



The First International Conference on Greyhound Advocacy · Delray Beach, Florida USA · October 15, 2016 · [grey2kusa.org/greyglobe](http://grey2kusa.org/greyglobe)

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Honorable Leaders,

On behalf of some of the largest greyhound and animal protection organizations in the world, we urge you to endorse legislation to end the cruelty of greyhound racing in your country. Across the globe, greyhound racing is a dying industry that is inherently cruel to dogs. When first invented in the United States in 1919, it could not be understood that thousands upon thousands of dogs would suffer and die. Records were not kept of track injuries or deaths and the public could not know the final fate of racing dogs.

According to government records now available, common racing injuries include broken necks and broken backs, dislocations, torn muscles, and paralysis. Electrocutions have also occurred when dogs make contact with a track's high voltage lure. Some dogs die while racing while others are put down due to the severity of their injuries, or simply because of their diminished value as racers. Current records show that over 12,000 injuries have been reported in the US alone since 2008 and that one in twelve injured dogs has died.<sup>i</sup> Meanwhile in New South Wales, a newly-released government report shows that thirty-nine dogs were killed while racing in a recent 79-day period, and that 70% of all racing dogs may have been destroyed over the last dozen years – as either puppies or failed racers.<sup>ii</sup> At Macau's Canidrome, the only legal dog track in China, greyhounds receive little or no veterinary care and are routinely killed at a rate of thirty per month. Because there is no adoption program, no dog gets out alive.<sup>iii</sup> In the countries of Great Britain, Mexico and New Zealand, records are still not publicly disclosed, so the numbers of greyhound injuries and deaths remain an industry secret.

When not racing these gentle dogs often endure lives of terrible confinement. In the United Kingdom, it has been estimated that racing greyhounds spend as much as 95% of their time inside their kennel cages.<sup>iv</sup> In the United States, dogs are kept inside warehouse-style kennels, in rows of stacked cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. American greyhounds are confined in this fashion for twenty or more hours each day, with two exceptions: (1) a few times per month, they are removed and taken to a racetrack to compete and (2) a few times per day, greyhounds are turned out in large groups by gender and allowed to relieve themselves. These turn-outs account for a total cumulative period of no more than three to five hours per day.<sup>v</sup>

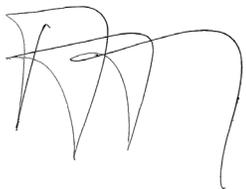
Wherever dog racing exists, the diet of racing greyhounds is based on inexpensive meat obtained from dying, diseased, disabled and dead livestock. Known as “knackery” meat, it has been deemed unfit for human consumption. This rejected scrap meat is referred to as “4-D” by the United States Department of Agriculture and exposes greyhounds to pathogenic microorganisms, including Salmonella, Campylobacter jejuni and Escherichia coli. The USDA also cautions of a potential health hazard to people who handle such meat, but short cuts like this are not uncommon in the economically-challenged greyhound racing business.<sup>vi</sup>

The well-documented decline of greyhound racing has been ongoing for years, and media outlets have long reported the spiraling collapse of this cruel industry. Between 2001 and 2014, the total amount gambled on American greyhound racing declined by 70%. Additionally, the number of tracks has been cut by two-thirds.<sup>vii</sup> In the United Kingdom, the last London stadium has announced its closure and like many dog tracks before it, will be re-purposed for mixed housing and retail operations. This follows a 58% decline in betting on dogs since 2000.<sup>viii</sup> In Ireland, gambling losses of more than 50% have been reported in the last seven years, and the racing regulator now maintains debts and deficits exceeding €30 million.<sup>ix</sup> The Macau track reported a decrease in profit of 82% in 2015 and like Ireland’s tracks, only survives with government assistance including tax breaks.<sup>x</sup> Jamaica refused to legalize dog racing in 2009 and South Africa followed in 2010, citing both the poor economics and humane problems associated with the activity.<sup>xi</sup> The trend is definitely with the greyhounds and follows a growing concern for the welfare of all dogs which truly transcends national boundaries and cultures.

Thankfully, citizens around the globe are now informed about the problems with greyhound racing and lawmakers are responding. In May, Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation to prohibit dog racing in his state, declaring that “[g]reyhound racing has run its course in Arizona. It’s heartening that these beautiful greyhounds will soon be off the track and into loving homes.”<sup>xii</sup> Weeks later, Premier Michael Baird of New South Wales announced his own prohibition, making it clear that “[a]s a humane Government, we are left with no acceptable course of action except to close this industry down.”<sup>xiii</sup> Although the government has since decided to allow a small segment of the industry to continue, dozens of Australian dog tracks will soon close thanks to the passage of this legislation.

