

REWARDING CRUELTY

Greyhound Racing in Ireland



November 2019





All around the world, commercial greyhound racing is ending. The United States first invented this pastime, but now history is reversing itself. The voter-ordered closure of twelve tracks in Florida has prompted a complete remission of a once-powerful American industry. The only legal dog track in China has just been forced to close and 532 surviving hounds flown to waiting rescue groups across the globe. Countries such as Argentina and Uruguay have chosen to prophylactically ban the activity and the Australian Capital Territory has become the first jurisdiction Down Under to join this trend.

So what to make of dog racing in Ireland? Its miserable economics should have led to happier days for greyhounds long ago. Now, the devastating reportage of RTÉ has also exposed the misery of the dogs themselves. My first greyhound Zoe was of Irish descent and to think of her good fortune in escaping abandonment at the side of the road or slaughter at a knackery simply takes my breath away.

It is our hope that the report which follows helps usher in a new day for Irish hounds. We are grateful to the Irish Council Against Blood Sports for joining with us in its production and would also like to thank the many groups, including Greyhound Awareness Cork, which contributed information and guidance for its completion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. A. Dorchak".

**Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
President and General Counsel
GREY2K USA Worldwide**



The Irish Council Against Blood Sports, founded in 1966, is a voluntary organisation campaigning against hunting wild animals with dogs and other cruel sports that exploit and abuse animals.

In recent years, ICABS has been actively campaigning against greyhound racing in Ireland, appealing successfully to sponsors and charities to shun the sport. The horrific revelations in the June 2019 RTÉ Investigates documentary, *Greyhounds Running For Their Lives*, shocked the nation and galvanised the campaign against commercial dog racing. This declining industry, with falling attendances and income, is being propped up by government funding, and without that funding, it would most certainly collapse.

We cannot thank GREY2K USA Worldwide enough for compiling this comprehensive and concise report on greyhound racing in Ireland. The undeniable facts and figures contained in this excellent report are a damning indictment of a cruel and exploitative industry that sees our gentle greyhounds, used in track racing and hare coursing, as nothing more than “products,” to be killed or abandoned or exported to a horrific fate abroad, when they are no longer of use.

It's an utter travesty that the Irish government continues to reward this appalling cruelty and abuse with millions of euros annually, while animal rescue groups carry out their vital work on a pittance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nicole Matthews'.

Nicole Matthews
Member, Board of Directors
Irish Council Against Blood Sports

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Naomi of Ireland (Emma Keegan)

Executive Summary

Track Information and Regulatory Structure

- There are fifteen licensed greyhound stadia in Ireland. The Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) has interests in ten of these tracks.
- Dog racing is regulated by the IGB. The IGB has repeatedly failed to police the industry, and the government has done little to hold the IGB to account.
- Amendments to the Greyhound Racing Bill 2018 that were designed to require reporting on the disposition of greyhounds and to create a “white list” of acceptable foreign countries for export were defeated.

Drugs

- The IGB first withheld positive doping results from public view in 2006.
- The Morris Report, published in 2016, identified significant deficiencies that undermine the integrity and reputation of greyhound racing. Public concerns regarding the IGB's inability to deal with illegal drugs were deemed justified.
- 200 drug positives have been identified since 2012, consisting of 47 different substances, ranging from stimulants, including cocaine, to steroids and sedatives, to psychoactive drugs.
- There have been over 20 drug positives each year since 2014, despite dramatic decreases in the number of tests conducted.

Economics

- Millions of euro in public funds are given to the IGB each year. Since 2001, more than €250 million has been paid out. In late 2015, the IGB admitted that it was €30 million in debt.
- According to the IGB's 2017 annual report, there was a €500,000 net loss on racing activities. All nine tracks with reported figures recorded a track loss. Gambling on racing has declined by 28% between 2010 and 2018.
- Attendance at greyhound stadia has dropped by 50% in the last decade.

Racing Injuries and Deaths

- From 2015 through 2018, 1,559 greyhounds suffered injuries and 506 greyhounds were killed at Irish tracks. On average, more than 350 injuries and 120 deaths were reported each year.
- Limerick reported the most injuries and deaths in 2018, yet no improvements have been made to the track's condition.
- In February 2018, Agriculture Minister Michael Creed admitted statistics previously provided by the IGB were incomplete.

Breeding

- 15,000-20,000 greyhounds are bred annually in Ireland, and 6,000 greyhounds are destroyed each year as failed racers. The industry produces 1,000% more greyhounds each year than is required for racing. For years, advocates have noted the stark discrepancy between the number of greyhounds bred and those registered to race. Greyhounds are bred at a €10 million annual loss.
- Between 2010 and 2018, 2,783 greyhounds were destroyed in pounds. Between 2010 and 2015, 88.2% of greyhounds surrendered to pounds were destroyed.
- In April 2016, the IGB implemented a €700,000 breeding incentive programme to encourage more breeding. Independent greyhound rescue and welfare organisations called on Ireland to limit breeding, as charities were only able to home approximately half of the dogs relinquished by the industry. Prepared in 2017 and released in 2019, the IGB Business Model Analysis by Preferred Results also recommended that breeding be drastically reduced.
- The IGB allocates approximately €100,000 annually to fund adoption efforts through the Irish Retired Greyhound Trust (IRGT). The IRGT found homes for 529 greyhounds in 2018, with the vast majority of greyhound adoption efforts falling to underfunded private charities.
- Former IGB Chairman Paschal Taggart acknowledged in 2017 that racing could not exist without the destruction of thousands of dogs.

Crisis of Confidence

- Millions of people around the world witnessed RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives in June 2019. The documentary revealed to the public that 6,000 greyhounds are culled each year for poor performance and that half of Ireland's commercial slaughterhouses kill unwanted greyhounds for fees ranging from €10 to €35 each.
- Minister for Sport Shane Ross referred to the practices as "subsidised cruelty," and called for resignations. Shane Cassells TD has said that Irish greyhound racing would be "goosed" without millions of euro in state funding. Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland removed greyhound racing from their marketing campaigns citing its negative impact and "reputational" harm.
- A September RED C poll showed that the public supports ending greyhound racing subsidies by a 2:1 margin. Nevertheless, the government announced it will allocate another €16.8 million to the IGB for 2020.
- The model of overbreeding greyhounds is at the centre of this crisis. From birth to track to rescue centre, dogs are sacrificed during all stages of the process, and underfunded charities are forced to pick up the pieces left by an industry that has demonstrated it is unable to protect the interests of the dogs it produces.



A greyhound at an Irish kennel in Donegal, 2018

Greyhound Stadia in Ireland¹



Ireland has a population of 4.76 million people.² The Republic of Ireland is 70,273 km².³

Greyhound Racing in Ireland



Babe (Pet Levrieri)

1. TRACK INFORMATION

There are fifteen licensed greyhound stadia in Ireland. Bord na gCon also known as the Irish Greyhound Board⁴ (IGB) owns and manages seven tracks, and has at least some involvement (ownership/management) in three additional stadia. The remaining five tracks are privately owned and operated.⁵

- **IGB Directly Owned and Managed:** Cork, Cork (Youghal), Dublin (Shelbourne Park), Galway, Limerick, Tralee, and Waterford
- **IGB Some Involvement:** Clonmel (IGB owned, privately managed), Mullingar (part-owned), and Newbridge (IGB managed since 2013)
- **Privately Owned:** Dundalk, Enniscorthy, Kilkenny, Longford, and Thurles

2. HISTORY OF GREYHOUND RACING IN THE EMERALD ISLE

Greyhound racing began on the island of Ireland on April 18, 1927. The first greyhound park was opened at Celtic Park in Belfast,⁶ and later that year three more tracks were opened: Shelbourne Park⁷ and Harold's Cross, both in Dublin,⁸ and Dunmore Stadium in Belfast.⁹ Showgrounds (Cork) was opened one year later in 1928.¹⁰

Stadia continued to open across Ireland in the 1930s: Dundalk (1930), Tralee (1930), Clonmel (1931), Mullingar (1932), Enniscorthy (1933), and Galway (1934).¹¹ The opening night at Markets Field (Limerick) took place in 1937.¹²



“What is quite evident is that without that €16.8 million, greyhound operations would not be viable... the exchequer can’t be expected to prop up a failing industry.”¹³

— Shane Cassells TD

3. REGULATORY STRUCTURE

Greyhound racing is regulated by the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB). This semi-state body was established on May 28, 1958 under the Greyhound Industry Act in order to control greyhound racing. It is a commercial semi-state body that reports to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

In its 2014 Annual Report, the IGB lays claim to “wide powers to regulate all aspects of greyhound racing, from licensing of stadia to the issue of permits to officials, bookmakers and trainers.”¹⁴

The IGB has repeatedly failed to police the industry, and the government has done little to hold the IGB to account.

