



**Make Peace With Animals, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 488 • New Hope, PA 18938**  
**215-862-0605 Fax: 215-862-2733**  
**Cynthia A. Branigan, President**

**<http://www.makepeacewithanimals.org>**

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in adopting a retired racing Greyhound.

We place Greyhounds in homes in the following areas: all of New Jersey; and the Pennsylvania counties of Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia and Bucks. Due to restrictions in our insurance policy, we cannot adopt Greyhounds into homes with children under the age of seven.

In this packet you will find an application, an adoption contract, information on the care and feeding of ex-racers, details on how our adoption process works, and a list of people you can call if you have further questions.

As you will see, we will be asking for information about you, your home and your history with other animals. It seems only fair that we give you some information about us!

We are the organization whose founder, Cynthia Branigan, wrote the book on Greyhound adoption--literally! Since Adopting the Racing Greyhound was first published (Howell Book House, New York, 1992) it has sold over 100,000 copies worldwide and in the summer of 2003 was released in an expanded Third Edition. To quote Joan Belle Isle of The Greyhound Project "The book that has had the single biggest impact on Greyhound adoption, Cynthia Branigan's Adopting the Racing Greyhound has become required reading for many new Greyhound adopters around the world."

We placed our first Greyhound in 1988 and, since then, have found homes for over 5,000 others. All of this has been accomplished by an extraordinarily dedicated group of volunteers. None of our staff is paid and most have full-time jobs. Nonetheless, the defining characteristic of our group is the individual care each adopter receives, both before and after the adoption. We take great pains to match the right person with the right dog. If there needs to be some fine-tuning after the fact, we are there for you. If unforeseen circumstances require you to return a dog, we gladly accept him or her back; in fact, we insist on it!

As you read the enclosed material, please think carefully about why you want to adopt. Do you really want a dog or do you just want to ease the Greyhounds' plight? Do you have the time, money and energy to devote to a new animal? As much as we'd like to think it will all be smooth sailing, sometimes pressures from family and work can interfere with our ability to care for an animal properly. Should your Greyhound ever become ill, particularly as he or she gets older, do you have the necessary finances to give him or her the best possible care? While we do not want to discourage you from adopting, we do want you to make an informed decision. **ADOPTING AN ANIMAL IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT!** Please consider all aspects of acquiring one before submitting your application. There are many ways you can help apart from adopting and our local representatives will be glad to make suggestions.

To those of you who are as sure as you can be that you are ready for the joys and challenges of adding a new member to your family, read on! If you have further questions, do not hesitate to call your local coordinator. Our commitment to you, and to the Greyhounds, begins right now.

**Make Peace With Your Self • Make Peace With Each Other • Make Peace With Animals®**

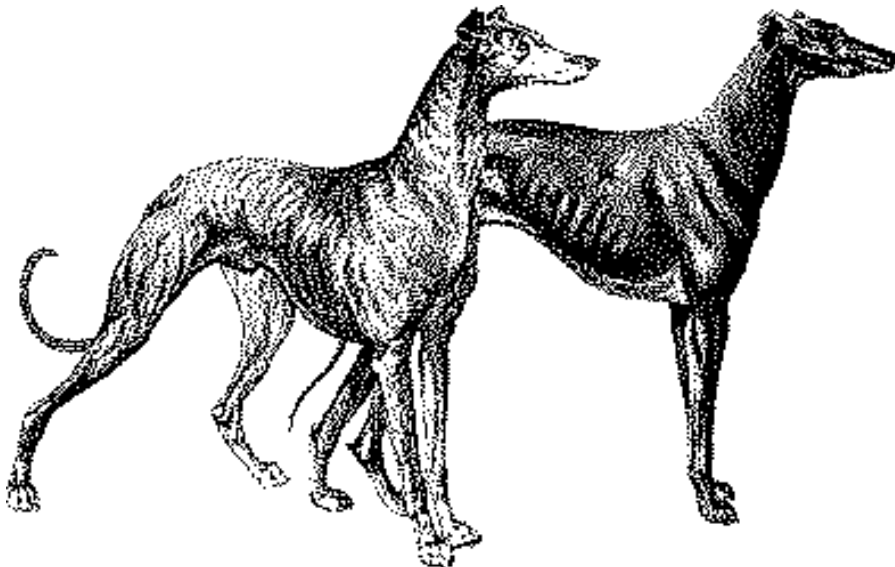
## About Retired Racing Greyhounds



Greyhounds placed through Make Peace With Animals are usually between two and five years of age. These retired racers are very intelligent adaptable dogs that fit in easily to their new environment following a brief adjustment period. They are eager to please and respond positively to any attention given them. They become attached quickly to their new families!

