

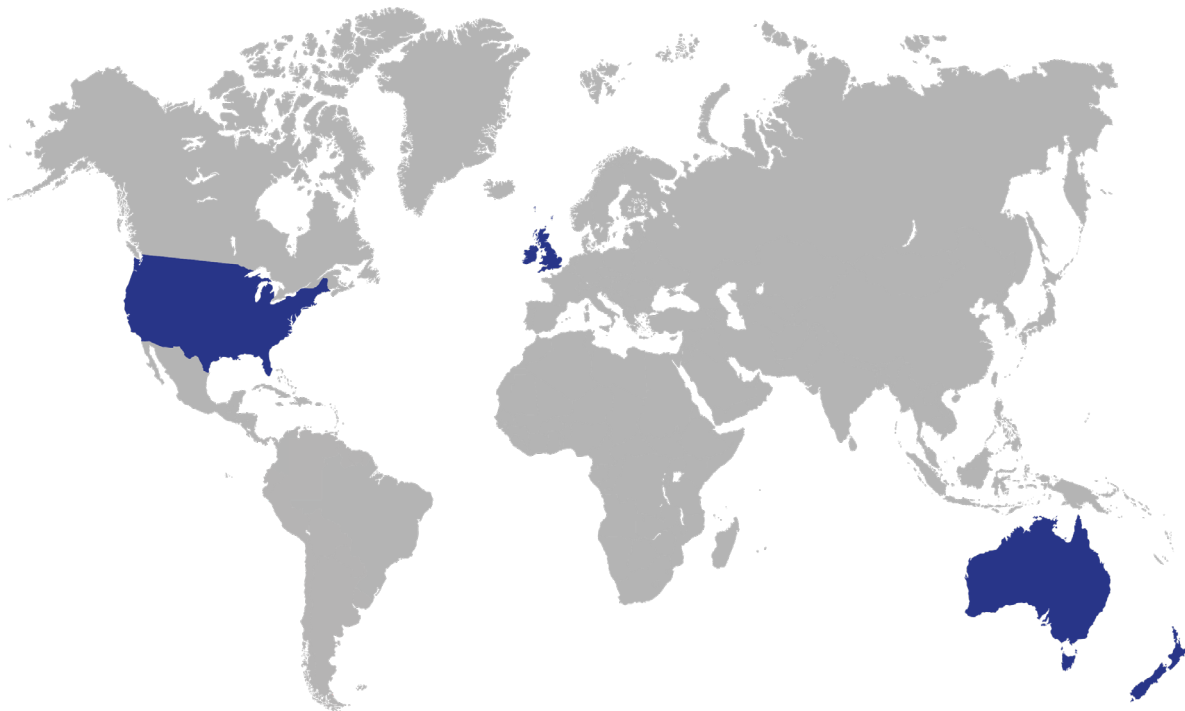
The Greyhound Industry on the World Stage



Commercial greyhound racing exists in four countries and the United Kingdom at 109 tracks worldwide.¹ First invented in the United States, commercial racing is typically characterized by a regulating authority, state-sanctioned gambling, an industrialized breeding apparatus, a greyhound tattoo identification system, organized kennel operations, and a network of public racetracks.

Dog racing is currently legal and operational in the United States, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.² Even within these national jurisdictions, commercial racing has been outlawed in individual states, most recently Connecticut in the USA.³ Additionally, New Zealand announced in December 2024 that dog racing will be phased out by July 2026.⁴ Non-commercial dog racing is also known to exist in twenty-one countries.⁵

Countries where greyhound racing is legal and active



Caged greyhound in New Zealand

Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane

Each year, the greyhound industry worldwide breeds at least 7,000 greyhound litters for the sole purpose of gambling.⁶ This amounts to a minimum of 42,000 greyhound pups per year, including the thousands who never get named and are omitted from industry record keeping.

Though not every jurisdiction functions identically, racing greyhounds are subject to practices that are cruel and inhumane: lives of confinement, serious racing injuries, and the threat of “culling” at every stage of life.

Tens of thousands of dogs are bred for this cruel industry



Puppies from a breeding farm in the United States

The majority of racing greyhounds are bred in Ireland, Australia, and the United States, respectively. Each jurisdiction breeds thousands of greyhounds per year for its own tracks, as well as secondary jurisdictions.