Notably, in 2008, the Department of Arts,

Sport and Tourism failed to appoint a board member to supervise the activities of the IGB, ignoring the recommendation of an expert report.¹⁵

News organisations have reported that greyhounds are considered “farm animals” under the law, and the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 does define farm animals, in part, as animals used for sport.¹⁶ However, **greyhounds are principally the subject of two other, specific statutes that provide protections to canines, the Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 and the Control of Dogs Act 1986.**¹⁷ The Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011 sets welfare standards and gives welfare officers with the IGB the authority to inspect kennels, seize evidence, issue fines, and initiate prosecutions.¹⁸

On May 28, 2019, the Greyhound Racing Bill 2018 was signed into law.¹⁹ Despite the efforts of Tommy Broughan TD and others, amendments designed to require reporting on the disposition of greyhounds and for the creation of a “white list” of acceptable foreign countries for export were defeated.²⁰



A puppy bred for racing in Ireland, 2019

4. DRUGS

The drugging of greyhounds is a long-standing controversy.²¹ The IGB first withheld positive doping results from public view in 2006.²² According to a report prepared in the aftermath of the doping scandal by former Department of Justice Secretary General Tim Dalton, the reasons given by the industry for not publishing this information were “not at all convincing.”²³

In 2014, the IGB commissioned another report. **The Morris Report** was prepared by Professor Tim Morris, Independent Scientific Adviser to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain on Anti-doping and Medication Control. It was completed in 2015, and published by the IGB in 2016. **The report found “longstanding and significant deficiencies in policies, processes, and [IGB] implementation that have been undermining the integrity and reputation of greyhound racing in Ireland.”**²⁴ Morris went on to note that public concerns regarding the IGB’s inability to deal with illegal drugs and anabolic steroids were justified, and that sample collection bottles were susceptible to tampering.²⁵

The IGB began publishing specific adverse analytical findings in October 2015, prompting further analysis from animal protection advocates and widespread media attention.²⁶ Greyhound Awareness Cork conducted an analysis of IGB drug positives from October 2015 to June 2019, along with other drug positives dating back to 2012 released by the Control Committee during this time period.²⁷ The non-profit association found 200 drug positives since 2012, with the most common drugs being the depressant Pentobarbital (36), the stimulant caffeine (26), and the anti-inflammatory, ibuprofen

(16). In total, the group identified 47 different substances, ranging from steroids to sedatives to psychoactive drugs.

Vice News reported that in 2017, six cocaine positives were found in four greyhounds, amphetamines were found in two greyhounds, and steroids were found in three greyhounds—one of whom tested positive five times between May and June.²⁸ An Irish Examiner report also drew particular attention to the cocaine positive of greyhound Tir Na Croi.²⁹



Clonbrian Hero tested positive for cocaine three times, including a positive test following his victory at the Irish Laurels final in 2017 (Riverside Kennels)

A subsequent BBC report focused on Clonbrian Hero, one of the greyhounds also highlighted in the Vice piece. The dog had traces of a metabolite of cocaine in his urine on three separate occasions, one of which followed a victory at the Irish Laurels in Cork.³⁰ More media coverage ensued, including an investigative piece by RTÉ’s Sharon Ni Bheoláin.³¹ Ni Bheoláin reported on the lack of integrity in racing, and the inadequacy of drug testing procedures.³²

In October 2018, the greyhound racing broadcaster SIS drew attention to doping and irregular betting patterns at a meeting with the IGB.³³ These continued issues demonstrate that the integrity of racing remains problematic.

Irish-bred greyhounds have also been found to be drugged after export, particularly in Britain, which relies on Ireland to supply 80% of its running dogs.³⁴ The issue of dog doping has long been debated in London, and Members of Parliament have roundly criticised the Irish industry's inability to police itself.³⁵

4A. Penalties for Drug Violations

Control Committee Reports provide the only significant details regarding adverse analytical findings and any penalties levied on drug positives.³⁶ These are published online by the IGB.

The weakness of penalties imposed upon those who drug greyhounds has come under scrutiny. Mick Wallace TD drew attention to this issue before Parliament in 2016.³⁷ Specifically, Wallace addressed uneven treatment applied by the IGB to those whose dogs test positive for prohibited substances.³⁸

4B. Drug Testing

Drug positives are consistent, with over 20 reported positives each year since 2014, despite dramatic decreases in the number of tests conducted. Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland (GRAI) noted that “despite the fall in samples taken, 2015 saw a big rise in the actual number of positives returned.”³⁹ Current random sampling only tests one in twelve dogs.⁴⁰ In 2013, 7,307 tests were conducted, falling to 5,632 and 5,383 in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Samples taken have continued to drop: 5,294 tests in 2017 and 5,288 tests in 2018.⁴¹

The case of Graham Holland stands out. Holland was the trainer of Clonbrien Hero, who tested positive for cocaine in 2017. Holland

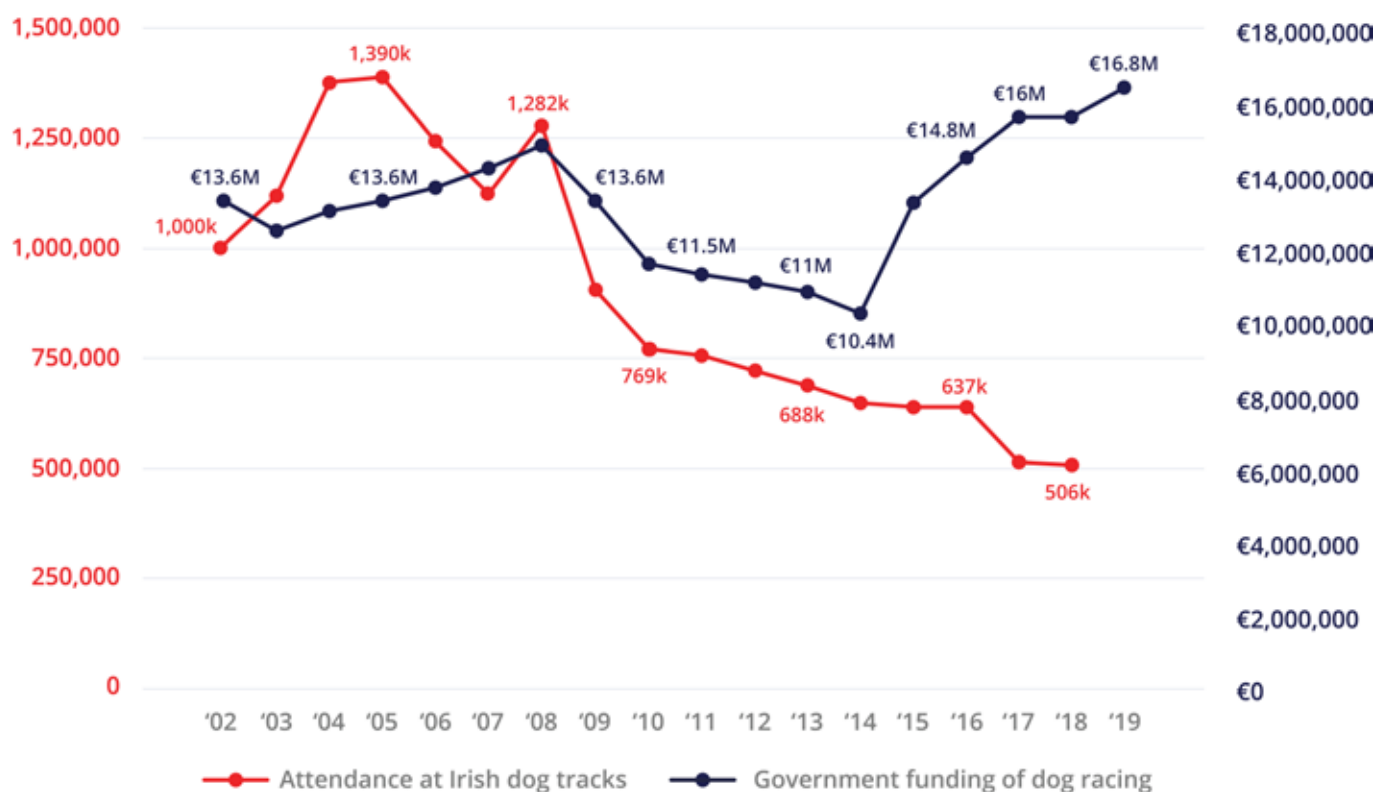
has won €1.8 million to date, twice as much as any other trainer, which he has used for legal challenges to repeatedly block the Control Committee from proceeding against him.⁴² Nevertheless, in September 2018, the High Court dismissed Holland's action against the Control Committee, with the judge calling his challenge “premature.”⁴³ Altogether, six of Holland's greyhounds have tested positive for prohibited substances, with eight total positive findings. Also of note, trainer Michael Delahunty's greyhounds have tested positive for the steroid Stanozolol nine times, with



