



SUMMARY OF MAJOR REPORTS ON DOG RACING

No Confidence by GREY2K USA, December 2017 (USA)

- From 2007 to 2017, 847 greyhound drug positives, including 71 cocaine positives.
- Spike in Class I drug positives in 2017.
- 83 drug-related rulings, including the confiscation of syringes and injectable vials.
- Rampant industry use of anabolic steroids in female greyhounds.
- Repeated industry attempts to undermine state drug testing via legal challenges.
- Lack of transparency in greyhound drug testing programs in Alabama, Texas, and West Virginia
- Insufficient and uneven penalties for drug positives.
- Unprecedented reduction in drug testing in Texas at private racetrack's request.

Website: [https://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K USA Drugs in the American Greyhound Racing Industry.pdf](https://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K%20USA%20Drugs%20in%20the%20American%20Greyhound%20Racing%20Industry.pdf)

High Stakes by GREY2K USA and ASPCA, February 10, 2015 (USA)

- Since 2008, over 11,000+ greyhound injuries were documented in the US greyhound industry.
- Since 2008, over 900 greyhound deaths were reported in the US industry.
- 27 cases of greyhound cruelty and neglect were documented in the US industry.
- 16 cases of cocaine positives were investigated in the US industry.
- Gambling on live racing declined over 66% over ten years.
- Greyhound breeding declined 57% over ten years.
- Government revenue from dog racing declined 79% since 2001.

Website: <https://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/USreportWeb.pdf>

Impact Study: West Virginia Greyhound-Racing Subsidies by Spectrum Gaming Group, January 9, 2015 (West Virginia, USA)

- Wagering on live racing dropped 55% over ten years, from \$35 million to \$15.8 million.
- Visitation to Wheeling Island racetrack dropped 99% over 30 years.
- Casino subsidies accounted for 95% of purse awards.
- Two-thirds of all purse money in 2013 went out of state.
- Loss of 618 greyhound-related jobs would have a negligible impact on West Virginia's unemployment rate.

Website: <http://www.spectrumgaming.com/dl/20151019-SGG-WVGreyhoundSubsidyPresentattion.pdf>

Gambling Impact Study by Spectrum Gaming Group, October 28, 2013 (Florida, USA)

- Greyhound decoupling would reduce gambling in Florida by \$23 million.
- The state of Florida lost between \$1 million and \$3.3 million on dog racing in 2012 because regulatory costs exceed revenues.
- Florida's total greyhound racing handle fell 67% from 1990 to 2012, from \$933.8 million to \$265.4 million.
- All tracks had combined operating loss of \$35 million when study was made.
- Greyhound decoupling would lead to a reduction of dog race performances of nearly 40%.
- Greyhound lobbyist Jack Cory noted that some Florida track operators have let the tracks "deteriorate."

Website: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/GamingStudy/docs/FGIS_Spectrum_28Oct2013.pdf

The State of Greyhound Racing in Great Britain by GREY2K USA and the League Against Cruel Sports, 2014 (UK)

- Racing greyhounds spend 95% of their time in kennels without social contact.
- Greyhounds race every five days, running as many as three races a meet.
- The number of greyhound litters decreased by 58% between 2006 and 2013.
- At least 10,000 greyhounds are deemed surplus to industry needs every year, thousands of which are unaccounted for each year.
- Since 2006, 662 greyhounds have been sold or donated to university anatomy classes for dissection.

Website: <https://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/UKReport2014.pdf>

The Welfare of Greyhounds by The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW), May 2007 (UK)

- The regulated tracks in England and Wales produce 13,478 surplus dogs every year.
- A minimum of 4,728 retired racing dogs are unaccounted for each year and are likely destroyed.
- 6,000 to 12,000 puppies bred in Ireland and Britain for the UK racing industry never make it to the track and go missing between the age of 16 weeks and 15 months.