Ireland reported 1,691 litters in 2023.⁷ Using the conservative estimate of six pups per litter, the industry bred approximately 10,146 greyhounds that year. In 2021, there were 12,960 Irish bred puppies registered at the time of whelping yet approximately 10% were not registered at 12

months of age meaning over 1,000 puppies were unaccounted for.⁸ Approximately 6,250 greyhounds that are bred in Ireland are exported to the UK each year, sold for prices that are 50% the cost of production.⁹ Each year, some 6,000 excess Irish greyhounds are known to be culled.¹⁰ Additionally, older racing greyhounds have been known to be exported to Argentina, Pakistan, and Spain — all countries where dogs are routinely killed and discarded.¹¹

Australia reported 10,178 greyhounds bred to race in 2023.¹² The Australian dog racing industry is breeding roughly six times as many greyhounds as there is capacity to home.¹³

Australia regularly sends greyhounds to New Zealand, where 1,268 greyhounds were exported between 2016 and 2023.¹⁴ In addition, 400 Australian greyhounds were sent to race and die in Macau each year, until the Canidrome was finally ordered closed in 2018.¹⁵

The United States reported 565 litters in 2020 and a total of 4,898 greyhounds were registered to race.

Greyhounds endure lives of confinement

The vast majority of commercial racing greyhounds endure lives of terrible confinement. Dogs live in warehouse-style kennels, side by side; and in jurisdictions like the US, in stacked cages. They are confined for long hours each day with bedding that ranges from carpet scraps and shredded newspaper to burlap sacks.¹⁶

Greyhounds are “turned out” two to five times per day, depending on the jurisdiction. At the Canidrome in Macau, dogs were let out twice a day to relieve



A greyhound in an Australian kennel

themselves but stayed in their cages for upwards of twenty-three hours a day.¹⁷ In the United States, dogs are confined for twenty hours or more with intermittent turn outs and races about once every four days.¹⁸

Greyhounds suffer serious injuries while racing

At dog tracks worldwide, greyhounds routinely suffer serious injuries. However, only some jurisdictions regularly publish injury data. The West Virginia Racing Commission produces injury data subject to public request. The Australian states of New South Wales, Tasmania, Western Australia, and Queensland started publishing injury data in 2015, 2016, 2016, and 2018 respectively. Ireland began publishing injury data in 2015 and New Zealand began doing so in 2020. Reported injuries include broken legs, crushed skulls, seizures, paralysis, broken backs, and death by electrocution.



A dog falls at a race track in the United States

In the United States, 7,999 injuries were reported from 2015 through 2024.¹⁹ According to all state injury and death reporting, at least 567 racing greyhounds have died since 2015.²⁰

In Australia, from 2016 through 2023, 55,732 injuries were identified, and 19,207 greyhounds have been reported dead by the industry.²¹

In the United Kingdom, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain was not required to report injuries until 2017. Between 2017 and 2023, 31,359 greyhound injuries were documented, including 1,230 track fatalities.²²

In Ireland, between 2015 and 2023, 3,041 injuries were documented, including 1,125 track fatalities.²³

New Zealand identified 2,622 greyhound injuries during the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 financial years. From 2014 through 2023, 2,937 greyhounds were reported dead.²⁴

The Australian states of the Northern Territory, South Australia, and Victoria do not collate individual greyhound injuries, but stewards reports can be manually reviewed to tally figures.

Death is a common fate for greyhounds

Death is an all-too-common fate for racing greyhounds. Dogs that aren't fast enough or have sustained a severe injury are removed from the racing pool. At best, this situation can result in physical rehabilitation and adoption, but far too often owners and trainers simply destroy unwanted dogs.

In Australia, a 2015 internal industry memo from Greyhounds Australasia CEO Scott Parker stated that as many as 17,000 healthy greyhounds were killed each year.²⁵

The 2016 "Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry" found that at least 50% of the greyhounds whelped were deliberately killed for not being fast enough, and that 40% of greyhounds whelped never made it to the track.²⁶

In New South Wales, Australia, a 2016 Parliamentary investigation revealed evidence that suggests as many as 68,448 greyhounds had been killed over a twelve-year period because “they were considered too slow to pay their way or were unsuitable for racing.”²⁷ A few days after this analysis was released, a greyhound mass grave was discovered at the Keinbah Trial Track near Cessnock.²⁸ Almost 100 greyhounds had been killed there “with a blow to the head, from either a gunshot or a blunt instrument.”²⁹

