

## **BRIEF BREED OVERVIEW**

An Italian Greyhound is a companion dog for an adult. They prefer to be with their person and will follow them everywhere in the house; even on a beautiful sunny day with other dogs to play with, an IG will choose to be wherever their human is. Sharing your life with an Italian Greyhound is like sharing it with a two year old child that never grows up. They can be clingy in nature, while loving and cuddly they are also very demanding of attention. IGs are long lived; frequently living to 17 or 18 years old and they continue to be active even in their senior years. Even though IGs are the smallest of the Sight Hound breeds they are true Sight Hounds; their tendency to dart out a door or chase anything that moves is innate to the breed. Even IGs who have been trained to basic commands and have good re-call for such sports as canine agility and lure coursing cannot be trusted to respond when they are frightened or when distracted by what they may determine to be prey. An Italian Greyhound can never be off-leash except in a secure well fenced area (minimum fence height 5 ft) and never transported from house to car except on leash. Many IG's have a high prey drive; birds, small animals and cats can be at risk. Some are also considered "jumpers"; they can easily clear a five foot fence and some even a six foot fence. Temperament in IGs range from timid and calm to super alpha; generally the alpha temperament is most common in females. Most IGs while confident in their home surroundings and with their own people are leery of situations outside the home. Some IGs can live very happily in highly active homes with children of all ages; others cannot. The same is true of IGs acclimating to other dogs in the household. Some are not safe or comfortable living with dogs larger than themselves or with breeds of dogs that are more assertive in nature than they are. While all IGs have similar basic breed characteristics each dog is unique. In Rescue all dogs are cared for and assessed in individual foster homes by experienced breed owners. This allows us to determine temperament, sociability, play drive, prey drive and the special needs and limitations of each dog.

