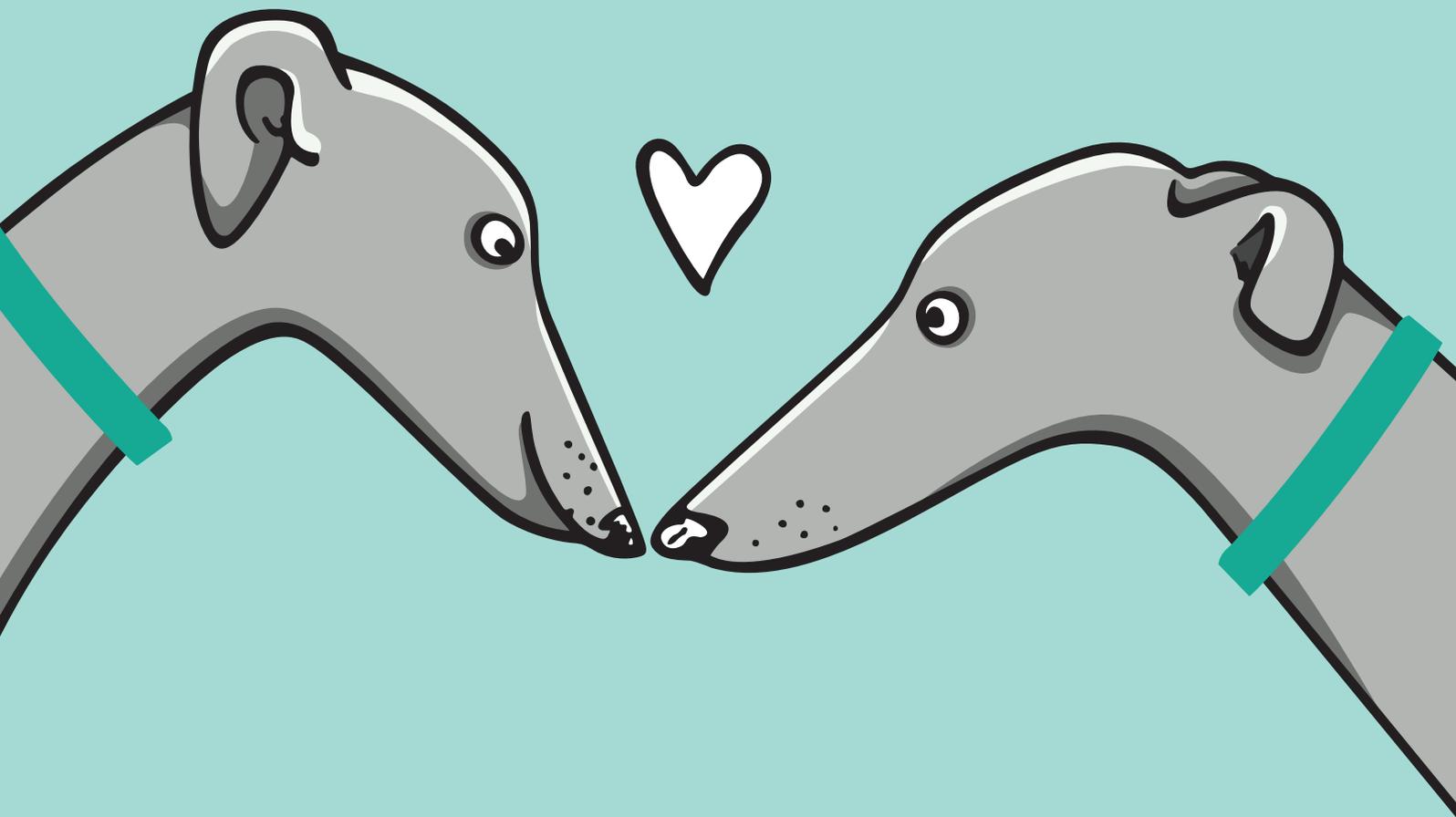


THE GUIDE TO YOUR GREYHOUND



**GREYHOUNDS
AS PETS**

INTRODUCTION

This document will provide you with information you need to set up your greyhound for success in your home.

Please read through the information provided in this document, as well as the GAP Training Guide.

Greyhounds as Pets WA runs a Facebook page group called Greyhounds as Pets WA Network, [facebook.com/groups/greyhoundsaspetswanetwork](https://www.facebook.com/groups/greyhoundsaspetswanetwork).

Feel free to join this group as it is a useful tool when transitioning a new greyhound into your home.

It's a great resource for connecting with other hound owners, sharing photos, experiences, making friends and asking questions that we can answer.

We also love seeing updates on how your greyhound is going.



Social Media

Greyhound as Pets has its own Facebook page called "Greyhounds as Pets WA Network". Please ask to join and state your GAP hounds name in the questions asked. It's a great place to ask questions and chat with like minded people including staff.

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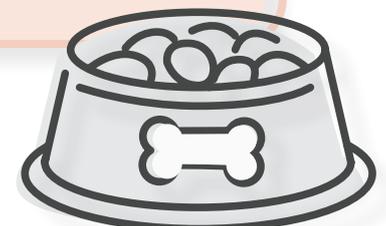
HEALTHY vs HARMFUL DOG FOOD