“The €16.8 million for greyhound racing - there would be a lot of children out there who can't get orthodontic treatment, a lot of people out there who can't get anything for children, for school bus services or anything like that. That money would go a long way.”⁴⁴

— Willie Penrose TD

Irish Greyhound Racing Attendance vs. Funding⁴⁵



Clover Dawn and Clover Magic each testing positive four times. Danny Cawley's greyhounds have tested positive for the steroid 6α-hydroxystanozolol, greyhound Alive Alive Mayo accounting for five of these positives.⁴⁶

5. ECONOMICS

5A. Debt and Falling Attendance

With mounting debt and falling attendance, the economic model of dog racing is failing. **In late 2015, the IGB admitted that it was €30 million in debt.**⁴⁷ Between 2002 and 2010, 10.25 million people attended the 18,211 greyhound meetings that were held across Ireland.⁴⁸ But **attendance has dropped by 50% in the last decade**, according to the Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation (IGOBF).⁴⁹

Rising debts and falling attendance

compelled the IGOBF to declare dog racing a "failure" in 2016.⁵⁰

5B. Financial Losses

According to the IGB's 2017 annual report, there was a €500,000 net loss on racing activities. The IGB also paid out more than €15 million, €7.52 million of which was paid out as prize money, with nearly €2 million dedicated to marketing.⁵¹

The majority of greyhound tracks in Ireland are losing money, even with the inclusion of funds derived from sponsorship deals. Based on the IGB's most recent 2017 Annual Report, all nine tracks with reported figures recorded a track loss.⁵² Only when "tote" profits, defined by the IGB as money generated from the sale of media rights, are included, could three of the tracks report an overall profit: Cork Greyhound Race Company Ltd, The Kingdom Greyhound

53

(Deficit)/Surplus from racing activities (447,296)

The decision to subsidise horse and greyhound racing is put to an annual vote in the Dáil Éireann (the Irish Parliament). Those voting against funding between 2017 and 2019 were TDs from political parties including the Green Party, Independents

4 Change, People Before Profit, Sinn Féin, Solidarity, and the Social Democrats.⁵⁸ Notwithstanding the public record, following the 2018 funding vote, Minister Andrew Doyle used inflated job figures to praise lawmakers for continuing subsidies to the industry and even commended the IGB for its record on animal welfare.⁵⁹ Government funding is now at its highest level but the IGOBF has expressed skepticism that subsidies will continue in the future.⁶⁰ TDs, including Joan Collins, Paul Murphy, and Maureen O'Sullivan, have voiced strong opposition to future allowances for dog racing.⁶¹



“There has to be action by the government now, we can’t hear more words defending this industry which is based on profit and exploitation. We need an end to public funding of the greyhound industry.”⁶²

— Paul Murphy TD



Ballymac Syd suffered a heart attack and died after racing at Shelbourne Park in August 2019

6. RACING INJURIES AND DEATHS

Racing track distances range from 300 yards to 1035 yards.⁶³ Every track now has the same fine silica sand track surface.⁶⁴ The IGB argues that this is the most appropriate sand type for racing, but some participants believe that the replacement of grass surfaces has led to an increase in injuries.⁶⁵

On the week of March 8, 2019, the IGB released injury and death data for all tracks in 2018. 353 injuries and 121 deaths were reported, and Limerick reported the worst numbers with 58 injuries and 15 deaths.⁶⁶ These 2018 figures were nearly identical to Limerick’s past year figures.⁶⁷ The IGOBF had called the Limerick track unsafe in 2017.⁶⁸ In spite of the IGOBF’s statement, the IGB made no improvements to the facility in 2018.

In February 2018, Agriculture Minister Michael Creed admitted statistics previously provided by the IGB were not complete.⁶⁹ Altogether, since the IGB has been required to disclose injury data, the

reported figures show that **more than 350 dogs are injured and at least 120 dogs die every year at Irish dog tracks.**⁷⁰

7. BREEDING

Approximately 15,000-20,000 greyhounds are bred annually, and an estimated 10,000 greyhounds cannot be accounted for.⁷¹

Litters and projected birth rates declined between 2010 and 2016.⁷² In April 2016, the IGB implemented a €700,000 breeding incentive programme to encourage more breeding. At the same time, no additional funding was allocated for adoption.⁷³ In response, leading independent greyhound rescue and welfare organisations called on the UK and Ireland to limit breeding on welfare grounds. The charities stated that they were only able to home approximately half of the greyhounds used for racing.⁷⁴

The IGB allocated little more than €100,000 from its €16.8 million subsidy to fund adoption efforts by the Irish Retired Greyhound Trust (IRGT). While the IRGT directly found homes for 529 greyhounds in 2018, a reduction from the 548 in 2017, the bulk of greyhound adoptions occur because of efforts made by under-funded, private charities.⁷⁵

The Irish Coursing Club (ICC), the body that controls coursing and holds the stud book for all tattooed greyhounds, has no rehoming scheme.⁷⁶ Most coursing dogs only last one or two seasons before disappearing or being exported to foreign countries.

30,000 dogs of all types are bred in “back alley” facilities each year, earning for Ireland the reputation as the “puppy farm capital of Europe.”⁷⁷ Clearly, the large numbers of greyhounds produced by racing interests only adds to this problem.



A greyhound with her puppies at a breeding kennel in Ireland, 2012



An Irish puppy bred to race, 2017

7A. Dog Pounds

There is evidence of hundreds of racing greyhounds being destroyed in local dog pounds. GRAI found that from 2010 to 2015, 88.2% of greyhounds surrendered to dog pounds (2,497 of 2,896) were simply destroyed.⁷⁸ **The Irish Council Against Bloodsports found that 53 greyhounds were destroyed in pounds in 2018, bringing the total known number of unwanted and dead greyhounds to 2,783 between 2010 and 2018.**⁷⁹

Erin Hounds has reported that greyhounds are surrendered daily for immediate destruction.⁸⁰ GRAI estimates that thousands do not make it to the pounds at all, and are instead cruelly destroyed by their owners.⁸¹

7B. Disappearing Dogs

GRAI found that in 2012, 17,880 greyhound pups were born, based on a conservative estimate of six pups per litter. By 2015, the point at which these pups would be of racing age, 6,100 greyhounds were exported to race in the UK, 1,200 greyhounds were homed, and 203 greyhounds were reported as destroyed by local pounds. 10,377 racing greyhounds, or 58%, could not be accounted for in this calendar year.⁸²

In 2015, TheJournal.ie wrote of huge numbers of abandoned greyhounds, as well as of those relinquished to rescue organisations and pounds. Citing 2006 figures of 4,481 litters producing 31,367 dogs, 23,700 were registered to race, leaving more than 7,500 missing puppies.⁸³

In 2017, former chairman of the IGB Paschal Taggart said on Cork's 96 FM that it is "absolutely" acceptable for thousands of dogs to be killed as racing could not exist without the destruction of dogs.⁸⁴

8. GREYHOUND WELFARE

8A. High Profile Cruelty Cases

In 2009, The Sun reported that Larry Earle of Wexford was charging €10 to shoot greyhounds in the head and dispose of their bodies. "Something has to be done with them when they get old. I used to keep dogs myself and sure every so often you'd have to put down dogs that'd be no good or whatever, you know. That's part of life," said Earle.⁸⁵

In 2012, a mass grave containing the remains of at least seven greyhounds was discovered in County Limerick.⁸⁶ A year later, the Irish Independent reported that two of

the greyhounds had been given to a third party to be shot in the head after showing no interest in chasing hares.⁸⁷

8B. Inspections and Kennel Conditions

The IGB has the legal authority to inspect kennels.⁸⁸ Animal welfare groups must be given permission by the IGB to conduct their own kennel inspections.⁸⁹ According to the IGB, it conducts approximately 600 kennel inspections annually.⁹⁰ According to Greyhound Data, there are 432 breeding kennels in Ireland.⁹¹

