

## IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT - TAKE YOUR TIME, IT WILL BE WORTH THE WAIT!

We understand that bringing your new greyhound home is exciting, however they have been living a very routine life and doing too much too soon can set you both back. Every dog is unique and will settle in differently; don't panic if you are not progressing according to this guide; we are here to help and support you on this journey so please get in touch. Below are some guidelines on how to manage the first three months with your new greyhound.



### 3 DAYS TO DECOMPRESS

#### What to expect:

- Feeling overwhelmed - restless, pacing, jumping up, panting
- Feeling scared /wanting to be left alone
- An upset tummy – might have diarrhoea or not poo yet
- Not wanting to eat
- Very tired - sleeping most of the time or too anxious to sleep
- Following you around the house
- Needing to be let out to toilet overnight
- Crying when left alone
- Struggling to settle at bedtime
- Having toileting accidents inside
- Not listening to you

#### What to do:

- Make sure the hound has somewhere quiet to rest undisturbed (crate, baby gated room, indoor playpen)
- Take them out for frequent toilet breaks on lead during the day (2-3 hours)
- Enrichment from the GAP resource
- Read the FAQ GAP resource

Remember how scary this is for the dog - they don't know anyone; they don't speak the same language as you.

**DO NOT GO FOR A WALK OFF THE PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS AND UPWARDS OF A WEEK.** Remember, walks and meeting people are only enjoyable if the dog feels safe.

### 3 WEEKS TO LEARN YOUR ROUTINE

#### What to expect:

- Starting to relax at home
- Interactions increase; approaching you for pats, making more eye contact, becoming more playful
- Starting to explore the house
- May need help getting in and out of the car
- Normal dog behaviours that are undesirable to people e.g., chewing, scavenging food, pulling on lead, barking, guarding toys and food, growling if people disturb them while they're resting, getting overly excited

#### What to do:

- Practice loose lead walking at home indoors and outdoors
- Start introducing new people
- Start walking at one or two new, quiet places with not many people, dogs, and away from traffic
- Keep walks short (under 20 minutes) let the dog sniff and investigate. Consider using a harness/long-line to give them more choice/freedom to explore
- Keep your hound muzzled and on lead when away from home
- Practice 'learning to be left alone' and enrichment exercises from the GAP resource

Use a crate, playpens or baby gates to limit their access around the home helping to set them up to make 'good' decisions.

### 3 MONTHS TO FEEL AT HOME

#### What to expect:

- Starting to feel safe and a part of the family
- Familiar with the routine and are getting better with toilet training and understanding the rules of the house
- More comfortable in the house and not following you around so much
- Hormones have settled after desexing

#### What to do:

- Introduce another place or two that are slightly busier
- Now you have built a relationship you can really get going with more training
- Keep up with your routine

Your patience and hard work over the last 3 months will be paying off. Your greyhound is starting to feel more settled now, but lots of things are still new!

Don't be surprised if they are still cautious and stressed out by new things - this is completely normal!