In 2017/18 and 2018/19, an estimated 4,000 greyhounds disappeared annually in New South Wales. This number represents the thousands of greyhounds difference between the number of greyhounds due for retirement and the much smaller number of greyhounds adopted.³⁰ Between 2015/16 and 2022/23, 4,355 New South Wales greyhounds were destroyed.³¹



Greyhound skeletons in a mass grave in Australia

In Victoria, Australia, the racing body released its Annual Report for 2015/16 which revealed that 3,157 greyhounds had been destroyed during the year.³² Greyhound Racing Victoria also indicated that an even higher number had been “euthanized” in years prior.³³ Annual Reports for the years 2016/17-2022/23 reveal an additional 4,887 greyhounds were destroyed trackside over this period.³⁴

In Queensland, Australia, a mass grave was discovered by the Greyhound Racing Industry Task Force in Bundaberg.³⁵ Investigators discovered fifty- five greyhound skeletons of

dogs which “may have been beaten to death.”³⁶ Two months later, a Queensland government inquiry into greyhound racing found that the “wastage rate” within the greyhound industry was unacceptably high.³⁷ The inquiry demonstrated that between 2003 and 2013 the greyhound industry produced a surplus of “7,263 (average of 660 per year) or 30 per cent of [all] greyhounds whelped.”³⁸ The report described these extra greyhounds as “unaccounted for.”³⁹

A November 2018 ABC report revealed that hundreds of Queensland greyhounds continue to be killed. In the 2017/18 financial year, 446 greyhounds were destroyed, and an estimated 7,000 greyhounds were unaccounted for.⁴⁰ From 2018/19-2022/2023, an additional 2,021 Queensland greyhounds were destroyed.⁴¹

In Tasmania, Australia, an industry report entitled “Review of Arrangements for Animal Welfare in the Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Industry” found that during the 2013/14 racing season and the 2014/15 racing season, 753 greyhounds were killed by both the industry and by the industry adoption program itself.⁴² In the years 2016/17-2022/23, an additional 2,021 greyhounds were destroyed or died.⁴³

In South Australia, Australia, Greyhound Racing SA released a media statement under pressure from the public in September 2016. In it, the CEO admitted that in the last fiscal year 2015/16, 535 greyhounds were destroyed or died.⁴⁴ From 2016/17-2022/23, 1,256 greyhounds were destroyed or died.⁴⁵

In Western Australia, Australia, 1,437 greyhounds were destroyed between 2015/16 and 2022/23.⁴⁶

In New Zealand, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee assesses that as many as 300 greyhounds are destroyed each year.⁴⁷ The 2017 “Report to New Zealand Racing Board on Welfare Issues Affecting Greyhound Racing in New Zealand” found that 1,447 greyhounds were destroyed between 2013-2014 and 2016-2017.⁴⁸ Annual Reports from 2017/18 thru 2020/23 reveal that 1,490 greyhounds have been destroyed over six years.⁴⁹



David Smith of the United Kingdom burying ex-racing greyhounds
other reasons such as treatment costs or being designated as unsuitable for adoption.⁵⁵

In Ireland, 6,000 greyhounds are killed each year for not being fast enough.⁵⁰ Between 2015 and 2023, an additional 1,125 greyhounds were killed at Irish tracks.⁵¹ And in the first six months of 2024, deaths at Irish dog tracks increased by 60% to 96 hounds.⁵²

In the United Kingdom, building merchant David Smith was discovered in 2006 to have killed an estimated 10,000 greyhounds in his backyard with a bolt gun.⁵³ He was paid £10 per dog and buried them in a pit on his property.⁵⁴ In addition to 1,230 track fatalities, between 2017 and 2023, 3,015 greyhounds were reported as killed for

The full extent of greyhound deaths may never be known, but the current figures confirm a grim reality: thousands upon thousands of greyhounds are destroyed each year because it is expedient for industry participants to do so.

Hundreds of cases of cruelty and neglect have been documented around the world

The worldwide commercial racing industry has a well-documented history of animal welfare issues and abuse. These include starvation, drugging, mutilation, and abandonment.

