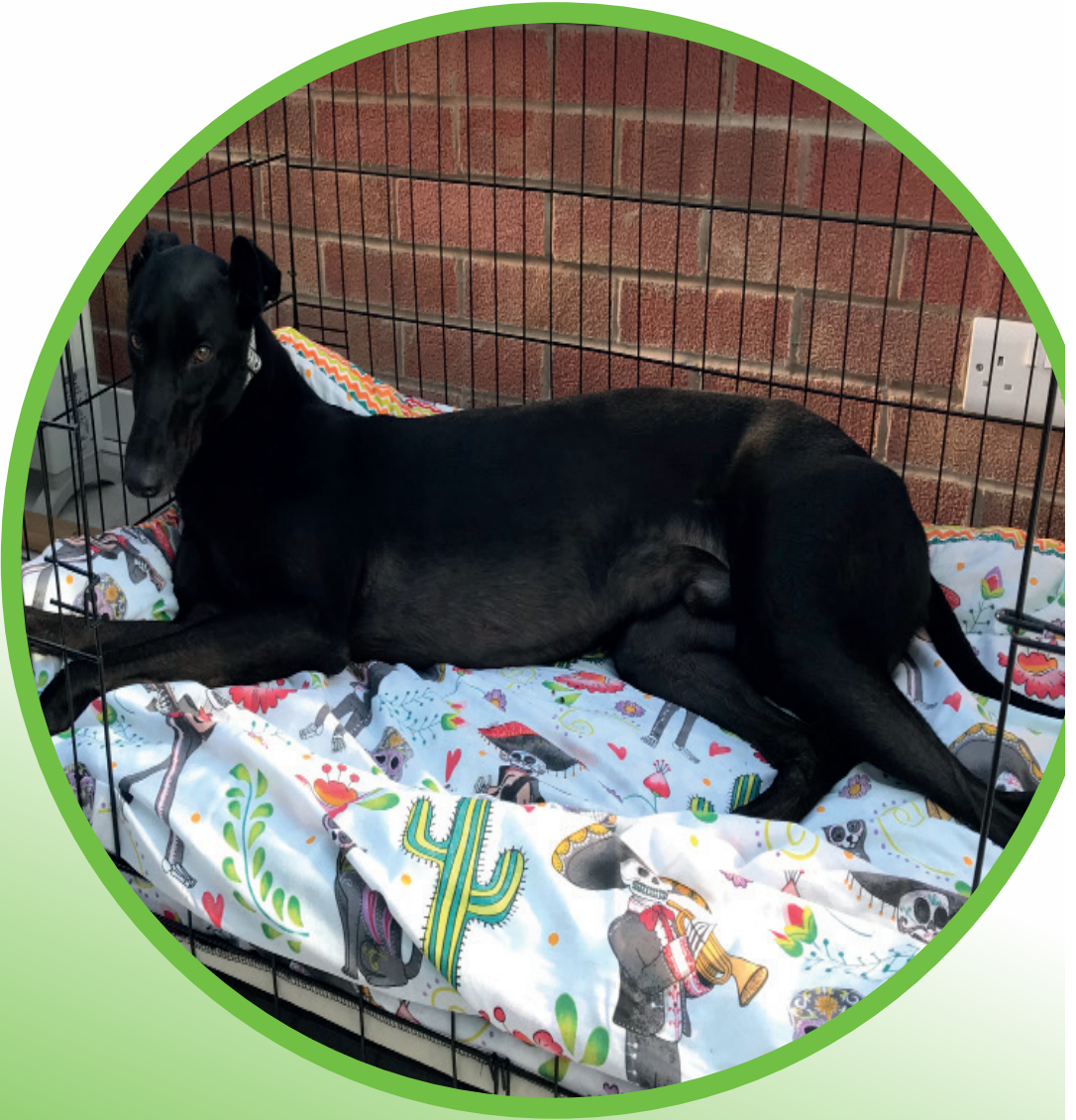




GREYHOUND

Indoor Kennel and Crate Training





What is an indoor kennel?

An indoor kennel, sometimes referred to as a crate, is a safe place for your greyhounds to rest and sleep. It takes the place of your greyhound's bed and must be introduced carefully to your greyhound so that they create good associations with their crate, and enjoy relaxing in it.

