

THE GOOD * THE BAD *** THE UGLY**



The Good

Italian greyhounds are one of the most loyal dogs in the world. They **ADORE** their owners. They are **VERY** intelligent. They are **VERY** athletic. They stay **VERY** playful well past puppyhood. They are a long-lived breed, 12-14 years average, 14-18 not uncommon. They **LOVE** to give and receive affection. They have a short coat that requires minimal grooming.

The Bad

They **ADORE** their owners, meaning they will follow you everywhere. They will want to be on you, next to you, lick your ears, your nostrils, etc... You will never be alone again, not for a second. They are **VERY** intelligent – and will be more intelligent than you, if you aren't careful. They can be master manipulators and you'll be second in command before you know it.

They are **VERY** athletic. They can scale a six foot fence if motivated and can squeeze through the tiniest of openings. They steal the Thanksgiving turkey off your kitchen counter, or the cat food off of the top of the washing machine and can catch, birds, opossums, lizards, snakes, rabbits, squirrels and just about anything else that catches their fancy. They are playful well past puppyhood. You will still be waiting for them to “calm down” when they are well past 2 years old. They usually start to mellow a bit between 5 and 8 years of age.

They are long-lived; are you willing and able to make this commitment? They love to give and receive affection; when they want it, not when you decide you have time. If they do not receive the attention they need, they can become destructive and have behavior problems.

What they don't require in grooming, they require in dental care. Their teeth should be brushed daily. Failure to provide adequate dental care will result in breath capable of wilting flowers and bacteria flowing through their bloodstream that can result in other health problems. Bone loss due to poor dental care can also predispose your dog to jaw fractures.

The Ugly

HOUSETRAINING. Yes it can be done with an Italian greyhound and most people start with a positive attitude toward it – yet, it is one of the biggest reasons that Italian greyhounds are relinquished to rescue. If you expect that your Italian greyhound will be completely housetrained in a few short weeks or that your dog will bark and scratch at the door to go out – or that the dog you got from the breeder or rescue which was housetrained in its former home will be fine in your home with little or no work on your part – **THINK AGAIN.**

The biggest element of failure in housetraining is the owner waives from the two components of successful housetraining: consistency and confinement. When we say confinement, this does not mean keeping your dog crated 24/7. Confinement is having a separate dog area without carpet – where your dog can stay when you cannot watch him/her. Consistency means, regardless of age, weather or time of day your dog needs a routine. Giving an Italian Greyhound unsupervised “run of the house” is guaranteed failure. Left to their own, Italian Greyhounds tend to make bad decisions.

Italian greyhounds have a small gene pool. While the breed is hardy – there are significant health problems that affect this breed, many of which do not show up until the dogs are between 3-5 years of age. Buying from a responsible breeder will minimize this risk. Do not purchase a dog from a Commercial Breeding Mill or any source you do not know their lineage. Visit the Italian Greyhound Club of America for detailed, genetic health information. www.italiangreyhound.org

Do you have \$ 3,000.00 to \$8,000.00 set aside in case of a leg break? Broken legs are common in young dogs whose muscles are still developing but all IGs are at risk. They have long slender legs, love to run and think they can fly. You must be prepared for the possibility and be able to deal with the financial responsibility. Having Pet Insurance is strongly recommended.

Italian Greyhounds can be escape artists and should not be allowed to run off leash in an unfenced area; not for any reason and not for any length of time, not even a millisecond. If they get spooked or decide to give chase to something – you will not catch them unless you are the Bionic Man, Flash, Superman or have other superhuman abilities.