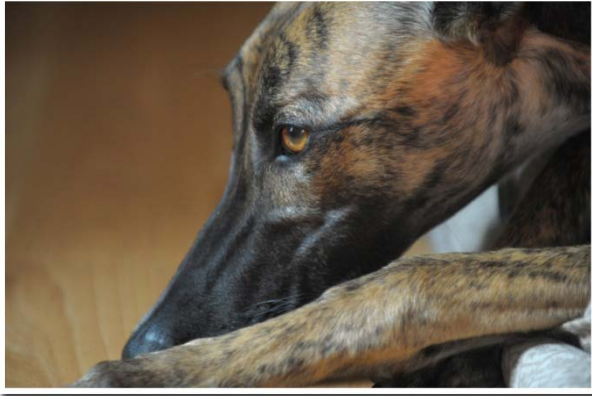




GREYHOUND RACING IN THE UNITED STATES

Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane



At racetracks across the country, thousands of greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement and many suffer serious injuries.

Dogs in the racing industry are also subject to standard practices that are cruel and inhumane, like the killing of unprofitable dogs and the use of 4-D meat.

Greyhound racing goes against the values of our community and should be prohibited.

Greyhounds endure lives of confinement

Greyhounds are confined for 20 or more hours per day

Racing greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement. They live inside warehouse-style kennels in rows of stacked cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. They are confined for long hours each day, with shredded paper or carpet remnants as bedding.

According to industry statements, greyhounds are kept confined in their cages for 20 or more hours per day. They are confined perpetually with two exceptions:

1. A few times per month, greyhounds are removed from their cages and taken to a track, where they compete.¹
2. A few times per day, greyhounds are "turned out" in a large group and allowed to relieve themselves. These turn-outs account for a total cumulative period of three to five hours per day.²



A greyhound at Tucson Greyhound Park. Photograph by the Pima County Animal Care Center, 2011.

Racetrack cages are barely large enough for dogs to stand up or turn around

The standard minimum size for dog track cages is 32 inches high, by 31 inches wide, by 42 inches deep, with some slightly larger.³ They are produced by commercial companies that specialize in racetrack cages, such as G&T Crates.⁴

According to the American Greyhound Council, greyhounds stand between 23 inches and 30 inches tall at the shoulder and weigh between 50 and 85 pounds.⁵ Using these dimensions provided by the industry, large greyhounds cannot stand fully erect in racetrack cages.

Greyhounds suffer serious injuries while racing

At dog tracks nationwide, greyhounds routinely suffer serious injuries. From January 2008 through October 2016, a total of 13,989 greyhound injuries have been documented. The most commonly reported injury was a broken leg. Other injuries included head trauma, electrocution, and broken backs.

- At two West Virginia dog tracks, 7,239 greyhound injuries were reported between January 2008 and August 2016.⁶ During the same period, 369 dogs died or were euthanized.⁷
- At Southland Greyhound Park in Arkansas, 943 greyhound injuries were reported between January 2008 and October 2016, including at least 35 dogs that died or were euthanized.⁸
- At Tucson Greyhound Park in Arizona, 520 greyhound injuries were reported from 2008, 2009, and June 2013 through June 2016, including least 20 dogs that died or were euthanized.⁹



The last race of Bow Rockabilly, who died after hitting the rail in February 2011. Still image from a Southland Greyhound Park video from trackinfo.com.

Greyhounds also suffer injuries in unofficial schooling races and training activities, but these injuries are not always reported on state injury forms.

The remaining two states with active dog tracks, Alabama and Florida, do not report greyhound injuries to the public. This is a notable omission because almost two-thirds of operational dog tracks are located in Florida. Minimal injury data has become available through Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) investigative files, death notifications, and inspection reports. An examination of these records identified 199 greyhound injuries between 2008 and 2015, including at least 137 dogs that died or were euthanized.

