

19 March 2022

Say No to Greyhound Racing - submission in relation to petition PE1758: End greyhound racing in Scotland

Say No to Greyhound Racing are an associate member of the Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare and Christine Grahame MSP kindly wrote on our behalf to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain to request injury and death data for Shawfield stadium in Glasgow. This is the first time that statistics have ever been produced for an individual track in the UK and make for shocking reading. Despite GBGB's promises in 2018 to drive down injuries and deaths within 5 years, it is extremely disturbing to see that the injury data from 2018 onwards has increased year on year and that in 2019 and 2020, Shawfield's numbers are higher than the national statistics. Please see the attached table below.

This group fought tirelessly to stop the proposed new track in Wallyford, East Lothian and in 2021 the developer, Howard Wallace and Sirius Sport and Leisure, finally submitted a 'change of use' application to East Lothian Council which was approved by ELC. We think it important that you note his comments regarding greyhound racing contained within that application and attach below an extract from the planning application. Mr Wallace recently sold Longford track in Ireland but still owns and races dogs in Ireland.

We would also like you to note our concern about Scottish kennels who regularly transport greyhounds long distances to tracks in England and in particular, one kennel in Airdrie who travels with dogs to Wolverhampton twice weekly. This is a 5 hour each way journey for the dogs caged in a van. Under GBGB Rules of Racing, tracks are only required to supply holding kennel space for 20% of the dogs racing at that meeting. This in effect means Scottish dogs are either held in the vans or transferred to track kennels for the duration of the meeting which can be up to 4 hours if they are in the final races. Their individual race will be over in less than 2 minutes. Are these dogs being transported long distances and caged for many hours in vehicles that hold animal transportation Type 1 or Type 2 licences? Please also see attached an image of typical track holding 'kennels'.

As you may be aware, Shawfield has been closed since March 2020 and we are led to believe that the licence to operate as a racing track will expire at the end of March. Even if Shawfield never reopens, Scotland is still left with the independent track at Thornton in Fife which doesn't race under GBGB Rules of Racing and which therefore means no vets present on race nights and no dope testing carried out. It's also more than likely that dogs racing at Thornton are ex GBGB racing dogs and previously included in the GBGB retirement data. Transferring to an independent or 'flapper' track is no retirement for the poor dogs. In England the additional legislation 'The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010' protects the dogs racing at tracks, including flappers but there is no such legislation in Scotland. It's quite clear that the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 is not affording protection to racing dogs as not one prosecution has taken place for breaches of the Act despite our best efforts. This includes all dogs doped and a case in Glasgow in 2019 where 5 racing greyhounds were starved for months. The day the suffering dogs were discovered, one of them was sadly put to sleep and the others rescued. All breaches of the Rules of Racing are dealt with 'in-house' by the GBGB Disciplinary Committee and details only published 4-5 months after the offence. From past experience, this

does not allow enough time for the SSPCA to gather evidence and mount a prosecution under the statute time limits.

Injury/Death/Retirement data for 2021 is due to be produced by GBGB in June 2022 but the official data for 2017-2020 informs us that during that time 18,345 injuries occurred, 3,153 greyhounds were killed and 19,972 dumped to rescue in the UK. The drug testing sampling rate in 2020 was 1.98%. In two years between 2018-19, Scottish trainers returned 16 positive dope tests, 13 of those at Shawfield. Appallingly, 7 of those positive tests were for cocaine, 5 at Shawfield and 2 from a Scottish kennel racing at Newcastle. Last year an Edinburgh trainer was banned for life following multiple positive tests.

Finally, please find an up to date FAQs document which was originally sent to you a few months ago.

