



The Compatibility Test

You've read that greyhounds make wonderful family pets. They do! Here's how we make sure things work out well for all the pets in the home.

Cat Testing: A greyhound's reaction to them lets us know in no uncertain terms whether the dog can be trusted to live with cats. Dogs that are not just curious but obviously want to harm the cat will not go to a home with cats or other small, furry animals. Dogs who check out our test kitty and then ignores her probably will.

Since a dog's first, or even second, introduction to a cat is not always accurate, we cat-test each greyhound several times. We've learned that as dogs settle in at our kennel and become more comfortable, their behavior can change and we may see personality traits that weren't first apparent.

We pay particular attention to greyhounds that marginally pass their first cat-test but appear to need more exposure or work with cats. These dogs will be retested until we are confident the dog either can, or cannot, be trusted to live amicably with cats.

Kids: How can you tell if a greyhound likes children? A greyhound that wants to be with children will actually seek out the child's attention. We note whether the greyhound is gentle with a "little person," or is too rambunctious and may be capable of knocking a child over. We watch for shy behavior, and we pay particular attention to any dog that pointedly ignores a child, which is a greyhound's way of saying it would prefer not to have to live with youngsters.

Other dogs: Many racing greyhounds have never seen anything but other racing greyhounds until they come off-track. Small dogs, large furry dogs, or dogs with no tails, for example, may not be a part of the world greyhounds have known.

Greyhounds are extremely dog-social and can easily fit into homes where another breed of dog lives. But to make sure, we dog-test. Age and personality are also considerations. Some greyhounds might love to live with a high-energy dog; for others, it would be a nightmare. An older dog might not appreciate an exuberant companion, whereas a young dog might welcome it.

In addition to asking prospective adopters about other pets in the family on our adoption form, on adoption day, current dogs in the household are invited to our kennel along with their owners to meet the greyhounds we think might be a good match.

We've also tested our greyhounds with goats, chickens, bunnies, exotic birds and other household companions!