HEALTHY

- ✓ Acai berries
- ✓ Alfalfa
- ✓ Apples (not the seeds)
- ✓ Asparagus
- ✓ Bananas
- ✓ Barley
- ✓ Beans
- ✓ Beef
- ✓ Blackberries
- ✓ Blueberries
- ✓ Bran (cereal, wheat)
- ✓ Bread (chicken, beef)
- ✓ Brussel sprouts
- ✓ Buffalo
- ✓ Cabbage
- ✓ Cantaloupe
- ✓ Carrots
- ✓ Celery
- ✓ Cheese
- ✓ Chicken
- ✓ Cinnamon
- ✓ Coconut (oil, met & water)
- ✓ Corn
- ✓ Cranberries
- ✓ Cucumber
- ✓ Eggplant
- ✓ Eggs
- ✓ Flax oil
- ✓ Fish oil
- ✓ Honeydew melon
- ✓ Kiwi
- ✓ Lamb
- ✓ Leafy greens
- ✓ Mango
- ✓ Nectarines
- ✓ Oats
- ✓ Olive oil
- ✓ Oranges
- ✓ Organ meat (liver, gizzard, heart)
- ✓ Papaya
- ✓ Parsley
- ✓ Peaches (not the pits)
- ✓ Peanut butter (salt/sugar free)
- ✓ Pears
- ✓ Peas
- ✓ Pheasant
- ✓ Pineapple
- ✓ Pork
- ✓ Potato (not peelings)
- ✓ Pumpkin
- ✓ Quinoa
- ✓ Rabbit
- ✓ Radishes
- ✓ Raspberries
- ✓ Rice
- ✓ Sardines
- ✓ Salmon
- ✓ Sprouts
- ✓ Squash
- ✓ Strawberries
- ✓ Sweet potato
- ✓ Turkey
- ✓ Venison
- ✓ Watermelon
- ✓ Yams
- ✓ Yogurt (plain)
- ✓ Zucchini

HARMFUL

- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Apple seeds
- ✗ Baking powder & Soda
- ✗ Beer
- ✗ Caffeine
- ✗ Fat trimmings
- ✗ Fruit pits
- ✗ Garlic
- ✗ Grapes
- ✗ Hops
- ✗ Ice cream
- ✗ Leeks
- ✗ Medicine for humans
- ✗ Milk
- ✗ Moldy food
- ✗ Mushrooms
- ✗ Mustard seeds
- ✗ Nutmeg
- ✗ Nuts (esp. macadamia)
- ✗ Onions
- ✗ Potato leaves, peelings & stems
- ✗ Raisins
- ✗ Rhubarb
- ✗ Salt
- ✗ Sugar
- ✗ Tea
- ✗ Tomato (leaves & stems)
- ✗ Vitamins for humans (esp. iron)
- ✗ Xylitol (in gum)
- ✗ Yeast dough



DENTAL DISEASE IN GREYHOUNDS

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT DENTAL DISEASE

- > Dental disease is common, over 70% of dogs over 2-3 years have gum disease
- > In greyhounds it is more common and can be severe as the breed is predisposed to dental disease
- > It can be painful
- > It affects the general health of the dog
- > Toxins can move into blood stream and affect other parts of the body (kidney, heart, liver)

CONDITIONS OF THE MOUTH THAT MAKE UP DENTAL DISEASE

- > Gum disease (periodontal disease/periodontitis)
This is the inflammation of the gums (gingivitis) and the structures supporting the teeth below the gum line (periodontitis).
- > Stomatitis (more widespread inflammation of mouth)
Greyhounds are prone to this condition, an excess of a particular inflammatory chemical in the body that reacts with the bacteria on the teeth to cause the problem. Dogs may develop very painful ulcers.
- > Tooth trauma
Includes tooth fractures, pulp exposure and tooth wear, especially from chewing hard objects or bones

RECOGNISING DENTAL DISEASE

- > Halitosis (bad breath) from anaerobic bacteria
- > Red, swollen and/or bleeding gums
- > Exposed roots, gum recession
- > Loose teeth
- > May prefer soft food
- > May avoid chew toys
- > Haemorrhage (less common)
- > Jaw fracture (less common)



Stage One
Gingivitis



Stage Two
Early



Stage Three
Moderate



Stage Four
Advanced

WAYS TO PREVENT AND MANAGE DENTAL DISEASE IN GREYHOUNDS

Plaque is the soft film of bacteria on the teeth which can be brushed away by using oral homecare products registered for use in dogs.

- > Active care with tooth brushing, tooth wipes, dental chews e.g. Greenies
- > Passive care using registered veterinary water additives
- > Diets which include dry kibble may assist in providing some mechanical cleaning of teeth
- > AVOID BONES cooked or raw as they carry bacteria and can cause gastrointestinal illness, splinter in the mouth or GI tract, or cause constipation.



REGULAR SCALE AND POLISH UNDER GENERAL ANAESTHESIA

Calculus (tartar) is the calcified, hardened plaque which cannot be brushed away and must be scaled off mechanically.

This is the only way to manage periodontal disease, stomatitis and individual tooth problems.



