

Rules for GPI Brightwater Walks

Thank you for joining us on our Brightwater Walks! Your help is valuable and we appreciate it.

WHY WE WALK Walking the available hounds helps us learn about them and also gives them valuable experience for life after racing or rescue. They need guidance to learn about the world outside the kennel and the walks help us give them that guidance.

SAFETY FIRST For safety of the dogs and volunteers on the walks it is important to handle the dogs properly. GPI's ground rules for handling hounds while on Brightwater walks ensure this safety. If you fail to follow the ground rules, you may not be permitted to participate in the Brightwater walks.

WHO CAN WALK

Greyhounds only Greyhounds and greyhound mixes are the only breed permitted on the GPI Brightwater walks.

Walk GPI dog To walk a GPI available dog, you must:

- Be a registered GPI volunteer / Be at least 18 years old / Walk only one dog per person

Walk your dog To walk your own greyhound you must:

- Be at least 18 years old / Walk only one dog per person / Use proper leash walking skills

Bringing children If you bring children with you, you must:

- Insist that your children stay together with the group while on the walk
- Don't allow your children to run around the dogs and/or agitate them

BEFORE THE WALK

Poop bags Make sure you have poop bags (some may be available at the start of the walk).

Know how to load and unload

- Have a blanket for the dog to lie on in your vehicle, to make it more comfortable for the dog and help keep your vehicle clean. It also encourages the dog to lie down for the trip.
- Give the dog a boost into your car. Some dogs know how to get into a car. If a dog needs help, place front paws in the vehicle, then "scoop" behind their back legs to lift them into the vehicle.
- Load and unload from a side door rather than a back liftgate. Side doors leave less room for a dog to slip out
- **Watch for tails!!!!** Make sure they are clear before closing the door.
- **Leave the leash** on the dog in the car
- **Open car windows no more than 2 to 3 inches.** Any further, the dog will be able to get out.

HOW WE WALK

Safe distance

- **NO nose to nose touching** is permitted - keep the dogs away from each other.
- **Absolutely NO meeting other breed dogs** along the way.
- Keep a wide path between you and other walkers and their dogs. Many greyhounds have never seen other breeds, and some are not good with small dogs or other breed dogs.

Loose leash

- Keep the dog beside you with a loose leash; do not allow the dog to walk in front of you .
- If the dog is wearing a harness, attach a short leash to the front of the harness (chest).
- The GPI martingale neck leash is fine as long as you can walk loose leash comfortably.

Keep walking

- We keep walking without a lot of sniffing. No side trips to the trees or shrubs. It can get to be a stubborn habit to let them have their way for sniffs every time they want.
- To keep the group together, we don't stop along the way. They will potty if they need to.

Pick up

- Pick up after the dog you're walking

Giving treats

- Handing out treats – use care when handing out treats. Some dogs are food possessive, so make sure that there are no other dogs close when you give them treats.

AFTER THE WALK

Enter notes in Comments Book

We learn about the greyhounds on these walks. Make notes in the Volunteer Comments Book back at the kennel, so we can learn more about each of the dogs. For example, how did the dog load in and out of your car, how did they ride in your car (lie down, pace, bark, etc.), how did they react when they saw other breed dogs and other people?

This article, "[Loose Leash Walking](https://positively.com/dog-behavior/basic-cues/loose-leash-walking/)" by Victoria Stilwell gives tips on proper leash walking. (<https://positively.com/dog-behavior/basic-cues/loose-leash-walking/>)