GREYHOUNDS 101
Greyhounds love to race. This breed hunts by sight, not scent, so they enjoy chasing the moving mechanical lure. The lure is two wind socks attached to a bar that travels around the track. The lure makes a squeaky noise as it circles the track and the greyhounds chase the lure by sight and by sound. They wear muzzles while racing to help racing officials determine the outcome of a photo-finish race, and to protect the greyhounds from injury.

The greyhound is one of the most even-tempered, loving animals in the world. With a sleek body, quick mind, and a warm velvety coat, the greyhound is physically a superior breed, first bred centuries ago to hunt and then later to race at speeds of up to forty miles per hour, in furious competition.

Like most athletes, greyhounds have relatively short careers. When they've run their last race they're still quite young and have the potential to live long and fulfilling lives off the track. But these retired racers need good homes.

Fortunately, the greyhounds also have a superior temperament. Greyhounds are friendly, self-reliant, and gentle with children. Families who have adopted greyhounds agree that a better pet cannot be found!

GREYHOUND PROFILE
Size: 55-75 lbs Age: 2-8 years old. Temperament: Calm & friendly...gets along well with other animals. Exercise: Moderate (a fenced backyard is ideal). Climate: Loves to play outdoors...sleep indoors!

GREYHOUND Q&A
Q: Does racing come naturally to greyhounds?
A: Greyhounds love to run, and are competitive by instinct. In racing, there is no stimulus other than the mechanical lure to make the greyhounds run. When the starting box opens, the animal's natural instinct is to chase the lure, and try to reach it first.

Q: What are they chasing?
A: The greyhounds are chasing a mechanical lure. The lure is two wind socks attached to a bar that travels around the track. The lure makes a squeaky noise as it circles the track and the greyhounds chase the lure by sight and by sound.

Q: Why do greyhounds wear muzzles?
A: They wear muzzles while racing to help racing officials determine the outcome of a photo-finish race, and to protect the greyhounds from injury.

Q: How often does each greyhound race?
A: Each greyhound races no more than three times in two weeks.
Q: How old are greyhounds when they begin racing?
A: Most begin at about a year and a half, and continue until three and a half to four and a half years old. Some will race beyond their fifth birthday, and a select few past their sixth.

Q: Is racing safe for greyhounds?
A: Yes. If an injury does occur, the race track has a Veterinarian and an equipped office on the premises to attend the animal immediately. However, prevention of injury is a top priority. The industry has funded extensive research into methods for ensuring the safety of racing greyhounds while they are competing. Much of that research is conducted at the University of Florida’s Center for Veterinary Sports Medicine, the only facility of its kind in the nation.

Q: How are greyhounds trained to race?
A: At about a year old, greyhound puppies are transferred to training kennels. They run and chase by instinct, so initially their training consists of chasing a lure dragged along the ground. As they mature, they are taught to run on circular tracks, with the mechanical lure suspended above the ground. At about a year and a half, they graduate to longer, oval tracks, starting boxes and competition.

Q: Do greyhounds make good pets?
A: Greyhounds are very well suited to life as a pet after racing. They are used to being around people, living indoors and sharing the attention with other dogs. The breed is generally laid back and mellow when they're not racing. Information about our local adoption program is available on the site.

GREYHOUND RACING GLOSSARY
Across the Board: A win, place and show wager on a particular greyhound.
Advance wagering: Wagers that are accepted on a race later during a performance or on a future performance.
AGC: American Greyhound Council, Inc., a non-profit group jointly supported by American Greyhound Track Operators Association members and National Greyhound Association members, the purpose of which is to provide for the betterment of the welfare of racing greyhounds and the greyhound industry.
AGTOA: American Greyhound Track Operators Association, a non-profit corporation comprised of owners and operators of greyhound racetracks.
Backstretch: A straightaway on the far side of the racetrack.
Bertillon Card: A greyhound's identification card that lists 56 physical identifying points for every registered racing greyhound.
Blanket: A covering for a greyhound bearing a number and color corresponding to its post position.
Box: The post position the greyhound will be racing from or the starting box itself. Also describes a wager involving the inclusion of a combination of greyhounds in a race.
Brindle: A streaky combination of colors, usually including a predominance of brown or tan.
Calls: The position of each greyhound at specific points around the track during a race.
Career record: A series of five numbers indicating, in order, a greyhound’s total number of starts, followed by first place, second place, third place and fourth-place finishes. Often preceded by an abbreviation showing the track at which the starts were recorded.
Chart: A record of each race showing finish, calls, odds and comments describing each racer’s performance.
Daily Double: A wagering term describing the selection of the first place finishers in consecutive designated races.
Dam: The mother of a greyhound.
Dead heat: An exact tie between two or more greyhounds in a single race.
Escape turn: The turn or curve at which the mechanical lure disappears after the race is over.
Grading system: Method of assuring greyhounds compete against racers of similar caliber; grades are assigned according to performance, with the top grade being "A" or "AA".
In the money: A first, second or third-place finish.
Interference: Intentional and unusual physical contact which obstructs or impedes the running of another greyhound as determined by the judges. After being called for interference, a greyhound must run in two schooling (non-wagering) races before racing in an official race.
Kennel: A business that cares for and races greyhounds under contract with one or more tracks.
Leadout: A handler, employed by the track, whose job includes parading racers in front of the public and placing them in the starting box before a race.
Length: The margin equal to the length of one greyhound. Used to denote how far ahead or behind each greyhound is during or after a race. Measuring speed, each length is computed to represent about 7/100ths of a second.
Lure: The mechanical device attached to an arm and electrically driven around the racing oval.
Maiden: Any greyhound that has not won an official race and is less than 2 years old.
Mutuel Handle: The amount of money wagered on a day or evening's races.
Muzzle: A wire, leather or plastic device, with a white tip, which is fitted over the greyhound's mouth and jaws and used to aid in photo finishes.
NGA: National Greyhound Association made up of greyhound owners, breeders, trainers and others; recognized as a registry for racing greyhounds in the United States.
Nose: The slimmest margin of victory.
Paddock: The area of lockout kennels, scales and inspection area.
Pari-Mutuel: Means "betting among ourselves." Type of wagering system at greyhound, thoroughbred, harness and jai alai facilities.
Place: A wagering term describing the greyhound finishing second in a race.
Post: A greyhound’s post position or starting box number.
Post time: The starting time of the race.
Quiniela: A wagering term describing the two greyhounds finishing first and second in either order.
Schooling race: An unofficial training or qualifying race with no wagering allowed.
Scratch: Withdrawal of a greyhound from a race.
Show: A wagering term describing the greyhound finishing third in a race.
Sire: The father of a greyhound.
Superfecta: A wagering term describing the first four greyhounds crossing the finish line in exact order.
Takeout: The money taken from the betting pool to be divided among the track, the state and the operators.
Tattoos: An identification number placed inside the ear of a registered racing greyhound.
Totalisator machine: A computerized system that records amounts wagered, prints tickets for bettors and calculates odds.
Tote board: A board which displays odds and payoffs.
Trifecta: A wagering term describing the first three greyhounds crossing the finish line in exact order.
Wheel: A wagering term describing the selection of a greyhound to win, place or show combined with every other greyhound in the race.
Win: A wagering term describing the first greyhound across the finish line.
Wire: The finish line for the race.