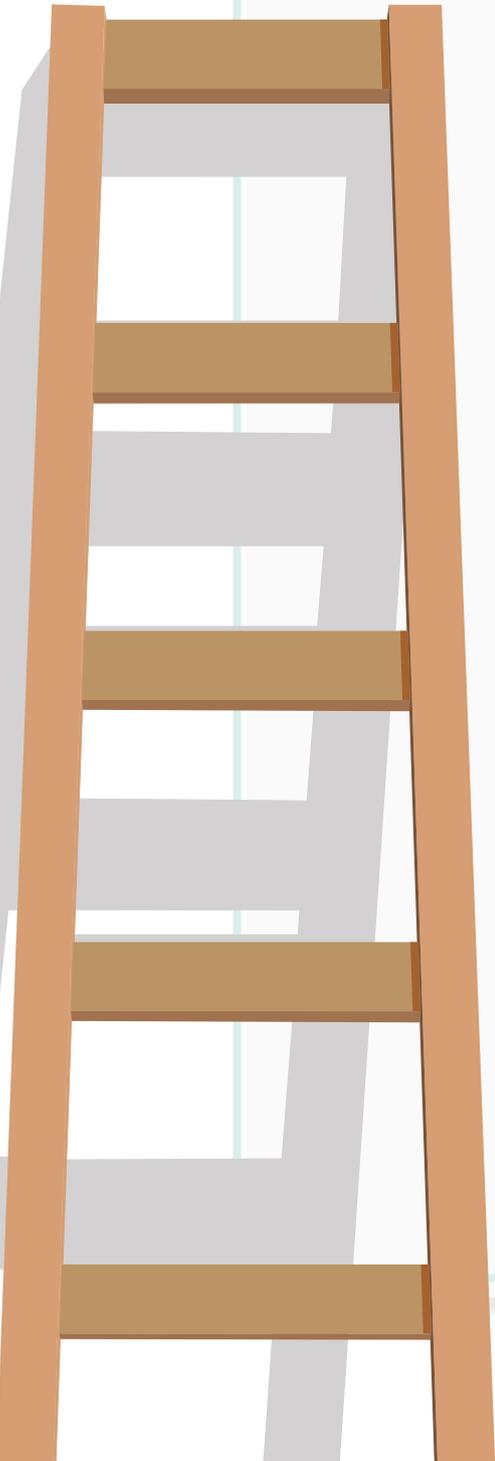
Dog's teeth **before** dental cleaning



Dog's teeth **after** dental cleaning

THE CANINE LADDER OF AGGRESSION

Dogs communicate their discomfort with a situation and a desire to end an interaction by using visual cues. These are depicted on this ladder of aggression. Recognising the lower-rung gestures is important, so a perceived stress or threat to a dog can be removed sooner.



BITES

SNAPS

GROWLS

STIFFENS, STARES

LIES DOWN, LEG UP

STANDS, CROUCHED, TUCKS TAIL

CREEPS, EARS BACK

WALKS AWAY

TURNES BODY AWAY, SITS, PAWS

TURNES HEAD AWAY

BLINKS, YAWNS, LICKS NOSE

MY GREYHOUND'S EMOTIONAL BUCKET

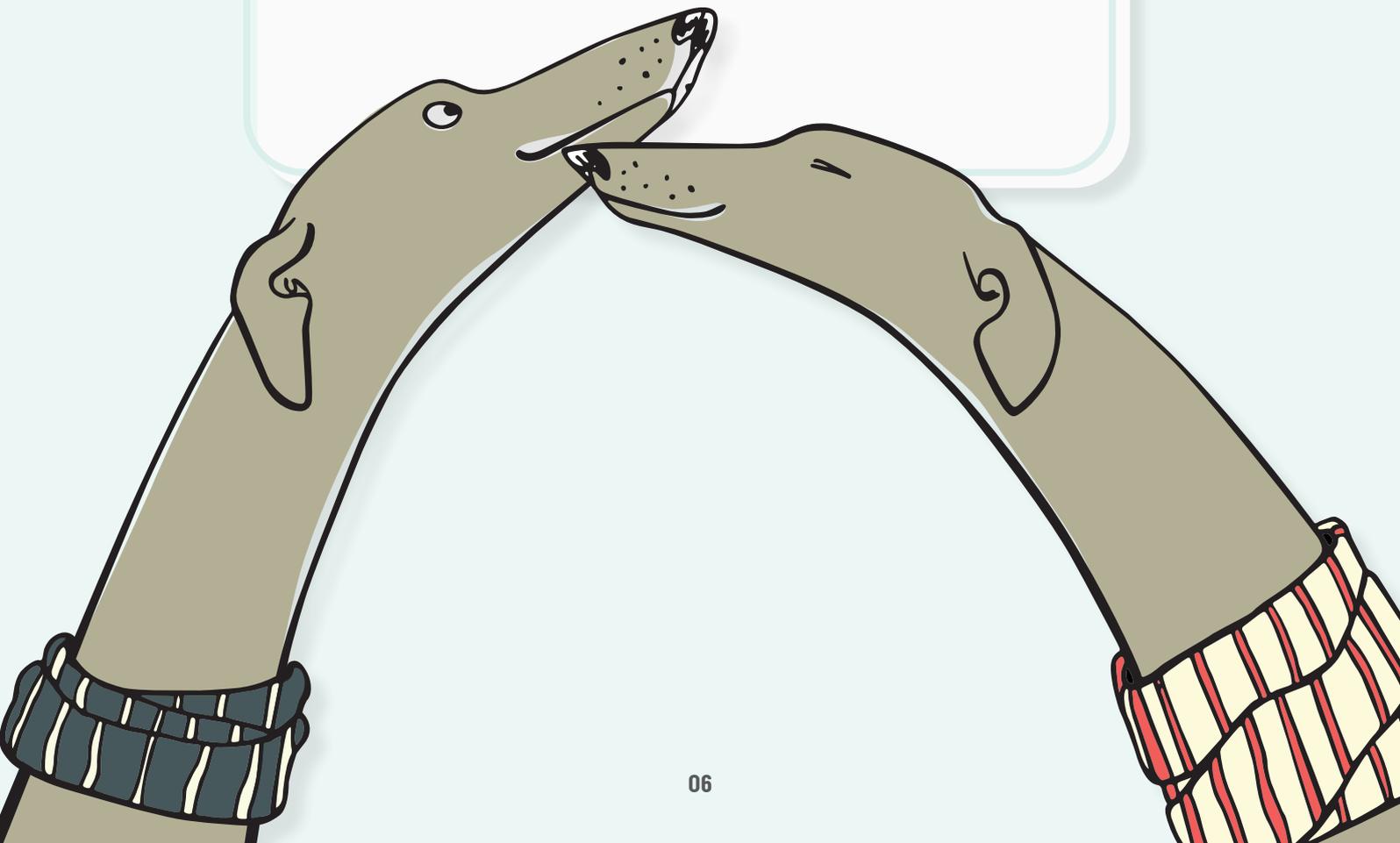
It is very important when adding a greyhound to your home to consider things from their perspective. Envision your dog's mind as a bucket, filling with water, but we don't want to overdo things and spill the water everywhere!

