

Loose Leash Walking

It is important that greyhounds learn to walk beside their handlers calmly without pulling too much on the lead or jumping up. There may still be some work to be done in this area, however if the greyhound is familiar with the first steps to loose leash walking it will help them be more comfortable going on walks with their new adoptive families.

In Preparation

- Have high value treats ready (Chunkers, cut up dog roll etc)
- Loose leash walking should be practiced often and a great place to start is in your back yard or in an area that has limited distractions (other dogs, lots of people, noises etc).

Steps

1. Once your greyhound is on the lead, before you start any training, you must ensure your greyhound is calm, relaxed and ready to go.
2. Begin each walk, and every subsequent time you start off, with a clear cue consisting of “Your greyhound’s name” followed by “let’s go”.
3. When you are ready to stop give the clear cue of “wait”, stop walking and get your greyhound’s attention. If there is tension on the lead allow the leash to become loose. Once your greyhound has a loose leash, encourage them back to your side with a treat if they are not already there and continue with the walk.
4. Whilst your greyhound is walking calmly and relaxed beside you, praise and reward at random intervals with treats. This will keep your greyhound interested in you and the activity at hand.
5. If your greyhound seems very excited and is pulling and putting tension on the lead, make sure you stop walking and wait until your dog releases the tension or relaxes and then start your walk again. Say “let’s go” and move off. Continue this until your greyhound is no longer putting tension on the lead or pulling on the lead. Praise your greyhound when walking nicely on a loose leash verbally or with a treat.

Notes

- Keep sessions short and always end on a positive note.
- If greyhound is too strong on lead you can use a harness which gives greater control. GAP use the Black Dog Balance Harnesses (<https://www.blackdog.net.au/dog-harnesses/balance-harness/>)
- Your greyhound may be excitable and initially pull but in general the walks should be calm and enjoyable for all.

Table 1. Minimum exercise, socialisation and enrichment for greyhounds

Category	Exercise, socialisation and enrichment
0–4 weeks* Requirements also apply to orphaned puppies unless a veterinary surgeon advises otherwise.	<p>Any combination of the following activities daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal activity within the whelping box and mother’s pen area • exposure to a variety of different surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures • exposure to humans through daily handling as appropriate, with at least five minutes of human handling per puppy from no later than three weeks of age.
4–8 weeks*	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 30 minutes daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • normal activity and play within the mother’s pen area (this can include playing with toys and interaction with humans) • exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys. <p>Exposure to a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures.</p> <p>A variety of toys, rotated weekly within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour.</p>
8–16 weeks*	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of 50 minutes daily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • run or play time within a secure area outside of the primary greyhound housing area • being taught to walk on a lead and/or play chasing games • exposure to humans through handling and interactive play using toys • exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped. <p>Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of surfaces within the enclosure that allow puppies to interact with different textures • a variety of toys, within the enclosure, to develop motor skills and play behaviour • different environmental stimuli.
16 weeks to commencement of training and racing	<p>Any combination of the following activities for a minimum of five hours daily:</p> <p>exercise in the form of training, free play exercise, walking on a lead or racing</p> <p>access to off lead free play exercise in an exercise yard</p> <p>breaks from their housing pen (e.g. toileting, day yard, etc.)</p> <p>exposure to humans through daily handling and interactive play using toys</p> <p>exposure to a variety of other vaccinated dogs that are socially compatible and microchipped.</p> <p>Exposure to a combination of the following on a weekly basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different environmental stimuli • a variety of racing-related activities such as starting boxes, travel in cars and trailers, circular training facilities, straight tracks, and lures or race-day cages.
Training and Racing	<p>General protocols for exercise, socialisation and enrichment during education, pre-training, training and racing must be outlined in the EHMP.</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>The EHMP does not need to list education, pre-training, training or racing practices or methods.</p> <p>Pre-race day, race-day and post-race day exercise is not required if the greyhound requires resting.</p>