Injury reports document greyhounds who suffered and died

At least 952 racing greyhounds have died since 2008, including 801 injured dogs. For example:

- A two-year-old white and black greyhound named SE's Angel Fire was euthanized after breaking her back during a race at Mardi Gras Racetrack on March 21, 2013.¹⁰
- On June 9, 2012, a one-and-a-half-year-old red brindle greyhound named SH Transporter was euthanized after breaking his right front leg during at race at Dubuque Greyhound Park. He had to be carried off of the track.¹¹

Greyhound racing is a dying industry



Across the country, dog tracks are closing

Since GREY2K USA began its national campaign in 2001, thirty-one dog tracks have closed or ceased live racing operations. There are now only 18 dog tracks remaining in 6 states.¹² Read more on our [state-by-state information page](#).

Greyhound racing is a dying industry. This decline is due to increased public awareness that dog racing is cruel and inhumane, in addition to competition from other forms of gambling.

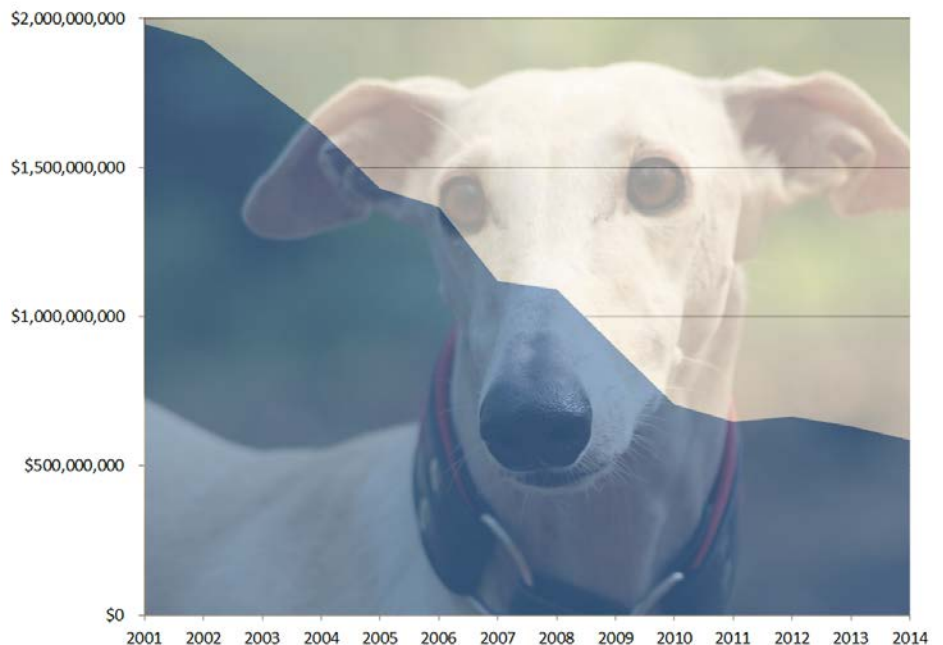
Gambling on dog racing continues to decline

Between 2001 and 2014, the total amount gambled on greyhound racing nationwide declined by 70%.¹³ This includes gambling on live dog racing and simulcast gambling, where bettors wager remotely on races that take place elsewhere.

At the same time that overall gambling on dog racing is declining, a trend toward off-track gambling continues. In 2014, three-quarters (75%) of all wagers on dog races were made by simulcast or advance-deposit wagering.¹⁴

Similarly, state tax revenue from greyhound racing continues to drop. Between 2001 and 2014, state dog race revenue declined by more than 82%, and by the end of this period represented only \$13 million nationwide.¹⁵ This does not account for regulatory costs. When such costs are taken into consideration, it is likely that states are losing money on greyhound racing.