We want to keep a dog newly moved into an environment as calm and restful as possible. Giving them time to absorb their new world and continuing to open it slowly, little by little, gives them a much greater chance of success. We don't want to set them up for failure by flooding them with too many new stimuli too soon!

The most important thing to remember when you first welcome a new greyhound into your home is to **KEEP IT SIMPLE**. They've had a big change already; new people, new car, new environment, perhaps other animals or children they've never encountered before. That's a very big day! So take it easy for a few days....allow them the chance to investigate their new surroundings and get to know their new family. Adventures in the big wide world will come in time, there is no need to rush. This includes not taking your greyhound for a walk for at least the first seven days until you have developed a bond.

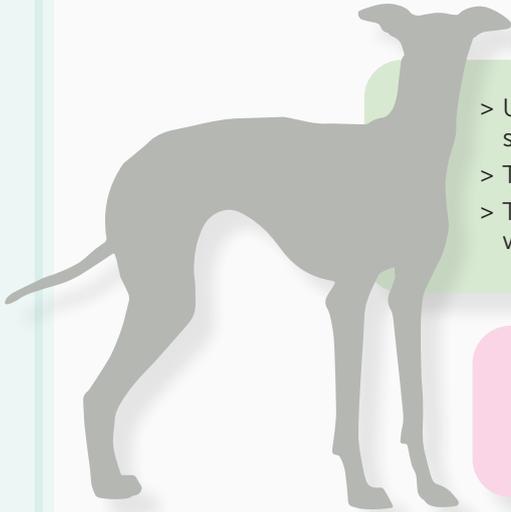
A calm and relaxed dog is much more likely to be responsive to training, comfortable in engaging with the people around it. If we over-stimulate them and their arousal levels rise and increase beyond their threshold, the dog is likely to become overwhelmed and shut down.

Over-arousal and overwhelming the dog could take days to level out from; negatively impacting on behaviour and emotional wellbeing. We want to give them the tools to succeed in pet life and give them the opportunity to be the best version of themselves.



RECOGNISING FEAR + STRESS

If you recognise any signs of fear or stress below, we suggest you refer to the Behaviour Emergency Actions on page 4.



- > Upright posture, square shoulders
- > Tense/still sudden freeze
- > Tail high and stiff/wagging slightly
- > Forward leaning posture
- > Barking, growling, snapping
- > Lips pursed forward
- > Direct/intense stare

- > Yawning
- > Whites of eye showing 'sideways look'
- > Moving away or hiding
- > Lip licking

- > Panting
- > Drooling
- > Tension in face 'worry lines'
- > Pacing/restless
- > Furrowed Brow
- > Sudden or excessive hair shedding



- > Bum tucked/hunched posture
- > Tail low or tucked under
- > Trembling or shaking
- > Wide eyes
- > Ears back
- > Low body posture, crouching or cowering
- > Head held low
- > Paw lift
- > Leading/shifting weight away
- > Squinting/blinking/looking away/avoiding eye contact

- > Excessive grooming
- > Refusing or snatching food
- > Frantic looking around/scanning
- > Frantic sniffing

- > Showing belly
- > Slow movement/lack of movement
- > Lack of behaviour 'shut down'
- > Appears to ignore/not notice dog, person etc

SLEEP STARTLE IN GREYHOUNDS

Greyhounds have one special rule: Do not go near their bed!

Their bed is their safe space and needs to be respected. All their life up until this point their sleep space has been kept sacred and offering this consistency, goes a long way to building trust in this new phase they are entering. If you wish to interact with your hound, call them over! Give them the option, and most importantly if they choose not to right now, respect this choice and give them space.

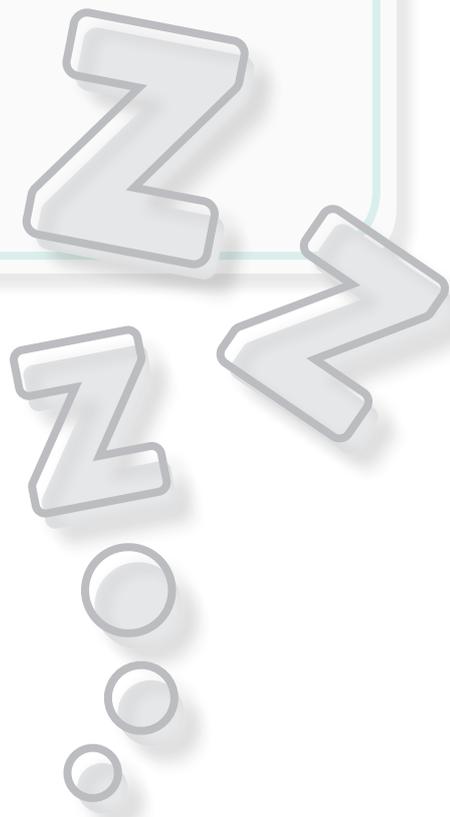
It is essentially a matter of consent. Imagine someone came up and touched you unexpectedly whilst you were sleeping soundly in your bed... Bit weird right?! And then you jump up scared- like that dream where you're falling...Perfectly reasonable...Except you're a hound, with sharp teeth and a big deep voice. You're now scared, the human got a fright when you reacted – trust may be broken needlessly. However, if we all give each other the space and time we need, the friendship can grow.

Has your greyhound growled at you whilst on its' bed? Consider the location of the bed in your home;

Is it in a high traffic area?

Is there perhaps a quieter place for it to be that has less foot traffic?

If the greyhound is growling when you are still quite far away, consider tossing a treat to the greyhound any time you walk past, and the greyhound does not react. This reinforces to the greyhound that you are not a threat, and it is okay for you to walk past. If the greyhound does growl, respect the growl as a form of communication and move away.

