## **Forequarters**

Shoulders oblique, well set back, muscular without being loaded, narrow and cleanly defined at top. Forelegs, long and straight, bone of good substance and quality. Elbows free and well set under shoulders. Pasterns of moderate length, slightly sprung. Elbows, pasterns and toes inclining neither in nor out.

## **Body**

Chest deep and capacious, providing adequate heart room. Ribs deep, well sprung and carried well back. Flanks well cut up. Back rather long, broad and square. Loins powerful, slightly arched.

## **Hindquarters**

Thighs and second thighs wide and muscular, showing great propelling power. Stifles well bent. Hocks well let down, inclining neither in nor out. Body and hindquarters, features of ample proportions and well coupled, enabling adequate ground to be covered when standing.

## **Feet**

Moderate length, with compact, well knuckled toes and strong pads.

## **Tail**

Long, set on rather low, strong at root, tapering to point, carried low, slightly curved.

## **Gait/Movement**

Straight, low reaching, free stride enabling the ground to be covered at great speed. Hind-legs coming well under body giving great propulsion.

## **Coat**

Fine and close.

## **Colour**

Black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle or any of these colours broken with white.

## **Size**

Ideal height: dogs: 71-76 cms (28-30 ins);  
bitches: 69-71 cms (27-28 ins).

## **Faults**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog and on the dog's ability to perform its traditional work.





## Colours and Size

Greyhounds come in many colours- black, white, red, blue, fawn, fallow, brindle or any of these colours with white.





Dogs: 71-76 cms (28-30 inches)  
Bitches: 69-71 cms (27-28 inches)

# Daily Health Checks

## Ears

The inside of the ear should be clean and free from odour. They need to be cleaned regularly with a wipe to avoid build up of dirt or wax.

## Weight

Be aware of a healthy weight for your greyhound and monitor it regularly. If you are aware of a hint of rib cage then you have got it right.

## Body Check

Run your hands over your greyhound's body to check for lumps and wounds.



## Feet and Nails

Check the pads for cuts when they have been exercising outdoors. The nails should be short and healthy looking without any splitting.

## Teeth and Gums

Gently lift your greyhound's lips. The gums should be pink. Teeth should be white with no yellow plaque or tartar. There should be no smell. Maintain a healthy mouth with chews etc. Use a soft bristle toothbrush and canine toothpaste.



## Eyes

Should be clear and sparkling without any discharge or redness as this could be a sign of infection.

## Energy

Your greyhound should be alert and ready to walk or play.

## Coat and Skin

The coat should be shiny with no evidence of flaking skin. Check for fleas and ticks as you groom and ensure regular worm and flea treatments. A good brush with firm bristles and a grooming mitt are required.





# Stages of a Greyhound's Life

Few days old



Newborn



2 weeks old



5 weeks old



Sapling





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Racing 2-4 years approx.