We urge you to carefully consider Petition PE1758 to End Greyhound Racing in Scotland and introduce the first ban in the UK. Gentle, loving companion dogs deserve better in Scotland.

f 2 In more recent years, it is evident to me that support and interest in greyhound racing has diminished due to the following;

- Society's relationship with animals has and continues to be redefined – this is a changing dynamic of how the sport is viewed by the public.
- The diminishing number of greyhound racing stadiums operating in the UK has weakened the infrastructure and promotion of the sport, reducing opportunities for owners and trainers in which to race their greyhounds in open competitions.

In addition, I am aware that members of the Scottish Parliament are on public record supporting an end to proposals for greyhound racing at Wallyford and a winding down of the industry in Scotland until a full ban can be achieved. This was obviously a major concern for myself and any potential funder.

I regret that, against this evolving background, I have not been able to proceed with the stadium any further. My company, Sirius Sport & Leisure, has written off stadium costs of £2.53m in its accounts.



ABOLISH ALL GREYHOUND RACING FAQs

1. What has prompted this FAQ document?

- Public concern about the cruelty of greyhound racing and inadequate protection afforded to racing dogs under animal welfare legislation
- A Westminster E-petition (554073) calls for the Government to introduce legislation to abolish greyhound racing, via managed shutdown of activities. The petition attained 104,885 signatures and will be **debated on 28 March 2022 at 4.30pm**. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554073>
- A Scottish Parliamentary petition (PE01758) to end greyhound racing in Scotland will be **heard by the RAINE Committee in April 2022**. <http://external.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/petitions/endgreyhoundracinginscotland>
- A Welsh Parliamentary petition to phase out greyhound racing in Wales attained 35,101 signatures at its close on 1 March 2022. It was **discussed by the Welsh Parliamentary Petitions Committee on 7 March 2022**. The Committee agreed to embark on a call for evidence and a **Senedd debate**. <https://petitions.senedd.wales/petitions/244932>

Petition Debate:
Monday 28 March, 4.30pm
Westminster Hall

2. Why is greyhound racing cruel?

- Racing puts dogs at risk of doping, unnecessary injury and death.
- In 2020 dog deaths at the racecourse accounted for 49% of all racing greyhound deaths. The 2020 death rate accounts for more than double the proportion of deaths than it did in 2017.
- Greyhounds are raced in extreme weather: heatwaves up to 33°C and harsh winters alike, when pet dog owners are advised to take extra precautions.
- Thousands of greyhounds are redundant every year.
- Thousands of puppies are bred to supply a racing pool estimated to be 16,300 dogs serving 19 greyhound tracks in the UK, which includes Shawfield, Glasgow, where the greyhounds are protected by AHWA (Scotland) Act 2006.
- The amount of races a greyhound can have is not capped other than a greyhound shall not race more than twice in one day.
- We fear vet provision is inadequate. There is an average of at least 800 greyhounds racing every day from 11 GBGB stadia on average. This means over 70 greyhounds at each race meeting (in addition to any trials/sales taking place in the country). This patient workload is excessive for a track vet covering a 3 hour race meeting. Moreover vets may not be present at the 'independent' tracks in Wales & Scotland.
- Not all puppies make the racing grade. There are no statistics or explanations about the fate of failed "saplings".
- Greyhounds can be killed because an injury is too expensive to treat or because a home cannot be found.
- Greyhounds are companion dogs and should not be exploited for multi million pound gambling profits.

3. How many greyhound tracks are there in the UK?

- There are 20 tracks regulated by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB); and 3 independent greyhound tracks (also known as "flapping" tracks).
- The independent tracks are overseen by local authorities. However, our experience has shown that the local authority has nothing to do with Thornton track (Kirkcaldy, Fife)
- Having parallel systems is problematic. The dogs can race on both sets of tracks.



