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.2 Breeding kennels are also known to be located in the following states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.3

Females are impregnated, many through artificial insemination by a veterinarian, and produce their litters on site.4 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 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.5

There is also evidence that some greyhound puppies disappear from record. GREY2K USA analyzed two forms of whelping data provided by the NGA from 2012-2014: aggregate data and individual data. What was discovered is that in each of these three years, the number of puppies reported as registered racers in the aggregate data was significantly lower than the number of puppies born according to individual whelping reports. The discrepancy amounted to 8,422 puppies that were not accounted for, effectively becoming disappeared puppies. The NGA stopped providing complete individual data in 2015.

Greyhound breeding has decreased sharply

As dog tracks close, the number of greyhounds bred for racing continues to shrink. A total of 9,488 individual dogs were registered to race in 2016 as compared to 22,951 in 2006, a decline of 59%.6 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.7 The number of dogs being used for racing is also on the decline. According to industry records, the number of dogs racing at commercial racetracks fell from 9,125 in February 2018 to 8,252 in February 2019, a drop of nearly 10%.8

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6 Grey Guccione (Executive Director, National Greyhound Association), email message to James Flanagan, November 16, 2011.