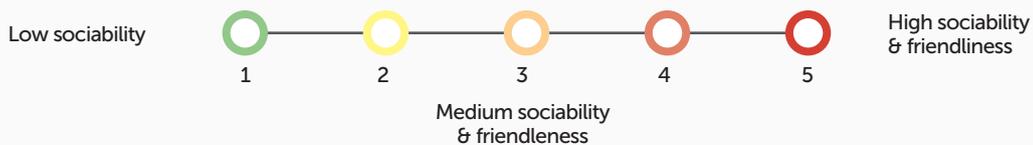


BEHAVIOUR SCALE

FRIENDLINESS/SOCIABILITY

Examples of friendly/social behaviour includes making eye contact, social head tilt, jumping and playing bow. A friendly dog would receive a score of 5.

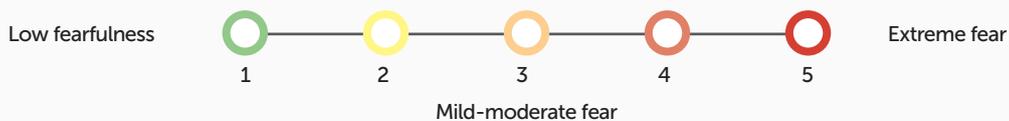
Low sociability behaviour includes little/no eye contact, direct stare or little/no social interaction.



FEARFULNESS

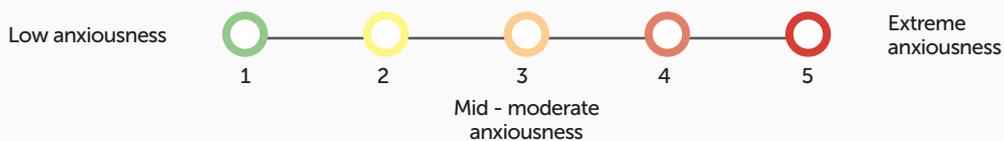
Refers to behaviour including crouching/arched back, ears flattened against the head, tail tucked under the body, muzzle licking, lowered head, dilated pupils, wide eyes, paw lift, loss of bladder or bowel control, lips drawn back or closed tight, braced legs (in preparation to flee) and a direct stare.

A dog that shows no signs of fear would receive a score of 0 whereas a dog that shows fear would receive a score from 1 to 5. Extreme fear would receive a score of 5.



ANXIOUSNESS

Refers to behaviour such as the inability to settle and relax, distress vocalisation (e.g. whining and yelping), little or no soft eye contact, wide eyes, muzzle licking, excessive panting, yawning and proximity seeking behaviour. A dog that appears non-anxious would receive a score of 1 whereas an anxious dog would receive a score from 1 to 5 depending on the severity of the anxiety, 5 being extremely anxious.



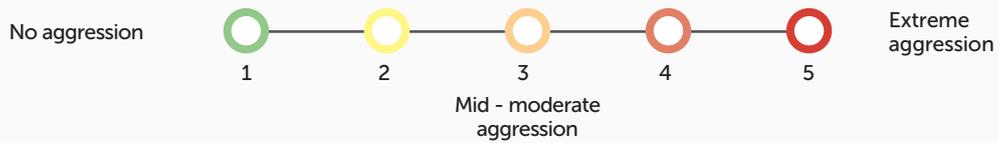
AROUSAL/EXCITEMENT

Refers to the degree to which the dog is active. A dog that remains relatively sedentary would be classified as "non-active" and would receive a score of 0, whereas a dog that is hyperactive or boisterous would be classified as "active" and would receive a score from 1 to 5 depending on the level of activity, 5 being extremely excited or aroused. Active behaviour includes pacing, jumping up, pulling on lead, running, lunging etc.



