SIGNS OF A HEALTHY GREYHOUND FACT SHEET



Being able to pick up subtle signs that your greyhound may be injured or unwell, is easiest if you know what 'normal' is. Knowing your greyhound is essential to noticing changes that may require further attention. Some of the characteristics of a normal, healthy greyhound are detailed below.



| ATTRIBUTE | CHARACTERISTICS OF A NORMAL STATE |
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| GENERAL APPEARANCE | • An upright stance with erect elevated neck and level head. |
| | Back level with well-developed and even muscle mass along the trunk, shoulders and legs. |
| | Legs well-proportioned with even muscle development and a good, even range of motion in all joints (comparing one side with the opposite side). |
| | Stands evenly on all four legs. |
| BODY CONDITION | Varies with age, stage of development, and stage of training. |
| | Should not be underweight or overweight: |
| | Puppies are well conditioned. |
| | Race dogs should be well muscled and display 3-4 ribs with just a hint of spine and pin bones showing. |
| | Breeding animals usually carry slightly more condition than race dogs. |
| | Muscle definition should be evident (varies from puppyhood through to rac-ing age) and be even on both sides of the greyhound. |
| | Should remain relatively constant throughout each stage of development. |
| | • Refer to Fact Sheet: Body Condition Scorecard. |
| WEIGHT | Weight gain should be progressive through rearing and the greyhound should maintain a relatively constant body condition score. |

| APPETITE | • Usually very good, readily consuming all food offered. |
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| | Some animals eat more slowly, but all food offered is usually consumed. |
| | • Rarely but sometimes, a greyhound will not eat certain foods. |
| | Knowing what food an individual greyhound does and does not like is important. |
| | • Some greyhounds will show significant food guarding behaviour. |
| DRINKING | Water consumption should be relatively constant and may vary slightly depending upon the water content of the food provided and ambient temperature. |
| | Feeding dry food will result in increased water consumption. |
| | Hot weather will usually increase water consumption. |
| | Exercise should not increase overall daily water consumption. |
| | Sudden changes in water consumption, especially where it increases, is usually a sign of disease. |
| URINATION | Urination should be habitual and regular. |
| | Initiation of urination should be without effort, with a good, steady flow rate. |
| | • Territorial marking behaviour is usually more frequent, with smaller volumes passed and urination is without strain or effort. |
| DEFAECATION | Passing stools should be habitual and regular. |
| | Stool colour and consistency should be regular, well formed, and maintain shape on the ground once passed. |
| | • Diet changes can cause changes in stool colour and consistency. |
| | No visible presence of worms in faeces. |
| SKIN | • Hair and coat should be smooth and glossy with minimal dandruff. |
| | Hair and coat vary in density between individuals; knowing what your greyhound's coat normally looks like is important. |
| | • Thinning of the hair and coat, especially on the thighs is common. |
| | You can assess your greyhound's hydration level by picking up the skin; when the greyhound is hydrated the skin should spring back to flat position quickly and readily. |
| EYES | Clear cornea (front surface of the eye); bright reflective yellow/ golden iris; pupils should be equally sized, black and readily responsive to light. Pupils should constrict in bright sunlight and become more dilated in dimmer light. |
| | Should be bright alert and inquisitive and observe surroundings responsively. |
| | • White part of the eye (sclera) should be white, with only fine blood vessels evident on the surface. |
| | There should be no discharge. |
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| EARS Ear flaps should be thin, well harted, folded over and should readily pickup in response to noise. Skin on the inner side of the ear flap should be thin, smooth and a light pale pink colour. MOUTH Lips and lowel should be equal with no signs of thickening or swelling. Skin a their binking (nucces) should be pink with no signs of referes or swelling. Skin a bould be thin and gistering. Gums and the mouth lining (nucces) should be most and a gistering. Teeth should be white with minimal or no tartar accumulation and the gum tooth margins should not be redeened, thickened or ninflamed. RESPONSIVENESS GAIT (MOVEMENT) At a welk there should be two weight placed on all four legs down or should be level and popt. GAIT (MOVEMENT) At a welk there should be ward and response to one should be level and popt. GAIT (MOVEMENT) At a welk there should be very weight placed on all four legs down or visual cues). At a response to the stride with a grant part of the stride which should be level and response to on weight placed on all four legs down or visual cues). GAIT (MOVEMENT) At a weak there should be even weight placed on all four legs down or visual cues). At a tort; the limbs move lightplaced by and respone to therefole should be | | |
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