



Cats and Greyhounds

Testing Process:

- The dog is either taken to a home with a cat that is cooperative and remains in the area with the dog, or a cat is taken to the kennel and kept in the office area where each dog is brought in to meet the cat.
- The dog is always muzzled with a muzzle guard and leashed (the muzzle guard allows us to let the dog sniff the cat if we feel comfortable with that).
- We hold the cat in our arms, put him on the floor, and also get him to jump off of a chair to see if there is a different reaction to movement.
- Testing results only indicate the response found with that particular dog, with that particular cat, in that environment, and with a limited amount of time – every cat and every home can be different to that dog.
- Outdoor cats can be very different than indoor cats to a dog – a dog that lives with an indoor cat may chase an outdoor cat.
- Caution should always be taken when bringing the dog home regardless of the testing result.

Testing Results:

- Yes – The dog indicated almost no interest in the cat or very little in the beginning but ignored the cat after initial meeting.
- Very Trainable – The dog showed a little interest in the cat but enough to ensure caution is used in the beginning – responds very well to “leave it” or re-direction.
- Trainable – The dog was not fixated on the cat, could be distracted and did not look for the cat when not in view - interest usually occurred when seeing the cat each time but there was an acceptable response to “leave it” and being pulled away – this result is meant to caution the adopter even more and is sometimes a better fit for an assertive cat and/or experienced owner.
- No – The dog immediately reacted to seeing the cat and could not be distracted or pulled away. Sometimes even though the dog may have responded to “leave it” or re-direction initially, there was still too much interest every time they saw the cat and they would continue to watch for the cat.

Introduction/Training Tips:

- Introduction should take place in a calm environment within a short time period of bringing the dog home – do not wait too long so they know the cat lives there also.
- Keep the dog muzzled and leashed during the introduction.
- Keep the dog muzzled at all times unless the cat is locked elsewhere – this should continue until you are absolutely sure they won't bother the cat (could go on for months) and should be muzzled or separated when gone (this could be indefinite) – muzzling is not bad.
- Cat must have an escape route.
- “Leave it” command when they even look at the cat (key is catching when they even start to think about it).
- Reward positive behavior (good “leave it” and possibly treats) – will associate good things with leaving the cat alone.
- Be DILIGENT and CONSISTENT - Respond IMMEDIATELY and EVERY TIME – make sure they know you mean business and you are the leader.
- Ensure the entire family is involved and consistent.
- The dog should never be allowed to chase the cat no matter how innocent it seems – it can lead to too much interest and even provoke a prey instinct.
- Behavior won't get better over time without diligent training.

For more information or help with your greyhound and cats, please contact Debra Knox at 425-338-9876 or knox.knox@comcast.net