As of 2016, dog racing is legal and operational in the eight jurisdictions of Australia, Ireland, Macau (SAR of China), Mexico, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam. On behalf of greyhound advocates worldwide, we urge you to support legislation to ensure that this cruelty ends in your country. We believe that dogs deserve better.

Please respond to Christine Dorchak, President of GREY2K USA Worldwide. She may be reached at [christine@grey2kusa.org](mailto:christine@grey2kusa.org). Thank you for your attention to this important issue.



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<sup>1</sup> GREY2K USA Worldwide and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, High Stakes: Greyhound Racing in the United States (Arlington, MA: GREY2K USA Worldwide, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW, available online at <http://www.greyhoundracinginquiry.justice.nsw.gov.au/>.

<sup>3</sup> Macau News, Group holds vigil to call for axing of greyhound races, January 10, 2015, available online at [http://grey2kusa.org/pdf/10-1-2015\\_Macau\\_News.pdf](http://grey2kusa.org/pdf/10-1-2015_Macau_News.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> League Against Cruel Sports and GREY2K USA Worldwide, The state of greyhound racing in Great Britain, a Mandate for Change (Goldalming, United Kingdom: League Against Cruel Sports, 2014).

<sup>5</sup> GREY2K USA Worldwide, Fact Sheet: Greyhounds Endure Lives of Confinement, April 23, 2014, available online <http://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K%20USA%20Confinement%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> GREY2K USA Worldwide, Fact Sheet: The Use of 4-D Meat in the Greyhound Racing Industry, October 2, 2014, available online at <http://www.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K%20USA%204-D%20Meat%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Association of Racing Commissioners International, Pari-Mutuel Wagering: A Statistical Summary (Lexington, KY: Association of Racing Commissioners International, 2008-2014).

<sup>8</sup> Nich Moore, Greyhound Racing Goes to the Dogs in London, Gaming Zion, August 24, 2016, available online at <http://www.gamingzion.com/gamblingnews/greyhound-racing-goes-to-the-dogs-in-london-9978>.

<sup>9</sup> PETETHEVET blog, Greyhound Racing: after the ban in NSW, could Ireland and UK be next?, August 31, 2016, available online at <https://www.petethevet.com/greyhound-racing-after-the-ban-in-nsw-could-ireland-and-the-uk-be-next/>.

<sup>10</sup> Nelson Moura, Canidrome's annual profits plummet 82% y-o-y, Macau Business Daily, July 29, 2016, available online at [http://macaubusinessdaily.com/Business/Canidrome%E2%80%99s-annual-profits-plummet-82-pct-y-o-y-; Kylie Knott, Thirty dogs killed a month at a Macau's Canidrome and adoption program a sham, claims animal rights activist, South China Morning Post, April 4, 2015, available online at <http://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/article/1775215/thirty-dogs-killed-month-macaus-canidrome-and-adoption-programme-sham>.](http://macaubusinessdaily.com/Business/Canidrome%E2%80%99s-annual-profits-plummet-82-pct-y-o-y-; Kylie Knott, Thirty dogs killed a month at a Macau's Canidrome and adoption program a sham, claims animal rights activist, South China Morning Post, April 4, 2015, available online at http://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/article/1775215/thirty-dogs-killed-month-macaus-canidrome-and-adoption-programme-sham)

<sup>11</sup> Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica, letter to GREY2K USA dated February 26, 2009 (on file with author), Gambling Review Commission, Review of the South African gambling industry and its regulation, September 2010.

<sup>12</sup> Office of Arizona Governor Doug Ducey Press Release, GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY SINGS LEGISLATION TO END LIVE RACING IN ARIZONA, May 13, 2016, available online at [www.azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2016/05/governor-doug-ducey-signs-legislation-end-live-dog-racing-arizona](http://www.azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2016/05/governor-doug-ducey-signs-legislation-end-live-dog-racing-arizona).

<sup>13</sup> NSW Ministerial Releases: Greyhound Racing to be Shut Down in NSW, July 7, 2016, available online at <http://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/Pages/media-news/media-releases/2016/Greyhound-Racing-to-be-Shut-Down-in-NSW.aspx> (noting worldwide trend).