Total Amount Gambled on Greyhound Racing, 2001-2014



Thousands of puppies are bred each year for this cruel industry



*A greyhound with her puppies at a West Virginia greyhound breeding farm.
Photograph by Erin Davis, 2011.*

According to the National Greyhound Association (NGA), there are 300 greyhound breeding facilities and kennels in the United States.¹⁶ Around 60 of these are in Iowa, with a large number also located in Kansas and Oklahoma.¹⁷

Females are impregnated, many through artificial insemination by a veterinarian, and have their litters on site.¹⁸ At a few months of age, puppies' right ears are tattooed with their birth date and order, and an individual registration number is tattooed in the left ear. While at these breeding facilities, dogs are often kept outside in large dirt pens with minimal shelter. Greyhounds spend approximately one year at these locations before they begin race training.¹⁹

There is also evidence that some greyhound puppies disappear from record. According to Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the average litter size between 2006 and 2008 was 5.38 puppies per litter.²⁰ This is remarkably low. National statistics provided by the NGA for the same period indicate a litter size of 6.04.²¹ Using the NGA average litter size, a total of 493 Iowa greyhound puppies would not be accounted for during the period 2006 through 2008. Previously, the greyhound industry has defended this discrepancy by stating that there is a natural attrition rate of approximately 5%.²² However, even after taking this natural attrition rate into consideration, Iowa state statistics still do not account for hundreds of greyhound puppies.

Over two-dozen cases of cruelty & neglect have been documented

Since 2008, at least twenty-seven cases of greyhound neglect and cruelty have been documented. These cases occurred in all seven states with active dog tracks, and in the state of Kansas. A kennel inspection found a "persistent flea infestation" and poor conditions in Alabama.²³ Four additional cases of dogs with parasite infestations were documented in Arizona, Arkansas, and West Virginia. In Arkansas, more than 140 neglected greyhounds were found at a breeding facility.²⁴ The same greyhound breeder previously had dogs confiscated in Kansas.²⁵

At least eight severe cases of greyhound cruelty or neglect were documented in Florida, including a case at Ebro Greyhound Park in which dozens of greyhounds were starved to death.²⁶ In Iowa, a trainer was fined and suspended for failing to provide adequate veterinary care for a sick greyhound.²⁷ In Texas, a trainer was fined after he caused an injured dog "unnecessary suffering."²⁸

Other issues

"4-D" meat is used by the dog racing industry to reduce costs

At racetracks across the country, dogs are fed a diet based on 4-D meat.²⁹ This is meat derived from dying, diseased, disabled and dead livestock that has been deemed unfit for human consumption.³⁰ The United States Department of Agriculture requires that charcoal be added to this meat to discourage human use.³¹ According to an industry handbook, 4-D meat is used at commercial dog tracks because "it is the most economically feasible for the Greyhound industry at this time."³²



4-D Meat at Tucson Greyhound Park, 2010.

As a result of eating 4-D meat dogs can be exposed to pathogenic microorganisms, including *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter jejuni*, and *Escherichia coli*.³³ In addition, the use of 4-D meat can lead to false drug positives due to drug residues that dogs ingest and pass into the urine.³⁴ According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, raw 4-D meat "may present a potential health hazard to the animals that consume it and to the people who handle it."³⁵ In 2014, two dogs died and close to 100 fell ill at Daytona Beach Kennel Club from a suspected case of "bad meat."³⁶

The dog racing industry defends the use of 4-D meat by claiming that it is also used by commercial pet food companies. While it is true that 4-D meat may be found in commercial pet foods, the use of 4-D meat at commercial dog tracks is distinctive because it is fed to dogs raw. Cooking meat destroys bacteria, but greyhound trainers are reluctant to do so for fear of negatively impacting racing performance.



Photo of a greyhound hauler, from an advertisement in the Iowa Greyhound Association newsletter. 2006.

