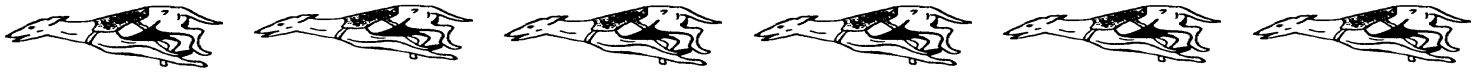


# Running for their Lives!



**Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 15 October 2007**

## Ten years of Greyhound Action A decade of campaigning for greyhound protection



*An early GA demo, outside Canterbury dog track (now closed) in 1999*

It was in 1997 that we decided to form an organisation to campaign for an end to commercial greyhound racing.

For several years before, we had been involved in greyhound rescue and, through this, had come to the conclusion that if the slaughter and suffering of these wonderful dogs was ever to cease, the greyhound racing industry had to be done away with.

From small beginnings GA has grown over the years and has played an important part in the closing of several greyhound tracks and in preventing a number of others from being built, both in this country and abroad.

Our efforts to educate the public about the plight of greyhounds and to persuade them to boycott the greyhound racing industry have resulted in a big fall in attendances at dog tracks, pushing even more of them towards eventual closure.

The Greyhound Action website, set up 5 years ago and excellently maintained, free of charge, by emonkeys, has led to a huge increase in support for our campaign and is visited by several hundred people every day.

GA now has over 20 local branches in the UK and has set up sections in Ireland, Australasia and several European countries.

Frequent demos take place outside greyhound tracks in various parts of the country and GA stages several national events (Greyhound Awareness Week, Greyhound Remembrance Weekend etc.) every year.

In 2005 we launched our *Virtual Virtues* campaign, with its first aim of persuading William Hill (who put more money into greyhound racing than any other bookie) to go over to virtual (computerised racing), followed, earlier this year, by *Winning Words*, aimed at educating those attending greyhound tracks about the suffering and slaughter caused by the dog racing industry. We are in frequent touch with the media, constantly persuading them to highlight the plight of greyhounds, and this has paid off over the past couple of years, where the industry has been very hard-hit by several newspaper exposés of the mass-slaughter of ex-racing dogs.

Greyhound Action enters its second decade with commercial greyhound racing in a far weaker position than it was 10 years ago and we are quietly optimistic that the next 10 years will see this industry of death slide even closer towards oblivion.



*And a recent one - Peterborough Stadium, this September*



## Farewell to Bernie

### Dog who 'founded' Greyhound Action has died

Bernie, a small male brindle greyhound we adopted in 1995, played a major part in our decision to found Greyhound Action.

He had been severely ill-treated and traumatised at the hands of the racing industry and his suffering filled us with determination to bring commercial greyhound racing to an end.

Sadly, Bernie passed away this September, at the grand old age of 14 years 4 months, but we will never forget him nor the important part he played in helping so many other greyhounds.

*Bernie playing in the garden in 2004*

## Greyhound killers on the run

### Attendances crash, tracks close, six could be sold to builders

Figures issued by the British Greyhound Racing Board reveal that attendances at dog racing fell, yet again, in 2006, by 2.3% and, according to the July edition of the pro dog racing magazine *Greyhound Star*, Britain's major greyhound tracks suffered an abysmal second quarter of this year with virtually every stadium being hit by double-digit drops in attendances.

The largest drop (33%) was at Perry Barr (Birmingham) and also mentioned were Wimbledon 28%, Hall Green (Birmingham) 20%, Belle Vue (Manchester) 17%, Brighton & Hove 16%, Oxford 15%, Peterborough 12%, Romford 11%, Monmore Green (Wolverhampton) 10%, Portsmouth 10% and Walthamstow 10%.

A greyhound racing industry source is quoted as saying "The May figures are apparently even worse".



*Demos earlier this year at Perry Barr, where attendances fell by 33%.....*



Two tracks associated with South-Wales greyhound "executioner" Andrew Gough have closed. Gough, who put dogs to death with a captive-bolt pistol, was sentenced to six months imprisonment for cruelty in 2004 after Rusty, a greyhound he had shot, was found whimpering in agony on a Welsh mountainside. We're happy to report that dog racing has now come to an end at Bedwellty (Caerphilly), where he used to race greyhounds, and Hinckley (Leics), where he was paid his £10 killing-fee by Rusty's "owner".

*.....and Brighton & Hove, down 16%*

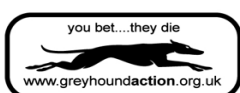
GRA Ltd (formerly the Greyhound Racing Association), owners of six greyhound stadiums, has been put up for sale, meaning there's a good chance that at least some of them (Belle Vue, Perry Barr, Hall Green, Walthamstow, Wimbledon, Oxford and Portsmouth) will be sold for housing or commercial development.

In the USA, an end to greyhound racing has been announced at the Wichita (Kansas) and Tampa (Florida) tracks and, in Australia, the dog track at Gold Coast (Queensland) is to be demolished to make way for a hospital.

The Northern Ireland administration has ruled out plans for a greyhound stadium at Belfast's Ormeau Park.



*Greyhound Remembrance event at Wimbledon, one of the tracks which could be sold to developers*



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