

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Exposed: Racing Greyhounds Tested Positive for Cocaine

Greyhounds are drugged in a sickening attempt to force one of the world's fastest mammals to run even faster.

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It's no secret that greyhounds used in racing often pay with their lives. They break their [necks](#), [suffer paralysis](#) and some are even electrocuted. At two West Virginia tracks, 7,581 injuries have been reported since 2008 and 400 dogs have died.



One of these dogs was WW's Laos, who found out that a broken leg (the most common injury) can be a death sentence. Instead of receiving vet care after he fell down while racing, he was destroyed by his owner. Little Laos was just one year of age and had left the breeding farm weeks before his death.

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Courtesy of GREY2K USA

Florida greyhound suffers injury while racing.



Starved Florida greyhound.

Recent news about the doping of greyhounds with cocaine is only the latest example of an industry that sacrifices animal welfare for profit. In the first four months of 2017, there were [18 cocaine positives](#) at Florida's Orange Park Kennel Club. In January, [cocaine was](#) found in five greyhounds at Derby Lane, another [Florida](#) track. State records reveal that greyhounds are "juiced" all across the country, in a wildly callous attempt to make some of the fastest mammals on earth run even faster.

Life in a cage

When not at the track, racing greyhounds endure [lives of terrible confinement](#). They are kept inside warehouse-style kennels inside stacked cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around—for 20 or more hours a day. There are no toys for them and no play.



Greyhound in racetrack cage.

The minimum size for dog track cages is 32 inches high by 31 inches wide by 42 inches deep, with some slightly larger. 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. Using these dimensions provided by the industry, this means that large greyhounds cannot stand fully erect in their cages.

Since there are no required turn-out times, the only extended period that a racing greyhound is outside of his cage is afforded when he is trucked over to the track to perform several times a month. Otherwise, "home" is marked by the four sides of his cage.

Greyhound racing breeds misery

Another essential problem with dog racing is that [thousands of dogs](#) are bred every year in an effort to find younger, faster dogs. The older ones are then displaced, and their very lives put in immediate jeopardy. Will they be rescued or will they be destroyed? The lucky ones who do reach adoption will then displace other needy animals (cats, dogs, rabbits, others) also seeking homes. In this significant way, the racing industry aggravates a homeless animal population which is already overwhelming and immensely sad. We believe that best answer is to get to the root of the problem and end dog racing as quickly as possible.

A dying industry

Even as this cruelty continues, attendance is shrinking by the year. The Association of Racing Commissioners International reports a [70 percent decline](#) in wagering on dog racing since 2001, the year GREY2K USA was founded. Where there were nearly 50 dog tracks in 15 states at that time, today there remain a total of 19 facilities operating in six states.

Similarly, state revenue from greyhound racing continues to drop catastrophically. Between 2001 and 2014, state dog race revenue declined by more than 82% nationwide. In Florida, the country's biggest dog racing state, [regulatory costs](#) have now exceeded revenues by as much as \$3.3 million yet dog tracks continue to receive tax breaks and other incentives. States like West Virginia continue to subsidize live racing with tens of millions of dollars per year. This is money that would be better spent on schools, law enforcement, infrastructure and other important community needs.

Our work

In recent years, GREY2K USA has [phased out dog racing](#) in many states and successfully prevented its introduction to countries such as South Africa, Jamaica and the Philippines. The organization's most rewarding campaign involved a voter referendum in which four million people were asked to shut down the two tracks of our home state. In November 2008, [Massachusetts citizens](#) voted overwhelmingly in favor of the greyhounds, starting a chain of events that quickly led to the prohibition of dog racing in our sister states of New Hampshire and Rhode Island and more recently, Colorado and Arizona.



Rally for greyhounds.

All told, we have [helped close](#) more than half of all U.S. tracks, and we are now looking to apply our strategy to help end dog racing worldwide.

Please [sign our petition](#) to the leaders of the eight dog racing countries today.

The key to our efforts is a reliance on bona fide, official documentation only. Where previous efforts to end dog racing often amounted to a he-said, she-said debate, today we let the greyhounds to speak for themselves through their own [track records and photographs](#).

You can help the greyhounds

It's time for a change, and we would like [your help](#) in making that change. [Please join us in our fight to end dog racing.](#)



Rescued greyhound Anngi.



Sponsored greyhounds arrive at shelter.



The author with Gina.

My greyhound Gina is truly one of the lucky ones. She gives life to this struggle and reminds me that every dog deserves to be loved and protected. To learn more about dog racing, and to work with us to save greyhounds, please go to GREY2KUSA.org. Please [sign our petitions](#), find us on [Facebook](#) and join the team that is working to give greyhounds the second chance they deserve.

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