The majority of retired track Greyhounds are quiet, clean, good natured, gentle dogs who get along well with other animals and children. They seem grateful for their new homes and reward their new families with unending affection. They do not require as much space to run as many people assume and are usually quite content to curl up on a soft rug, blanket, or on the sofa!

Greyhounds stand between 26 to 29 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 55 and 80 pounds. Although most males are larger than females, we have placed 60-pound boys and 75-pound girls! Greyhounds come in many colors: black, white, fawn (tan), red (rust), several shades of brindle (striped) and white with patches. Their average life span of 12 to 14 years is quite long for large dogs.



## Questions And Answers About Greyhounds

### 1. DO GREYHOUNDS NEED A LOT OF EXERCISE?

In retirement, their exercise needs are the same as any other dog.

### 2. ARE THEY HOUSEBROKEN?

No, but they are crate-trained. With continued use of a crate in your home, they can usually be housebroken in a few days.

### 3. ARE THEY GOOD WITH CHILDREN?

Most are, and we make every effort to match you with the appropriate dog for your family. *Due to restrictions in our insurance policy, though, we cannot adopt Greyhounds into homes with children under the age of seven.*

By nature, Greyhounds are a gentle, docile breed that tend to avoid confrontation. We remind you that even older children should be supervised when interacting with any animal and that rough play or disregard of a dog's need for private time is to be discouraged.

### 4. DO GREYHOUNDS REALLY MAKE GOOD PETS?

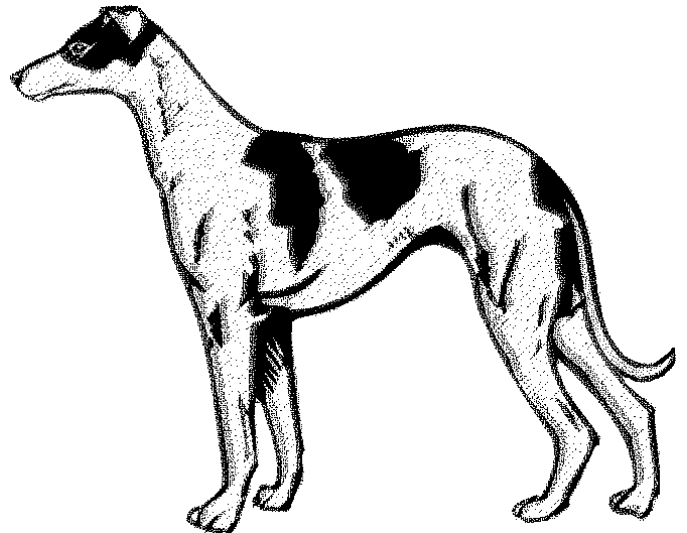
Every Greyhound raised with love and affection, especially early in life, will make a wonderful, loving, devoted pet. Greyhounds quickly become attached to their new owners, thrive on pleasing them, and never tire of being petted. Many people we've placed Greyhounds with say they're the best pets they ever had!

### 5. WHAT IS THE ADOPTION FEE?

The adoption fee is \$550, and includes the following:

- \*Copy of [Adopting the Racing Greyhound](#) (sent to first-time adopters)
- \*Spaying or Neutering
- \*DHLPP inoculation
- \*Rabies inoculation
- \*Negative heartworm/tick disease test
- \*De-worming (some dogs may require subsequent de-worming)
- \*Application of topical flea and tick preventative
- \*Flea and tick bath
- \*Pedicure
- \*Ear cleaning
- \*Personality profiling
- \*Cat and small animal testing
- \*Humane safety collar with matching leash
- \*MPWA identification tag with computerized tracking system
- \*Transportation from the racetrack to adoption point nearest to you
- \*Original exercise muzzle
- \*Invitation to our yearly Greyhound Homecoming Picnic

\*LIFETIME POST-ADOPTIVE SUPPORT!