- In Australia, NSW greyhound breeder Trevor Rice bashed four greyhounds in the head with a sledgehammer. The bodies of the dogs were found buried in his garden. After an investigation by the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission, he was banned from the industry in February 2024.⁵⁶
- In May 2022, it was revealed that eight greyhounds linked to New Zealand’s largest greyhound breeder John Mclerney were offloaded to an adoption kennel with severe signs for neglect and mistreatment, including examples of blindness, open wounds, bite marks, old injuries left untreated, lacerations, and severe worms. The next day, Newshub revealed up to 300 improvement notices were sent to “almost all the kennels in New Zealand, with failures including unvaccinated dogs, unapproved medications administered, incomplete treatment records, and an increase in dental issues.”⁵⁷
- In 2020 and 2021, GREY2K USA Worldwide documented live lure training in the four key America greyhound breeding states of Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Live lure training or baiting,

also called “blooding,” refers to the use of small animals to excite and enhance a chase instinct in young dogs. Screaming rabbits were dangled before greyhounds, dragged in front of them on ropes, or simply set loose to be attacked and killed. Twelve industry participants were observed, including a deputy sheriff and his daughter, as well as Ursula O’Donnell, who had previously escaped prosecution as part of a conspiracy to kill thousands of Florida greyhounds in 2001. O’Donnell was filmed live baiting in a field just outside the headquarters of the National Greyhound Association in Abilene. Authorities have refused to take action against any of these perpetrators.⁵⁸

- On May 5, 2017, Florida investigators conducted an inspection of Blanchard Kennels, owned and operated by National Greyhound Association (NGA) Director James Blanchard. Blanchard initially advised his staff to refuse entry, although investigators were eventually allowed to inspect the kennels. They discovered three greyhounds with expired vaccination records and an additional 43 greyhounds missing proof of vaccinations. Blanchard was also unable to provide a kennel roster for greyhounds with expired vaccination records and an additional 43 greyhounds missing proof of vaccinations. Blanchard was also unable to provide a kennel roster for greyhounds in either of his two kennel buildings, and could not produce dates of receipt and release, greyhound names, tattoo numbers, names of owners, names of trainers, nor the names and license numbers for those transporting the greyhounds, as required by the racing code.⁵⁹
- In January of 2017 in South Australia, greyhound handler Tony Rasmussen was televised sexually stimulating a greyhound before a race, which resulted in a \$1,000 fine.⁶⁰
- In October of 2016, Florida kennel operator Michael Klingbeil discovered his greyhound BC Diablo Sam looking “lethargic, drawn, and dehydrated” prior to a race. Instead of seeking veterinary care or withdrawing his dog from the race, he administered his own medical care and raced the dog anyway. After the race, BC Diablo Sam was found dead in his crate. Though he was originally charged with failing to treat his dog humanely, he and Florida regulators agreed to a stipulated order in which he only acknowledged wrongfully possessing a hypodermic needle.⁶¹



A racing greyhound in Ireland

- In July of 2016, in New South Wales, Australia, kennel operator Robert Newstead was caught on film using an electric cattle prod on a greyhound before a race, an action which resulted in a 15-month suspension.⁶²
- In April of 2016, West Virginia kennel operator Taylor Jones was found keeping greyhounds in very dirty conditions. Greyhounds were sleeping in wet urine-soaked beds, and she was found to be keeping restricted medical supplies in her kennel. For all of this, Jones was given a warning.⁶³
- On December 9, 2015, ABC’s 7.30 program aired an investigation into greyhound exports from Australia to China and Vietnam in which reporters uncovered a 100% death rate for these greyhounds.⁶⁴

- On February 16, 2015, ABC's Four Corners program released "Making a Killing," a damning exposé into the widespread practice of live-baiting in Australia.⁶⁶ Small animals like piglets, opossums and rabbits were routinely used as lures to 'blood' the greyhounds by some of the country's most prominent industry participants.⁶⁵
- On November 3, 2014, BBC Panorama released an undercover report of race fixing in the greyhound racing industry in Great Britain.⁶⁶
- On October 27, 2014, French port authorities discovered the bodies of eleven Irish greyhounds who had suffocated in the cargo hold of the ferry Oscar Wilde.⁶⁷ They were being exported from Ireland to Spain by way of France.⁶⁸
- On March 6, 2013, 3 News of New Zealand released its program "Let Me Entertain You" during which several industry participants admitted to the killing of hundreds of healthy greyhounds.⁶⁹ The reporter also called into question the use of the word "retired" as a euphemism for "euthanized."⁷⁰
- On April 10, 2012 in County Limerick, Ireland, six greyhounds were found dead, after having been shot in the head and dumped in a quarry.⁷¹ The dogs were traced back to their owner John Corkerey, who admitted he had arranged to destroy the dogs after a poor performance at their racing trials.⁷²
- On October 29, 2010, Florida's Division of Pari- Mutuel Wagering investigators reported the discovery of thirty-two grossly emaciated dead dogs and five barely alive at the Ebro dog track.⁷³ Kennel operator Ronald John Williams was charged with thirty-seven counts of felony animal cruelty.⁷⁴ The bodies of eight more dead dogs were found at William's home, bringing the total up to forty.⁷⁵