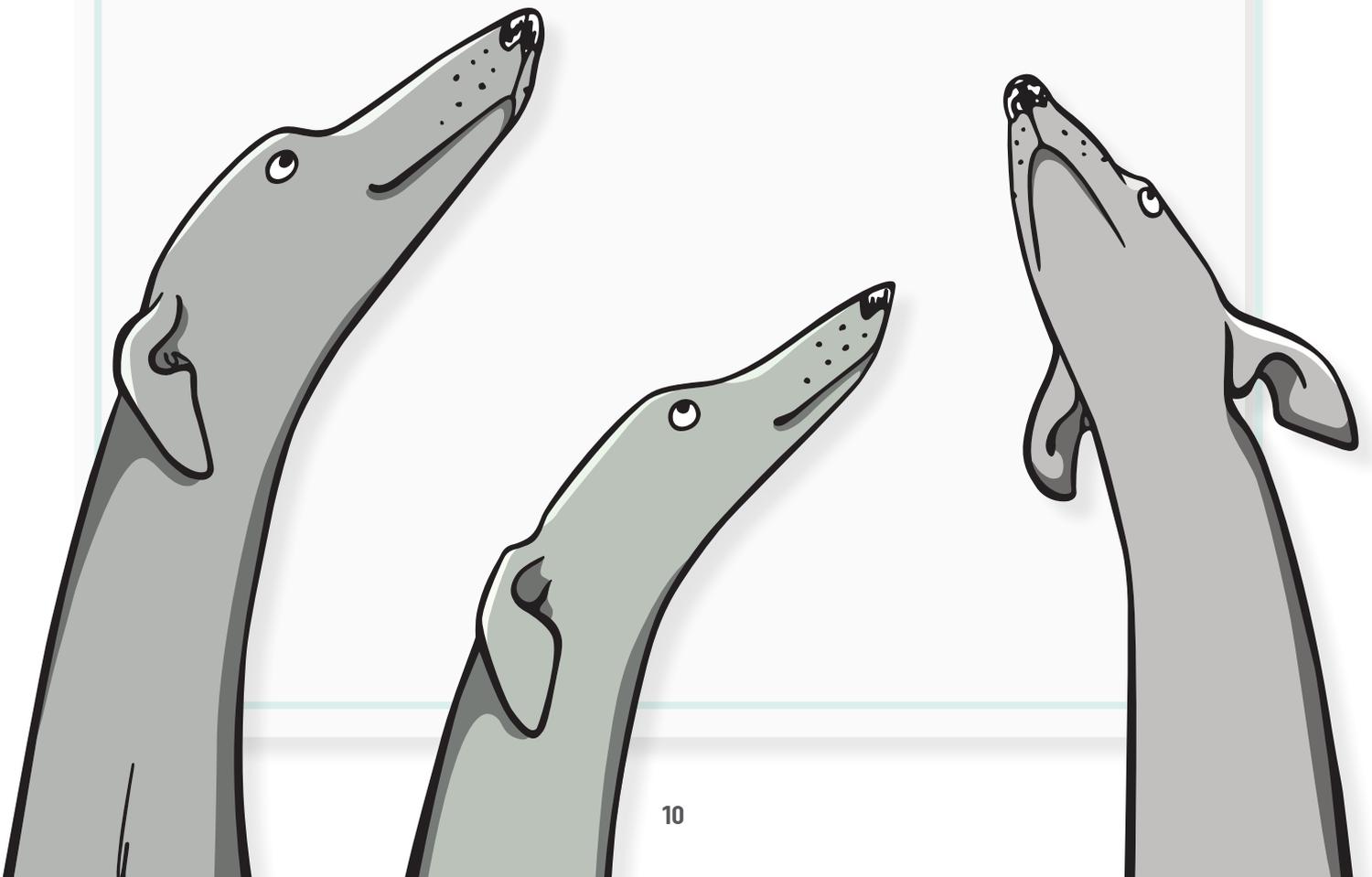
AGGRESSION

Some dogs display aggressive behaviour from time to time. Typical signs of moderate aggression in dogs include barking, growling and baring teeth. More serious aggression generally includes snapping, lunging, attempting to bite, or biting. Dogs showing no aggression would receive a score of zero. Whereas a dog that shows aggression would receive a score from 1 to 5, with 5 being extreme aggressiveness.



POSSESSION

No possession would occur if able to remove, food bowls, objects, bowls and beds with ease. Mild-moderate possession would occur if the dog runs away with the object, toy, food, and it is hard to remove the item from mouth but will exchange for another item or food item. Severe possession would occur with signs of protecting the resource, growling, snarling, snapping if trying to move towards the object or trying to remove the object. Dogs showing no possession would receive a score of zero. While a dog showing possession would receive a score from 1-5, with 5 being the extreme signs.



