

Top Tips for training with cats

Greyhounds which are assessed for being trainable with cats are exactly that – *trainable*, and unless they have spent time in foster care it will be up to you to ensure they are adequately trained. Usually our owners find the training quite easy but do follow these tips towards ensuring success!

- 1 Always err on the side of caution and use a muzzle until you're confident that your greyhound and cat have accepted each other as housemates.
- 2 Actively train. Time spent managing introductions in the first few weeks will pay off in the long run.
- 3 Make sure your greyhound never has the opportunity to chase your cat outside as this will undo all your good work. This means keeping doors closed and knowing where your dog and cats are at all times for the first few weeks.
- 4 Get a strong squirty bottle and be ready to use it if your greyhound forgets his manners around your cat, likewise squirt your cat if she forgets hers.
- 5 Keep your greyhound well fed. The first few weeks of settling in with a cat is the one time a greyhound may be excused a good covering over their ribs.
- 6 Exercise! Two 30 minute walks a day will mean your greyhound will be less likely to look for entertainment.
- 7 Don't pick your cat up and hold it just above your greyhound's nose level – this makes the cat far more interesting to your dog.
- 8 Keep flighty cats at home and introduce them to your hound in the least stressful environment possible. Put your hound on a lead, put their bed by your feet and watch TV together.
- 9 Accept that your cat may well be upset about sharing their home initially. In time nearly all cats learn to accept this long legged stranger, many make friends with their new housemate and some are even caught curled up together through the cold winter nights.

Refer to Page 19 of the *GAP Guide to Adopting an Ex-racing Greyhound* for more information.

www.greyhoundsaspets.org.nz