Greyhounds test positive for serious drugs



Kiowa Amage Me tested positive for cocaine in the United States in 2015

Greyhounds routinely test positive for serious, prohibited drugs. Doping agents like cocaine, EPO, morphine, and amphetamines are found in greyhounds with alarming regularity. Though the industry often chalks up these occurrences to tainted food or the actions of a few bad apples, the doping problem runs deep in the racing culture. The Association of Racing Commissioners International, an industry group that works to promote integrity in the horse and greyhound racing business, includes nearly 900 prohibited drugs on its official control list.⁷⁶

Five racing countries have regulatory frameworks in place to handle drug screening — the US, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the UK.⁷⁷

Since 2008, GREY2K USA Worldwide has obtained over 600 drug-related rulings from American racetracks.⁷⁸

Racing greyhound have tested positive for a variety of serious drugs including cocaine and oxycodone.⁷⁹ Additionally, greyhound trainers have themselves tested positive for cocaine and marijuana, and drug paraphernalia for both dogs and humans has been confiscated in greyhound kennels.⁸⁰



Melinda Finn of Australia was disqualified for doping greyhounds with the hormone EPO

In the UK, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain has reported 318 greyhound drug positives between 2016-2022. The GBGB introduced a Point of Registration scheme in 2017, where a greyhound is screened prior to taking part in its first race. Between 2017-2022, and additionally, 363 positive samples in greyhounds were detected at POR.⁸¹ These include stanozolol, barbiturates, and morphine.⁸² Stanozolol is a synthetic anabolic steroid and has been banned for its performance-enhancing influence. Barbiturates are central nervous system depressants and are serious performance-affecting drugs. Morphine has been used as a masking agent in greyhounds to make dogs less aware of any injuries they may have.

In Scotland, a December 2016 newspaper investigation found that race fixing with drugs occurred with regularity at the non-registered “flapping” tracks.⁸³ A trainer admitted to giving his dog valoids to slow him down, waiting a few races until the betting odds were favorable, then taking him off the drugs to result in a faster race pace.⁸⁴ Scottish greyhounds have continued to be drugged: one trainer’s greyhounds tested positive have occurred at Shawfield Stadium since 2009, including five for cocaine.⁸⁵

Greyhound Racing Ireland posted 243 greyhound drug positives between 2012 and 2023 in the form of Control Committee Reports and Adverse Analytical Findings.⁸⁶ These include cocaine, amphetamine, and pentobarbital positives.⁸⁷ While cocaine and amphetamine are known as dangerous performance-enhancing drugs, pentobarbital is a performance-reducing drug. In large doses, it is lethal and appears in nearly 20% of all GRI drug positives.⁸⁸

In New Zealand, the Racing Integrity Unit found fifty-four greyhound drug positives from 2014 to 2023.⁸⁹ According to New Zealand’s Judicial Control Authority, some of these positives were morphine.⁹⁰ Additionally, two greyhound trainers tested positive for cannabis.⁹¹ Five of the positives in 2022 were for methamphetamine.

In Australia, each state and territory has a regulatory agency. These agencies have reported hundreds of greyhound drug positives since 2008. In Queensland, greyhounds have tested positive for amphetamine, morphine, and pentobarbitone, a fast-acting barbiturate.⁹²

In New South Wales, greyhounds have tested positive for EPO, amphetamine, and codeine.⁹³ Between 2015 and April 2018, 201 greyhounds have tested positive for drugs in New South Wales.⁹⁴ In Victoria, eight greyhounds tested positive for codeine and morphine in 2016.⁹⁵ In Tasmania, greyhounds have tested positive for caffeine and cobalt.⁹⁶ In South Australia, greyhounds have tested positive for amphetamine and cobalt.⁹⁷

Additionally, greyhounds in Australia test positive for unusual drugs. In Queensland, a greyhound tested positive for Desvenlafaxine, a drug normally used to treat depression and which isn't used at all in veterinary medicine.⁹⁸ In Western Australia, a greyhound tested positive for Fertagyl, a drug normally used in cows to control estrus cycles.⁹⁹

Trends in global greyhound gambling

In the United States, \$388.33 million was wagered in 2022, a reduction of 29% since 2016.

