



Lexi

We adopted our first dog from the ARL more than 2 years ago. She was not only our introduction to the world of dog ownership, but also the great world of greyhounds. Lexi, formerly Ale Pandora's Box, raced in Wisconsin, Florida and then came to the ARL from the Seabrook, NH track. I still remember the day we decided to adopt her. We were considering adopting a greyhound but were just looking around. Well Lexi (then called Pandora) stole our hearts immediately. The ARL was busy on that Saturday afternoon and lots of people were walking through the kennel area. Lexi, being a greyhound, ignored most of them, but would quietly wag her tail whenever we would walk by. She had my heart at that moment!

For Lexi, the home life was quite an adjustment. Coming directly from the track, she'd never been in a home before. She's never seen stairs, TV's, or mirrors. The hardest part was....she'd never been alone either. At the track the dogs always have people in and out of the kennel and always have dogs to the left and right of them. They're never alone. For Lexi, being alone was scary. She suffered from some severe separation anxiety. It was very stressful on us and most of all, on poor Lexi. We weren't about to give up on her though. With lots of patience, training and a will to try everything to help her, we made it through. After about six months of intense alone training and the help of medication we were able to make it through a work day without coming home to chewed curtains and woodwork and an anxious dog.

I think going through all that, made us learn a lot about dog ownership. Lexi is my heart dog. She's the reason I fell in love with greyhounds and in February 2010 we adopted our second greyhound, Tess (formerly Hallo Talent Sue). We now have two beautiful dogs, who are probably the most spoiled brindle sisters in Maine!

We encourage anyone who has a dog and is struggling with behavioral issues, be it separation anxiety or something else, to not give up. The ARL can give you great support and you can make it through.



