



## TOWCESTER RACECOURSE AND LEISURE

# owning a greyhound

Owning your own racer is a thrill, and most owners will testify that after venturing into ownership for the first time they have invariably gone on to buy more dogs.

### BEFORE YOU BUY

Work out how much you can afford to outlay for a greyhound. Once you have set your budget, do not be tempted to exceed it. Wait until you find a greyhound that suits your needs and budget. The right one will come along eventually. Do not forget that you will need to home your greyhound after their racing days are over.

### YOUR FIRST GREYHOUND

Greyhounds can race until five years of age, sometimes, but only rarely, if they are still enjoying the game they could go on for longer. With that in mind, aim to buy a young dog, preferably no older than 3, and one that has been injury free.

As with anything in life, the more you spend, the more you are likely to get back. Whilst the more expensive dogs are more likely to cover their kennelling bills by running for higher prize-money, be aware that money does not guarantee success.

### WHERE TO BUY?

There are several ways to enter greyhound ownership. If you are completely new to the sport, you should contact a trainer for advice and maybe ask to meet some existing owners who can share their experiences with you. It is strongly suggested you do not buy a greyhound directly yourself especially if your knowledge of greyhounds, their breeding and form is limited.

Try to find a trainer for your greyhound first. If a trainer has room at their kennels they will be able to guide you on your first purchase. They may also have racers available for sale within their kennel (check the Classifieds section of this site for the latest dogs for sale).

### DOGS VERSUS BITCHES

You will notice dogs are more expensive than bitches. The main reason for this is because bitches will almost certainly come into season at some stage during their career and require time away from the track. Speak to trainers about the use of suppressants because some will advise you to allow your bitch to come into season once and then suppress future seasons, whilst others may be against the use of suppressants altogether.

### MONTHLY COSTS

Trainer's fees vary but on average it will cost you £6 per day plus VAT to keep your greyhound in training. You should always contact a trainer and discuss kennelling fees in advance. Most trainers will invoice you monthly for costs less prize money your greyhound has earned. (Prize money is paid to the trainer first). Always make sure that you can afford the monthly bills irrespective of prize money and can afford to own a racer who may be off through either injury, being in season, or simply having a short break from the track. Treat prize money as a bonus.

### AIM LOW

If you buy a greyhound with the dream of winning the Derby it is almost certain you will be an unhappy owner. Be realistic in your expectations

and listen to your trainer who will probably have looked after thousands of racers and be able to give you an indication of your greyhound's ability and future prospects.

### HOW MUCH?

Prices vary dramatically. Work out what you can afford first of all. The price of a greyhound normally depends greatly on their age and ability (see below). You need to weigh up all the pros and cons before deciding if the price is right for you.

### AGE

The younger the greyhound the more they will cost. A two year-old dog running in A5's will cost you considerably more than a three year-old in the same grade.

### ABILITY

Remembering that A1 is the highest grade and A10 is the lowest, if your future purchase is already racing, their price will be influenced by the level they run at. Open racers are the most expensive race dogs to buy.

### PUPS

You may be tempted to buy a puppy that is yet to race. This is a cheaper way of owning a greyhound and you have the excitement of wondering just how good your greyhound might be. For first-time owners yet to have a runner on the track, this is a risk unless your pup is already at schooling

age and has shown they have a future on the racetrack. Remember, many pups do not chase the hare, fight (so become ineligible to race), or they are simply not quick enough to qualify to race. It is a risk and as well as buying the pup you have to pay their monthly rearing costs before they hit the racetrack.

### WIN AND APPEARANCE PRIZE MONEY

Your greyhound will earn you prize money every time they race and most greyhounds will run 4-5 times per month. On average, your greyhound would probably need to win one race per month to cover most if not all of their bill.

### NAMING YOUR GREYHOUND

If you buy a greyhound currently running, you can change their name but this is considered by many to be unlucky! Changing a name or registering a name for an unraced dog will involve a small fee.

### SYNDICATES

If you have some close friends who want to own a greyhound with you, you will find the costs are dramatically reduced and of course, you also have someone else to share all the fun with. The leader of the syndicate will be responsible for the greyhound's welfare once they have retired. Tracks provide extra Owner's Passes for syndicates, but check with your trainer (if they are attached to a track) as to how many passes you are entitled to.

### TOWCESTER CONTRACTED TRAINERS

JOHN BLENCOWE	07989 151140	CHRIS JONES	07973 423135
PAUL CLARKE	07841 482716	HAZEL KEMP	07714 700904
MATT DARTNALL	07720 781817	BOB LIDDINGTON	07860 586167
HEATHER DIMMOCK	07890 718221	BEN McBRIDE	07840 763516
SEAMUS GAUGHAN	07850 194995	PAUL PHILPOTT	07920 522101
JOHNBOY GEDDIS	07884 036964	STEVE RAYNER	07774 607667
GRAHAM HOLFORD	07989 562805	KELLY TOBIN	07988 738447
JANE HOUFTON	07785 258271	MARK WALLIS	<a href="http://www.markwallisgreyhounds.co.uk">www.markwallisgreyhounds.co.uk</a>
KEVIN HUTTON	<a href="http://www.kevinhuttonracing.com">www.kevinhuttonracing.com</a>	BERNI WARREN	07752 179602
PATRICK JANSSENS	07766 621028	RICHARD YEATES	07855 817263