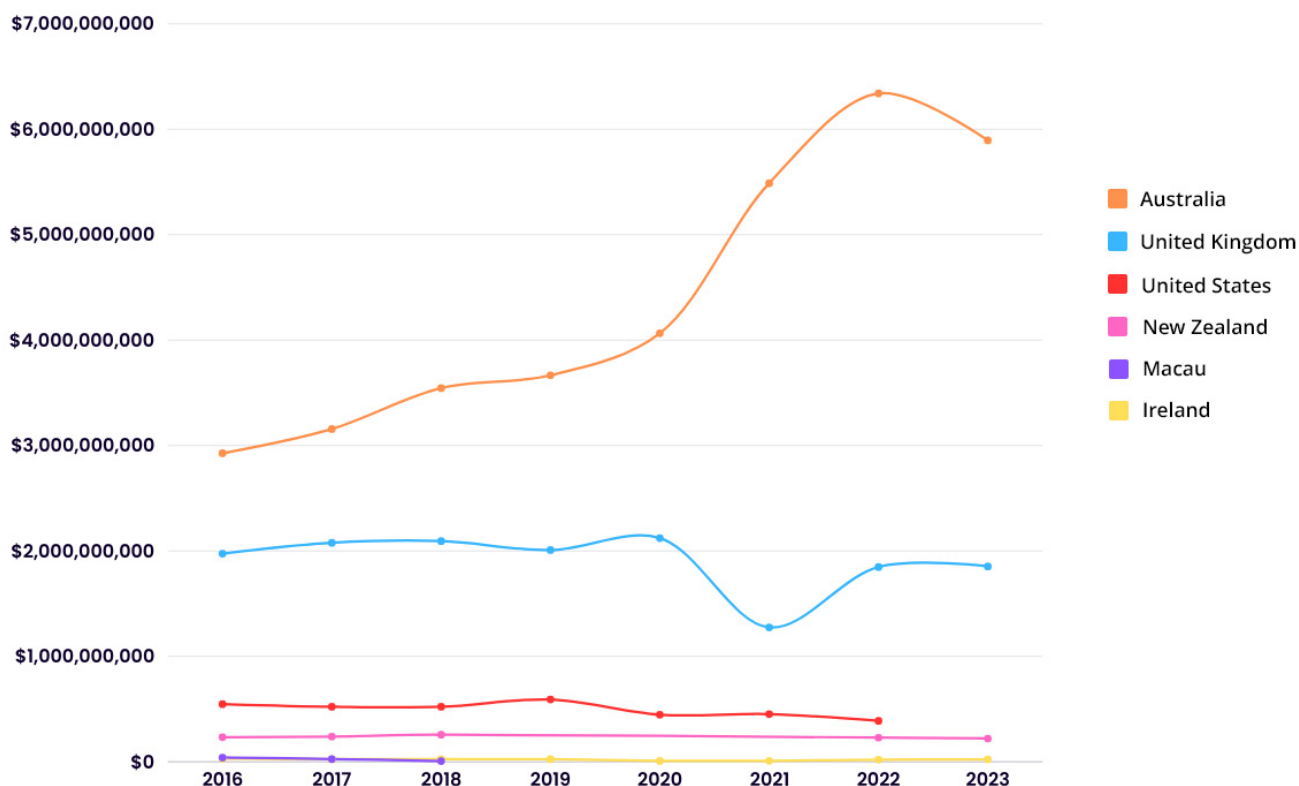
In the United Kingdom, \$1.85 billion (£1.49 billion) was wagered in 2023, amounting to roughly 20% of the worldwide handle. Turnover has declined 14% from 2.12 billion (£1.71 billion) registered in 2020.