Please note that this fee does not cover all of the expenses we incur and any donations are greatly appreciated. While most dogs come to us in relatively good shape, we also accept those who are sick or injured. Your support will help us continue to help even those dogs who are in need of additional, and often costly, veterinary care.

6. *WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP IN ADOPTING?*

**First-time Make Peace Adopters:**

Download the application from our website, fill it in, scan it in, and email it to us at [makepeacewithanimals@gmail.com](mailto:makepeacewithanimals@gmail.com). Send \$20 to our PayPal account via the DONATE button on our website [mpwa.org](http://mpwa.org). Include a comment indicating that it is for the application you submitted.

Once these two steps are complete, your application will be considered active and we will send you a copy of Adopting the Racing Greyhound via Priority Mail.

Within a few days, someone will call you to interview you and answer any questions you may have.

If you prefer, you can still submit an application by mail.

Download it from our website, fill it in, and mail it with a check for \$20 to:

Make Peace With Animals

P.O. Box 488

New Hope, PA 18938

As soon as we receive it, we will mail you a copy of Adopting the Racing Greyhound via Priority Mail.

Within a week's time, you will hear back from us regarding your application. After checking your veterinary reference, we will conduct an extensive phone interview with you during which time we will answer any questions you might have and we will learn more about you, your lifestyle and your expectations for a Greyhound. Within a few days we will advise you on whether or not your application is approved. If it is, we will begin the matching process based on the date you say you are ready. The length of time it will take to get your new friend depends on the complexity of your needs. Obviously, the more variables there are, (for example, a home with five children and five cats) the more time it will take to get you just the right dog.

Whether you apply online with PayPal, or through the mail, \$550 is due at the time of adoption.

Should your application not be approved, or if you decide to withdraw it, the \$20 is not refundable. You may, however, keep your copy of the book.

**Repeat Make Peace Adopters:**

The adoption fee is \$550, due at time of adoption. No application fee is required, and you can submit your application via email.

You will not receive another book.

## *Greyhound Care*

### The Adjustment Period

Recognizing the adjustment period and managing it successfully is an important part of any Greyhound adoption. It must be remembered that being a companion instead of a racer involves a dramatic change in your dog's routine and he must be given time to adjust to his new surroundings. In this regard, a quiet Greyhound may become fretful, a good eater reluctant to eat, a clean Greyhound may have an "accident." Your love, patience and understanding will help your Greyhound through this adjustment period which may last from a few days to a few weeks.

### Housebreaking

Your Greyhound was housed in a large crate at the track and was let out in the pen four times a day to relieve himself. He is used to getting up between 7 AM and 7:30 AM and going out right away. To avoid accidents in the house, we recommend your keeping him on this schedule initially and gradually get him used to sleeping later if necessary.

If your dog has an accident in the house, a verbal reprimand is usually enough. Then, take him outside and praise him when he relieves himself. **Do not hit** your dog or put his nose in the "accident." Your dog will respond more quickly to kindness. Clean the spot immediately and rinse the area with a solution of white vinegar and water. This will neutralize the odor and discourage him from going in that spot again.

When any dog is in a new environment, he or she may lift their leg or squat either to mark their territory or as a nervous reaction. Watch your new dog carefully to try and catch them before they do it again. Remember, a gentle but firm verbal reprimand is sufficient. Always praise good behavior! This is part of the adjustment period and usually only lasts a day or two.

Walk your dog as often as possible the first few days. This will teach him where he is supposed to "go" and will also help relieve the tension of being in new surroundings. When you leave the dog alone, put him in his crate and you won't have to worry about coming home to any "accidents." By the way, some Greyhounds are shy about relieving themselves while on a leash. Either let them go in a fully fenced area or be patient while they get used to it.

### Bedding

Provide your Greyhound with a very soft bed or thick quilt or comforter. Greyhounds have no padding on their elbows and can develop sores and/or a fluid condition if forced to sleep on a hard surface. Greyhounds love to sleep in the same room as you do—and in the same bed if you'll let them! Being near you is comforting to them and allows them to bond with you more quickly.

### Diet

A Greyhound's diet consists of four to six cups of dry premium dog food. We recommend brands such as Purina Pro Plan, Iams, Blue Buffalo, Nutro Max or any high quality dry food. Avoid supermarket brands such as Gravy Train, Butcher's Blend, or the semi-moist foods such as Gaines Burgers. They tend to be too rich and can cause gas or diarrhea. If you wish, you may add cooked vegetables. Greyhounds get veggies at the track and love them! Retired racers **do not** need high protein dog food, so get a food for regular adult maintenance. Boiled white rice added to the food can control loose stools.

