

# GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



**MSP Stage 1 Briefing on Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill**  
On behalf of GREY2K USA Worldwide - January 2026

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## Introduction

GREY2K USA Worldwide strongly supports Mark Ruskell MSP's Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill to end greyhound racing in Scotland, and we urge members to vote for the principles of the Bill at Stage 1, to allow further scrutiny and debate of this important animal welfare issue.

Our position is very clear, we oppose greyhound racing and the cradle-to-grave cruelty which it visits on gentle dogs, including confinement, injury and death, drugging, as well as the callous overbreeding prompted by the demands of a relentless gambling industry. The Greyhound Racing (Offences) (Scotland) Bill aligns with our organisational aim of ending the cruelty of dog racing at both national and international levels.

## Why support the Bill?

Outside of the UK there are just four countries in the world where commercial greyhound racing remains legal, putting Scotland significantly out of step with worldwide views on this industry. Mark Ruskell MSP's Bill, gives the Scottish Parliament the opportunity to put an end to this outdated practice.

Ending greyhound racing in Scotland is not just about closing down the one remaining track, it's about ensuring the industry is prevented from making a resurgence in the future. **Supporting this Bill would provide important safeguards and prevent countless injuries and fatalities as a result.**

As Members consider how they will vote at Stage 1, we point you to the Welsh example at Valley Greyhound Stadium, Caerphilly, which similarly to Thornton was an independent track. **Valley Greyhound Stadium had been unregulated for 47 years, since its opening, until August 2023 when it gained its GBGB licence. Prior to this time, approximately 35 -40 unregulated races per month were held at the facility. Yet between November 2023 and October 2025, GBGB -regulated racing increased more than fourfold, from 42 races (Nov 23) to 198 races (Oct 25). Should this Bill not pass, there would be nothing to prevent a similar, or worse, situation in Scotland.**

Furthermore, the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) report, published in February 2023, stated it did not see any evidence that the industry was prepared to make the radical changes necessary to mitigate welfare risks and that none of the proposed measures could safeguard dog welfare appropriately. Thus, SAWC concluded welfare for dogs would be improved if they were not involved in racing, something which can only be enforced with legislation.

## Injuries and fatalities

- Over 4,000 Greyhounds died as a result of racing between 2017 and 2024 according to GBGB figures
- Over 35,000 injuries occurred between 2017 and 2024 on licensed tracks

The most common injuries sustained are broken legs with other **reported** injuries include head trauma, broken backs, paralysis, heart attacks and other serious injuries. It is also worth noting that data is presented in such a way as to downplay the risk. The industry compares the rate of injuries to the number of 'starts', the total number of times a greyhound is entered into a race. In using this metric, the industry counts the same dogs repeatedly, creating the impression that many more dogs are competing than actually are.

GBGB figures do not include injury and fatality rates from Thornton Stadium, Fife. Although Thornton Stadium is currently not operating, it is unlicensed, meaning there is no requirement to collect data, and therefore we have no way of knowing the full extent of deaths and injuries of racing greyhounds in Scotland.

However, this lack of data does not mean dogs raced at Thornton don't suffer in exactly the same way as dogs racing on regulated tracks. In fact, the situation is worse, as there is no vet in attendance at Thornton. It is worth highlighting that when Thornton is operating, races will not be undertaken if there is not a bookmaker present, which is worth noting for two reasons. Firstly, it is concerning that track owners place more importance on betting than welfare, and secondly, it undermines the argument that Thornton is purely a 'hobby' track.

## Public Support

Support for an end to greyhound racing in Scotland is overwhelming, demonstrated in the following ways:

- Six in ten Scots (60%) support an end to greyhound racing <sup>1</sup>
- Of the 789 responses to the Bill's consultation, over 86% supported a ban
- Petition 1758 to end greyhound racing in Scotland is the most signed parliamentary petition in the Scottish Parliament's history.
- An open letter to the Scottish Government to phase out greyhound racing secured 22,655 signatures

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was commissioned by GREY2K USA Worldwide and undertaken by Panelbase. Data was collected online by a representative panel of 1,020 Scottish adults. Fieldwork was conducted online between November 21, 2022, and December 6, 2022.

While much of this support is on the grounds of animal welfare concerns, the economic arguments are equally strong.

### **Economic contribution of Thornton race track to economy**

Scotland's last remaining greyhound racing track in Scotland, Thornton in Fife, has a limited economic footprint, contributing a total economic impact of just £62,000 GVA and the equivalent of two full-time jobs in Fife. If the site was repurposed and used for housing, for example, the land would bring far greater economic benefit. This is according to an independent report by BiGGAR Economics, commissioned by GREY2K. The report '[Economic Impact Assessment of Thornton Greyhounds and Alternative Uses](#)' concluded that using the site in Thornton for housing could add capital stock to the tune of £5.9m in capital asset value in Fife.

In March 2024, Fife Council declared a housing emergency in response to unprecedented pressure on housing and homelessness services. The latest data reveal that Fife's housing register has reached record high levels, following a 7% increase in 2022-23. This is further compounded by a strain on housing and homelessness services with a 54% increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation in Fife between 2020 and 2023.

The development of new housing at the site of Thornton Greyhounds would generate a range of economic impacts in Fife, and across Scotland. This includes:

- a construction impact of £1.5 million GVA and 18 job years in Fife, and £3.2 million GVA and 53 job years in Scotland; and
- an annual impact from resident expenditure of £137,000 GVA and one job in Fife, and £209,000 GVA and two jobs in Scotland.

In addition, the council tax raised from the occupants of the new houses could also generate annual revenues of £49,600 for Fife Council. Furthermore, the development of new houses would add to the capital stock of Fife, amounting to a capital asset value of £5.9 million.

### **About GREY2K**

Formed in 2001, GREY2K USA Worldwide is the largest greyhound protection organisation in the world. As a non-profit entity, we work to pass stronger greyhound protection laws and end the cruelty of dog racing on both national and international levels. We also promote the rescue and adoption of greyhounds across the globe.

### **Contact us**

If you would like to discuss this briefing in more detail, please contact:

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