

Galgo AdoptionAbout homing

A question often asked is "how does the adoption process work"? So, in a nutshell this is how it works for the Galgos:

After contact with the Homing Officer the "would be" adopter is sent a homing pack with a request to complete and return the questionnaire included. On receipt of the completed form the homing officer will arrange for a home check to take place. It is only after a successful home check that "would be" adopters are permitted to visit the dogs in quarantine and make a choice, having been told which dogs are still available. Once a dog is chosen and reserved there is nothing more for the adopter to do until release day except to revisit the kennels if desired. All official paperwork and payment of adoption donations take place at the kennels on release day.

Throughout the time from initial contact to release day many questions are asked and advice sought, especially by "first timers". Some of the points raised are:

Toilet Training: Dogs straight from quarantine are not toilet trained, but it shouldn't really take long if handled with sensitivity. They want to get it right but when they first arrive home they don't know where the back door is and might have a few accidents while learning.

Living with other pets: Many Galgos will accept cats and other small animals with no problem at all. Many others will accept and adapt to living with cats, etc. quickly once they have learned their boundaries. It is usually down to careful introduction initially and owners carefully supervising "dog and cat together time". This is one of the reasons why when you collect your new dog on release day you are given a muzzle in addition to a collar and lead.



Living with babies and children: There is no reason why dogs and babies should not co-exist happily and safely. If you are expecting a new baby start training your dog to stay out of any "no go" areas of the house as early as possible. Introduce new items such as cots, car seats, prams etc as early as possible in order to get the dog used to them. It also helps if you can get a recording of baby sounds so that when the baby arrives the dog will not find it strange. NEVER leave a baby alone with a dog however much you think you can trust the dog. ALWAYS praise and reward your dog when it behaves well around the baby so it will accept the baby is nice to have around. As children grow they should be taught to respect the dog, never touch it suddenly, especially if it is asleep, not to pull it's tail or poke little fingers in eyes and always to allow it to have it's own space. Galgos often become a child's best friend.

Generally: A greyhound collar should be put on high up the neck at the narrowest point and fit snugly. It is a good idea to have a house collar which remains on at all times—inside and outside complete with ID tag which has your name, address and telephone number. It is a legal requirement for an ID tag to be worn at all times.



Of course you have to leave your dog at home while you go to work, go shopping or other places that a dog cannot go. When your dog is new to the family routine he needs to learn that when you go out you do come back so try not to leave him too long at first. Try going out and returning after about 5 minutes at first, then 10 minutes and then longer.

Most will learn quickly but do remember that they will need a toilet break and cannot last all day. Give your dog proper care and you will have a friend for life. Sometimes helps to have two.



Pat