## **Discipline**

Greyhounds are extremely sensitive animals that cannot be disciplined roughly. A stern tone of voice is all that is needed to get a Greyhound to understand what you expect of him. The wrong disciplinary tactics will only teach your dog to be afraid of you. Remember: always praise good behavior!

## **Veterinary Care**

Greyhounds adopted through Make Peace With Animals have been spayed or neutered, given their yearly inoculations, tested negative for heartworm and the most common tick-borne diseases, been de-wormed, de-flea'd and de-ticked and have been treated with a flea and tick preventative. While they have been examined and treated by a veterinarian, there are, as with any dog you may acquire, certain veterinary conditions which a dog may be harboring that are impossible to detect without extensive and expensive testing. We give you a dog that we, and a veterinarian, believe to be healthy. If we know that a dog has a physical condition that is less-than-perfect, we will tell you everything we know about it in advance. Bear in mind that a dog's health records from his or her days at the track may be incomplete or non-existent. Once we tell you all that we have discovered, you can then decide if you want to adopt the dog, or not. Not only do we want you to be happy, but we also want to know that the home we pick for a dog will be one in which they will get the veterinary care that they deserve. An important part of the philosophy of rescuing a dog is seeing to it that you do for the adopted animal what is or her previous owner did not.

We recommend that all newly-adopted Greyhounds see a veterinarian within a week or two of adoption for a well-dog visit. It is useful for your doctor to see the dog in what is a healthy state, so that he or she will have something to compare it to should your dog ever fall ill. During this first visit, we recommend that your dog's teeth and gums be evaluated. Some dogs come to us with sparkling teeth, others do not. Poor dental hygiene can lead to serious bacterial infections, tooth loss, difficulty in chewing and bad breath—just as it does in humans! Once your dog's teeth are clean, keep them that way by using a specially designed canine toothbrush one a week.

Good veterinary care is an on-going process. Inoculations must be updated annually, teeth must be kept clean, flea and tick preventatives must be applied regularly. Ears should be swabbed from time to time and coats must be brushed and bathed. Toenails must be clipped on a regular basis. If you don't want to do it yourself, a local groomer, pet supply store or veterinarian will perform this necessary task for a few dollars.

When we give you a dog, we are counting on you to not only give him food and shelter, but to see to all of his or her needs. Before you adopt, please be honest with yourself, and us, about your willingness to make this vital commitment.

## Other Pets

Your Greyhound should get along well with other dogs as he has had lots of socialization experience at the racing kennel. Take care to watch them carefully at first as the “old dog” may be jealous of the newcomer. *Always* separate your dogs when you feed them. Competition for food can lead to confrontations. We also recommend that the first meeting your Greyhound has with your existing dog(s) be outside, on lead, and in neutral territory. Taking the old and the new dog on a walk through the neighborhood is often a good way for them to get acquainted.

Many of our Greyhounds live in homes with cats and get along very well with them. All of the dogs placed by Make Peace With Animals have been tested for compatibility with cats and small dogs. However, there is a right and wrong way to introduce them to your pets.

When introducing your new Greyhound to your cat(s) for the first time, put on the muzzle. Hold the dog firmly on a leash and allow the animals to sniff each other. If the Greyhound lunges forward, jerk his collar and say “No!” If the cat swats him, this is normal behavior and lets the dog know that the cat is part of the family. Remember, in the beginning you should supervise the Greyhound outside with the cats as well as in the house.

## Equipment

We provide you with a new safety collar and matching leash for your Greyhound. This type of collar prevents a Greyhound from ever backing out of a collar and slipping away. *Never use a regular buckle-type collar!* If the safety collar wears out, or if you want another color, they are available through mail order sources.

Your dog will come with a numbered Make Peace I.D. tag. That number is entered into our computer, and, in the unlikely event that he or she is ever lost, the person finding your dog can call us to report the event. However, you also need to get a tag with your own name, address and phone number and affix it to your dog’s collar. You will be provided with a form so you can order a permanent tag. Our tag is a back-up for you, and your tag is a back-up for us.