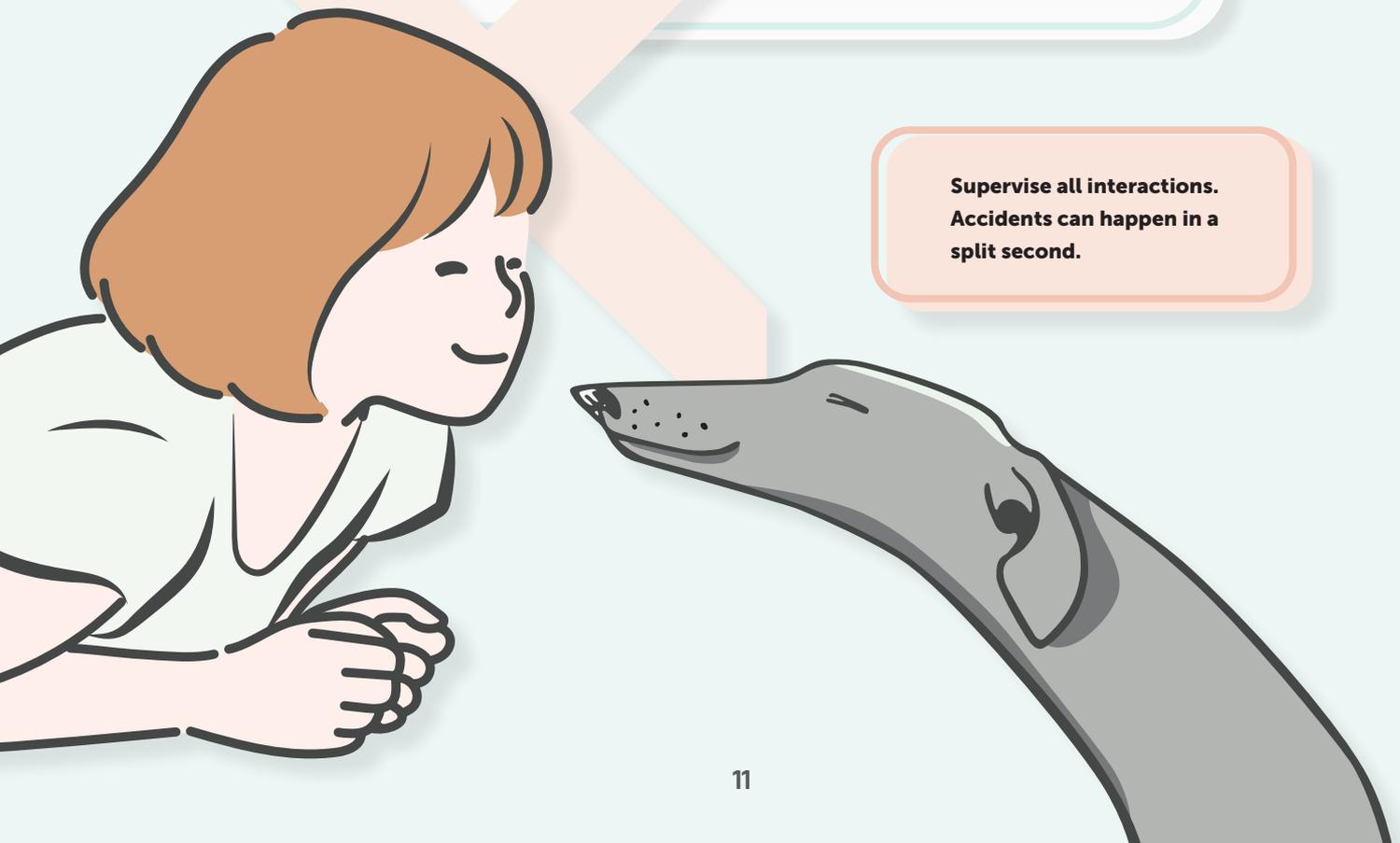
KIDS INTERACTING WITH A GREYHOUND

HOW KIDS SHOULD NOT INTERACT WITH DOGS

It's common sense. Imagine how people should interact with each other.

- ✗ Avoid bothering when asleep
- ✗ Avoid pestering
- ✗ Avoid climbing on or trampling
- ✗ Avoid pinching
- ✗ Avoid bothering dogs when they are eating
- ✗ Avoid putting your face right up to a dog's face
- ✗ Avoid grabbing tail/ears
- ✗ Avoid screaming and shouting. Use your 'inside' voice instead.

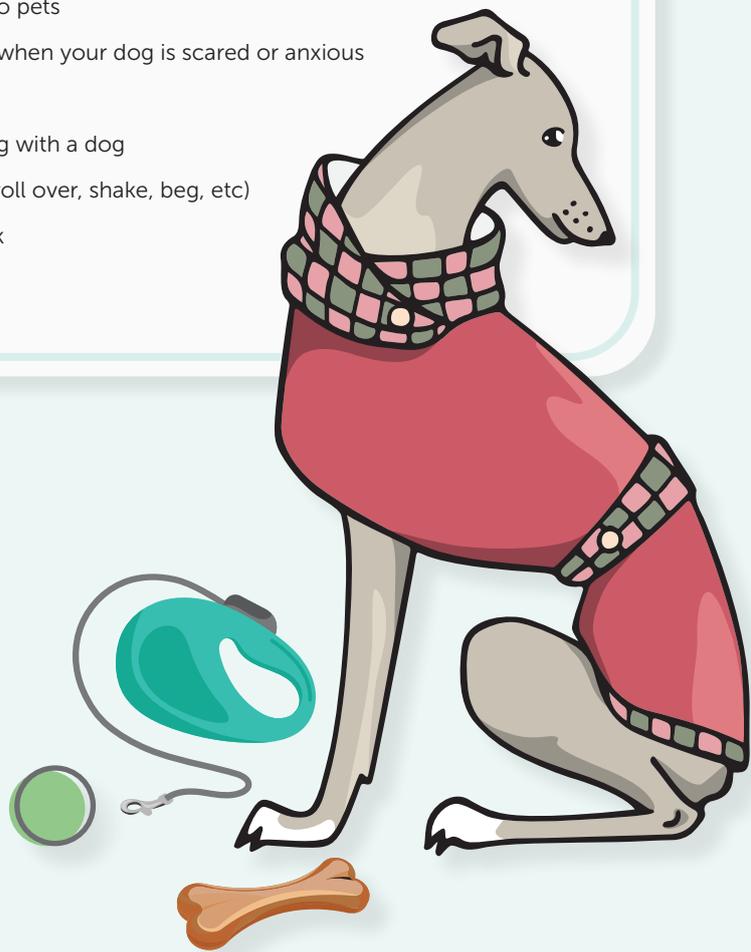
**Supervise all interactions.
Accidents can happen in a
split second.**



HOW KIDS SHOULD INTERACT WITH DOGS

Use common sense.

- ✓ Be polite and kind to pets
- ✓ Learn to recognise when your dog is scared or anxious
- ✓ Fetch
- ✓ Walking and running with a dog
- ✓ Training tricks (like roll over, shake, beg, etc)
- ✓ Playing hide-n-seek



Train your dog to associate the kids with positive experiences so he'll be more likely to tolerate your child in case she accidentally interacts inappropriately.

GENTLE BALANCE HARNESS

To purchase one, visit blackdog.net.au/dog-harnesses/balance-harness-large

When the dogs pull on the leash they lean forward, using their weight and strength to pull against the leash - we often reinforce this by pulling back on the leash and inadvertently train the dog to pull even harder.

The Black Dog Balance Harness helps break this feed-back training and helps train your dog to balance on all fours when on the lead.

USING THE BALANCE HARNESS

You will get the best results if you use a Double Ended Lead, but you can also work with a normal lead. Some people find a Double Ended Lead too cumbersome, but it is easy once you get the hang of it, it is sort of like the reins on a horse.

Dogs can pull harder than we can, so don't let yourself get into a "tug of war" game, you'll have better results if you use a pulsating action on the lead - pull, release, pull, release, etc. - rather than just trying to pull harder or keep steady pressure to hold your dog back - this just makes things worse.

When we keep steady pressure on the lead, it is easy for a dog to pull against it by leaning forward, so you'll need to practice "pulsating the lead" with the pull, release, pull, release action. This makes it uncomfortable for the dog to pull against the lead, it is likely to stop and look at you to work out what is going on - when it stops and looks at you, immediately stop pulsating the lead - for the dog the uncomfortable thing stops and so he/she has just been rewarded for not being on a tight lead.

THE BALANCE HARNESS WITH A DOUBLE ENDED LEAD

Attach the flat lead end to the front D ring and the end with the built in loop to the back D ring between shoulder blades.

Think of the back connection as your brake and the front as steering.

When your dog pulls, stop walking and at the same time start pulsating the lead to the back of the Balance Harness (the Brake). Do this with a slight upward lifting to get better results.

