

Female Greyhounds

Females are given low-dose testosterone in oral form to inhibit their reproductive cycles while at the track. It does not enhance their ability to race. Females in estrus would attract the males, leading to fights and stress. Good racing females go on to produce puppies, proof of the safety of the dose.

Usage

The Florida Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering permits the use of veterinarian prescribed chewable tablets, or capsules, for the control of estrus under 61D-6.007.

Females receive the oral form once or twice per week, depending on the dose. Today, this low-dose form of birth control is not administered by injection.

Side Effects

With its short term use, the chance of negative side effects is significantly reduced. Females who show sensitivities do not receive any further treatments.



Benefits

In addition to preventing unintentional pregnancies, low-dose testosterone also prevents pyometra, a life-threatening hormonal disease caused by repeated heat cycles.

Breeding Numbers

Approximately 10,000 puppies were whelped per year from 2012-2015. 9,488 were whelped in 2016, and an all time low of 7,181 in 2017.

Through the use of safe, responsible, birth control methods and selective breeding, the numbers are kept in check.

About Retirement

Farms and Training Farms

Greyhounds retire from the farms and training farms when they show no interest in chasing a lure, have an injury, or are not able to run at current track speeds safely. They are then available for adoption through an adoption group or privately by an owner.

Tracks

Greyhounds retire from the tracks for the same reasons they do on the farms. They may also retire at an owner's request or when their running style makes conditions unsafe for themselves or other dogs on the track. They are then available for adoption through an adoption group or privately by an owner.

Puppies

Puppies, and puppies from unplanned litters, are also available for adoption through an adoption group or privately by an owner. Puppies are very popular and often have long waiting lists to adopt.

Adoption Rate

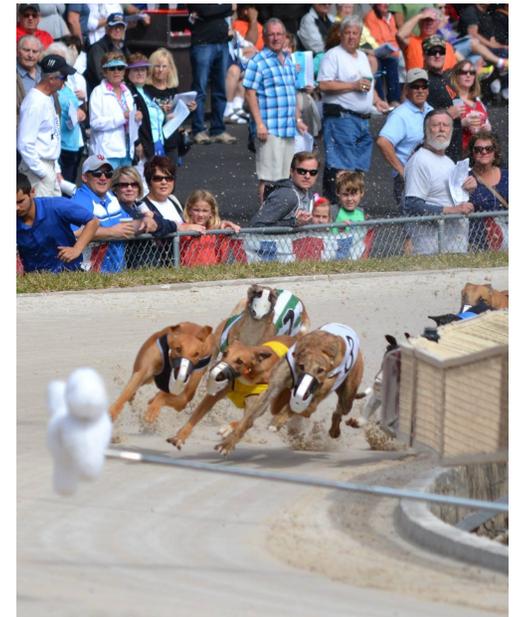
Greyhounds have an estimated 95% adoption rate, with thousands of dogs being placed in homes each year. At this time, there is no mandatory reporting for kennels or adoption groups, to confirm a more accurate number, although track kennels do keep logs as to where the dogs go after retiring.

Private Adoptions

Dogs that are not placed with adoption groups or adopted out privately, often claimed to be missing, retire and live with their owners or on a farm, where they may be bred for future litters.



GREYHOUND RACING



A first hand look at track life.
It's more than just the races.



Greyhounds receive plenty of human interaction and socialization at the track.

Most greyhounds race twice a week. On non-race days, they exercise with kennelmates in a sprint path. Some dogs also enjoy a soak in a whirlpool to ease tight or sore muscles, and others may swim at the beach.

Professional athletes, like greyhounds, are fed high quality food that meets their nutritional needs. The meals consist of raw meat that has been frozen, kibble, a carbohydrate such as rice or pasta, and/or fruits and vegetables. Each trainer has their own formula regarding vitamins and other supplements.

Crating is the safest way to comfortably house a large number of dogs. It also reduces the chances of fights by providing the dogs with a space of their own to eat, rest, and sleep.

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KENNELS

Track kennels are kept clean, safe, and climate controlled to maintain a consistent temperature.

Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are used in addition to a security system that monitors the kennels 24 hours a day. Any unusual fluctuation in temperature will set off an alarm that alerts the guard shack.



An Orange Park kennel in Jacksonville, FL



A Derby Lane kennel in St. Petersburg, FL

CRATES

Track crates are large enough for the greyhounds to stand up, turn around, roach, and share with a friend.

The minimum size of a track crate is:

42" x 34" x 32" = 26.4 ft³. Most track crates are larger.

A common pet crate size is: 42" x 28" x 30" = 20.4 ft³



Bebe shares her crate with Guddy



Justin appreciates being waited on every day

TURN OUTS

The greyhounds are turned out an average of five times a day. Each turn out is typically 30 to 90 minutes and vary depending on the weather. The dogs are outside for a shorter period of time when it's too hot or raining, for example.

Muzzles are worn as a safety precaution. Greyhounds have notoriously thin skin.



Females relaxing in the sun during a turn out



Nothing goes unnoticed by the males

Often the general public doesn't have a true understanding of what the lives of racing greyhounds are like, and how their track experiences contribute to them becoming great pets. Internet searches will lead you to a great deal of information.

Unfortunately, most of it is inaccurate and/or out dated. This honest information is sourced from those who truly care about the greyhounds and their well-being.

Visit greyhoundadopters4racing.com for more information.