

The Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs Committee has issued a CALL FOR VIEWS in relation to our petition for a ban on greyhound racing in Scotland.

They are asking for views on the report recently published by the **Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC)**. This report stops short of recommending a full ban therefore **SAGE** does not agree with its conclusions.

There are only 3 questions to answer. We've outlined OUR main points below

Q1: What is your view about the welfare of greyhounds used for racing in Scotland?

In the last five years **22,767 dogs** have been **injured** and **3,425 dogs killed** as a result of racing on regulated tracks

- Dogs are discarded in their thousands when they are no longer fast enough or are injured, often at the age of just 2 or 3. Dogs can be killed "on economic grounds" at the end of their racing life if their trainer is not prepared to pay for injuries to be treated
- Quality of life while racing can be very low - living in kennels with no enrichment, poor physical care and nutrition, lack of socialisation
- There is clear evidence of dogs being doped to influence race outcomes – including at least 15 positive drug tests at Shawfield in Glasgow with substances including amphetamines, cocaine and betablockers.
- In Scotland, the last remaining track Thornton in Fife is completely unregulated, meaning there are no drug tests performed, there is no traceability of the dogs used here, and there is never a vet present to attend to injuries at the track. There is also no injury or retirement data for this unregulated track but we believe all the risks are the same here therefore rates of injury and death will likely be comparable, if not worse.

Q2: Do you agree with the petition which calls for a ban on greyhound racing in Scotland? Please explain your reasons for your answer.

For all the reasons outlined above, we feel that only a ban on greyhound racing protects the dog. Even hypothetically if all other harms could be prevented, it is a fact that racing six dogs at 40mph round a narrow, oval track results in a high rate of collisions and injuries, many of which are not compatible with life. For this reason **A BAN IS THE ONLY WAY** to prevent more greyhounds being injured and losing their lives through this pursuit for human entertainment.

Q3: Do you agree with the recommendations of the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission report? Please explain your reasons for your answer.

While we welcome the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission's call for no more tracks to be opened in Scotland in future, their proposal for independent regulation of the last remaining track is not the right strategy. As above, dogs are still injured, drugged and killed on regulated tracks throughout the UK – **REGULATION DOES NOT PROTECT THE DOGS**. Therefore we do not agree with all aspects of the SAWC report. We only support a ban on all forms of greyhound racing in Scotland, and hope that you will too.

HELP US BE THEIR VOICE