

Greyhound Breeding in the United States



A greyhound with her puppies in the U.S.

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

For the Record



	Breedings	Litters	Individuals
2020	435	565	4,898
2019	1,078	961	6,822
2018	1,506	1,344	6,867
2017	1,817	1,405	7,181
2016	1,894	1,542	9,488
2015	2,199	1,870	10,422
2014	2,692	2,245	10,673
2013	2,768	2,048	10,657
2012	2,472	1,943	10,157
2011	2,402	2,007	11,759
2010	2,649	2,176	12,801
2009	3,167	2,671	15,584
2008	3,816	3,242	20,365
2007	4,485	3,516	20,227
2006	4,773	3,768	22,951
2005	5,325	4,300	26,207
2004	6,265	4,977	26,262
2003	6,996	5,171	26,277
2002	7,122	5,205	27,142
2001	6,929	5,015	26,797
2000	6,780	5,234	26,464
1999	7,606	5,266	27,059
1998	7,815	5,034	26,036
1997	7,787	5,192	28,025
1996	8,508	5,438	28,877
1995	9,003	5,749	31,688
1994	9,463	6,232	34,746
1993	10,317	6,805	39,139
1992	12,250	7,690	38,023
1991	12,663	8,049	38,430
1990	12,607	7,722	38,615
1989	12,491	7,690	38,443
1988	13,275	7,979	37,784

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. 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 4,898 individual dogs were registered to race in 2020 as compared to 20,365 in 2008, a decline of 76%.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 8,252 in February 2019 to 2,081 in February 2022, a drop of over 75%.⁸

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¹ "Greyhound Care on the Farm," *American Greyhound Council*, <https://www.agcouncil.com/greyhound-care-on-the-farm/> (accessed March 22, 2019).
² "Iowa greyhound breeder fears financial ruin," *The Courier*, February 24, 2014, https://wcfcourier.com/news/local/iowa-greyhound-breeder-fears-financial-ruin/article_dc13a462-9d77-11e3-93a3-001a4bcf887a.html (accessed March 22, 2019); Nadia Pflaum, "Think there are no greyhounds in Kansas without the Woodlands?" *The Pitch*, June 3, 2009, <https://www.thepitchkc.com/news/article/20588247/think-there-are-no-greyhounds-in-kansas-without-the-woodlands> (accessed March 22, 2019).
³ "US Breeding Kennels," *Greyhound Data*, <http://www.greyhound-data.com/kenneldb.htm?land=us&x=0&order=name> (accessed March 25, 2019).
⁴ "Methods of Insemination," *The Greyhound Racing Association of America*, http://www.gra-america.org/buy_a_dog/breeding_science/breeding1.html (accessed March 22, 2019).
⁵ "On the Farm," *RayHoundTales.com*, 2012, <https://web.archive.org/web/20130801213126/http://rayhoundtales.com/at-the-farm/> (accessed March 22, 2019).
⁶ "For the Record: NGA Office Statistics," *National Greyhound Association*, (accessed March 22, 2019).
⁷ Gary Guccione (Executive Director, National Greyhound Association), email message to James Flanagan, November 16, 2011.
⁸ GREY2K USA Worldwide analysis of data from <http://trackinfo.com/> (accessed May 6, 2020).