4. Why is the racetrack configuration risky?

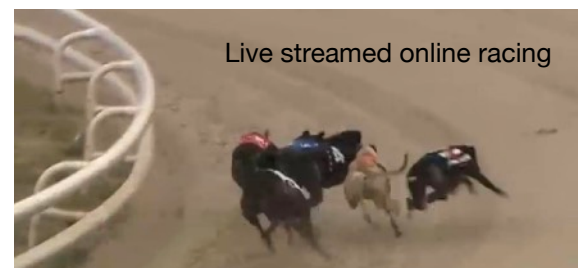
- Any number or type of injuries can occur. Areas of congestion significantly increase risks of high speed, dangerous collisions.
- Repeated racing on oval tracks in an anti-clockwise direction can bring about injuries in the left foreleg and right hind leg. The left foreleg is the pivot and right hind leg provides propulsion. The dog's skeleton adapts to the increased forces by resorbing calcium in some areas and depositing in others ('bony remodelling'). Bones on the right side are depleted of calcium and still subject to stress increasing the likelihood of fracture.¹
- The racing greyhounds can suffer stress (fatigue) fractures and injuries. The areas with micro-fractures do not have time to heal because the bones are subjected to the forces in racing acting on the same point in their bones through repeated racing.

5. What about doping of the greyhounds?

- The GBGB has an anti doping strategy. In 2020 the sampling rate was 1.98%. The GBGB hosts disciplinary hearings and hands down its own reprimands and fines.
- Information about GBGB disciplinary offences and convictions are particularly relevant to applications for DEFRA Transporter Authorisations and Vehicle Approval Certificates needed for the greyhound trainers' vehicles but may not be declared due to self-regulation of greyhound racing. Offences should be captured on DEFRA application forms under the prevailing legislation. This is key data which cannot fall between the cracks of self-regulation.
- Doping incidents could be masking other doping agents or injuries so that the greyhounds can run when lame.
- Drugs/metabolites identified in the sampling includes: azaperone, naproxen, codeine, cocaine, stanozolol, ketoprofen, meloxicam, diclofenac, dorzolamide, caffeine, secobarbital, heptaminol (not a vet or human med in the UK), pentobarbital, lidocaine, ibuprofen, paraxanthine, desacetyl bisacodyl ('Dulcolax'), phenobarbital and tetramisole.
- Disciplinary hearings for samples taken in 2020 and 2021 reveal: human recreational drugs or medication intentionally and accidentally being consumed by racing greyhounds; accidental administration of vet meds to wrong dog; contaminated category 2/3 meat; cattle wormer given instead of canine wormers; tea dust on shredded paper bedding; treacle bread and tea being fed to the greyhound; a greyhound consuming tea and Marmite on toast; a greyhound eating the faeces of another dog on medication; greyhounds eating contaminated litter in the stadium car park / neighbouring fields.

6. Isn't greyhound racing unpopular and in decline?

- Track attendances are in decline but that is not the point.
- The live streaming of greyhound racing worldwide around the internet and into high street bookmakers relies on thousands of dogs and does not need the presence of punters at the track.
- There are more than 5,000 'dog runs' every week to fulfil bookmakers' contracts daily from early in the morning to late in the evening.
- Trials and sales trials also take place. Official stats show an average of over 416,000 'dog runs' per annum.



7. What do the large animal welfare charities think?

- The Greyhound Forum was set up to improve the lives of greyhounds. Opposition to racing precludes membership of the Forum. The Forum comprises Battersea, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust,

¹*"Injuries in Racing Greyhounds"* by Prof. Dr. Andrew Knight. <https://greyexploitations.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Injuries-in-Racing-Greyhounds-by-AK.pdf>



Greyhounds In Need, Greyhound Trust, Kennel Club, RSPCA, Wood Green, Greyhound Board of Great Britain, the Society of Greyhound Veterinarians.

- The RSPCA and Dogs Trust are conducting an independent review of racing greyhound welfare in the UK, due to be issued in the first half of 2022.
- Forever Hounds Trust, Greyhound Rescue Wales, The League Against Cruel Sports are opposed and believe racing should be phased out.

