



GREYHOUND BREEDING IN THE UNITED STATES

Thousands of puppies are bred each year for this cruel industry

According to the National Greyhound Association (NGA), there are 300 greyhound breeding facilities and kennels in the United States.¹ Around 60 of these are in Iowa, with a large number also located in Kansas and Oklahoma.²

Females are impregnated, many through artificial insemination by a veterinarian, and have their litters on site.³ 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.⁴



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

For the Record



	Breedings	Litters	Individuals
2015	2,199	1,870	10,422
2014	2,692	2,245	10,673
2013	2,768	2,048	10,657
2012	2,472	1,943	10,157
2010	2,649	2,176	12,801
2009	3,167	2,671	15,584
2008	3,816	3,242	20,365
2007	4,485	3,516	20,227
2006	4,773	3,768	22,951
2005	5,325	4,300	26,207
2004	6,265	4,977	26,262
2003	6,996	5,171	26,277
2002	7,122	5,205	27,142
2001	6,929	5,015	26,797
2000	6,780	5,234	26,464
1999	7,606	5,266	27,059
1998	7,815	5,034	26,036
1997	7,787	5,192	28,025
1996	8,508	5,438	28,877
1995	9,003	5,749	31,688
1994	9,463	6,232	34,746
1993	10,317	6,805	39,139
1992	12,250	7,690	38,023
1991	12,663	8,049	38,430
1990	12,607	7,722	38,615
1989	12,491	7,690	38,443
1988	13,275	7,979	37,784

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.⁵ This is remarkably low. National statistics provided by the NGA for the same period indicate a litter size of 6.04.⁶ 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%.⁷ However, even after taking this natural attrition rate into consideration, Iowa state statistics still do not account for hundreds of greyhound puppies.

Greyhound breeding has decreased sharply

As dog tracks close, the number of greyhounds bred for racing continues to shrink. A total of 10,673 individual dogs were registered to race in 2014 as compared to 26,262 in 2004, a decline of 59%.⁸ The number of greyhounds adopted into loving homes each year is unknown. In 2011, the National Greyhound Association acknowledged that there are "no cumulative annual records" available regarding the ultimate fate of racing greyhounds.⁹

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¹ "Greyhound care on the farm," *American Greyhound Council*, <http://www.agcouncil.com/content/greyhound-care-farm> (accessed May 15, 2014).
² Becca Habegger, "Iowa greyhound breeder fears for future," *KWWL 7*, January 21, 2014, <http://www.kwwl.com/story/24512906/2014/01/21/iowa-greyhound-breeder-fears-for-future> (accessed May 15, 2014); Nadia Pflaum, "Think there are no greyhounds in Kansas without the Woodlands?" *The Pitch*, June 3, 2009, <http://www.pitch.com/FastPitch/archives/2009/06/03/think-there-are-no-greyhounds-in-kansas-without-the-woodlands> (accessed May 15, 2014).
³ "Methods of Insemination," *The Greyhound Racing Association of America*, http://www.gra-america.org/buy_a_dog/breeding_science/breeding1.html (accessed May 15, 2014).
⁴ "On the Farm," *RayHoundTales.com*, 2012, <https://web.archive.org/web/20130801213126/http://rayhoundtales.com/at-the-farm/> (accessed May 15, 2014).
⁵ Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Horse and Dog Breeding Bureau, "2009 IGA Year End Report," republished in *Iowa Greyhound Association* newsletter, March 2009 page 9; Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Horse and Dog Breeding Bureau, "2006-2007 Year End Review Greyhound Program," republished in *Iowa Greyhound Association* newsletter, March 2008. page 9 (average obtained by dividing the number of individual greyhounds registered by the number of litters reported).
⁶ "For the Record: NGA Office Statistics," *National Greyhound Association*, <http://s3.amazonaws.com/presspublisher-do/upload/2866/content/ForTheRecord.pdf> (accessed April 15, 2014).
⁷ Gary Guccione, "Ancient Sport Meets Modern Foe: Animal Rights Extremism," *National Animal Interest Alliance*, January 9, 2012, <http://www.naiaonline.org/articles/article/ancient-sport-meets-modern-foe-animal-rights-extremism> (accessed May 15, 2014).
⁸ "For the Record: NGA Office Statistics," *National Greyhound Association*, <http://s3.amazonaws.com/presspublisher-do/upload/2866/content/ForTheRecord.pdf> (accessed June 8, 2016).
⁹ Gary Guccione (Executive Director, National Greyhound Association), email message to James Flanagan, November 16, 2011.