Retired

Senior



# Skeletal and Bone Structure

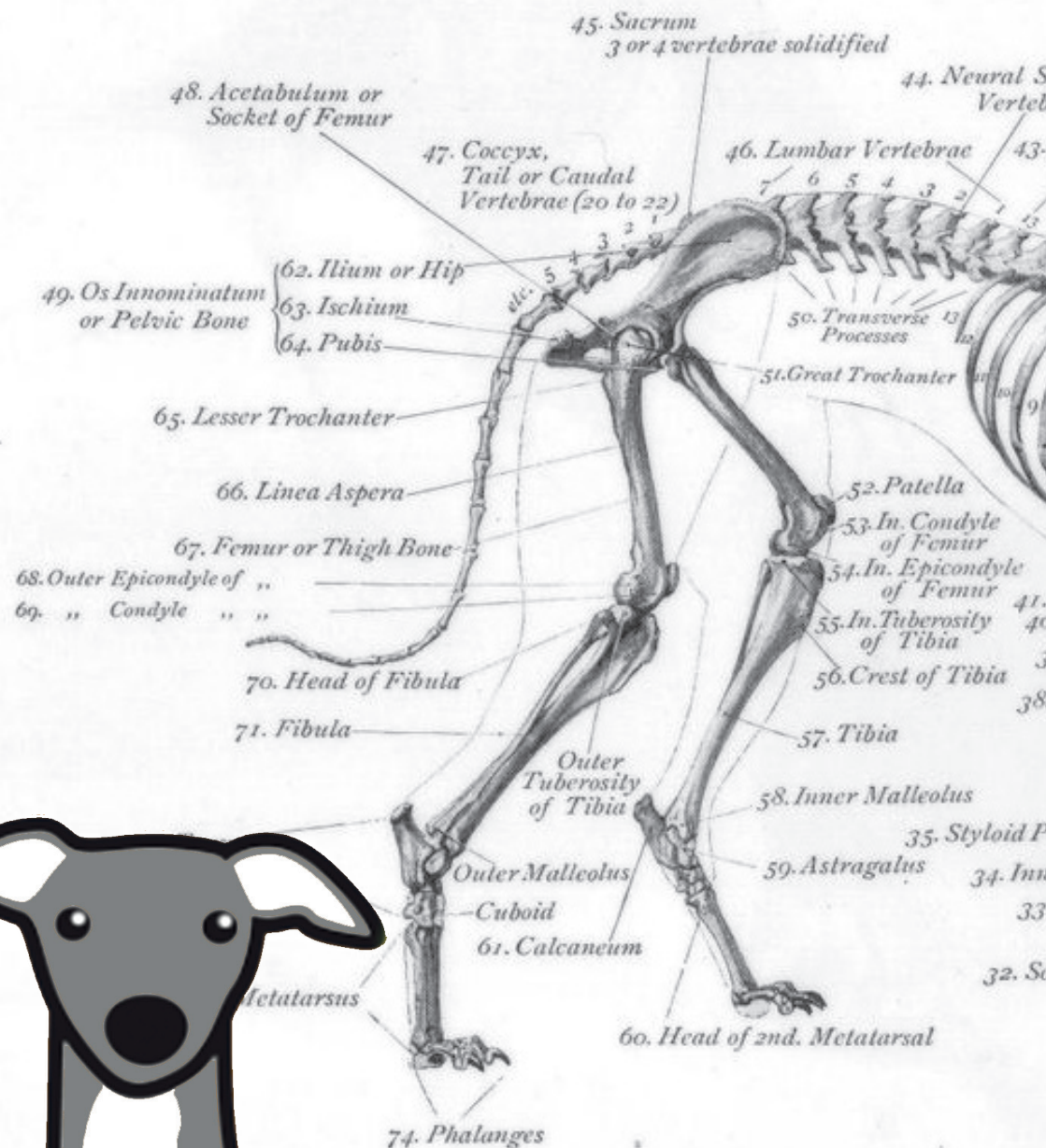


PLATE V.—THE ANATOMY OF THE G  
For the sake of simplicity, the Ribs and Should



GREYHOUND, THE SKELETON.

Other-Bones of the farther side are omitted.





# Common Health Problems

## Heart Murmurs

Greyhounds, in particular, are prone to developing minor heart murmurs. This is because they quite literally have big hearts, and often have high blood pressure. Heart murmurs in dogs are often minor but should be monitored.

## Corns

Corns are hard bumps that form inside the foot pads. In dogs, they almost always occur in the breeds known as the 'sight hounds', a group which includes Greyhounds. At first, a tiny dot appears that eventually gets bigger until a corn breaks through the pad. Corns can grow quite large if left unchecked and feel the same as having a pebble in your shoe. Treatment varies depending on the site and painfulness of the corn, but the dog can usually continue to live an active life.

## Arthritis

Greyhounds can suffer from arthritis, which means 'inflammation of the joints'. There are many different types of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis and immunemediated arthritis. The most common form in dogs is osteoarthritis, which is also known as 'degenerative joint disease'. This type always involves an underlying issue (wear and tear, for example) or a specific condition (such as cruciate rupture or hip dysplasia, which are common in many larger breeds and can occur in young dogs). Arthritis is an irreversible condition but can be successfully managed to help the dog enjoy a good quality of life.

## Gum Disease

Gum disease occurs when some (or all) of a tooth's deep supporting structures become inflamed. This begins when food, bacteria and minerals accumulate along the gum line, leading to the build-up of a brown scale known as tartar. When this undermines the gum the condition is called gingivitis. Eventually, small spaces can form between the gums and the teeth creating pockets of space for bacteria to grow, resulting in what is known as periodontal disease. The bacteria from infected gums can spread around the body and damage the liver and kidneys. This condition can be prevented by brushing the teeth and ensuring dental descales, helping the dog to lead a normal, pain-free life.