Website: <http://www.apgaw.org/Data/Sites/1/pdfs/Report-of-APGAW-Inquiry-into-the-Welfare-of-Greyhounds.pdf>

Independent Review of the Greyhound Industry in Great Britain by Lord Donoghue of Ashton, November 27, 2007 (UK)

- Licensed meetings have declined 12% from 6,787 in 1960 to 5,999 in 2006.

- Course attendance has declined 70% from an average of over 2,000 in 1960 to 600 in 2006.
- An estimated 10,000+ greyhounds leave the industry every year.
- BAGS races, which generate almost all off-track betting income, necessitate very large numbers of greyhounds to make their programming work.
- The report concludes that the industry must raise the standards of welfare, pay for the cost of regulation, or suffer increasing criticism.

Website: <http://www.gbgb.org.uk/uploads/greyhounds-donoughue-report.pdf>

Review of the 2010 Greyhounds Legislation in the UK (multiple reports, inquiries, and interagency reviews) by the UK government's Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the UK parliament's select committee for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (EFRA), 2016 (UK)

- The requirement to collect data within the industry was not accompanied by a willingness to make that data public.
- The absence of baseline data relating to injury, euthanasia, and rehoming figures makes it "difficult to accurately assess the impact of the 2010 Regulations on key welfare issues" [EFRA].
- A statutory levy should be in place for bookmakers profiting from greyhound racing in any format in an effort to support greyhound welfare [EFRA].
- Independent "flapping" tracks only have a single mandatory inspection once every three years [EFRA].
- Trainers' kennels where racing greyhounds spend approximately 95% of their time are not covered by the 2010 regulations [EFRA].
- The fate of retired racers unable to be rehomed is unclear [EFRA].
- The industry could and should have done more since the introduction of the 2010 regulations to demonstrate its commitment to being an open and transparent self-regulator [DEFRA].

Website for *Greyhound Welfare* by EFRA, February 25, 2016 (UK):

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201516/cmselect/cmenvfru/478/478.pdf>

Website for *Greyhound welfare: Government response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015-16* by EFRA, June 21, 2016 (UK):

<https://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmenvfru/133/133.pdf>

Website for *Post Implementation Review: The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010* by DEFRA, August 18, 2016:

<http://www.gbgb.org.uk/uploads/POST%20IMPLEMENTATION%20REVIEW%20-%20Welfare%20of%20Racing%20Greyhounds%20Regulations%202010.pdf>

Own Motion Inquiry into Live Baiting in Greyhound Racing in Victoria by Sal Perna Racing Integrity Commissioner, June 2015 (Victoria, AUSTRALIA)

- The Integrity Commissioner found overwhelming anecdotal evidence that live baiting has been an ongoing practice used at various stages in greyhound racing.

- The evidence included racing participant observations of “possum traps on registered properties, ‘rabbit rooms’ at trial tracks, animal carcasses found strewn on shed roofs at trial tracks... and carcasses on or in the middle of race tracks.”
- Difficulties in obtaining direct evidence of live baiting included “a code of secrecy within the greyhound racing industry,” “a fear of retribution from their peers and integrity bodies,” “conflict of interest issues with GRV staff,” and “an inability by GRV to retrieve and provide relevant documents or information.”
- GRV and the former GRV Board had been aware of live baiting, though all denied knowledge of a systemic issue.
- The Commissioner recommended the establishment of an independent integrity body.

Website:

https://www.racingintegrity.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/embridge_cache/emshare/original/public/2016/10/a4/1172c126e/2015%20Own%20Motion%20Inquiry%20into%20Live%20Baiting%20in%20Greyhound%20Racing%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf

Own Motion Investigation into Greyhound Racing Victoria by G E Brouwer, Ombudsman, June 2012 (Victoria, AUSTRALIA)

- Standards, policies and procedures designed to ensure the integrity of greyhound racing had not been maintained by GRV or were not sufficiently rigorous.
- A culture of GRV staff betting on greyhound racing existed during business hours, including the CEO, members of the senior management team, and racing stewards.
- One manager had placed 4,409 bets totaling more than half a million dollars during work hours over a three-year period.
- The investigator found that the CEO acted unprofessionally and failed to provide leadership to the organization.
- Until October 2011, there was no restriction on GRV staff owning and racing greyhounds, and doing so was common practice.

