

## **Adoption Addendum for Families with Children at Home**

In what ways have you taught your children to respect dogs?

The number one reason greyhounds return is because some children do not have proper respect for the dog. So the dog bites the child, and this could have been prevented. Warning growls have gone ignored. And quite predictably, the children get bit. Sometimes even the first bite gets ignored! These incidents are preventable if the proper barriers and practices are first put in place. We are discovering that many parents are not very good at reading a dog's warning signs. If a dog is trying to tell you that he is not feeling safe and secure, if his avoidance behavior or his growls go ignored, it WILL escalate into a bite. Do not suppress the growl, address the child's behavior. If the reasons behind the growl are not addressed, your dog feels he has no choice but to bite. After all, if the parent is not protecting the dog, the dog has to protect himself. Please do not adopt a greyhound just because your last greyhound was so wonderful with your children that he allowed them to hang on his neck. Or he liked sharing his bed or couch with the youngsters. Your new greyhound is a totally different dog. The relationship that those same children will have with a different dog is just that — different. Bites are scary for the children and the parent, but that greyhound is every bit as much afraid of the child when the dog feels he has no choice but to bite. All dogs that are adopted into families deserve respect. We teach our kids not to bully other kids. So why don't we sometimes recognize when our newly adopted dog feels bullied by our child?

- These greyhounds do not like being hugged by children
- Greyhounds do not like to be rough housed
- Greyhounds do not like food or toys taken away by a child
- Greyhounds do not like children on their dog beds, inside their crates, wrestling in their presence, or jumping around them (over them)
- If your dog walks away from a child, he is not comfortable with the child at that moment.
- If his ears are tightly laid back, or his tail tucked between his legs, he is afraid
- Greyhounds should never share the children's bedroom
- Yawning in an inappropriate context (during interactions with children, vet visit) is an attempt to relieve internal stress. Change the environment!
- The "wet dog shake" ( when a dog is not wet) is an attempt to shake off internal stress
- Lip licking, rapid tongue darting, or panting when not hot, can indicate high stress
- Holding breath (after suddenly closing mouth) can be a warning sign
- Sudden barks, growls directed at a person can be a serious warning. Stop interaction
- Turning away or avoiding eye contact indicates a dog does not want interaction. Don't force it!
- Are the whites of his eyes showing? The dog is stressed. Often seen in a sideways look.

We make no guarantees, nor assume any liability that any dog will not bite. We advise that any dog, including a greyhound, can be provoked into biting. Dogs send warnings, even if parents don't read them. We place total responsibility on the adopter for the safety of both the greyhound and the children. We willingly take back any greyhound for ANY reason. The adoption fees are nonrefundable, but you may request a donation receipt for your taxes if you ever need us to rehome your greyhound.

I have read this page and acknowledge responsibility. (All adult adopters must be listed and date)

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All Adult's Names (Date)

Thanks to Prisons Greyhound Adoption for generously sharing their document.  
Adoption Greyhound Children Rev. 1.2