The number of fines issued for kennel conditions in breach of greyhound welfare legislation more than doubled from 2016 to 2017. The increase from 20 fines to 43 fines occurred despite a drop in the inspection rate from 571 inspections to 477 inspections during this period.⁹² The IGB reduced its number of kennel inspections to 422 in 2018.⁹³

Thousands of Irish-bred greyhounds are housed in British kennels. The Dogs Trust's three-month investigation into kennel conditions in the UK revealed that even the



A greyhound kennel in Ireland from the RTÉ exposé *Greyhounds Running For Their Lives*, 2019



Greyhounds from Ireland arrive in Macau, China, 2016 (ANIMA Macau)

minimal standards of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain were not maintained at tracks across the country. Common violations included kennels that were unkept and unclean, that showed thick layers of dust and cobwebs, were absent of cleaning materials and in a poor state of repair, contained sharp edges posing risk of injury, and which exposed filthy food preparation areas and other low standards.⁹⁴

8C. Exported Greyhounds

The Irish Independent reported in May 2017 that local breeders were exporting greyhounds to Pakistan, China, and Argentina via the UK and EU. All of these countries lack animal welfare laws, subjecting the dogs to likely abuse.⁹⁵

RTÉ Investigates found that the transportation of Irish greyhounds to Pakistan is a “thriving, celebrated, and open trade.” Evidence of sales goes back sixty years, with Pakistani kennels bragging that 70% of stud dogs in Pakistan are Irish-bred.⁹⁶

Regional animal welfare groups have voiced their opposition to dog racing in recent



Two Stone Tadgh was exported from Ireland in 2016 to race at the notorious Canidrome in Macau, China (ANIMA Macau)

years. On the prospect of greyhound racing in India, Arpan Sharma of the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations said, “It is distressing to see the land of the Gurus, who taught compassion for all, introduce something that is harmful for society and for animals. Greyhound racing is against all the principles taught by the great Sikh gurus.”⁹⁷

9. DYING INDUSTRY

9A. Speculation of Track Closures

In April 2017, Dr. Andrew Kelly, CEO of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals stated that it was “time to consign it [the greyhound industry] to history.”⁹⁸

In August 2017, IGB Chairman Phil Meaney discussed the topic of track closures on RTÉ Radio One: “It may well be inevitable down the road... there may eventually be a further reduction.”⁹⁹ Columnist Floyd Amphlett of the Greyhound Star also predicted track closures in May 2019 and suspected that the Indecon report commissioned by the IGB would recommend track closures.¹⁰⁰

9B. Bookmakers

Despite plans to close betting shops across the United Kingdom, the influence of bookmakers on greyhound racing has been increasing.¹⁰¹ Global broadcast company Sports Information Services (SIS) bought into greyhound racing in 2016.¹⁰² SIS provides live racing to bookmakers’ shops around the world.¹⁰³ In late 2018, the IGB signed an agreement with SIS, allowing tracks in Kilkenny and Waterford to hold races in the morning, broadcasting to a global market.¹⁰⁴

10. CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

10A. IGB Business Model Analysis by Preferred Results Ltd.

The IGB commissioned a multi-year “Business Model Analysis Report” from Preferred Results Ltd and received the findings in September 2017. The report was highly critical of the industry and found that the “IGB is not actually a racing-centric organisation and that the primary focus of



A caged greyhound in Ireland from the RTÉ exposé *Greyhounds Running For Their Lives*, 2019

the organisation is actually on Breeding.” Specific findings included the following:

Between 2013 and 2015, approximately 16,000 pups were bred each year for a pool of approximately 3,600 dogs, so that the industry produced 1,000% more greyhounds each year than was required.

As many as 6,250 greyhounds were exported to the UK each year, for prices which were less than 50% of their actual production cost.

Additionally, large numbers of racing dogs were culled based on their performance.

The report found that 6,000 dogs were destroyed each year as failed racers.¹⁰⁵

The report pointed out that dogs were bred at a €10 million annual loss. But thanks to government subsidies that more than covered this loss, there was no incentive to reduce the number of dogs bred. The government subsidy’s primary beneficiary was British racing: Because the funding allowed breeders to sell at a loss, British

trainers could then buy Irish dogs at a bargain price.

Preferred Results also found a great imbalance in terms of prize money allocation. Specifically, the top 20% of registered dog owners competed in 53% of the total races and won 75% of the total prize money (approximately €5 million of €6.8 million). The top 20% of trainers competed in approximately 60% of the total races and won 80% of the total prize money (approximately €2.3 million of the total €3.1 million). The analysis found that the bottom 80% of owners “do not come even close” to being compensated for maintaining their greyhounds and that the bottom 80% of trainers “are not doing much better.”

The report generally criticised the IGB for its lack of a “racing-centric” value chain and for its failure to regulate breeding. It found that dog pool sizes were larger than necessary and the culling of dogs was rampant. The report urged for breeding to be reduced and that healthy dogs no longer



“You talk about 6,000 greyhounds, many of them brought to knackeries... these are animals that should be treated with respect.”¹⁰⁶

— Joan Collins TD discussing the average number of greyhounds destroyed each year in Ireland

be put down. A ‘No Dog Left Behind’ approach was recommended.

The report authors also argued for separating regulation from commercial activities, decoupling the IGB from the ICC, and creating a structure to better regulate the industry and control the dog pool. Other recommendations included: managing the mix of races to give each qualifying dog a minimum chance of racing 60% of the weeks in a year, managing the grading of races to create equal opportunities for dogs in the race, and rebalancing the rewarding of prize money to reflect the normal performance curve of dogs over their racing lives.

When Preferred Results had presented its report to the IGB in September 2017, the

board described it as “thought provoking” but “impractical.”¹⁰⁷ It chose not to disclose the findings. But in June 2019, when faced with a media exposé, the truth was finally revealed.

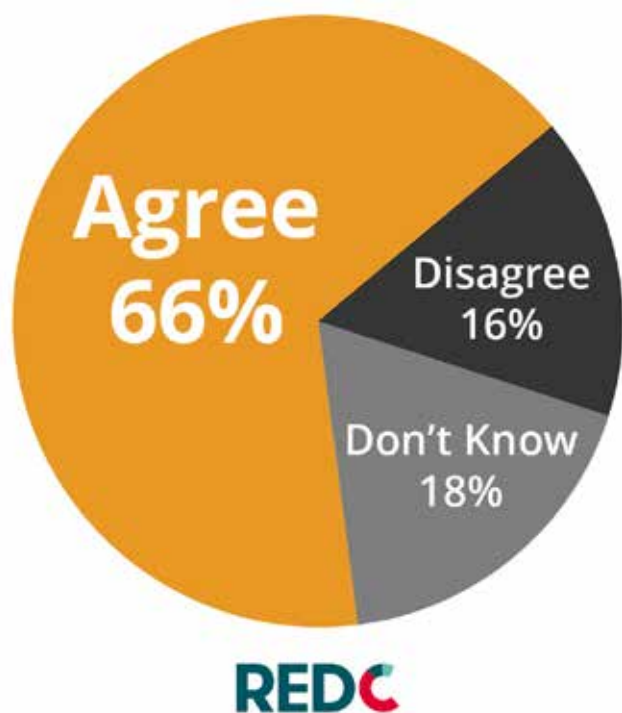
10B. RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives

On June 26, 2019, RTÉ Television ran a one-hour programme entitled: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives. The RTÉ investigation, drawing from the Preferred Results report discussed above, revealed that on average, 5,987 greyhounds were killed each year between 2013 and 2015.¹⁰⁸ The programme offered undercover footage and documented that half of the country’s commercial slaughterhouses inhumane killed unwanted greyhounds for fees ranging from €10 to €35 each.¹⁰⁹



One of thousands of greyhound puppies bred at Irish kennels in 2016

The Irish government should stop funding greyhound racing



RED C Opinion Poll, September 2019

Since the program aired, the IGB has publicly distanced itself and dismissed aspects of its own report. This contrasts with a June 2018 statement by Chief Executive Ger Dollard who publicly praised the “rigorous, thorough and professional” approach taken by Preferred Results.¹¹⁰

In the aftermath of the RTÉ exposé, attendance at greyhound tracks has dropped by 20%. The IGB’s strategic plan is “predicated on a multimillion euro increase in exchequer funding between now and 2021.”¹¹¹

10C. Public Response to Cruelty Revelations

Since the RTÉ Investigates programme, protests have taken place around the country calling for the government to stop propping up dog racing.¹¹²

Sports Minister Shane Ross characterised

industry practices as “subsidised cruelty,” and argued the IGB members should resign, as it was “not good enough” that they did not act earlier to safeguard dogs.¹¹³ As of the writing of this report, no resignations have taken place.

