

## GreySpeak

A dictionary of Greyhound terms and expressions

**AGTOA:** American Greyhound Track Owners Association. Formed in April 1946, as a non-profit corporation composed of the owners and operators of 36 greyhound tracks located throughout the United States. Membership is open to all lawfully licensed greyhound racetracks, whether individuals, partnerships or corporations.

**Alpha:** In social animals, the alpha is the individual in the community whom the others follow. Where one male and one female fulfill this role, they are referred to as the alpha pair (the term varies when several individuals of the same sex fulfill this role). Other animals in the same social group may exhibit deference or other symbolic signs of respect particular to their species towards the alpha. In most species, the alpha is given preference to be the first to eat.

**Amoxi:** Amoxicillin is used to treat infections caused by bacteria, such as ear infections, bladder infections, etc.

**Beta:** The beta is the contender to the alpha position, and usually subordinate to the individual in that position after passing a test. Betas act as the second in command and can overthrow the alpha or future alpha through reiterated challenges.

**Breeder:** A person who practices the vocation of mating Greyhounds to reproduce specific, consistently replicable qualities and characteristics. Breeders, owners, and trainers may or may not be the same person. See also: kennel.

**Bubble:** A Greyhound's personal space. Typically much stronger when a Greyhound first comes off the track. Appears to be related to the time a Greyhound spends in their racing crate, which limits access by other Greyhounds, especially to their food and water.

**Chip:** Microchip. A microchip implant is an identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of a dog, cat, horse, or other animal. The chips are about the size of a large grain of rice and are based on a passive RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) technology. AZgreyhounds uses AVID microchips, and registers Greyhounds with the American Kennel Club (AKC) Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) program.

**Chippie:** Potato chips. Refers to people who can't have just one (potato chip and/or Greyhound).

**Epi:** Greyhound afflicted with epilepsy

**Exit 302:** Standard Greyhound transfer point. You will often hear "I have a pickup at 302 on Saturday morning." Located at Exit 302, Interstate 10, Gas City.

GG: Greyhound Guy (usually refers to the President of AZgreyhounds, Inc.)

GPA: Greyhound Pets of America. Greyhound Pets of America is a national tax-exempt, non-profit corporation founded in 1987 for the purpose of finding homes for ex-racing greyhounds and educating the public on the suitability and availability of greyhounds as pets.

Handle: compensation from each race for the winning Greyhounds (first four Greyhounds crossing the finish line). Split between the owner, the kennel, the trainer, the track and the state.

Kennel cough (Bordetella): Kennel cough or tracheobronchitis is a highly contagious canine illness characterized by inflammation of the upper respiratory system. It can be caused by viral infections such as canine distemper, canine adenovirus, canine parainfluenza virus, or canine respiratory coronavirus, or bacterial infections such as Bordetella bronchiseptica. It is so named because the infection can spread quickly among dogs, such as in the close quarters of a kennel.

Kennel: responsible for the training, housing, feeding, and care of the racing Greyhound.

Kidz: our Greyhounds

Lead: Leash or other device attached to the Greyhound's collar to lead the dog.

Leadout: Individual responsible for bringing Greyhounds out on the race track, placing them in the starting gate, and recovering the hounds at the end of the race.

Martingale: A martingale is a type of collar that provides more control over the animal without the choking effect of a slip collar. It is similar in concept to a horse's martingale. Martingale collars are also known as Greyhound, Whippet or humane choke collars. The Martingale collar was designed for Sighthounds because their necks are larger than their heads and they can often slip out of buckle collars. These collars have gained popularity among other breed owners in the recent past with many trainers now recommending them instead of choke chains or buckle collars. Martingale Collars are fitted to the exact size of the Greyhound's neck when the collar is pulled closed. Properly fitted, the collar will be comfortably loose when not in use. When the Martingale control loop is pulled, the two slides (hardware on the small control loop of the Martingale Collar) should pull close together but the two slides should never touch.

Met: Metronidazole. Metronidazole is used by veterinarians to treat various conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, nonspecific diarrheal disorders, diarrheal infections caused by Giardia, and periodontal disease. It is available as 250mg and 500mg tablets.

Naked: a Greyhound without a collar or tags.

NGA: National Greyhound Association, a voluntary non-profit association operated in accordance with the laws of Kansas, is officially recognized as the sole registry for racing Greyhounds on the North American continent.

**Omega:** Omega is an antonym used to refer to the lowest caste of the hierarchical society. An omega is subordinated to both alpha and beta. The omega may be used as a scapegoat and is commonly the last allowed to eat.

**Osteo:** Osteosarcoma, bone cancer. Prevalent in long legged, large breed hounds, including Greyhounds, Wolfhounds, Deer Hounds, Great Danes and other sight hounds.

**Owner:** actual owner of the racing Greyhound. Often located in another state. Releases the retired racing Greyhound for adoption. See breeder and trainer.

**Play bow:** a gesture, normally with the front of the body down, and rear end held high in the air, accompanied by “bouncing” the front legs several times. An invitation to play. The AZgreyhounds logo pictures a Greyhound play bowing.

**Queen:** see Alpha. Dominant within a group of Greyhounds typically in your home.

**Rim:** Rimadyl (carprofen) controls your dog's pain whether caused by surgery or arthritis. Rimadyl is a 24-hour, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that is administered once a day. It provides safe and effective relief of pain and inflammation due to canine arthritis, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery. (Generic: Novox is a generic equivalent to Rimadyl (carprofen) caplets. Used to treat pain & inflammation from arthritis and other joint diseases. Also used to reduce fever. Available in 25mg, 75mg, and 100mg scored caplets. Not for use in cats).

**Rooping:** When several Greyhounds howl or sound like coyotes.

**Separation anxiety:** Newly adopted hounds may exhibit some forms of stress-related behaviors when left home alone (dogs are used to living in kennels surrounded by other dogs). In some cases, the hounds may experience separation anxiety. Classic signs of true separation anxiety: panting, whining, nose dripping, salivating while the owner prepares to leave; destruction of household items immediately upon the owner's departure; vomiting or diarrhea; barking or crying for extended periods

**Special:** Typically refers to a Greyhound with a special need(s). May include medical or mental conditions.

**Spook:** Extremely shy Greyhound.

**Storm anxiety:** fear expressed by Greyhounds during thunderstorms or monsoon season. Often treated with homeopathic drugs and special coats. In severe cases, may require prescription drugs for anxiety.

**Tats:** tattoos. Right ear = month/year/sequence. Left ear = unique litter number. Assigned by the NGA upon registration of the puppies.

Trainer: responsible for the discipline and training of the racing Greyhound. Compensated from some of the handle for each race. See breeder and owner.

Turnout: Time allowed out of the crate, typically 3-4 times per day to allow the Greyhounds to exercise and relieve themselves.

Twitch Kid: a Greyhound with epilepsy (see epi)

Woosie boy: Description of most male Greyhounds (non-aggressive, laid back, shy, very sensitive, whiney).