

GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



February 18, 2021

Captain Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Government of Punjab

Dear Mr. Chief Minister,

On behalf of the largest greyhound protection organization in the world, I urge you to enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act against dog racing in Punjab. I understand that this illegal and undesirable activity is still occurring, most recently in the Faridkot District on February 13.

Worldwide, greyhound racing is a dying industry that is inherently cruel to dogs. When first invented in the United States in the 1920's, it could not be foreseen that hundreds of thousands of dogs would suffer and die. Records were not kept of track injuries or deaths, and the public could not know what happened to racing dogs.

But today, thanks to the enactment of reporting laws, American track records are now disclosed as public documents. In the state of Colorado for example, 2,600 injuries were reported in the last years of racing. In Arizona, 923 greyhound injuries were reported between 2007 and 2009. In the state of [Florida](#), which just [ended dog racing in 2019](#), a dog died every three days.¹ The majority of catastrophic injuries are broken legs and other injuries included [dislocations, torn muscles, paralysis, broken necks and broken backs](#). Electrocutions have also occurred when dogs make contact with the livewire lure. Some dogs die while racing, while others are put down due to the severity of their injuries, or simply because of their diminished value as racers.²

The [documented decline of greyhound racing](#) has been ongoing for years, and media outlets have long reported the spiraling collapse of this cruel industry. Between 2001 and 2014, the total amount gambled on American greyhound racing declined by 70%.³ Additionally, the number of tracks has been cut by two-thirds. In the United Kingdom, all of the London dog tracks have closed and are in the process of being re-purposed for mixed housing and retail operations. In 2018, the [Macau government ordered the closure of the Canidrome](#), the only legal dog track in China, ending the deaths of 400 dogs per year and opening up acres of land for good public use. Additionally, Jamaica refused to legalize dog racing in 2009 and South Africa followed in 2010, citing both the poor economics and humane problems associated with the activity.⁴ The trend is definitely with the greyhounds and follows a love of dogs which truly transcends all cultures.

In closing, the introduction of widespread dog racing would represent a step backward, and result in both financial losses and harm to the humane traditions of India. Clearly, the use of greyhounds in such a corrupt activity would contribute to the desensitization of society to animal welfare. Witnessing the severe injuries and deaths that racing greyhounds frequently endure would condition viewers, including young children, to regard them as mere objects to be used and abused in the name of entertainment. More information about the humane and economic problems of dog racing around the world is available in our recent report, [The Greyhound Industry on the World Stage](#).

As of 2021, dog racing is illegal in 188 of 195 countries. On behalf of millions of dog advocates across the globe, I urge you to oppose the expansion of dog racing to your beautiful homeland which is known most of all for its peaceful reverence for life.

Sincerely,

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
President

¹ Florida citizens have just voted 2-1 to close all eleven tracks, cutting the US industry by two-thirds. Only six tracks will remain in five states.

² GREY2K USA Worldwide, [Fact Sheet: Injuries & Deaths](#), available online at <https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/injuries.php>.

³ Association of Racing Commissioners International, Statistical Summaries for 2001 and 2014 online at https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/dying_industry.php.

⁴ Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica, letter to GREY2K USA dated February 26, 2009 (on file with author), Gambling Review Commission, [Review of the South African gambling industry and its regulation](#), September 2010.