*Never* tie your Greyhound outside on a rope, chain or “runner.” Greyhounds have never been tied in their lives and can get tangled and injured if they see something and attempt to chase it. Greyhounds can run up to 42 m.p.h. and, at that speed, could easily break their necks when they reach the end of the chain.

Your Greyhound will come with a turn-out muzzle from the race track. This was used while he or she was traveling with other dogs and when he or she was put out into a small pen with other dogs. It is not the muzzle that was used during races. This valuable piece of equipment should be used for the Greyhound’s first introduction to a cat or small dog, to prevent chewing, and if the dog will be running/playing with other dogs. Do not discard it, even after you think it is no longer needed. You never know what lies ahead, and muzzles of this type are hard to find.

## Exercise

In retirement, a Greyhound’s exercise needs are no different from any dog. Your Greyhound is used to relieving himself four times a day, which was his routine at the track. Keeping him on this schedule will avoid “accidents” in the house. If you plan to jog with your dog, first make sure he has had no past injuries then, start him out slowly. He is used to running short distances on soft tracks. Overwork will tire him out and may be hard on the pads of his feet.

**NEVER** let your Greyhound run loose! They must either be walked on a leash or released only in a fully fenced area. No human being can run as fast as a Greyhound, so if he gets away, you will not be able to catch him. They travel so fast, in fact, that they can get far away very quickly and become disoriented and, then lost. Also, track Greyhounds have had no experience with cars and do not recognize them as a hazard. Listen to the voice of experience: **DO NOT LET YOUR GREYHOUND RUN LOOSE!** If you know that the Greyhound you adopted is not small dog – or cat-friendly, please use adequate precautions when walking your dog. Keep a firm grip on the leash, steer your dog away from small pets and if necessary, muzzle your dog while walking her or him in public areas.

If you don't have a fenced yard where your dog can run safely, find a fenced-in park or fully fenced athletic field. A romp or gallop once or twice a week helps to relieve a dog's nervous energy and keeps their muscles in top condition.

### **Recommended Reading**

The more you know about dogs in general, and Greyhounds in particular, the better able you will be to decide whether or not adoption is for you. All of the following books should be available through your local library. Adopting the Racing Greyhound is part of your post-adoption kit. We recommend you read it before you adopt so you'll know exactly what to expect, and then to use it as a reference once you have adopted.

1. ADOPTING THE RACING GREYHOUND, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, By Cynthia Branigan, Howell Book House, NY, 2003
2. THE REIGN OF THE GREYHOUND: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs, 2nd Edition, By Cynthia Branigan, Howell Book House, NY, 2004 A history of the Greyhound family, the oldest of purebred dogs, from 6000 B.C. to the present. Winner of the 1997 Maxwell Award, Best General Interest Dog Book of the year.
3. LIVING WITH A GREYHOUND, edited by Cynthia Branigan, Barron's, NY, 2002
4. SECOND-HAND DOG, How To Turn Yours Into A First-Rate Pet, By Carole Lea Benjamin, Howell Book House, NY, 1980 A useful primer, written by a top-notch dog trainer, on helping dogs who have had former lives adjust to their new surroundings.
5. CHILDPROOFING YOUR DOG, By Brian Kilcommons, Warner Books, NY, 1994  
A book that should be required reading for adults who plan to have their new dog live with children. Kilcommons instructs the reader on how everyone can live happily ever after --- if they follow his very specific advice!





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## The Adoption Application

Please list all adults over age 21

Name(s):

Occupation(s):

Address:

Employer(s):

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Business Address:

Home Phone:

Business Phone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail Address:

Age Group of Applicants:

Over 21 but Under 25 ( ), 25-35 ( ), 35-45 ( ), 45-55 ( ), 55-65 ( ), 65-75 ( ), if over 75, please list age \_\_\_\_\_

1. How did you hear about our adoption program? *If from a friend/relative, please name.*
  
2. Why do you want to adopt a dog?
  
3. What other pets do you have now? *Please list breed of dog, sex, age, and if spayed/neutered.*
  
4. Approximately how many hours a day do you work outside the home? *Please figure in commuting time.*
  
5. Are there children in the household?  Yes  No  
 Please list ages and sex:
  - 5a. Are there grandchildren/relatives or friends' children who visit frequently?  Yes  No
  
6. Dwelling Type:  Single Family  Two-Family  Multiple

7. Do you own your own home:  Yes  No

7a. If no, do you have landlord's permission to have a dog?  Yes  No

If yes, please list his/her name and phone number:

8. Do you have a fully fenced area attached to your home?  Yes  No

8a. What type of fencing?

