



Running for their Lives!

Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 17 February/March 2008

5,000 greyhounds spared from slaughter!

Racing industry forced to cut dog death-rate



Recent demo - Peterborough greyhound stadium

Constant pressure exerted on the dog racing industry by Greyhound Action and other greyhound protection campaigners has resulted in a huge fall in the number of greyhounds put to death annually. 2007 breeding, racing and rehoming figures, just issued in Britain and Ireland, indicate that the number of greyhounds killed has fallen by as many as 5,000, when compared with previous years. This is mainly because the breeding of greyhounds has been reduced by about 13%, meaning that fewer are being produced to be ruthlessly discarded as pups or young dogs after failing to make the grade as racers.

A great success for our campaign, thanks to the hard work of all our dedicated supporters.

However, our research indicates that at least 25,000 greyhounds continue to be "put down" each year in the British Isles, with 15,000 of these deaths being due to dog racing in Britain.

It is for this reason that we must continue to fight for a total end to commercial greyhound racing, so that no dogs suffer and die at the hands of this evil industry.

Track plans Scotched

A double for greyhounds north of the border

A bid to bring greyhound racing back to Edinburgh has ended up on the rocks, after the city's sports leader declared that a plan to open a dog track at Meadowbank Stadium was a "non-starter".

Greyhound racing enthusiasts had hoped to persuade the city council to back the idea of a combined dog and speedway track.

But Councillor Deidre Brock stated that the authority was not considering the proposal, after meeting with members of the pro-racing group and considering objections from GA and many of our supporters.

She said: "There is absolutely no appetite in this administration for a greyhound and speedway track – we have never given consideration to it at any stage.....as far as I am concerned, this idea is a non-starter."

"Aside from the issues I have about animal welfare and noise problems, our focus remains on developing a range of first-class facilities under sportscotland's national and regional sports facilities programme and on developing and investing in the city's community facilities."

Meanwhile, It's looking very likely that the partly-built greyhound stadium at Wallyford, to the east of Edinburgh, will never be completed. It's stood as a skeleton for several years now and rumours are increasing that it will be demolished, so the land can be used for house-building.

Edinburgh's previous greyhound track, at Powderhall Stadium, closed in the mid-1990s.



June 2002 – Protest outside East Lothian Council offices against plans for the Wallyford track

Greyhound killers feel our fury

Angry demo at BGRB awards ceremony

On the evening of Sunday, January 20th, representatives of the dog racing industry were, once again, forced to run the gauntlet of angry greyhound protection campaigners, as they arrived at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London's West End for an awards ceremony hosted by the British Greyhound Racing Board (BGRB).

Dozens of Greyhound Action supporters gathered at the hotel entrance to protest loudly and vociferously against the annual suffering and slaughter of many thousands of dogs caused by the greyhound racing industry.

The protesters, holding banners and placards, used megaphones, whistles and airhorns to create a barrage of sound, as an expression of their disgust at the callous treatment of greyhounds. Many thanks to all our supporters who attended this protest and helped make it a very successful demonstration.

The demo also provided an opportunity to persuade members of the public to boycott greyhound racing, as Greyhound Action's Tony Peters gave interviews on London's two major radio stations.



Racing industry in retreat

Tracks in trouble, injuries exposed



In all weathers – dedicated demonstrators have brought the Coventry track to the brink of closure

The greyhound track at Coventry Stadium is teetering on the brink of closure, after 4 years of regular Saturday demonstrations by local Greyhound Action supporters have reduced attendances to an abysmally low level, causing a financial crisis, which has led to prize money going missing and trainers not being paid. The track has already been forced to end its Friday night race meetings.

Greyhound racing at Sittingbourne's Central Stadium could soon be finished, after members of the local council's community scrutiny panel were told that the dog track there "was not very successful". An active campaign against the track by Sittingbourne Greyhound Action may well be having something to do with its lack of success.

The Corpus Christi greyhound track in Texas, USA, has closed, after almost two decades of racing, because it was losing so much money.

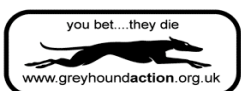
In Florida, the *Derby Lane Million Dollar*, billed as the biggest greyhound racing event in the world, was cancelled due to a lack of entries.

According to the Sporting Press, the total annual attendance at British greyhound races has gone down by 80% since 1961 and the dog racing industry has "lost half a million racegoers in the past five years". Attendances totaled 25.2 million in 1948, 12.8 million in 1962, but just 3.3 million in 2006.

Information from members of the public has enabled us to get considerable media coverage in many areas of the country about serious injuries to greyhounds on the tracks and some of the resulting newspaper articles have been made into leaflets for distribution outside the stadiums where these occurred.



Greyhound Action stall in Sittingbourne shopping centre



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