8. How is a redundant greyhound recorded? What is wrong with the process?

- Either an online or hard copy form recording retention, transfer of ownership, homing or death of a greyhound is used by the racing owner to inform the racing regulator about a redundant racing dog.
- The form allows healthy dogs to be killed: on “economic grounds”; if “unsuitable” for homing or no home found. The form asks if the dog was destroyed by a vet and, if not, for an explanation of the circumstances.
- There are no published uniform behavioural standards supporting decisions about unsuitability for homing.
- The form is too weak in welfare terms. It reveals a comfort with permitted killing of healthy dogs within a multi-million pound gambling industry.

9. How many dogs die? How many get injured? How many get homes?

- Greyhound racing started in 1926 in the UK. By 2017 the GBGB started to publish ‘retirement’, death & injury statistics.
- This data is partial, rendering a satisfactory analysis difficult. More comprehensive, transparent data is required. For example, it does not accurately state the full number of dogs involved.
- The published data does not include statistics for local authority licensed tracks (non-GBGB registered).

Abolish All Greyhound Racing
@AAGR_UK

#Greyhound puppies reared for racing have their ID tattooed in the ears at 10-12 weeks. Tattoo implement is like a pair of tongs with little blocks of pins. The ear is placed between the blocks & the pins press into the ear. Painful? You bet! No vet required.
[#BanGreyhoundRacing](#)

Abolish All Greyhound Racing
@AAGR_UK

On-track #Greyhound DEATHS showing NO sign of decline from 200 p.a. on registered tracks. Racing regulator has core objective to reduce by half. That makes it ok for 100 #Greyhounds to DIE on track every year. Really? [#BanGreyhoundRacing](#) [#PetsNotBets](#) [@DogsTrust](#) [@Battersea_](#)

- 2018: UK Greyhound racing regulator launched 5 year welfare plan: The Greyhound Commitment
- 2019: Aims to HALVE number of greyhounds KILLED at racecourse in 3 YEARS
- No discernible change in trend in 5 year plan so far
- Only half? So it's OK if 50% year on year continue to die?

Year	On-Track Fatalities
2017	~200
2018	~180
2019	~170
2020	~150

Source: GBGB

Abolish All Greyhound Racing
@AAGR_UK

Anything could happen to these [#Greyhounds](#): death, injury, doping, passed on to breed or race on ‘flapping’ tracks, export even. Only 4 years of official data: 3,153 DEATHS & 18,345 INJURIES. Active racing [#Dogs](#): 16,300, only 5,700 avg homed p.a.
[#BanGreyhoundRacing](#) [@UFAW_1926](#)

The Life of a Racing Greyhound

[#FreeTheTrapped](#)

14:52sec
Peterborough track record

25/01/2019

HOW IT STARTED
v
HOW IT ENDED



	2017	2018	2019	2020
DOG RUNS	419,385	426,139	410,607	318,346
Hock & Wrist Injuries	1,550	1,618	1,557	1,236
Foot injuries	833	888	1,088	680
Hind & Fore Long Bone	148	148	123	117
Fore & Hind Limb Muscle	1,650	1,625	1,608	1159
Other	656	684	594	383
TOTAL INJURIES	4,837	4,963	4,970	3,575
% Injuries of Dog Runs	1.15%	1.16%	1.21%	1.12%
DEATHS	2017	2018	2019	2020
On Track Fatalities	257	242	207	200
On Track Fatalities as % of Total Fatalities	23%	26%	29%	49%
Deaths Due to Injury Treatment Costs	370	175	123	24
PTS on Vet Advice (off track)			142	79
No Home Found	23	5	0	0
Designated Unsuited for Homing	307	190	83	23
No Viable Option Away from Racecourse		144		
Sudden Death	56	72	91	41
Medical & Other	30	Noted in 'Natural Causes'	Noted in 'Natural Causes'	Noted in 'Natural Causes'
Terminal Illness	36	Noted in 'Natural Causes'	Noted in 'Natural Causes'	Noted in 'Natural Causes'
Natural Causes	21	104	64	44
TOTAL DEATHS	1,100	932	710	411
"RETIREMENTS"	2017	2018	2019	2020
Retained by Owner/Trainer	1,037	878	783	613
Charity/Greyhound Trust	5,184	4,588	4,716	5,484
Homed by Owner/Trainer (& breeding in 2017)	1,440	936	679	765
Breeding/Independent Racing		365	280	210
Other (incl. Private Homing Non Charity)		6	2	17
TOTAL ANNUAL "Retirements"	7,661	6,773	6,460	7,089