Continue pulsating until your dog stops pulling, when it does, immediately stop pulsating and loosen the lead - then change to lightly pulsate the front lead until your dog turns back to you or looks back to you.

Praise lavishly when he turns back to you.

This is called "Shaping" - you are training a series of actions - in this case a stop and then a turn. When it is done consistently your dog will learn to stop and turn whenever it feels pulsating pressure on the lead. By stopping and turning towards you, your dog has re-balanced itself on all four feet and when it is balanced it is not pulling.

BE CONSISTENT TO LOCK IN YOUR TRAINING

Repeat these training techniques whenever your dog pulls on lead.

The Balance Harness makes training easy, but you must be consistent.

Remember to praise your dog when it is walking well.

Check the fitting regularly - particularly during the first few days/weeks of wearing, adjust to keep a good snug fit.

The Balance Harness is designed as a walking trainer and is not intended for other uses - Do not use as a car harness.

FITTING THE BALANCE HARNESS

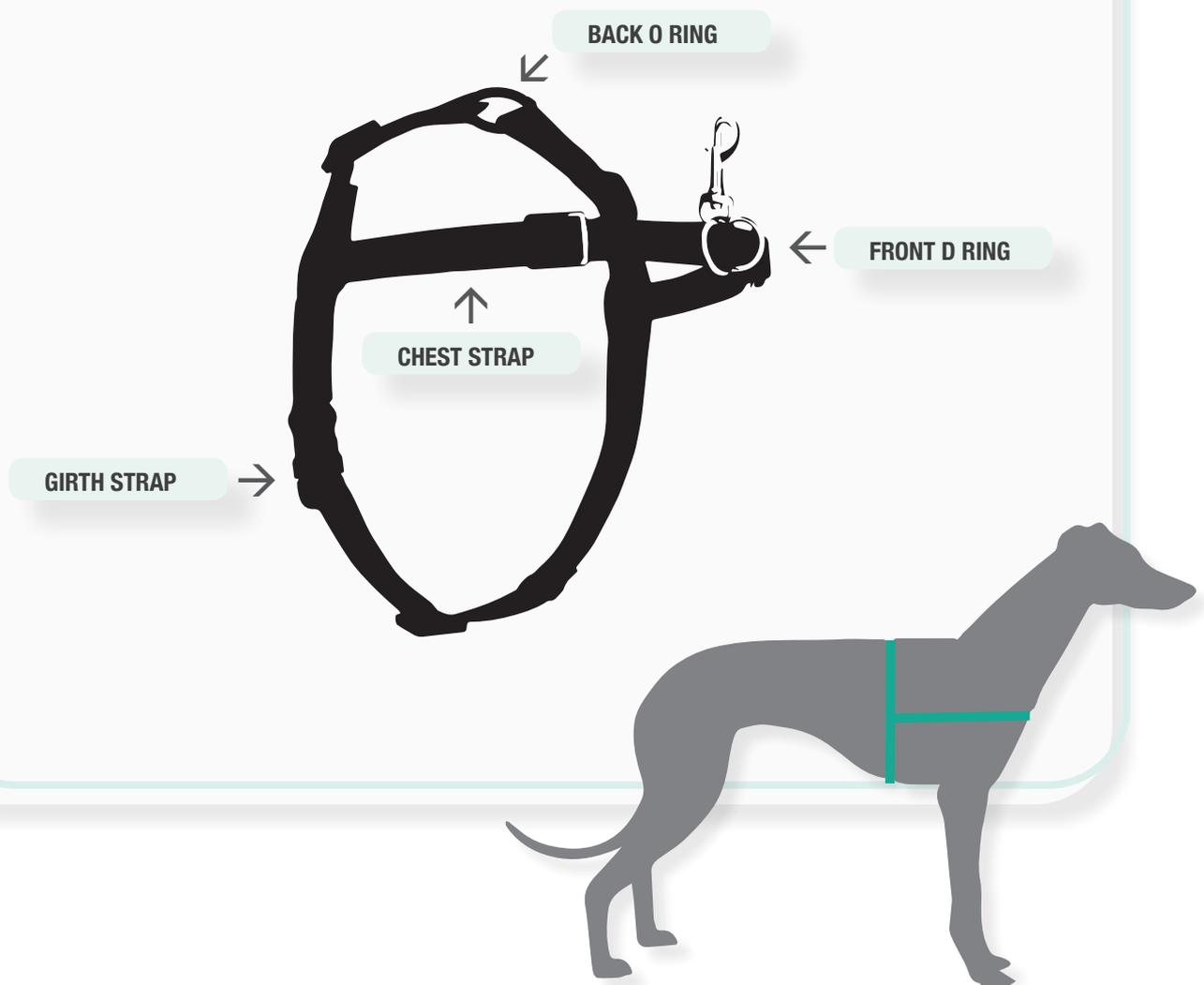
1. Open the quick release buckle on the girth strap
2. Fit the balance harness over your dog's head, with the black chest strap at the front and the girth strap over the dog's back (see picture).

ADJUSTING THE GIRTH STRAP

1. The girth strap fits around the rib cage, just behind the front legs.
2. Adjust to be a snug to tight fit, allowing for only one finger beneath. If the girth is loose, the harness will move and rub, and be uncomfortable for your dog. The back D ring moves along the girth strap, slide it to be at the top on the dog's back.

ADJUSTING THE CHEST STRAP

1. To Adjust the height of the chest strap - Slide the connectors up or down so they sit just above the dog's front legs.
2. Adjust the length of chest strap (equally at each side), so it fits snugly against the chest, keep the front D ring in the centre and over the dog's breastbone. When correctly fitted, the chest strap should sit across the breastbone and be parallel with the ground, not up near the throat and not down over the front legs.





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