Lifford Greyhound Stadium closed in August 2019, citing “an ongoing lack of support from the Irish Greyhound Board.”¹¹⁴ In the same week, Ger Dollard conceded that the IGB faced a “huge challenge” in repairing its reputation.¹¹⁵

The next month, Shane Cassells TD asserted that Irish greyhound racing would be “goosed” without millions of euro of state funding, and that the funding “sticks in the craw of many people” when there are “poor unfortunates who have been told there is no money for home help.”¹¹⁶

Immediately thereafter, **Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland determined they would not feature greyhound racing in any tourism marketing campaigns.** Ross defended the actions taken by the tourism bodies, noting “we must be careful not to allow current negative publicity [to] damage our tourism promotions.”¹¹⁷

A September 2019 RED C opinion poll commissioned by ICABS and GAI showed that 66% of the Irish public believe the Irish government should discontinue funding of the greyhound racing industry, with clear majorities across age, class, gender, and geographic location.

Nonetheless, on October 8, 2019 Minister Doyle announced the government would commit €16.8 million to the IGB for 2020, unchanged from its 2019 allocation.¹¹⁸

- "End of an era arrives for the Markets Field." *Limerick Leader*. July 14, 2010. <http://www.limerickcity.ie/media/markf007.pdf>.
13. "Government can't be expected to prop up failing greyhound racing." *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. September 20, 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/banbloodsports/videos/536635617142015/>.
14. Bord na gCon. *Annual Report 2014*. <https://www.igb.ie/globalassets/report-pdfs/annual-reports/annual-report-final2014.pdf>.
15. At the time, the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism were criticised by TDs from both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, including Fine Gael committee chairman Bernard Allen who called the Department's lack of action a "gigantic leap of faith." (Brennan, Michael. "Activities of greyhound board 'went unsupervised.'" *Irish Independent*. June 27, 2008. <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/activities-of-greyhound-board-went-unsupervised-26457509.html>).
16. Crawley, Peter. "When is a dog not a dog? When it's an Irish greyhound." *The Irish Times*. June 27, 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/tv-radio-web/when-is-a-dog-not-a-dog-when-it-s-an-irish-greyhound-1.3939314>.
17. "RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives." *RTÉ*. <https://www.rte.ie/player/movie/rt%C3%A9-investigates-greyhounds-running-for-their-lives/104051751967>. "Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013." *Irish Statute Book*. 2013. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2013/act/15/enacted/en/print.html>.
17. "Welfare of Greyhounds Act 2011." *Irish Statute Book*. 2011. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2011/act/29/enacted/en/pdf>. "Control of Dogs Act, 1986." *Irish Statute Book*. 1986. <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1986/act/32/enacted/en/print.html>.
18. English, Eoin. "Fines issued over greyhound welfare double." *Irish Examiner*. January 13, 2018. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/fines-issued-over-greyhound-welfare-double-465711.html>.
19. "Greyhound Racing Act of 2019." *Houses of the Oireachtas*. May 28, 2019. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/bills/bill/2018/109/>.
20. "Dáil Éireann debate - Wednesday, 15 May 2019." *Houses of the Oireachtas*. May 15, 2019. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2019-05-15/46/>.
21. One of Ireland's top trainers, Paul Hennessy, has said the industry's image has been ruined by the perception of dog doping and that trainers found guilty of doping have "no place in the industry". Una Jansen of *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland* says the IGB is "turning a blind eye" to the problem of drugging dogs to lose (Raleigh, David. "Perception that trainers use drugs on dogs ruins industry image." *The Irish Times*. September 22, 2018. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/perception-that-trainers-use-drugs-on-dogs-ruins-industry-image-1.3637509>).
22. IGB chairman Paschal Taggart made this decision, ensuring findings of the use of erythropoietin, a performance-enhancing drug, on two greyhounds were undisclosed. These actions were in violation of established IGB policy ("Govt to review laws after Bord na gCon report." *RTÉ News and Current Affairs*. July 4, 2006. <https://www.rte.ie/news/2006/0704/77995-bordnagcon/>).
23. Corcoran, Judy. "Revealed: the dog-doping secret report." *Irish Independent*. May 14, 2006. <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/revealed-the-dogdoping-secret-report-26411937.html>. The report also revealed irregularities and mismanagement of capital that dated back to the 1990s (Daly, Darina. "Bord na gCon investigation published." *The Irish Times*. June 11, 2008. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/bord-na-gcon-investigation-published-1.824173?mode=sample&auth-failed=1&pw-origin=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.irishtimes.com%2Fnews%2Fbord-na-gcon-investigation-published-1.824173>).
24. The IGOBF highlight passages in the report that are consistent with previous reports showcasing that the IGB is "not an educated customer" and that there is a "dearth of available expertise in anti-doping and medication control." Morris further draws attention to public mistrust and GBGB mistrust of the IGB, no consolidated rule book, and a lack of detail, focus, and experience. The IGOBF concluded that it was, "definitely the worst report ever published regarding the IGB" ("Morris Report." *Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation*. December 16, 2016. <http://igobf.ie/wp/?p=578>).
25. *Ibid*.
26. "Adverse Analytical Findings." *Irish Greyhound Board*. https://www.igb.ie/Resource/adverse-analytical-findings/?fbclid=IwAR1ZuyTr-6y17A7rQS9L_Exc22TulQAK9m7vgEIA0OGg0WgSrCgIN7vGLcZQ.
27. *Ibid*. "Analysis by Greyhound Awareness Cork" (The data from 2012-2015 is not complete, as the IGB did not begin publishing adverse analytical findings until October 2015).
28. Journalist Max Daly also draws attention to a 2014 instance in which Michael Field, former CEO of the IGB, trained a dog that tested positive for banned stimulants following a victory at the Irish hare-coursing derby. Daly concludes that the doping of greyhounds is one of several issues plaguing greyhound racing in Ireland, a practice linked with organized crime and suspicion of race-fixing (Daly, Max. "Coked-Up Greyhounds Are Still a Problem in the Dog-Racing Industry." *Vice*. September 21, 2017. https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/8x8xak/coked-up-greyhounds-are-still-a-problem-in-the-dog-racing-industry).
29. Galway greyhound trainer Michael McDonagh was fined €1,000 after traces of benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine, were found in a urine sample from his dog, Tír na Croí (English, Eoin. "139 greyhounds put down over race injuries." *Irish Examiner*. November 16, 2017. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/139-greyhounds-put-down-over-race-injuries-462935.html>).
30. The Laurels final which Clonbrien Hero 'won' had a first prize amount of €30,000 ("Clonbrien Hero: Irish champion greyhound tests positive for cocaine." *BBC*. September 14, 2017. <https://www.bbc.com/sport/northern-ireland/41265901>). Trainer Graham Holland said the drug must have been ingested accidentally, but Marissa Payne at the *Washington Post* reviewed past studies of cocaine transmission before concluding Holland's story "does not seem terribly likely" (Payne, Marissa. "Champion Irish greyhound tests positive for cocaine." *The Washington Post*. September 14, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/early-lead/wp/2017/09/14/championship-irish-greyhound-tests-positive-for-cocaine/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.5c514a5af84d).
31. Ni Bheoláin appeared on *RTÉ's* "Claire Byrne Live" four days after *BBC* broke the story to discuss the issue of doping. In the interview, Ni Bheoláin tells the audience that IGB data shows 91 adverse analytical findings, and 21 prohibited substances ranging from stimulants to make a dog run faster to sedatives to make a dog run slower to powerful painkillers that mask the protective, innate instinct in dogs not to run when injured ("Doping of dogs in the Irish greyhound industry." *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. September 19, 2017. <http://www.banbloodsports.com/In170919.htm>).
32. The Irish Bookmakers Association identified "historic weaknesses in the integrity of the product." Ni Bheoláin acknowledges IGB arguments referring to the small percentage of drug positives, but that this is because the IGB has historically used ineffective random routine sampling (*Ibid.*). Per world anti-doping expert Professor Tim Morris, the IGB needs targeted testing, using an intelligence-led approach ("Morris Review of Anti Doping and Medication Control in Ireland." *Irish Greyhound Board*. <https://www.igb.ie/About-IGB/news/morris-review-of-anti-doping-and-medication-control-in-ireland/>). Ni Bheoláin concludes, "the low percentage figure trotted out by the IGB...these are tests that were done at a time when our testing laboratory was not fit for purpose. In the words of Professor Tim Morris, the performance standard of the lab was sub-optimal" ("Doping of dogs in the Irish greyhound industry," *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*).
33. "The key challenge in selling Irish greyhound racing is a consumer lack of confidence," concluded an SIS representative (Rogan, Aaron. "Greyhound racing has a doping problem, says broadcaster." *The Times*. February 28, 2019. <http://igobf.ie/wp/?p=1116>).
34. During an undercover investigation in 2016, Scottish greyhound trainer Willie Finnie boasted on video about deliberately slowing down dogs to fix races (Blackstock, Gordon. "Sunday Post Investigates: The dark secrets of dog racing where greyhounds are drugged and races rigged." *The Sunday Post*. December 11, 2016. <https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/dark-secrets-of-dog-racing/>). During an undercover investigation in 2014, English greyhound trainer Chris Mosdall admitted to doping dogs to rig bets (Foggo, Daniel. "Undercover reporter finds greyhounds 'drugged to rig bets.'" *BBC*. November 3, 2014. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-29877665>).
35. In response to the Mosdall investigation, former British MP Eric Martlew said, "I think we've given self-regulation a chance. And I think we've seen that it's not working" ("Undercover reporter finds greyhounds 'drugged to rig bets,'" *BBC*).
36. "Control Committee." *Irish Greyhound Board*. <https://www.igb.ie/Resource/reports-and-statistics/control-committee/?fbclid=IwAR07BB-cEUF7gnrMcBUdhN95EY3wyEXTxcmGXNjGL5ZxluxXp0llqNL6Klw>.
37. Wallace detailed that drug testing cost more than the €100 fine imposed upon the trainer of a greyhound who tested positive for the prohibited substance of Flunixin. In comparison, the Greyhound

