



## Bringing Your New Dog Home

Your new dog may never have lived in a house before. Everything will be new and strange. Imagine you have just landed from the moon and seen televisions, vacuum cleaners, glass doors, and mirrors for the first time. Naturally it will take your dog some time to settle down.

The best way to help is to be calm and to give him time to explore without making any demands on him. Please never get cross with him if he does something you don't like. This information will help you to understand how best to deal with those situations. He is not being naughty; he is just coping with huge change the best way he knows how.

When you first arrive home take your dog on the lead into the garden to the place you want him to use for a toilet and wait with him (for however long it takes) until he performs. Praise him immediately – a titbit would be nice – and then take him to explore the garden boundaries before going indoors.

You should have designated a safe, quiet, warm place to put a soft, thick bed down for your dog. It is a good idea to have a chew or a pig's ear waiting for him on the bed so that he naturally goes there for comfort.

However if you already have another dog this is not safe to do. **Most spats between dogs happen over food.**

Respect his space when he is in his bed and make it a **'no go' area for children**. He needs somewhere to chill out when at all gets too much for him. Resist the urge to keep calling him, especially **TELL children to leave him in peace on his first day.**

Keep a close watch on your dog so that you can start toilet training straight away. Dogs will not foul in their bed area unless they are **very** stressed. In kennels they will naturally use the outdoor run. But in your house they have no idea where to go. So;

Every 2-3 hours,

Or if you see your dog mooching around restlessly, If you have just fed your dog, if he has just woken up. Put him on the lead, take him in the garden to the designated toilet place and stay with him (however long it takes) until he has performed. Praise/reward him and take him for a little walk round as a reward too, before you go back in. The better you are at doing this, the quicker a dog will learn. It is all down to you. It can be done in 48 hours if you work hard enough at it, though some dogs take longer to learn than others.

**NEVER scold or punish your dog for going to the toilet in the house.** He is not being naughty; he simply doesn't understand what you want yet. He will respond by learning to do it when you are not looking, which also means that he may stop doing it when you are outside with him.

Dogs will respect you more if they do not share your bedroom with you. It will also help them learn that there are times when you can't be with them and they must settle on their own.

Do expect that you will have an interrupted night. It may pay to explain to your neighbours and ask them to bear with you this first night

Before you go to bed take him out for his last toilet visit. Take him on the lead.

They are often not used to going out in complete darkness as at the kennels we have night lights,. For this reason it often helps if you leave a little night light on, at first, in the room where he sleeps.

Although your dog may have a soft warm bed, be aware that greyhounds and lurchers have thin coats and their backs soon get cold. If it is winter and the heating goes off at night he will be cold. Covering him with a blanket will not work as dogs turn round in the night just like we do but they don't have hands to catch hold of the bedding and take it with them like we do.

**Your dog will need a warm fleece on cold nights which you can get from our dog house shed on site or good greyhound supplier websites.**

Don't make a fuss when you leave him for the night. You could leave him with something to chew if he is not sharing with another dog. It is usually best to keep dogs that are new to each other in separate rooms for the first few nights (or use an indoor kennel for one of them) until you know they will live in harmony.

If he cries try to ignore him. If you go down when he cries or scratches the door he will know that that is the best way to make you come to him, and he will never settle. If you have a dog that really won't settle after an hour or two, you may feel the need to come down and sleep with him, or take him up with you for a few nights but that often makes it even harder to go back to leaving him downstairs. How well you manage on the first night sets the pattern for the future. After all, he slept on his own in kennels so he is used to being alone at night. But please don't get cross with him. He is crying because he is distressed and bewildered, you will only make him feel worse.

Dogs that frequently can't get through the night

Greyhounds and lurchers have small digestive systems and often find it difficult to go through the night without a toilet visit. Here are some tips to help you with dogs that wake you up in the night.

Is he cold? - Put a fleece on him.

Is he scared? - Leave him a night light and a quiet radio close the curtains.

Does he need the loo? - Water down his last night food and he will drink less before bed time.

Did he really spend his last night let-out wisely? - Go out with him. If you put him out, he may just stand by the back door till you let him in again. Wait with him till you have seen him perform.

If you take him out 2 or 3 times during the evening, getting up and going out often makes him more likely to 'off load' before bedtime

**Remember that your dog must wear a collar with an identification tag at all times. This is a legal requirement.**

When you let him out in the garden off the lead the first few times, pop his muzzle on. This will give local cats and wildlife chance to register that a fast dog has moved in. Even if your dog is cat friendly he will regard other visiting cats in his garden as easy game.

When you walk him public he must be muzzled at first. Remember he may have recently come from the race track where he has learned that chasing small furry things is the **right** thing to do. It will take him some time to learn that you want a different response. If people you meet seem frightened by the fact that he is wearing a muzzle do take time to explain that he is not a dangerous dog, but that you are a responsible dog owner with a rescue dog.

**Never let a child hold the lead. These dogs can have huge power and acceleration; they could, on seeing a cat, rush into the road dragging your child into danger.**

Please spend time on teaching your dog recall. He may never have learned his name. He will never have been off the lead except on the racetrack. However good his recall is at home, when he is out, and he sees a rabbit he will forget all that he has learned, so it will be some time before you will be able to let him off the lead.

**WE RECOMMEND A MINIMUM OF 6 MONTHS BEFORE YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.**

When you finally feel he is ready to let off the lead find a safe, enclosed space where you can do it. Keep his muzzle on in case someone's kitten should wander across his path Have titbits ready. He will be very fast and it is very scary to see the speed with which these dogs can disappear into the distance, so if in doubt - don't let him off. When he returns give him a titbit and let him mooch off again. Otherwise he will soon learn not to come back if it means being put on the lead straight away.

It takes time to rehabilitate ex racing greyhounds to being safe off the lead so please be patient. Don't worry if your dog is only getting lead walks. This is what they are used to.

The world outside kennels is a big scary place and they feel safer on a lead beside you. They are sprint dogs and do not need lots of exercise. Their favourite past time is sleeping on a nice soft bed.

Please arrange insurance for your dog. He may get ill or injured and you could be suddenly faced with huge vet bills. He could also cause an accident and therefore liability insurance is essential.

**When You Go Out, Never leave your dog tied up outside a shop, or unattended in your garden. These dogs are highly valued and frequently stolen for illegal racing, or dog napped for a ransom. It sounds melodramatic but it is true.**