



Greyhounds and Muzzle Use

Does using a muzzle have benefits?

Muzzle use is an important part of responsible dog ownership. The majority of ex-racing greyhounds are used to wearing a muzzle, and are totally comfortable wearing one.

Greyhounds do not need to be muzzled at all times, but we do recommend that you keep your greyhound muzzled when out and about, at least until you are confident of their behaviour around other breeds.

Whilst in the care of Brighton Retired Greyhound Trust **(INCLUDING ANY FOSTER OR HOME TRIAL PERIOD)** all dogs must be muzzled in public – this is a requirement of our Public Liability Insurers and nothing to do with the temperament of the dog, but it is the reason why you will see our hounds looking for homes wearing muzzles at events. You should always, as the responsible person, muzzle your dog, if they are not yet good with or relaxed around other breeds.

Once adopted, we strongly advise you to use a muzzle until you are confident that your dog is not going to mistakenly hurt other dogs, whether this is on or off a lead. You have a duty of care to your new dog and part of this means you should not put him in a position where he can hurt another animal.

Never make assumptions, or feel sorry for him or her – their safety and the safety of other dogs come first.

Please remember your new dog may not have encountered other breeds before so will need patience and understanding until he learns how to behave appropriately.

The vast majority of greyhounds do not have to wear a muzzle once they have settled into a home life –but please do not take risks until you know your dog is safe with other dogs. You will be provided with a properly fitted muzzle from BRGT at the time of adoption.

You may need to reassure people this is not because the greyhound is aggressive towards people. Just explain they are naïve and learning about life and other dogs they have not seen within kennels. We will also recommend that you use a muzzle if a greyhound is being added into a home with another dog already in residence, and to use it overnight for a period of at least the first few days or longer if necessary.

Like most new relationships, there can be the odd grumble between dogs. Using a muzzle when the dogs cannot be supervised is a very sensible option until the relationship is given the green light by both animals as well as you.

Muzzles are not punitive devices & whilst not every dog needs to wear a muzzle when out walking, there are many reasons & advantages to using one, including:

- To protect cats and wildlife from dogs with a high prey drive
- To prevent fearful/defensive dogs from biting people or other dogs
- To prevent dogs from picking up and eating dangerous items on walks
- To prevent access to, and consumption of faeces (Coprophagia)
- To ensure safety during veterinary handling (especially in emergencies)
- Muzzles can give added protection when out and play time becomes a little exuberant. Their skin is easily penetrated, and small nips can lead to tears in the skin.

If your dog has injured himself and is in severe pain, he may panic and try to prevent people from touching the affected area, even if he is normally comfortable with handling. He may attempt to bite the vet, making it unsafe for them to provide emergency treatment. In this situation a muzzle is essential.

If your muzzle gets damaged you should replace it in a timely fashion. If your dog will be wearing his muzzle during exercise or for long periods, we would always recommend a basket muzzle. These "cage" style muzzles are usually made of plastic, and allow dogs to pant and drink normally. Greyhound specific basket muzzles are available in various sizes, and are designed to suit the longer snout of the sighthound.

Helpful Information

Kennel Manager contact info: 07704 982140 or info@brightonrgt.org.uk

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