British greyhound wagering is also trending away from on course and off course betting at the track and betting shops, and towards internet wagering. This shift has resulted in a reduction in gross gambling yield, the amount retained by gambling operators, because gambling operators retain an even lower percentage of the turnover when bets are placed remotely.¹⁰⁰

Between 2016 and 2023, turnover in New Zealand has declined from \$233.39 million (NZD382.61 million) to \$220.64 million (NZD361.71 million)¹⁰¹

In Macau's final year of racing, 2017, \$26.16 million (MOP218 million) was wagered, a decline of 86.86% from its peak in 2010.¹⁰²

Total Amount Gambled on Live and Simulcast Dog Racing



Australia is the lone jurisdiction where gambling on greyhound racing has not been stagnant or declining for many years. Wagering on Australian greyhound racing accounts for roughly 70% of all bets placed on dog racing worldwide. In 2023 wagering on greyhound racing in Australia declined by 7.1%, from \$6.34 billion (A\$ 8.93 billion) to \$5.89 billion (A\$ 8.3 billion). Before this drop, dog racing betting had increased for several years.

Wagering in the Australian states of South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia all declined between 2021 and 2023. These three states combine for just 6% of all bets placed on Australian dog tracks.

Greyhound Racing Ireland reported \$23.32 million (€22 million) in total racing turnover in 2023, a decline of 22% since 2016.¹⁰³

Racetracks are closing

Since GREY2K USA Worldwide began its US campaign in 2001, forty-seven American dog tracks have closed or ceased live racing.¹⁰⁴ Most recently, Connecticut became the forty-third state to outlaw dog racing outright.

The UK once had at least seventy-seven licensed tracks. Now only twenty-two operate there, with historic Crayford having closed in January 2025.¹⁰⁵

New Zealand once operated thirteen tracks and now maintains only six. The racing minister has announced his intention to outlaw these tracks by 2026.

Once numbering over 100, Australia's tracks have continued to close. Today, the country has sixty-four greyhound tracks.¹⁰⁶

The greyhound racing industry is dying. Around the world, dozens of tracks have closed and continue to close. One hundred eleven commercial tracks currently exist, and more are slated to close in the near future.¹⁰⁷



69%
of Australians
oppose taxpayer
funds supporting
dog racing

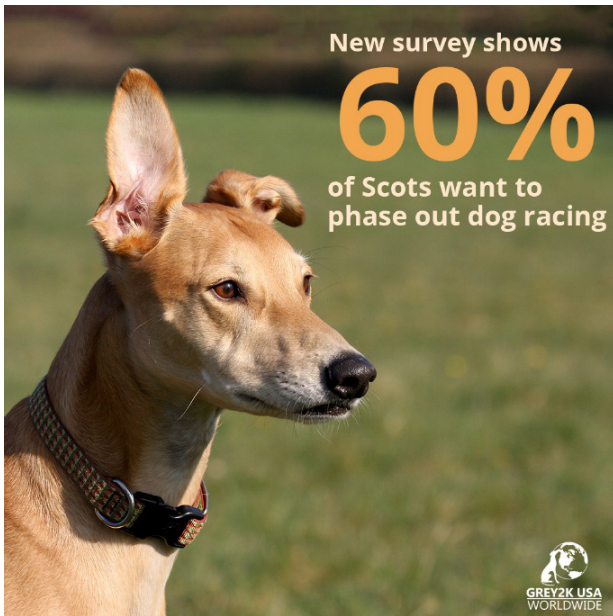
In Mexico, the only legal dog track, Agua Caliente Racetrack, closed its doors in July 2024.

In China, the Canidrome was ordered to close by the Macau government In July 2018.¹⁰⁸ This was the only legal dog track in the entire country.

The world community opposes dog racing

All public polling shows that communities that are propping up dog racing are opposed to doing so.

In the United States, per 2019 polling, 81% of West Virginia voters oppose subsidizing its two dog tracks. In Oregon and North Dakota, the two states with greyhound bet processing hubs, over 70% of voters oppose their states being used to facilitate dog race bets.



In Australia, a 2022 survey showed 57% of Australians wanted to end dog racing versus 34% that wished to keep it legal, and 69% opposed to publicly subsidizing it. 2023 polling in Tasmania revealed opposition is over 60% in its state with just 11% supportive, and 79% opposed to taxpayer funding.

In Scotland, 60% of Scots believe lawmakers should vote to phase out dog racing versus 20% opposed. In Wales, a nearly identical 57% support lawmakers voting to end dog racing versus 21% opposed.

In Ireland, 2019 polling found 66% of voters wanted the Irish government to stop funding dog racing versus just 16% opposed.

And in New Zealand, 74% of voters would vote to prohibit greyhound racing, and only 9% believe greyhounds bred for racing live a good life.

Greyhound racing and its attendant cruelties violate the values of our world community and should be prohibited.

Last updated January 24, 2025

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