

Greyhound with young Children

Introducing your greyhound to any young children in the family, and vice versa, is a key moment when getting a new greyhound. Doing so safely is just as important for your children as it is for the dog.

In this leaflet, we will go through some top tips for having young children and a greyhound in the home.

1) Morning exercise can help settle your dog for the day. A tired dog is more likely to be happy to be ignored whilst you get on with childcare.

2) Having their own space is essential. Their bed should be a NO-GO area for anyone. Send the dog to their bed with a treat and positive reinforcement to make them want to go there and call them to you for affection. Greyhounds sleep very soundly and can be frightened by a young child lunging forward to stroke them.

3) When you have children it is essential that your new dog sleeps downstairs. This clearly indicates his/her position in the pack and avoids nighttime tumbles. A dog who is allowed to sleep in your room will instantly feel that he is more important than your children and may try and boss them about.

4) Toys. Dogs and babies must have their own selection of toys. Never snatch a toy from a dog or play tug of war. If they take a child's toy, learn to play the "toy exchange" game for one of their own toys or for a treat. Kindness leads to gentleness, force leads to aggression.

5) Stair gates are useful, but never leave a dog and baby together if you have to nip upstairs for anything. Larger playpens can be used to divide the room. Treat your dog with the intelligence of an 18-month-old child and trust (or not) accordingly. You wouldn't expect an unsupervised toddler not to steal a biscuit off a younger child so don't expect your dog not to try it!

6) Your dog must live in the family area to get used to the noise. He will not learn how to interact if shut away. He must know that squeals, laughter and tears are normal sounds and will respond calmly to them if you do. Equally the dog must have free access to a quiet area to avoid noisy play.



Dogs can always be around to pinch food so make boundaries clear from the off

7) Your dog must not be allowed to react aggressively in any circumstances, as accidental tumbles will happen out of your view. Any growling must be dealt with an immediate "no" and remove the dog from the room for 5 minutes to calm down. Invite the dog quietly back in to the room and send him/her to bed with treat. Remember that your dog will look to you, as pack leader, to protect it from the rough play of a child. If you do not do this fairly, your dog will feel vulnerable and is more likely to be aggressive.

8. Remember to still play with your dog but keep lively games outside to avoid anyone getting knocked over or whipped with a waggy tail.

9. Involve your child with caring for the dog. I.e. putting down food and learning how to recall and offer a treat

10. Try to maintain a routine especially at meal times. Leave your dog to eat their food in peace and NEVER feed titbits from the table. Babies in highchairs are very vulnerable if your dog thinks that he is allowed to take food off them.





Some greyhounds are more tolerant than others but it's still important to set boundaries



About Seaside Greyhounds

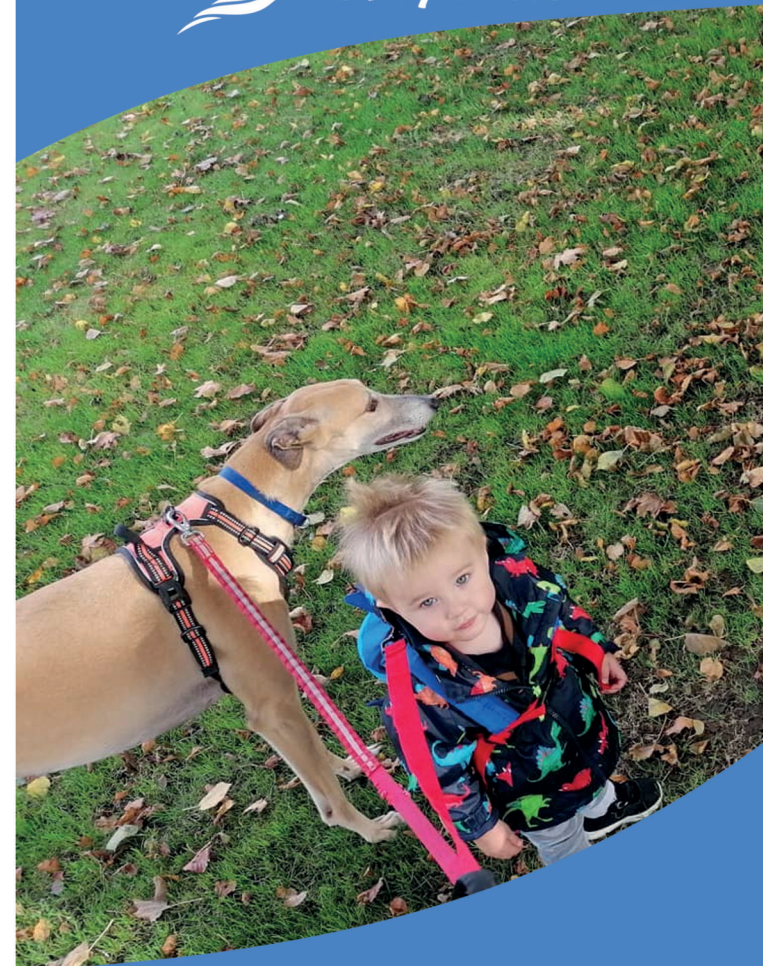
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Launched in 2020, we are dedicated to playing our part in ensuring that the UK's racing greyhounds find that loving forever home and comfortable sofa to sleep on.

We are here to help and support you and your greyhound on his/her journey to becoming a greyt pet.

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Greyhounds & Children