



## *14 Historical Facts about Greyhounds*

1. Greyhounds are the only breed of dog mentioned in the Bible, Proverbs 30, verses 29-31
2. Greyhounds appear in both Greek and Roman mythology, the Greek poet Homer, in 800 BC was the first author ever to mention the dog in literature
3. Alexander the Great's favorite dog was the Greyhound.
4. In 1493, Greyhounds became the first European dogs in the New World.
5. General George Custer coursed his fourteen Greyhounds the night before the Battle of Little Big Horn.
6. Almost 8,000 years ago, there is evidence of Greyhound-like dogs living with humans.
7. Greyhounds first appeared on coins in 500 B.C.
8. The origin of the name Greyhound is unknown, regardless the name has nothing to do with the Greyhound's color. Gray is actually not a common color among Greyhounds.
9. Greyhounds were treated with almost god-like reverence by ancient Egyptians and highly regarded by other cultures in the Middle East.
10. A favorite pastime of the nobility was a sport called coursing, in which dogs compete against each other in the pursuit of a lure.
11. In the late eighteenth century, the Earl of Orford was obsessed with the breed and set about to produce the "perfect" Greyhound, what we know today.
12. The Midwest became the home of Greyhound coursing and eventually Greyhound racing. In many areas of the Midwest and West, Greyhounds are still bred by backyard breeders to hunt and kill jackrabbits and coyotes.
13. Greyhound racing, as we know it today, developed in the early 1900s.
14. Each year in the United States over 18,000 retired racers begin new careers as pets.

Reference: *The Reign of the Greyhound: A Popular History of the Oldest Family of Dogs*, by Cynthia A. Branigan

(Howell Book House, 1997)

*Retired Racing Greyhounds for Dummies*, by Lee Livingood (IDG Books Worldwide, Inc, 2000)