Source: GBGB Annual Injury / Retirement Data. Excludes local authority licensed tracks. NB: Approx 90k fewer 'dog runs' in 2020 due to COVID Lockdown



10. Which greyhound track is the most dangerous and which is the least?

- We don't know because data per track is not published.
- The GBGB provided track data for Shawfield in Glasgow to the Scottish Parliament's Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare in January 2022. This data compared to national data is below:

	2017	2018	2019	2020		2017	2018	2019	2020
Total 'Dog Runs' UK GBGB Tracks	419,385	426,139	410,407	318,346	Total 'Dog Runs' UK GBGB Tracks	419,385	426,139	410,407	318,346
Shawfield, Glasgow 'Dog Runs'	6,791	5,620	5,597	813	Shawfield, Glasgow 'Dog Runs'	6,791	5,620	5,597	813
Total Deaths UK GBGB Tracks	1,100	932	710	411	Total Injuries UK GBGB Tracks	4,837	4,963	4,970	3,575
Shawfield, Glasgow Deaths	8	2	5	0	Shawfield, Glasgow Injuries	70	45	70	12
UK Tracks %	0.26%	0.22%	0.17%	0.13%	UK Tracks %	1.15%	1.16%	1.21%	1.12%
Shawfield, Glasgow %	0.12%	0.04%	0.09%	0.00%	Shawfield, Glasgow %	1.03%	0.8%	1.25%	1.48%
Source: GBGB Annual Injury / Retirement Data NB: Approx 90k fewer 'dog runs' on UK tracks in 2020 due to COVID Lockdown					Source: GBGB Annual Injury / Retirement Data NB: Approx 90k fewer 'dog runs' on UK tracks in 2020 due to COVID Lockdown				

11. What should be done to prevent cruelty to racing greyhounds?

- Greyhound racing should be phased out over time to allow for the redundant dogs to be homed.

12. If greyhound racing did not exist, what would you offer instead?

- If we have to have a betting product which reflects betting on dogs, virtual or simulated dog racing would work just as well. It is used from time to time by the racing industry now.
- Sample e-racing videos are available on YouTube
- E-gaming/sports have significant potential to be billion pound industries with revenue for the Exchequer.

