

All the information below is either based on figures produced by the greyhound racing industry itself or on statements made by individuals who have worked either in the industry or in greyhound rescue.



Tens of thousands of dogs are disposed of every year by the British greyhound racing industry - because they fail to make the grade as racers or when their racing days are over.

About 25,000 greyhound pups are registered every year in the British Isles. The number bred is actually many thousands more than this, when taking into account pups that never get registered and those killed by breeders at a very young age. Although most of these dogs are bred in Ireland, the majority are produced to supply the demands of the British greyhound racing industry.

Thousands of greyhound pups and young dogs are put to death because they fail to reach racing standards. We estimate that over 10,000 are killed annually in the British Isles.

Dogs which actually make it to the track are very likely to experience suffering during their racing careers. It has been estimated that greyhounds running on British tracks sustain more than 12,000 injuries every year and that 10% of dogs that race are already suffering from injuries. Injured toes, torn muscles, strained tendons and arthritic joints are commonplace.

At least 10,000 greyhounds "retire" from racing in Britain every year, at an average age of just 2½ years old. This is either because of injury or because they are adjudged to be no longer good enough to race.

Very few of these dogs manage to find good homes. This is hardly surprising, given a situation where many thousands of ordinary dogs are put to sleep every year because no homes are available for them.

YOU BET THEY DIE - Support the campaign against greyhound racing!

The British greyhound racing industry has admitted that 500 - 1,000 retired greyhounds are put to death every year. This alone would be enough to justify a ban on greyhound racing, but the true figure for retired dogs killed is, sadly, far, far higher. Quite possibly as many as 6,000.

Many ex-racing greyhounds are simply abandoned and a large number are killed, sometimes by extremely cruel methods such as drowning or poisoning, because some owners and trainers are not prepared to pay the cost of having them put to sleep by a vet.

We are receiving an increasing number of reports of trainers shooting dogs when their racing days are over.

We don't wish to suggest that everyone involved in greyhound racing is cruel or insensitive. There are some "owners" and trainers who love their dogs and take good care of them for the whole of their natural lives. But this only applies to a small minority of the thousands of dogs which enter racing, and thousands more are put to death before even reaching that stage.

Every year many hundreds of "unwanted" greyhounds are shipped to Spain to be kept for racing in appalling conditions or used for hunting and coursing. Dogs which turn out to be no good for hunting are often brutally disposed of, with hanging being a favourite method.

The only way to prevent the massive suffering and killing of greyhounds caused by the greyhound racing industry is for greyhound racing to be abolished. It is interesting to note that this has already happened in the USA, where six states have banned greyhound racing since 1993. In the meantime it is important that people avoid attending or betting on greyhound racing, so that it gradually comes to an end through lack of finance and support.

GREYHOUND ACTION

Greyhound Action was formed in 1997 with the ultimate aim of putting an end to greyhound racing. There are many other groups which are dedicated to finding homes for ex-racing greyhounds, but in practical terms it is only possible to re-home a very small percentage of the vast number of greyhounds disposed of every year by the greyhound racing industry. Therefore the total abolition of greyhound racing is the only real solution.

Greyhound Action is seeking to educate the public about the dark side of greyhound racing, so that support for this so-called "sport" withers away. We are also attempting to put pressure on the government to ban greyhound racing altogether. We know it will take a long battle to achieve such a ban, but it is not an impossible aim, as the abolition of dog racing in several American states has shown.

As part of our campaign, a petition calling for a ban on greyhound racing has been produced, as well as leaflets, posters, badges and stickers. We also supply information to both local and national media and have been involved in campaigns (some of which have been successful) to stop the building of greyhound tracks both in this country and abroad and to end EU grants to Irish greyhound breeders. In addition, we act as a central contact point for people who want to give homes to ex-racing greyhounds and we co-ordinate a project to make and supply coats for greyhounds in rescue centres.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN!.....

...by doing whatever you can to educate the public not to support greyhound racing. This can be done through street stalls, writing letters to newspapers and doing interviews in the local media. Demonstrations can be held outside greyhound tracks and leaflets distributed to those attending greyhound races and betting shops. If you would like to do any of the above, please contact us and we will send you whatever information and campaign materials you require. We are also looking for volunteers to do research for us on the internet and elsewhere. If you feel you can help in this way, please let us know.

LOCAL GROUPS

Increased support has allowed us to set up local Greyhound Action groups in many different parts of the country. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking part in such a group to campaign against your local greyhound stadium and/or help educate people in your area.

HELP US TO KEEP GOING!

We make no charge for our campaign materials, as we don't want to discourage anyone from spreading the message by making them pay for leaflets, posters etc. This, together with the increasing amount we are spending on printing, postage and so on, means that our finances are constantly stretched to the limit and we are always desperately in need of funds to increase and expand our work.

You can help us enormously by making a donation. Cheques can be made payable to *Greyhound Action* or you can go into your bank and ask them to transfer money to our account or to set up a standing order to make us a donation on a regular basis. The sort code for the *Greyhound Action* account is 72-00-04 and the account number is 39443288. Alternatively, you can ask us to send you a standing order form. As our account is with Girobank, you can also pay money directly into it at any post office, using a Transcash form. For this purpose, our account number is 43 944 3288. (Write your name and postcode in the "Reference number" section)

Please also consider holding a jumble sale, coffee morning, sponsored dog walk etc. to help raise funds for *Greyhound Action*.

We are a voluntary group, so all money received goes directly towards the campaign and is not spent on wages or expenses.

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