

Summary

Socialising your greyhound with other breeds of dog

Stage 1 - Distance training

- Keep introductions with other dogs slow and well managed.
- Start at a distance (30-50m) initially and don't progress to closer distances until the greyhound can disengage away from the other dog.
- Use high value treats to reward disengagement combined with a verbal 'YES'. Disengagement is the greyhound looking towards the handler for a reward rather than focusing on the other dog.
- Keep training sessions short – 5-10 minutes each.
- When the greyhound is able to disengage appropriately progress closer in increments of 5m to the other dog.
- If the greyhound does react negatively at any point retreat back a stage until the greyhound can walk comfortably parallel to the other dog.
- Once the greyhound has progressed to be within 3m of the other dog and consistently disengages by itself you can then progress to the dogs meeting each other.

Stage 2 - Dogs meeting each other

- Start with the greyhound muzzled and two people, one holding each dog.
- Walk dogs parallel to each other, 5m apart. If they can do this comfortably progress to next step.
- Bring greyhound in for a quick butt sniff while the other dog continues to walk forward.
- If that goes well continue walking and bring other dog in for a butt sniff – can do via circling dogs and changing direction so both dogs have the opportunity to butt sniff.
- If the above goes well, take both dogs into a large, fenced yard (if not already).
- Ensure there are no toys or food in the yard.
- If the dogs continue to interact well, drop the leads and supervise them interacting.
- At any stage if either dog acts rude or obnoxious, separate the dogs, have a break and start again.
- When both dogs can interact politely, remove the leads and continue supervising. Then progress to removing the greyhounds muzzle if they continue going well.

Notes

- If there is uncomfortable body language from either dog (stiffened body, growling barking, try etc) give the dogs a break before attempting to introduce them again. You want to intervene before the behaviour escalates to something more severe.
- At any point if either dog shows high levels of antisocial behaviour, eg. snapping, the greyhound 'punching' the other dog with its muzzle or high levels of fear, cease interaction immediately. This includes if either dog is trying to get away from the interaction.
- Some greyhounds pick up social cues very quickly, and others take some time and patience. So, ending the interaction when either dog displays that behaviour, will help them learn that behaviour is not acceptable. When they display the correct behaviour, ensure that you praise them and reinforce that behaviour.