

Teeth

The importance of good dental hygiene cannot be overstated.

Gingivitis is the primary cause of bad breath in all canines. Dogs like people, can get gingivitis (inflammation of the gums caused by bacteria) and can suffer from decay and even lose teeth without proper care.

Once this has been done the maintenance of your greyhounds teeth is then down to you. We recommend that at least an annual dental check up is carried out, this will normally be done during your greyhounds annual vaccinations.

Regular chews, uncooked bones and dental treats will help combat some of the plaque build up

Brushing your greyhounds teeth is the most effective form of dental care. Some dogs will let you brush their teeth straight away, but others will need their confidence and trust built up slowly.

Regular attention to your greyhounds mouth will help prevent pain for them in the future and also help you save money.

Check your greyhounds teeth and gums regularly and if you are in doubt seek veterinary advice.

Eyes & Ears

Your greyhounds eyes and ears should be checked regularly to spot any sign of infection.

If required gentle cleaning of the outer ear with a cotton ball lightly dampened in warm salt water or wipes specifically for dogs ears will help keep the ear free of wax that can trap germs and lead to infection. If you notice your greyhound is shaking their head, rubbing their ears with their paws or against something like their bed and the problem persists, speak to your vet. This can be a sign of an ear infection or irritation within their ear(s). Greyhounds ears can be very sensitive, take care when handling them

Parasite Control

It is very important to regularly treat your greyhound for parasites (e.g. fleas and worms)

Speak to your vet to find the best treatment and advice for your greyhound regarding parasite control. Different parasites are more common in certain parts of the country, so it may be worth talking to your vet for specific advice and a routine preventative treatment. (Vets prescribe medication for parasite control to dogs based on their weight, age and preventative treatment needed at the time, this prevents overdose or causing your dog to become ill from incorrect dose)

Feet & Nails

Your greyhound's nails need trimming regularly.

Your local vet or The Seaside Greyhounds branch will be happy to help you, offering advice and showing you how to cut your greyhounds nails safely and correctly. Once you have been shown how to do this correctly you may wish to do this yourself. However incorrect nail cutting, or cutting the nail too deeply or short can cause pain and bleeding so it is best done by a professional.

After your greyhound has been exercising outside it is important to check their pads, feet and legs for cuts or for anything embedded. You can wash their feet in cooled boiled water, if you find anything and feel concerned about anything contact your local vet for advice.

(During winter months we do advise you wash your dogs feet and legs after their walks outside as dogs do groom themselves, if a dog ingests the salt/grit that goes on our roads/paths it can cause them to become ill)

Some greyhounds can develop 'corns' on the pads of their feet, these are small roundish hard lumps that are painful for your greyhound to walk on. (for people it is similar to constantly walking with a stone in your shoe)

Corns can be treated and managed at home, however if you feel unsure we advise you seek advice from your vet.

Hot & Cold Temperatures

Greyhounds are particularly susceptible to extreme temperatures, this is due to them only carrying a small portion of fat on their bodies and they only have a single coat of fur.

Like all dogs greyhounds will also get hot on warm days. They will pant and possibly be agitated. Ensure your greyhound is kept in the cool, has plenty of fresh water and you limit their exposure to the sun. If there is a breeze in the garden it may seem the coolest place, however greyhounds do not know about UV rays and can get badly burned if the proper precautions are not taken. Always have a supply of freshwater available for your greyhound to ensure they do not become dehydrated.

Take care to only walk your greyhound before it heats up in the morning or at night when it has cooled down. (if you cannot stand the heat from the pavement on the back of your hand or bare feet then it is too hot for your greyhounds feet to walk on)

If your greyhound is reluctant to go for a walk then give them the opportunity to go to the toilet in the garden. In extreme hot weather it may be best not to walk your greyhound at all due to the risk of heat stroke.

Symptoms that your greyhound may be overheating include distress, severe panting and collapse. If you think your greyhound is showing signs of this, cool your greyhound as quickly as possible with cool drinking water and seek veterinary help immediately.

Never leave a greyhound in a warm or hot room or car, they can die in minutes!

Older Greyhounds

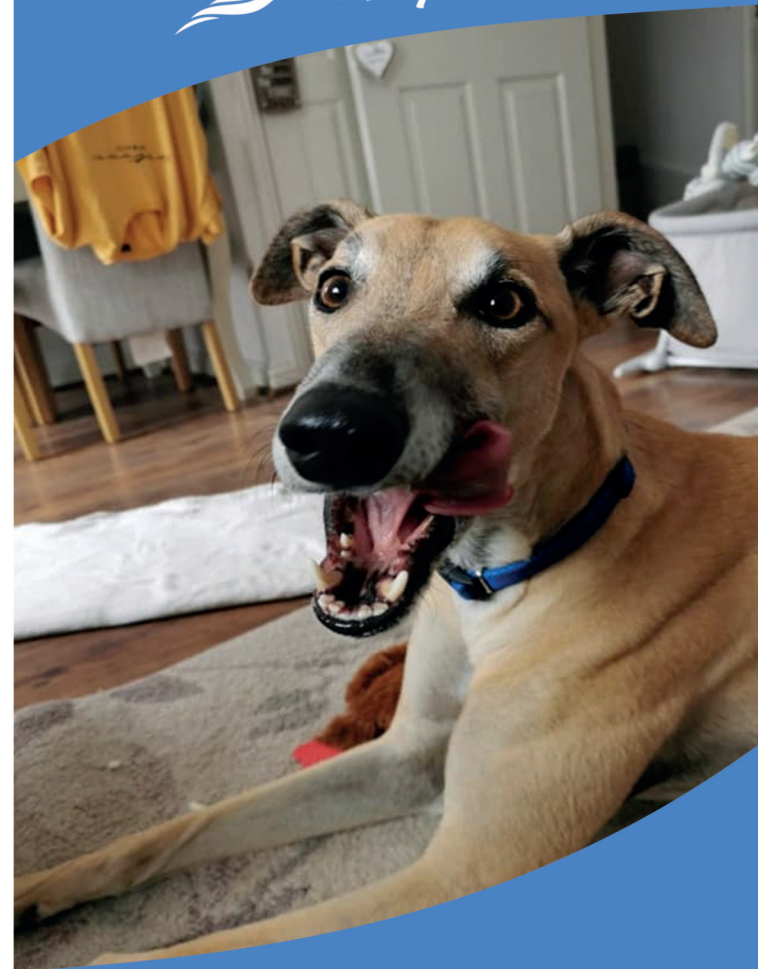
Aging occurs gradually and may not be obvious to you as you see your greyhound every day. You may see changes in coat colour, sleep pattern, appetite and thirst. Your greyhounds body shape and behaviour may change as well as greying of the muzzle and a reluctance to exercise. Please have your greyhounds checked regularly by your vet. Routine healthcare such as annual vaccinations, worming and flea control should not be overlooked and

Diet

There are some noticeable differences in the nutritional requirements of an older dog. Senior life-stage diets take into account altered lifestyles, reduced levels of activity and declining organ function. Your vet will be able to give you advice when changing to a senior diet.

Some older greyhounds require up to 20% fewer calories as they become less active so you should weigh your dog every 3 months. Many veterinary surgeries have scales as well as breed weight guidelines.

Adjust your greyhounds food intake to help maintain their weight to prevent obesity as this will put strain on their heart, lungs, muscles and joints. It may also sadly result in shorter life expectancy. If you feel your dog is overweight speak to your vet about a calorie controlled diet.



General Care

Practical tips and advice
on the general care
of your greyhound!