

RUNNING GROUP NEWS



Observations:

I want to thank everyone for their weekly participation at Sunday's Greyhound Running Group. Even when the weather has been rough, owners and their companions still come. You come to let your four legged companions run with their friends to their hearts content. I have noticed many of you, getting your greys from the parking lot, and entering the gates still half asleep.

As you enter and let the other greys say hello, you unclip your dog. Suddenly you are awoken with astonishment as you notice how fast your greyhound runs away to play. Seeing your greyhound run and play you realize why you are there. Sunday running group is all about them.

It's their day to play, be silly, and socialize with other greyhounds.

I personally enjoy coming to the running group and having Shilo and Lila run with their friends. Its one hour for them to run, play, and have their owners pick up after them, a greyhound could not have it any better. As a pet owner, I am grateful for a safe place to take my greyhounds. A place where I know they can socialize with other greyhounds and those other breeds across the fence.

The articles ahead explain how you can help maintain a safe environment for Sunday's Running Group.

Sunday Safety Tips:

Running group attendance varies each Sunday where different greyhounds that have not been seen for awhile return for a visit. On these occasions it is best to keep your greyhound on a lead and walk with them to the middle of the field where others can greet and sniff each other properly.

There have been times when this does not occur and greys can get into spats while trying to establish a hierarchy. Many have witnessed this and it can be quite a shock. Please remember this is normal behavior from our greys, but not to humans because it freaks us out!!

We want you to know that this does not happen often but if we all work together, we can decrease the risk of injury to you and your greyhound.

On The Fence:

As you may already be aware, on Sundays we share the fence next to the larger field. Personally I love to see my greyhound run back and forth with the dogs on the other side. Not only is this helping them to socialize it also gives them great exercise.

Occasionally there can be too many dogs going back and forth and when your grey gets tired, they get ran over by other greys. Please use good judgment and leash your dog for a quick timeout. This way your greyhound will not get trampled on but will get a chance to calm down.

As other owners see this they will follow your example and when enough have calmed down, running can resume.

Please try to understand what we are saying. Not every greyhound needs to be on a time out, but only you know your greyhound and their limits.

We also ask you to space yourselves along the fence line to quickly intervene should a need arise. Having people spaced along the fence line while you are observing your greyhound can lessen the time it takes to respond to an incident known as a greyhound fence-line incursion.

RESCUE ME:

There are times at running group where dogs play too rough and everyone seems too stunned to respond.

Sometimes people are down at the opposite end of the dog park when an incident happens and assume that people who are closer will break it up. Never assume this!! They may not know what to do and may not want to get involved.

Please understand that it is your responsibility to help diffuse fights when they occur.

One person cannot handle multiple greyhounds in a swarm.

Your greyhound might be in the middle of this swarm and I am sure if someone was there in time, you would want your greyhound to be saved. It does not matter if it's your dog or not that causes the incident to occur. Please jump in and help isolate greyhounds so they can calm down and continue to run.

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER:

NOGAP organizes the running group as well as provides community outreach by notifying the public of adopting retired racing greyhounds. We are at Lakewood Petco every fourth Saturday of the month from 11-2pm. We also need Sunday gate greeters to briefly explain running group etiquette and monitor for small dogs.

If you would like to volunteer to help, staff a booth, be a gate greeter, or offer your personal expertise, please contact a NOGAP member. Our email is at info@no-gap.org. It is our mission to provide and maintain a safe meeting place where our greyhounds and their companions can socialize. Our view is that we can accomplish this by our mutual understanding and willingness to jump in and help when needed. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and concerns. Thank you for your assistance in helping to maintain a safe place where greyhounds can run with each other every Sunday.