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/papers/govpub/VPARL2010-14No151.pdf>

Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry by Alan MacSporran QC, June 1, 2015 (Queensland, AUSTRALIA)

- The system of self-regulation has failed to ensure integrity in the industry and failed to safeguard animal welfare.
- The more controversial or negative aspects of the industry lack comprehensive, accurate or verifiable published data.
- Racing Queensland has failed to scan the racing industry for risks and respond with appropriate strategies with the inevitable consequence that breaches were likely to go undetected.
- In 2014, money earmarked for integrity functions were instead redirected toward increasing prize money.

- Between 2003 and 2013, approximately 24,231 greyhounds were whelped, but only 16,968 were named and registered with Racing Queensland. The 7,263 unnamed greyhounds or 30% of all whelped greyhounds remained unaccounted for.
- A review of submitted retirement forms that the majority of ex-racing greyhounds are either euthanized, die as a result of accidents, or simply go missing.

Website:

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Documents/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2015/5515T488.pdf>

Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in New South Wales, Volumes 1-3 by Michael McHugh AC QC, June 16, 2016

(New South Wales, AUSTRALIA)

- Of the 97,783 greyhounds bred in the last 12 years, between 48,891 and 68,448 dogs were killed because they were deemed uncompetitive, a wastage rate of 50 to 70%.
- The Commission found evidence that live baiting is practiced by 10 to 20% of industry participants and that senior management knew and took no steps to investigate or stop the practice.
- Greyhound deaths and injuries have gone unreported to GRNSW.
- It appears unlikely that the issue of large scale killing of healthy greyhounds by the industry can be addressed successfully in the future.

Website: <https://www.greyhoundracinginquiry.justice.nsw.gov.au/>

Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in Tasmania by Joint Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in Tasmania, September 14, 2016 (Tasmania, AUSTRALIA)

- The Tasmanian industry whelps 600 to 700 greyhounds every year, yet 50% are never named and registered for racing.
- 58% of greyhounds were euthanized during the 2013-14 racing season, and 46% were euthanized during the 2014-15 racing season.
- 32% of all euthanized greyhounds during the 2013-14 racing season were killed due to "lack of ability/unsuitable for racing," and 44% of all euthanized greyhounds during the 2014-15 racing season were killed due to "lack of ability/unsuitable for racing."
- Between July 1, 2013 and June 9, 2016, a total of 1,608 Tasmanian racing greyhounds died. The Committee highlighted that this number should be viewed as minimum figure.
- The Committee found that the real level of wastage is unknown due to the lack of transparency in the number of greyhounds bred which are destroyed before being named.
- The increase in drug costs has diminished the regulator's capacity to undertake effective drug testing.

Website:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/CTEE/Joint/Reports/Final%20Report%20tabled%202014%20September%202016.pdf>

Dissenting Report presented by Cassy O'Connor MP of the Joint Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in Tasmania, September 14, 2016 (Tasmania, AUSTRALIA)

- The majority report “[came] down too firmly on the side of [the greyhound] industry.”
- The term “euthanasia,” normally associated with the practice of humanely ending a life, is not an accurate term to describe the killing of greyhound due to over-breeding, cost, injury or lack of race performance.
- There were increasing instances of the administration of prohibited substances to greyhounds, including methamphetamine, by industry participants, and the Office of Racing Integrity gave evidence that its capacity to undertake rigorous and regular testing was declining.
- The industry struggles financially despite a \$5 million public funding subsidy which accounts for 75% of TasRacing’s annual revenue.
- The former TasRacing CEO denied that wastage in Tasmania was caused by overbreeding, even though hundreds are killed each year due to injury or lack of racing talent.