Board of Great Britain (GBGB) imposed a £2,000 fine upon an Irish sales agent for the same substance. Wallace said that it is little wonder the British are recommending to their owners and trainers not to buy Irish dogs because they are drugged to their ears ("Dail Eireann debate –Wednesday, 13 Jul 2016." *Houses of the Oireachtas*. July 13, 2016. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2016-07-13/17/>).

38. The example Wallace provides is of prohibited substances being found in four dogs of trainer Graham Holland. Whilst Holland went unpunished, a trainer with just one positive dog was fined. Wallace summarised that Holland got off because he had a legal presence, and that those with a legal presence will get away with anything. Without a legal presence, guilty trainers might pay a little fine (*Ibid*).

39. "Greyhound Numbers." *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland*. <https://grai.ie/greyhound-numbers/>.

40. *Pete the Vet* considered testing levels of 2015 and 2016 to be insufficient, concluding, "Presently, only about 5,000 random samples are taken even though there are about 60,000 individual greyhound entries annually" ("Greyhound racing: after the ban in NSW, could Ireland and the UK be next?" *Pete the Vet*. August 31, 2016. <https://www.petethevet.com/greyhound-racing-after-the-ban-in-nsw-could-ireland-and-the-uk-be-next/>).

41. "Bord na gCon 2018 Annual Report." Irish Greyhound Board. <https://www.igb.ie/globalassets/report-pdfs/annual-reports/annual-report-2018.pdf>.

42. "RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives," *RTÉ*.

43. O'Faolain, Aodhan and Ray Managh. "Challenge over investigation into greyhound who tested positive for banned substance dismissed." *TheJournal.ie*. September 28, 2018. https://www.thejournal.ie/greyhound-high-court-challenge-4259752-Sep2018/?fbclid=IwAR1J5XTmX4P6sXy9i00on4LSSiHyufx-B1fae_f0plwrZ95Ox-PNmiCTFppl.

44. "Labour Party considering ending support for cruel greyhound racing." Irish Council Against Bloodsports. July 11, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtmAZA5SDJw>.

45. Chart provided by *Greyhound Awareness Cork*. Further analysis by *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*.

46. Analysis by *Greyhound Awareness Cork*.

47. *Ibid*.

48. Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine. *The Greyhound Industry*, p.4. January 2016. <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/legislation/horsegreyhoundlegislation/jointCmmtteeDAFMGreyhoundIndustry130217.pdf>.

49. Per *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*, there has been a 49% fall in track attendance between 2008 and 2017 ("Shocking new statistics reveal that Limerick Greyhound Stadium is the worst in Ireland for dog deaths." *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. February 27, 2018. <https://www.facebook.com/banbloodsports/posts/shocking-new-statistics-reveal-that-limerick-greyhound-stadium-is-the-worst-in-i/1595016310613921/>). These statistics are corroborated by RTÉ's Ni Bheoláin, who reported in 2017 that attendance and numbers of greyhound owners were down 50% in less than a decade ("RTÉ Prime Time Investigates The Irish Greyhound Industry," *RTÉ*). The figures are also consistent with a statement released by the Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation (IGOBF) which referenced a drop-off in attendance of 1.28 million in 2007 to 644,000 in 2014. In this 8-year span, attendance dipped 49.7% ("Meeting with Minister Andrew Doyle 05/06/2016." *Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation*. July 8, 2016. <http://igobf.ie/wp/?p=573>).

50. The IGOBF discussed economic failure as well as welfare failure. In their statement, the IGOBF additionally cited a 39.5% drop in active ownership from 2011 to 2015 ("Bombshell statement from Irish organisation representing hare coursing and track racing." *Indymedia Ireland*. September 10, 2016. <https://www.indymedia.ie/article/105964>). The statement also references a meeting between the IGOBF and Minister of the State at the Department of Agriculture Andrew Doyle, at which Doyle was unable to explain why nobody knew how many people greyhound racing employs. The IGOBF concluded, "We don't expect any figures to be made public as this would only highlight the failure of the industry" ("Meeting with Minister Andrew Doyle 05/06/2016," *Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation*).

51. The €16.8 million subsidy from the Horse & Greyhound Racing Fund offsets expenses.

52. Privately managed Clonmel Greyhound Racing Company Ltd's profitability is not given in the chart. Abargrove Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the IGB, controlling catering operations.

53. "Greyhound industry gets another €16 million in Budget 2018" *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. October 10, 2017. <http://www.banbloodsports.com/ln171010.htm>. 2019's subsidy rose to €16.8 million ("Greyhound racing in Ireland is in 'serious decline'", *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. January 21, 2019. <https://www.change.org/p/irish-government-stop-giving-millions-of-euro-to-cruel-greyhound-industry/u/23911840>).

54. "Bord na gCon 2017 Annual Report." *Irish Greyhound Board*, pg. 49: <https://www.igb.ie/globalassets/report-pdfs/annual-reports/bord-na-gcon-annual-report-2017.pdf>.

55. In 2016, the IGOBF highlighted that Tote at the IGB had fallen from €48 million in 2007 to €19.9 million in 2014. Sponsorship, similarly, fell from €2.09 million in 2007 to €879,000 in 2014. From 2007 to 2014, then, Tote and Sponsorship dropped by 58.5% and 56.2% respectively. As Tote and Sponsorship declined, staff costs rose from €7.05 million in 2011 to €8.3 million in 2014, a 15% increase in a three-year span ("Meeting with Minister Andrew Doyle 05/06/2016," *Irish Greyhound Owners and Board Federation*).

56. Horgan-Jones, Jack. "Attendance at greyhound tracks drops 20% after RTÉ expose." *The Irish Times*. September 19, 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/attendance-at-greyhound-tracks-drops-20-after-rt%C3%A9-expose-1.4023770>.

57. Irish Council Against Bloodsports. "At least 283 greyhounds injured, 96 killed at Irish tracks in 2017." *Animal People Forum*. January 26, 2018. <https://animalpeopleforum.org/2018/01/26/least-283-greyhounds-injured-96-killed-irish-tracks-2017/>.

58. For 2019 funding, the vote was 92 in favor and 26 against. For 2018 funding, the vote was 85 in favor and 33 against. For 2017 funding, 105 voted in favor and 13 against ("TDs approve €80 million more for horse and greyhound racing". *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. December 6, 2017. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1512612452187641>).

59. Minister Andrew Doyle praised the IGB for its "valuable contribution to animal welfare" and stated the government "does not tolerate any instance of animal cruelty". Doyle also cited that racing is responsible for over 10,000 jobs, even though Agriculture Minister Michael Creed conceded in 2016 that the "Bord na gCon has informed me that it currently directly employs 128 full time staff and approximately 720 part time staff" ("Greyhound industry gets another €16 million in Budget 2018," *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*).

