

Numbers In The Greyhound Racing Industry*

Number of tracks in the UK: There are about 30 “licensed” tracks (i.e. registered with the National Greyhound Racing Club [NGRC] and supposedly under the NGRC regulations) and about 20 independent or “flapping” tracks. **Around 50 tracks all together.**

Dogs exported from Ireland every year: According to the racing industry, **75% of the dogs running on British tracks** have been exported from Ireland.

Numbers of dogs registered every year in the UK and in Ireland: About **40,000 greyhounds pups** are registered, however only about 11,000 of them will make it to the British tracks and about 5000 to the Irish ones. The other 22,000 who fail to reach racing standards are most likely put to death.

Number of races taking place every year in the UK: Over **70,000 races**

Number of new dogs entering races every year in the UK: About 11,000 new greyhounds are registered with the NGRC, and it is estimated that about 2,000 unregistered dogs enter racing in independent tracks. **Around 13,000 in total.**

Number of dogs “retired” every year in the UK: **11,000 greyhound** are “retired” from the official racing tracks and an estimated 1,000 ex-racer are withdrawn from independent “flapping” tracks. The destiny of most of them is unknown.

Number of dogs rehomed every year in the UK: The NGRC, the racing body can only account for the relocation of **3,500. Where are the other 8,500?** Sanctuaries across the country work really hard to find homes for all the abandoned dogs but this task can never be wholly accomplished due to the large number of dogs bred every year.

SOME SIMPLE MATHS* ...

In 2005, the racing industry registered 5,000 litters. On average greyhound litters comprise 8 pups, therefore approximately 40,000 greyhounds are born every year for racing. Most of these dogs are bred in Ireland.

40,000 greyhounds bred annually for the racing industry

When the greyhounds are a few months old they have to be registered again, this time individually not as a litter. If this figure is compared to the number of pups born earlier we find that a significant number of dogs have gone missing. **From the 40,000 pups born in 2005 only 27,850 were registered. Where are the 12,150 missing puppies?**

28,000 greyhounds puppies registered annually

12,000 puppies missing from the previous registration

Greyhounds have to be registered once again to run on the “licensed” tracks, and such registrations total about 11,000 annually. There is no an exact figure for dogs entering racing on independent tracks, but we can safely say this amounts to little more than 2,000 additional dogs, given that the independent tracks are fewer and of a smaller-scale. Approximately 5000 dogs will remain in Ireland for their own racing industry. Therefore from the 28,000 dogs previously registered, now about 18,000 dogs are accounted for. These are the ones that will make it to the racing tracks - but, what happened to the other 10,000?

18,000 dogs start racing annually in Ireland and UK

10,000 young greyhounds missing from the previous registration



Every year

40,000 greyhounds are bred for racing

-18,000 dogs enter racing

22,000 young dogs go missing as they fail to reach racing standards, where are they?

****All this information is based on figures produced by the greyhound racing industry itself.**

www.greyhoundaction.org.uk