Additional Resource:
Care of the Racing & Retired Greyhound can be purchased by calling 785-263-4660 or visiting http://www.ngagreyhounds.com

For a downloadable version of this brochure visit www.agtoa.com

TREATING A RETIRED GREYHOUND
Medical Facts About This Unique Breed

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**Introduction**

As the popularity of adopting a retired racing Greyhound as a pet increases, veterinarians are seeing Greyhounds in their clinics for the first time. Former racing Greyhounds are a wonderful breed and make great pets. They are intelligent, quiet and socialized. They have been in close human contact for their entire lives and are used to attention and affection, which makes them ideal patients.

**Distinctive medical characteristics**

As distinctive as they are as pets, greyhounds also have some unique medical characteristics.

**Blood Values**

- Blood values in Greyhounds are different. High or low values in other dogs are often normal for Greyhounds.
- Greyhounds have higher red blood cell counts (5.99-9.39 x 10^6/ml)*, as well as higher packed cell volumes (41.4-64.2 %)* and hemoglobin concentrations (14.8-21.6 g/dl)*.
- White blood cell counts typically are lower (1,800-14,600/ml)*.
- Blood platelets are lower and range from 100,000 cells/ul to 300,000 cells/ul.
- Protein in the blood is lower and ranges from 5.4 g/dl to 6.6 +/- .4 g/dl.
- If there are concurrent clinical signs of hypothyroidism, measure T4, free T4 and TSH to determine if the dog is hypothyroid.

**Big Hearts**

- Greyhounds have larger hearts and lower heart rates (60-90 BPM) than other breeds
- Low-grade benign heart murmurs are common.
- Blood pressure tends to be high.

**Surgery**

- Avoid administering sulfur containing anesthetic agents, eg; thiopental and thiamylal.
- Monitor a Greyhound’s temperature under anesthesia as malignant hyperthermia does occur.
- Some Greyhounds may develop spontaneous bleeding one-to-four days after routine minor surgery or trauma.