Most sighthounds are sensitive to anesthesia and some other medications. Doses of anesthesia that would be normal for another dog around the same size could actually kill a greyhound. Make sure your vet is aware of the breed's sensitivity to anesthesia before undergoing any kind of treatment.



All dogs can suffer from osteosarcoma, a bone tumour. It's mostly found in middle-aged or elderly dogs, but can affect a dog of any age, with larger breeds like Greyhounds tending to develop tumours when they are younger. While any bone can be affected, most cases occur in the leg bones. While surgery and chemotherapy may extend life they won't actually cure the condition.



Greyhounds have little-to-no insulation on their bodies, they simply cannot tolerate cold weather.

The have ultra-thin coats on top of their skinny frames that contain almost no body fat, so in cold weather they need to wear a fleece or a coat when outside or in a cold house overnight.



A greyhound becomes bloated when a sudden influx of gas and air enters the stomach, causing it to expand. A bloated dog can encounter gastric torsion when its stomach twists in on itself, cutting off blood flow.

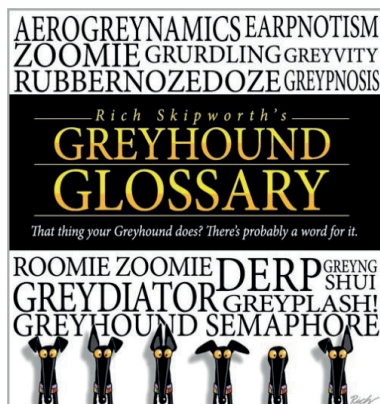
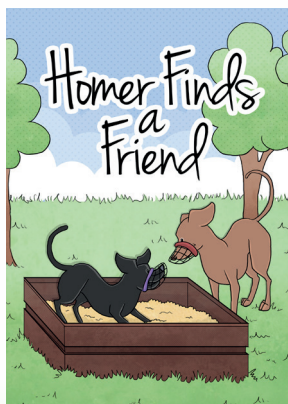
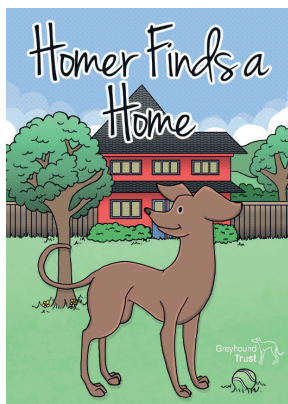
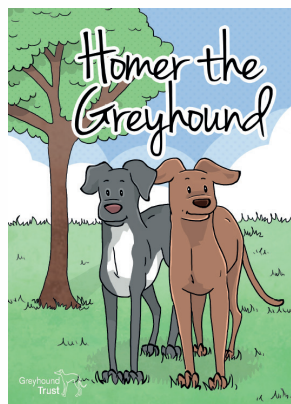
Eating and drinking from a raised bowl may help eliviate bloat.



Spondylosis is a condition that is characterised by the presence of bony spurs and bridges on the bones that form the spine of a dog (vertebrae). Sometimes these develop in a single spot or in several areas along the length of the spine. These spurs can sometimes pinch the nerves leaving the spinal cord, causing pain. Treatment varies from pain relief to physical therapy to surgery, ensuring that the dog can maintain a happy life.



# Greyhound Books



## Greyhound Glossary- Richard Skipworth

A comic look at greyhound life- a must for all seasoned owners who enjoy a giggle at greyhound traits.

## Homer the Greyhound Books- Greyhound Trust

Colouring in and reading books aimed at the 6+ reader. Telling the story of Homer the greyhound and his search for a forever home. Excellent common sense books, perfect for teaching children how to behave around and look after a greyhound.