Greyhounds are sometimes transported in a dangerous manner

Because dogs typically race at several racetracks during their career, industry haulers transport large numbers of dogs from one track to another. During this process, dogs are often transported in cramped conditions, and some undergo cross-country trips in aluminum trailers. In recent years, there have been several documented cases of greyhounds dying while being transported. For example, in 2010 two haulers were

suspended for 30 days and fined \$500 after eight greyhounds died while being transported from Oklahoma to Arizona.³⁷

Thousands of dogs are killed every year when they are no longer profitable

Thousands of greyhounds are still killed every year. Because several states do not keep adequate public records, there are no verifiable statistics on the number of dogs killed nationally. In 2009, Gary Guccione, the Executive Director of the National Greyhound Association, estimated that 2,000 to 3,000 greyhounds were killed annually.³⁸ In 2011, the National Greyhound Association acknowledged that there are "no cumulative annual records" available regarding the ultimate fate of racing greyhounds.³⁹

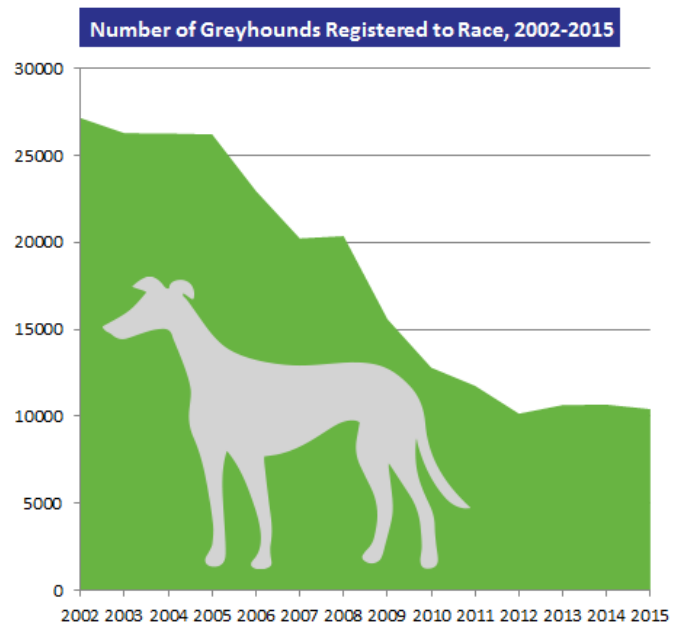
Kennel Club (WI), Post Time (CO), Shoreline Star (CT), Cloverleaf Kennel Club (CO), Jacksonville Kennel Club (FL), Tampa Greyhound Park (FL), Wichita Greyhound Park (KS), Corpus Christi (TX), Mile High (CO), The Woodlands (KS), Hinsdale Greyhound Park (NH), The Lodge at Belmont (NH), Seabrook Greyhound Park (NH), Wonderland Greyhound Park (MA), Guam Greyhound Park (Guam), Phoenix Greyhound Park (AZ), Raynham Park (MA), Dairyland Greyhound Park (WI), Twin River (RI), VictoryLand (AL), Jefferson County Kennel Club (FL), Bluffs Run (IA), Tucson Greyhound Park (AZ), and Mobile Greyhound Park (AL).

How many dogs are required to operate a greyhound racetrack?

On average, a population of 500 to 1,000 dogs is required to operate a commercial racetrack. Generally, greyhounds compete at several tracks in multiple states during their short careers.

How many dogs are bred for racing, and adopted, each year?

As dog tracks close, the number of greyhounds bred for racing continues to shrink. 10,422 individual dogs were registered to race in 2015 as compared to 27,142 in 2002.⁴⁸ The number of greyhounds adopted into loving homes each year is unknown.



Where does greyhound simulcast gambling occur?

In addition to live dog racing, greyhound simulcast betting exists in several states including Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In these states, gamblers are supporting the dog racing industry even though there is no active dog track in their community.

Join the Team: Help End the Cruelty of Dog Racing

Help a dog and make a new friend by adopting a rescued greyhound

To learn more about adopting a greyhound and to find a local adoption organization in your area, visit our adoption directory at www.GREY2KUSA.org/adopt

Support GREY2K USA and our national campaigns

GREY2K USA is a non-profit greyhound protection organization with supporters in the United States and throughout the world. To end greyhound racing, it will take the support of everyone who cares about dogs. To date, volunteers nationwide have contributed their time, money, and talents to help end this cruelty. To find out how you can help, visit us at www.GREY2KUSA.org or call 781.488.3526.

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Last Updated on August 21, 2017

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