8b. What height?

9. If not, is there a fenced area nearby where you can exercise your dog once or twice a week?  Yes  No

10. Where do you intend to house your dog?

11. How often are you willing to take your dog outside to relieve himself?

12. Do you intend to keep your dog on a leash when outdoors unless in a fenced area?  Yes  No

13. Please provide us with the *name, address and phone number* of all veterinarians who know you or have treated your animals. Please list the name and type of animal and the years in your care.

13a. I hereby give my permission to release all veterinary information to a Make Peace With Animals Representative regarding the care I give my animal(s).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.  
EVERY MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD OVER THE AGE OF 21 MUST SIGN.

Signature(s):

Date:

Please mail this *with the signed Adoption Contract to the above address.*

Please make a copy of this document for your files

Has everyone over the age of 21 signed the application and contract?  Yes  No

Have you answered all of the questions?  Yes  No

Have you included the application and contract?  Yes  No

Have you included a \$20 check payable to Make PeaceWith Animals, or paid \$20 via

PayPal?  Yes  No

No Have you made a copy of these documents for your files?  Yes  No



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## The Adoption Contract

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

### TO BE COMPLETED AT TIME OF ADOPTION

Description of dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ear Tattoo No.: Left: \_\_\_\_\_ Right: \_\_\_\_\_ Tag No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Health record:    Spayed            Neutered            Date performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Inoculations: \_\_\_\_\_

**I HEREWITH CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAKE PEACE WITH ANIMALS THE SUM OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CONTRIBUTION IS NON-REFUNDABLE IF I RETURN THE GREYHOUND DOG FOR ANY REASON.**

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**I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIVING FROM MAKE PEACE WITH ANIMALS THE ABOVE DESCRIBED DOG, AS TO WHICH I SOLEMNLY PROMISE:**

1. I will provide humane care and will comply with all laws and ordinances in force in the area in which I reside applicable to said animal.
2. I will contact Make Peace With Animals if the dog dies.
3. I will allow no one to use the dog for any experimental purpose.
4. a. If the dog is lost or stolen, I agree to call Make Peace With Animals immediately as we may get a call first as to the dog's whereabouts.  
b. If lost, then found, I agree to notify Make Peace With Animals.
5. I will return said dog to Make Peace With Animals if, at any time, I am requested to do so by them because of my violation of this Agreement, making no charge for its upkeep or for any other reason.
6. I agree that I will not hold Make Peace With Animals responsible for any illness of said dog nor for any damages which the animal may inflict on any person or property

7. I will not use said dog for the purpose of hunting or live lure coursing.
8. I will not allow said dog to run unleashed except in a fully fenced area.
9. I will keep said dog as an indoor house pet.
10. I will never allow said animal to be raced again.
11. If not already accomplished, I will have said dog spayed or neutered within 30 days of adoption and will send written proof from the veterinarian who performed the surgery to Make Peace With Animals. Violation of this paragraph will result in the forfeiture of said dog to Make Peace With Animals.
12. I will have said animal examined yearly by a licensed veterinarian and given appropriate preventative inoculations and will have said animal receive other veterinary care when necessary.
13. I promise to keep a collar bearing identification on said dog *at all times*.
14. I will return said dog to Make Peace With Animals if, at any time, I desire to relinquish custody of it.
15. I further agree not to give the dog to *anyone* without the agency's consent.

**I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT.  
EVERY MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD OVER THE AGE OF 21 MUST SIGN.**

Signature(s)

Adopter's driver's license number \_\_\_\_\_ Issued in what State? \_\_\_\_\_  
Only one necessary, indicate which.

**Please mail this with the signed Adoption Contract to the above address.  
Please make a copy of this document for your files.**

Has everyone over the age of 21 signed the application and contract?  Yes  No

Have you answered all of the questions?  Yes  No

Have you included a \$20 check payable to Make Peace With Animals, or paid \$20 via  
PayPal?  Yes  No

Have you included the application and contract?  Yes  No

Have you made a copy of these documents for your files?  Yes  No