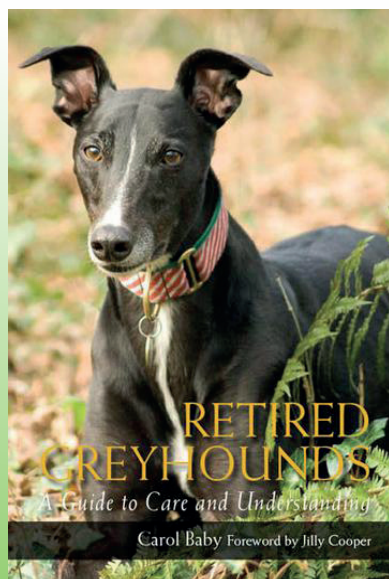
## Retired Greyhound- Carol Baby

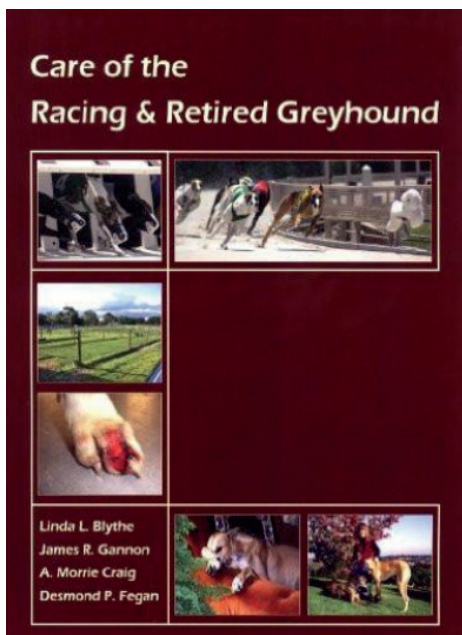
A very good all round, no nonsense entry level book.



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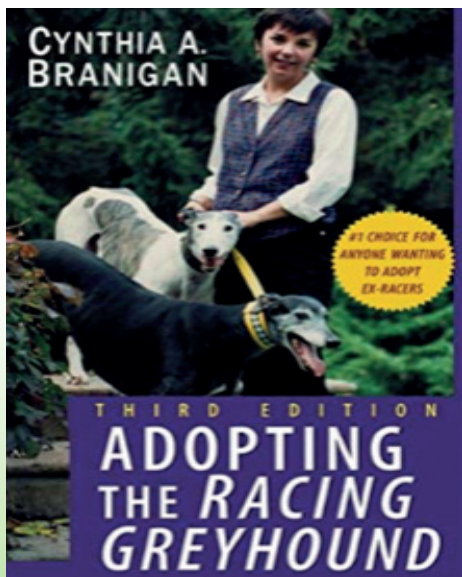
[www.greyhoundtruststore.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundtruststore.co.uk)





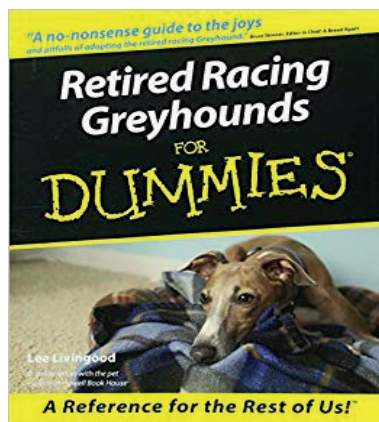
### Care of the Retired Racing Greyhound

A large, very in-depth graphic book for the seasoned greyhound owner.



### Adopting the Racing Greyhound- Cynthia Brannigan

An older book but still very relevant and again a good entry level book.



### Retired Greyhounds for Dummies

A basic entry level book. OK.



### Retired Greyhound- Julia Barnes

A very good all round, no nonsense entry level book.



# Breed Description

Long legged hounds of greyhound type were depicted on the walls of Ancient Egyptian tombs and it is thought that these were the prototype of the sighthounds. These dogs with athletic streamlined bodies and acute sight were soon popular throughout Europe for their hunting prowess.

The Greyhound was developed in Britain and in the Middle Ages a law was passed stating the only royalty and nobility could hunt with greyhounds, such was their prestige.

The Greyhound seen in the show ring is larger and heavier than the racing track greyhound. The sport of racing greyhounds was first held on an oval racetrack in 1926.

## Hound Breed Group

Breeds originally used for hunting either by scent or by sight.

The scent hounds include the Beagle and Bloodhound and the sight hounds such breeds as the Whippet and Greyhound.

Many of them enjoy around 40 minutes light exercise a day and can be described as dignified, loving but trustworthy companions.



<b>Breed Group</b>	Hound
<b>Vulnerable Native Breed</b>	No
<b>Size</b>	Large
<b>How much exercise?</b>	40mins- 1hr per day
<b>Length of coat</b>	Short
<b>How much grooming?</b>	Once a week
<b>Supposedly sheds?</b>	Yes
<b>Town or Country</b>	Either
<b>Type of home</b>	Medium
<b>Minimum Garden Size</b>	Medium
<b>Lifespan</b>	Over 10 Years



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