

## Proper Feeding of Your Greyhound

Maintaining the proper weight for your greyhound is one of the most important things you can do to insure the good health and long life of your retired racer. We recommend they are fed a high quality Lamb and Rice food such as, Eukenuba, or a kibble similar to this found in a pet store. A food without any type of soy product as an ingredient would be best. Feeding the food “dry” helps to keep the teeth and gums in good shape. Also recommended is that you *feed your hound twice a day*.

At your adoption appointment, before bringing your dog home, the adoption coordinator tells you to *feed your new greyhound between 4 – 6 cups a day (this would be 2 – 3 cups twice a day)*. The coordinator suggests you begin at about 5 cups a day and then explains how to watch the ribs to tell whether you should increase or decrease the amount of food given daily to your new pet. On occasion more than 6 cups may be necessary to maintain proper weight. Greyhounds are like people in that they all have different metabolisms and energy levels. They will all burn off different amounts of calories and need to be fed accordingly. Though we do not adopt many puppies into homes, we do, on occasion, get a chance to work with puppies. If you have a puppy in your home they need to be on a good quality puppy food and fed enough to keep their ribs out of sight. The amount of food will be decided on by the puppy – you should not see the puppy’s ribs, but you should be able to feel them. Younger puppies should be fed several times a day; older puppies can be fed 2 – 3 times a day and eventually should be fed twice a day like the older hounds.

*Watch their ribs – can you see all of your greyhound’s ribs? If you can see their ribs then your greyhound is too lean.* Though they are sleek and slender animals, they should not be “ribby” as pets. *You should see only a “hint” of the last three ribs* on a pet greyhound. If you can see all of your hound’s ribs you need to increase the amount of food they are eating.

*Have their ribs disappeared?* Again, you should see just a hint of the last three ribs on your pet greyhound. If you can’t see any of their ribs then you might consider cutting back a little on the treats, or stepping up their daily exercise. *If you can’t even feel their ribs then they are overweight.* You can cut back treats, add a little exercise, cut back a little on their food (say from 5 cups to 4 ½ cups) or try a food that has less fat. *When deciding to put your greyhound on a diet, a visit to your veterinarian should come first.* Your veterinarian will help you to help your greyhound lose the extra weight safely.