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## THE GREYHOUNDS HAVE LANDED – PIONEERING PUPS SET FOR USA RETIREMENT

It was one small step for the greyhounds but one giant leap for their kind, when ten Australian retired greyhounds, chosen to be part of a pilot greyhound rehoming partnership between Victorian Racing 2 Rehome and the US based Royal Hounds and Greyhound Pet Inc arrived in the USA to begin the next steps in their rehoming journey.

Racing 2 Rehome's Adoption Co-ordinator, Rebecca Miller, who accompanied the pioneers on their flight, said aussie greyhounds were in great spirits when greeted by very excited representatives of the two west coast rehoming groups.

"It has been a long flight for all of us but other than a little bit of jet lag we are all fine. It was so wonderful to see the happy looks on everyone's faces as the dog took their first steps on US soil and greeted their new handlers."

Royal Hounds President, Karla Feller said for many years they have been dedicated to finding homes for the retired racers and those breed for the racing industry and they are delighted to be working with the retired Australian greyhounds.

"While there is a decline in greyhounds available U.S there are still families wanting these amazing dogs. With less domestic greyhounds needing rehoming we now have the resources available to help international greyhounds and be part of the bigger global rehoming community," she said.

Greyhound Pet Inc (GPI) President Moira Corrigan said the partnership with Racing 2 Rehome is an important step because the number of retired racing greyhounds available for adoption is diminishing fast in the USA.

"Retired racing greyhounds are greatly desired as pets and make wonderful, loving companions, as we all know. However, GPI can't find enough greyhounds in the USA that need homes. There just aren't enough greyhounds to meet the demand of the loving homes and potential owners. So, we have turned to help international greyhounds where there are currently more dogs, than available homes in their countries of origin."

Both groups have very rigorous policies and processes governing the rehoming of the greyhounds, in some aspects more thorough than those in place in Australia.

The Royal Hounds process is an online application, phone interview, and a home visit that includes a class on greyhounds and their care.





“After being checked, the dogs will go into Royal Hound foster families. We will get to know the dogs and their personalities while they are in foster and match them with adoptive families that are a good fit for them.”

“The adopter has the home visit representative as a contact for help as well as the family that fostered their dog. These are the people most familiar with the dogs and adoptive families. There is always additional assistance from a group with diverse experiences.”

“They are promoted on our website, social media, adopt a pet, pet finder and public events. Typically, we have waiting lists for the dogs and work with them to find a good match for them and the dog. Two families already intend to adopt their Australian foster dogs, if they are a good fit,” Karla said.

Moira said rehoming at Greyhound Pets Inc is a similar thorough and loving process.

“Once the dogs arrive at GPI they are quarantined for two weeks where they get plenty of love and attention from our volunteers and staff. The vet gives them the once over and we make sure they have recovered well from their journey and then they go into the adoption kennel. We want to know them as well as possible before placing them where the volunteers and kennel staff get to know them and their personalities, so they can get the best match possible into their adoptive homes.”

“GPI has very strict adoption criteria and all potential adopters must fill out an application and have a home visit. We also follow up with the adopters within the first 24 to 48 hours, then after about a week or two, then in about a month, to make sure the dog and family are doing okay. If there are any concerns, we will follow up more closely. We also encourage our adoptive families to send us pictures and updates as often as they can.”

“We work with families to find the best match for the family, but also the dog. We want our placements to be a win-win for the dog and the adoptive family. All adopters must sign an adoption contract and if they can't keep the dog for whatever reason, the dog must come back to GPI. Because once a greyhound is a GPI dog, they are always a GPI dog.”

“All dogs are in our master database and we stay in touch with our adopters several times a year and encourage them to update us, participate in our events and share their experiences,” she said.

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