

### Prince's story by Mike Pascoe

Some years ago our dog, a dachshund, died at the age of 15 years. He was a cheeky little chap and greatly missed. For a few years we were without a dog but we were looking. A neighbour, Mary, worked for a Vet and knew of a black male greyhound, Prince, whose prospects were not looking too bright. He was big and a little fearsome for us at first. We knew nothing about greyhounds, as pets or otherwise. Finally we agreed to adopt Prince and he is now part of the family. Greyhounds are big gentle animals, which make wonderful pets.

Prince is a couch potato and spends the majority of the day sleeping. He loves his two walks a day and breakfast and dinner. He does not appear to need to run. When I took him to the fenced dog exercise area at Earlville, he walked in the gate, looked around, walked around the parameter fence sniffing and marking as he went, jogged to the shade of a tree and lay down. We doubt that Prince had a very successful racing career; he prefers to smell the roses!

Greyhounds love attention and interaction with humans. Prince is an enthusiastic greeter of visitors, bounding out with wagging tail to say hello and get a pat. Unfortunately this also includes burglars. We had some minor items stolen from our veranda one night with no resistance from Prince. He did enthusiastically greet the police, forming a mutual admiration society with a young police woman. Greyhounds are not watch dogs.

Prince does not learn tricks but comes when he is called and stops before crossing the road. A neighbour once bought him a rubber ball. She threw it. He bounded after it. He caught and grabbed it. He chewed it up and ate it. Never mind, that is how he is.

We love Prince dearly. He greets us enthusiastically when we arrive home. He sleeps near us night and day. He is a gentle, loving companion.

