

Greyhounds Endure Lives of Confinement



Greyhounds are confined for 20 to 23 hours each 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 to 23 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 racetrack, 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 one to four hours per day.²



A caged racing greyhound in West Virginia.

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 at an Arkansas racing kennel.

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- 1 Iowa Greyhound Association, "Greyhound Farming," *Iowa Greyhound Association newsletter*, December 2008, 14 (indicating that a "well maintained greyhound can run 3 races a week every 2 weeks").
- 2 Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, *Investigative Report for Case No. 2006029115* (Tallahassee, FL: July 20, 2006).
- 3 Ariz. Admin. Code § R19-2-324. (1995 effective March 1).
- 4 G and T Crates, "G and T Crates advertisement," *Greyhound Review*, April 2008, 60.
- 5 "Frequently asked questions about greyhound pets," *American Greyhound Council*, <http://www.agcouncil.com/node/17>.