Choosing a suitable indoor kennel

Indoor kennels come in different shapes and sizes, the most common type is a collapsible metal cage with a plastic base and one or two doors on the side and/or end. Whatever type of indoor kennel you choose, it should be big enough to accommodate food, a water bowl, toys and chews as well as some comfortable bedding for your greyhound to sleep on. It should also be big enough for your greyhound to stand up, sit, turn around in and lay flat on their side with legs stretched out, without being cramped.

Why use an indoor kennel?

An indoor kennel can be used as a safe place for your greyhound to retreat to when feeling worried or needs their own space. It should be a place where your greyhound can rest without being disturbed – with the door remaining permanently open. It can also be used as an aid for training purposes, such as house training, or for a greyhound that likes to destroy and chew inappropriate things.

It is not cruel to use an indoor kennel and they are a useful training aid as long as the greyhound is not confined to the kennel for long periods of time. However, leaving your greyhound in the indoor kennel for prolonged periods of time can become a serious welfare issue and is not recommended.



Where to locate an indoor kennel

Greyhounds are social animals and as such will not like using an indoor kennel that is isolated and away from everyone and everything in the home.

It is best to put the kennel in a part of your home where you spend a lot of time so that your greyhound does not feel left out or begin to dislike their kennel.





When to use an indoor kennel

An indoor kennel can help your greyhound feel safe for short periods of time when you are not able to give them your full attention.

You must always make sure that your greyhound has access to an adequate supply of water whilst they are in their kennel.

Examples include:

- If you are cooking, or are busy around the house, your greyhound can be kept safe in the kennel.
- When travelling by car, a crate can provide a safe resting place.
- If you have an older greyhound and a new puppy and you cannot pay attention to playtime, the kennel can provide a safe, calm place for your greyhound to be.
- During house-training.



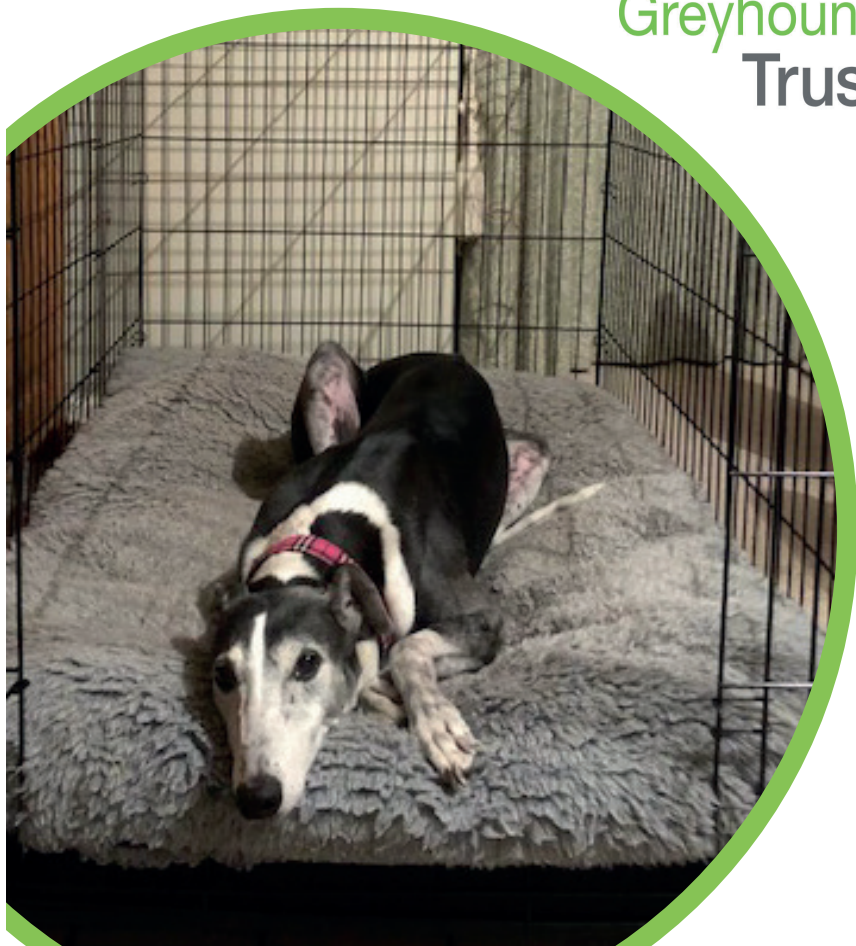
Training your greyhound to use an indoor kennel

It is important that you get your greyhound used to their kennel very gradually and that you make sure the kennel is associated with all the things your greyhound likes such as toys, games, chews, food and treats. This means that your greyhound will associate the kennel as the place where good things happen and they will want to go in as it is a fun place to be.