Website:

https://tasmps.greens.org.au/sites/tasmps.greens.org.au/files/media/Greyhound%20Inquiry%20Dissenting%20Report_Cassy%20OConnorMP.pdf

Implementing Reform in the New South Wales Greyhound Racing Industry by the Joint Working Group, January 29, 2016 (New South Wales, AUSTRALIA)

- The report identified ‘wastage,’ or the cumulative killing of greyhounds, as a primary issue in the New South Wales greyhound industry, and that over-production and unnecessary euthanasia contribute directly to it.
- There was “weak regulation and monitoring of greyhounds, and the people responsible for their care, across the lifecycle.”
- Fewer tracks would be required to make the industry more sustainable.
- A new governance model is required which separates the regulatory arm from the commercial functions.

Website: <https://www.thedogs.com.au/Uploads/JWG%20Final%20Report.pdf>

Review & Assessment of Best Practice by Working Dog Alliance Australia, July 2015 (New South Wales, AUSTRALIA)

- Many common practice approaches to greyhound management do not compare favorably with best practice from other working dog industries, which are informed by formal education programs for participants.
- There is “minimal consideration” from industry participants for major effects of some practices on health, welfare and performance of greyhounds throughout their life cycle.

It is common practice for racing greyhounds to spend a significant period of their adult life under conditions of individual-animal housing.

- There is no evidence to support the widely-held belief that it is necessary to use either a live animal or an animal-derived product to teach a greyhound to chase a lure.
- An average of 30% of dogs bred to be racing greyhounds go missing within the first year before they are named.
- Approximately 75% of all greyhounds whelped in New South Wales do not have a career endpoint accounted for.
- The report introduced the concept of “social license” as it applies to the greyhound industry, that the general public, animal advocacy groups, animal welfare legislators and media are significant influencers on the industry's social license to operate.

Website:

<https://www.thedogs.com.au/Uploads/Review%20and%20Assessment%20of%20Best%20Practice.pdf>

Independent Welfare Review by WHK, June 25, 2013 (NEW ZEALAND)

- A review of greyhounds whelped between 2009 and 2011 indicated that 34.5% of those greyhounds did not make it to the track, over 200 per year.
- 30% of the 2,305 greyhounds leaving racing between 2009 and 2012 were recorded as deceased by NZGRA, with the potential for this number to be significantly higher due to the lack of effective tracking of retired greyhounds.
- 77% of trainers and owners have had a healthy greyhound euthanized.
- Investigators found that “there are no formal minimum standards of welfare in place that have been approved by any external welfare bodies and there is both a lack of enforcement and awareness of welfare standards.”

Website:

<https://www.thedogs.co.nz/Files/Downloads/Independent%20Review/WHK%20NZGRA%20Independent%20Welfare%20Review%20Report.pdf>

Review of Certain Matters Relating to Bord na gCon by Indecon International Consultants, July 7, 2014 (IRELAND)

- Bord na gCon, or the Irish Greyhound Board, had a net debt of over €21 million. Revenue declined 55.6% from 2006 to 2013.
- The number of active owners decreased 42.6% from 2007 to 2013.
- The number of greyhound litters decreased 36.6% from 2006 to 2013.
- Thirty cases of greyhound cruelty were reported from 2011 to 2013; however, no exclusion or disqualification orders were issued to participants involved in these cases.
- Indecon recommended that Bord na gCon should actively engage in a program of asset disposal, including the sale of the property at Meelick, the office in Limerick, the property in Cork, and the sale of Harold's Cross track.

Website: <http://www.igb.ie/globalassets/report-pdfs/indecon/bordnagconfinalreport7july2014.pdf>

The Greyhound Industry by the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, January 2016 (IRELAND)

- The recession in Ireland caused a significant decline in the commercial viability of the greyhound industry.
- The industry peaked in 2007 at €78 million but fell to €39.8 million in 2014, a fall of 49%.
- Bord na gCon is in debt €21 million from development of new stadium in Limerick.
- There are 8,000 fewer registered and named greyhounds in 2013 than in 2006.
- The use of controlled and illegal substances in greyhound racing in Ireland is of grave concern.

Website:

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/committees/agriculture/archiveagriculturefoodandthemarine/Greyhound-Report---Final.pdf>