60. The IGOBF has noted that the IGB is "devoid of ideas and has now become totally dependent on government funding. The general public perception which will become more negative due to the failure to address welfare issues suggests this money may not always be available" ("Meeting with Minister Andrew Doyle 05/06/2016," *Irish Greyhound Owners and Board Federation*).

61. "I'm appalled at the Minister's response." *Irish Council Against Blood Sports*. July 2, 2019. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=469UEpEAQ08&feature=youtu.be>.

62. *Ibid*.

63. Sprints in Ireland range from as low as 300 yards at some tracks to as high as 400 yards at Dundalk and Mullingar. Middle ranges from as low as 500 yards at Waterford to as high as 575 yards at a number of tracks. Stayers are as low as 600 yards at a number of tracks to as high as 790 yards at Clonmel. And Marathons range from as low as 750 yards at Tralee to as high as 1035 yards at Thurles ("British and Irish Greyhound Track Lengths." *Greyhound Predictor*. <http://www.greyhoundpredictor.com/info/track-lengths.html#irish>).

64. "Irish Greyhound Racing." *Australian Greyhound Racing*. June 3, 2017. <https://australianracinggreyhound.com/ireland/>.

65. "Track Welfare." *Irish Greyhound Board*. <https://www.igb.ie/Resource/greyhound-welfare/track-welfare/>. Speaking at Shelbourne Park in 2018, one patron quipped, "There used to be hardly any injuries at all – with the sand, there's a lot more injuries on it. They don't get the grip on it" ("The people are gone out of greyhound racing." *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. September 21, 2018. <https://banbloodsports.wordpress.com/2018/09/21/the-people-are-gone-out-of-greyhound-racing/>). In 2006, leading trainer Paul Hennessy penned "Get Rid of the Sand" in *Greyhound Weekly* where he wrote, "I said a while ago that I would never get involved in the sand affair again after the last time but I cannot stand by and see all the good

dogs getting broke up at virtually every track in the country...With proper drainage and the new types of grass that are out here we could easily use grass all the year" ("GET RID OF THE SAND." *Greyhound Data*. August 17, 2006. <http://greyhound-data.com/knowledge.php?b=3¬e=32777>).

66. "Reported injuries and deaths at Irish greyhound tracks (2018)." Irish Council Against Bloodsports. March 8, 2019. <https://twitter.com/banbloodsports/status/1104013934112227328>. From January to September 2019, 254 injuries and 86 deaths have been reported, figures that are consistent with previous years (Irish Council Against Bloodsports. October 29, 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/banbloodsports/photos/a.463548137094083/2496302957151914/?type=3&theater>).

67. 2017 figures were published by the IGB in response to a Dáil Question from Clare Daly TD. The 2017 figures read 357 deaths and 124 injuries, with 46 injuries and 19 deaths at Limerick ("357 greyhounds injured, 124 killed at tracks across Ireland in 2017." *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. February 22, 2018. <http://www.banbloodsports.com/ln180222.htm>).

68. The IGOBF's September 2017 condemnation of the IGB's handling of the Limerick track includes that "Limerick greyhound owners have been frustrated with the unsafe condition of the [sic] their track and have repeatedly requested that sand would be placed on the track. This frustration reached boiling point this week when a load of sand was delivered but was full of stones... depleted level of sand has led to an unsafe track which resulted in an unacceptable level of injuries to greyhounds, particularly dogs breaking hind legs at the first bend." The editorial concludes, "IGB has a shocking record on greyhound welfare and this lack of concern will be the undoing of the industry. Racing went ahead last night (Friday Septemebr [sic] 1) in Limerick. Mall Trigger broke a hind leg at the first bend. He is unlikely to race again, but who cares there is another party in Shelbourne Park tonight" ("Keep the front door painted." *Irish Greyhound Owners and Breeders Federation*. September 2, 2017. <http://igobf.ie/wp/?p=870>).

69. It is understood that "Reported" injuries and deaths do not cover all injuries and deaths that occurred. When Clare Daly TD queried data provided to her by the IGB in November 2017 due to columns being left blank for the tracks of Lifford and Enniscorthy, for example, Minister Creed replied that "retrospective records are not available at the privately owned Lifford and Enniscorthy stadia" ("357 greyhounds injured, 124 killed at tracks across Ireland in 2017," *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*).

70. In 2016, there were a reported 427 injuries and 139 deaths at Irish tracks. In 2015, 422 dogs were reported injured, along with 122 deaths ("139 greyhounds put down over race injuries," *Irish Examiner*).

71. The IGB holds no figures for the total number of puppies born or the size of registered litters. The Irish Coursing Club (ICC) holds the stud book for racing greyhounds, but the totals remain private. Greyhounds sent to the UK to race on a licensed track are registered with the GBGB and de-registered by the IGB. But greyhounds to be used in coursing, at unregistered tracks, or auctioned off to countries such as Pakistan and Spain go unaccounted ("Facts," *Erin Hounds*. https://erinhounds.co.uk/?page_id=15).

72. Between 2010 and 2016, there has been a 16% decline in the number of litters, 3,003 in 2010 down to 2,520 in 2016, and projected birth rates ("Greyhound Numbers," *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland*).

73. "Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine debate - Tuesday, 2 May 2017: General Scheme of the Greyhound Industry Bill 2017: Discussion (Resumed)." *Houses of the Oireachtas*. May 2, 2017. https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/joint_committee_on_agriculture_food_and_the_marine/2017-05-02/3/.

74. "Call for the UK and Ireland to limit greyhound breeding on welfare grounds." *Forever Hounds Trust*. May 23, 2016. <https://foreverhoundstrust.org/news/call-for-the-uk-and-ireland-to-limit-greyhound-breeding-on-welfare-grounds/>. Una Jansen of *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland* drew attention to the fact that the Irish Retired Greyhound Trust, a charity operated by the IGB, does not have any re-homing centres. Its British counterpart has 65 (Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine debate - Tuesday, 2 May 2017: General Scheme of the Greyhound Industry Bill 2017: Discussion (Resumed)," *Houses of the Oireachtas*).

75. "RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives," *RTÉ*.

76. The ICC addressed the rehoming of greyhounds in its opening

submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine on July 9, 2019. The text reads, "The ICC currently provides administrative support to welfare bodies in terms of registration and microchipping services. It proposes to work with its membership and rehoming bodies to promote the homing of ex-coursing greyhounds. Owners currently adopt privately or through the IRGT and this can be expanded on further by working in tandem with the announced changes" ("Oireachtas Committee Meeting July 9th." *Irish Coursing Club*. July 9, 2019. <https://irishcoursingclub.ie/category/news/>).

77. O'Halloran, Marie. "Ireland is 'puppy farm capital' of Europe." *The Irish Times*. May 26, 2017. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/ireland-is-puppy-farm-capital-of-europe-1.3097931>.

78. Healthy greyhounds were among those destroyed, and dog pounds are trending towards turning more greyhounds away than in the past ("Greyhound Numbers," *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland*). Clare Daly TD has also cited these statistics ("Dáil Éireann debate - Wednesday, 6 Feb 2019: Greyhound Racing Bill 2018: Second Stage" *Houses of the Oireachtas*. February 6, 2019. <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/2019-02-06/30/>).

79. *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. August 2, 2019.

<https://www.facebook.com/banbloodsports/photos/a.463548137094083/2334500193332192/?type=3&theater>.

80. Reasons for surrender include failing racing trials, often due to injury, retiring from racing, or exhausting breeding capabilities. Greyhounds picked up as strays, as opposed to being surrendered, are destroyed after five days and will not contribute to the destruction rate ("Facts," *Erin Hounds*).

81. "We know there are unscrupulous owners and trainers who take other measures, such as the greyhounds that were shot in Limerick four years ago," said *GRAI* spokesman Richard King (Hayes, Isabel. "38 greyhounds are being put down a month in Ireland". *TheJournal.ie*. May 23, 2016. <https://www.thejournal.ie/greyhounds-put-down-exported-ireland-2783792-May2016/>).

82. "Greyhound Numbers," *Greyhound Rescue Association Ireland*. *Pete the Vet* reflected in response to the findings, "At most, 12% of the 'disappeared' 10,000 every year currently find homes or rescue space. What happens to the other 88%?" ("Greyhound racing: after the ban in NSW, could Ireland and the UK be next?," *Pete the Vet*).