If you force your greyhound into the kennel, they are more likely to become afraid of it and will not want to go in it again.

Take your time with training your greyhound to use the indoor kennel and you will find that your greyhound will willingly enter the kennel when needing to rest.

To begin your training, make sure your greyhound's bedding is in the kennel and you have a range of tasty treats.





1.

Place some treats inside the kennel to encourage your greyhound inside. Make their fun and like a game, tossing treats into the kennel as your dog approaches it.

Practice this at least 6 times a day and do not close the door.

2.

When your greyhound readily goes into the kennel you can start feeding your greyhound their meals inside it.

Do not close the door yet.

3.

Place a toy and/or a chew toy in the kennel and whenever your greyhound goes into the kennel, praise them and give them a treat.

5.

Gradually increase the amount of time you can shut the door, with you present, slowly building up to minutes.

4.

When your greyhound is visibly relaxed in the kennel, close the door for a few moments (5-10 seconds) and then open it again.

6.

Once your greyhound is happy with being in their kennel with the door closed and you present, you can then practice leaving the room for very short periods of time and then returning.

7.

Gradually increase the amount of time you can leave the room, building up to minutes and hours, before leaving your greyhound for the first time.





What if your greyhound barks when they are in the indoor kennel?

If your greyhound barks whilst in the kennel, you may have jumped too far ahead with the time you have left your greyhound unattended. Go back to your training and gradually increase the amount of time your greyhound can be left alone. It's often helpful to keep notes of the time your greyhound can be left alone, noting down the time increments of 30 seconds or so.

If your greyhound has been used to the kennel and suddenly starts barking, it may be that your greyhound is bored, frustrated or something that could have frightened them, has happened when you were not present.

You can help alleviate boredom and frustration by leaving your greyhound with a food puzzle to keep your greyhound occupied.

If they have learnt to bark for attention, you must ignore the barking and only let them out when they are calm. Wait for at least 5 seconds of quiet and no barks before you let them out. As greyhounds learn by association, if you let them out when they bark you will teach them that barking gets your attention and results in them being let out of the kennel.

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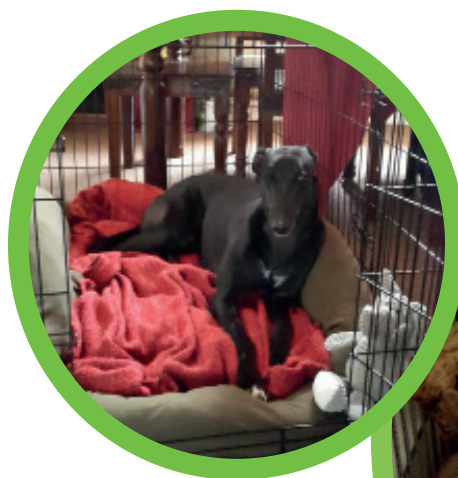


What if your greyhound soils in the indoor kennel?

It may be that the kennel is too large, or your greyhound could not hold their bladder or bowels any longer.

Make sure you do not punish your greyhound for soiling in the kennel and go back to ensuring they toilet before being shut in the kennel.

It is also advisable to reduce the amount of time your greyhound is left alone in their kennel with the door shut.



What if your greyhound tries to escape from the indoor kennel?

If your greyhound shows any signs of trying to escape from the kennel, increased destructiveness or anxiety whilst in the kennel, stop using the kennel immediately and seek help and advice from a qualified, registered behaviourist





Greyhound Trust, 'Wings', Peeks Brook Lane, Horley, Surrey, RH6 9SX
0208 335 3016 Registered Charity Numbers: 269668, SC044047
www.greyhoundtrust.org.uk / hello@greyhoundtrust.org.uk

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