83. Paul Murphy TD was quoted at the time saying, "Figures show that these dogs do not end up in rescues or re-homed...[and rescues] who are surviving on paltry grants and fund raising are the ones picking up the pieces from the greyhound industry" (Hennessy, Michelle. "Thousands of greyhounds just disappear each year - what's happening to them?" *TheJournal.ie*. February 8, 2015. <https://www.thejournal.ie/greyhounds-disappear-1905356-Feb2015/>).

84. Taggart continues that "you can't have dog racing without euthanasia" (*Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. May 3, 2017. <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1300540866728135>).

85. The full report revealed that Earle used a bolt gun to "shoot ex-racing dogs who might easily have been turned into pets or put in retirement kennels when they're too slow or old to race." One track insider explained the practice as "the unseen underbelly of the sport which nobody wants to talk about" (*Irish Council Against Bloodsports*. May 28, 2019. <https://www.facebook.com/banbloodsports/posts/10-years-ago-this-month-a-sickening-report-appeared-in-the-irish-sun-newspaper-w/2220398234742389/>).

86. Reilly, Gavin. "Mass grave for racing greyhounds discovered in Limerick." *TheJournal.ie*. April 10, 2012. <https://www.thejournal.ie/mass-grave-for-racing-greyhounds-discovered-in-limerick-413486-Apr2012/>.

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89. As reported in the *Irish Post*, the IGB liaises with the ISPCA to investigate and prosecute greyhound abuse (Doyle Higgins, Erica. "I'm not ashamed, it's business' - Irishman admits breeding and selling pug puppies destined for Asia." *The Irish Post*. July 24, 2017. <https://www.irishpost.com/news/im-not-ashamed-business-irishman-admits-breeding-selling-pug-puppies-destined-asia-130394>).

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94. Irish-bred greyhounds living in the UK are not the responsibility of either the IGB or the Irish government, but it is worth appreciating that the majority of these greyhounds that are subjected to poor kennel conditions in the UK began their lives in Ireland (Knight, Andrew. "Injuries in racing greyhounds." 2018. <http://www.andrewknight.info/resources/Publications/Entertainment/Greyhound-racing-Knight-2018.pdf>).
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97. "Press Release: Animal groups oppose Punjab dog racing." *GREY2K USA Worldwide*. August 9, 2011. <https://www.facebook.com/notes/grey2k-usa/press-release-animal-groups-oppose-punjab-dog-racing/368703284977/>.
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101. William Hill is planning to close 700 betting shops ("William Hill plans 700 store closures putting 4,500 jobs at risk." *BBC*. July 4, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-48868335>). On *Greyhound Data*, an internet forum dedicated to greyhound racing, Neil Fraser of the United Kingdom warns that, "It will end with the sport being run by bookmakers for bookmakers just as it is in the UK. We have the crazy situation where dogs are running throughout the day with hardly a paying customer coming through the gates." Carole Shinkwin of Ireland also commented, "Dogs in the UK [are] getting run 3 times a week, the majority of them [are] carrying injuries" ("BAGS Racing the New Way Forward in Ireland?" *Greyhound Data Forum*. July 16, 2018. <http://www.greyhound-data.com/knowledge.php?b=4¬e=1236956&order=&x=0>).
102. Currently eight different Irish tracks have weekly SIS meetings ("2019 Annual SIS Combined UK & Irish fixtures v3." *SIS*. <https://www.sis.tv/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-Annual-SIS-Combined-Greyhound-UK-Irish-Fixtures-v7.pdf>).
103. Clerkin, Malachy. "Early-morning greyhound racing gets underway but it's always bet o'clock somewhere." *The Irish Times*. December 12, 2018. <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/early-morning-greyhound-racing-gets-underway-but-it-s-always-bet-o-clock-some-where-1.3728873>.
104. These morning meetings are part of a twelve month trial. Dr. Robert Butler, Director of the Centre for Sports Economics, UCC, says that the Internet has allowed for the races to be global spectacles. Tony Walsh, Chairman of the IGOBF, contends the morning meetings will not save the industry as, just as in Britain, hardly anyone will attend the races ("RTÉ Investigates: Greyhounds Running For Their Lives," *RTÉ*). Sweeney, Peter. "A brave new dawn for Irish greyhound racing." *RTÉ*. December 12, 2018. <https://www.rte.ie/sport/other-sport/2018/12/12/1016841-a-brave-new-dawn-for-irish-greyhound-racing/>.
105. Only 66% of the pups which should be available for registration were actually registered between 2011 and 2015. An additional 28% of the pups registered to race, approximately 2,600 each year, have no race records. 52% of pups born in Ireland are either never registered to race or are registered to race but have no race records. This amounts to an average of 7,356 pups per year. With an average of 6,300-6,400 greyhounds entering and exiting the 3,600 greyhound dog pool each year, this means that the pool rotates nearly twice per year and the average greyhound's racing life is under seven months.
106. "I'm appalled at the Minister's response," Irish Council Against Bloodsports.
107. Ryan, Conor. "Conflicting attitude in greyhound board towards internal report." *RTÉ*. July 19, 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2019/07/18/1063949-greyhounds-rte-investigates/>.
108. Ryan, Conor. "Thousands of greyhounds 'culled each year' for not being fast enough." *RTÉ*. June 26, 2019. <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2019/06/26/1057535-greyhound-rte-investigates/>.
109. Loneragan, Aidan. "Almost 6,000 greyhounds killed in Ireland every year 'for being too slow,' RTÉ documentary reveals." *The Irish Post*. June 26, 2019. <https://www.irishpost.com/news/almost-6000-greyhounds-killed-ireland-every-year-slow-rte-documentary-reveals-168431>.
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111. The average attendance at greyhound meetings has fallen to 319. IGB CEO Gerard Dollard additionally told the Public Accounts Committee that only two stadiums are not losing money, saying, "The existing model from a financial sustainability perspective is problematic. Bottom line, looking at our own stadia, Shelbourne Park and Cork wash their face. All other stadia lose money." ("Attendance at greyhound tracks drops 20% after RTÉ expose," *The Irish Times*).
112. Bartley, Conor. "Protesters at Kilkenny greyhound track will call for total ban on the sport." *Kilkenny Now*. July 18, 2019. <https://kilkennynow.ie/protesters-at-kilkenny-greyhound-track-will-call-for-total-ban-on-the-sport/>.
113. Finn, Christina. "Ross calls for resignations over greyhound scandal saying it amounts to 'subsidised cruelty.'" *TheJournal.ie*. July 18, 2019. <https://www.thejournal.ie/greyhound-scandal-shane-ross-4729269-Jul2019/>.
114. News Highland. "Lifford Greyhound Stadium is set to close next week." *Highland Radio*. August 9, 2019. <https://www.highlandradio.com/2019/08/09/lifford-greyhound-stadium-is-set-to-close-next-week/>. In an interview published the next week, Lifford greyhound stadium owner Hugh Duffy accused the IGB of deliberately targeting the track until it was no longer sustainable ("Dog track owner bites at IGB over lack of support." *Donegal News*. August 15, 2019. <https://donegalnews.com/2019/08/dog-track-owner-bites-at-igb-over-lack-of-support/>).
115. O'Neil, Kevin. "Irish Greyhound Board CEO admits 'big ask to fix greyhound reputation.'" *Irish Examiner*. August 10, 2019. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/irish-greyhound-board-ceo-admits-big-ask-to-fix-greyhound-reputation-943028.html>.
116. McQuinn, Cormac. "Greyhound chiefs told their industry would be 'goosed' without €16m in State funds." *Irish Independent*. September 20, 2019. <https://www.independent.ie/sport/greyhounds/greyhound-chiefs-told-their-industry-would-be-goosed-without-16m-in-state-funds-38516077.html>.
117. O'Halloran, Marie. "Greyhound racing promotion stopped due to 'disgusting behavior' in sector – Ross." *The Irish Times*. October 3, 2019. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/oireachtas/greyhound-racing-promotion-stopped-due-to-disgusting-behaviour-in-sector-ross-1.4039470>.
118. "Andrew Doyle TD welcomes the expenditure allocations announced in Budget 2020." *EIN Newsdesk*. October 8, 2019. https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/498669727/andrew-doyle-td-welcomes-the-expenditure-allocations-announced-in-budget-2020.



Pirate from Ireland (Pet Levrieri)



GREY2K USA
WORLDWIDE

Formed in February of 2001, GREY2K USA Worldwide is the largest greyhound protection organization in the world. As a non-profit entity, the group promotes the adoption of ex-racers and works to pass laws to end the cruelty of dog racing across the globe.

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Founded in 1966, the Irish Council Against Blood Sports is a voluntary organisation campaigning against hunting wild animals with dogs and other cruel sports that exploit and abuse animals.

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