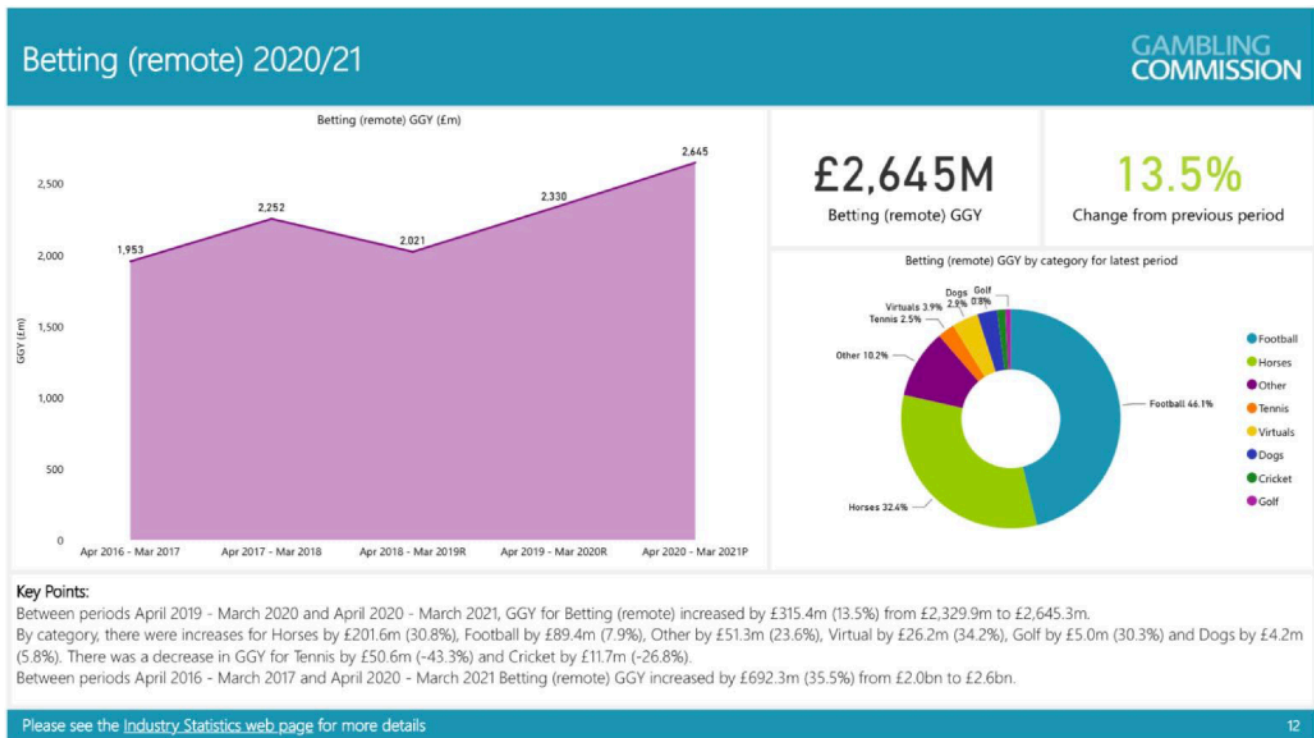
13. Who are the key players in self-regulated greyhound racing? What do they do?

- **Bookmakers:** offer gambling on dog racing.
- **Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB):** governing body for licensed greyhound racing. Track standards set by GBGB.
- **British Greyhound Racing Fund (BGRF):** collects the voluntary contributions from bookmakers based on 0.6% of turnover on greyhound racing. BGRF uses the funds arising for the enhancement of greyhound racing as licensed by the GBGB.
- **The Greyhound Forum** was set up to improve the lives of greyhounds. It comprises Battersea, Blue Cross, Dogs Trust, Greyhounds In Need, Greyhound Trust, Kennel Club, RSPCA, Wood Green, Greyhound Board of Great Britain, the Society of Greyhound Veterinarians.

14. What are the key financials?

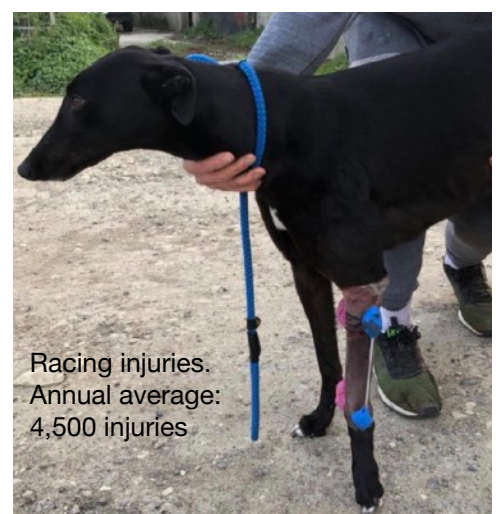
- HMRC income from greyhound racing is £55m²
- During the COVID period retail bookmakers were subject to closure. Gambling Commission figures for 2020/2021 show remote (online/telephone) betting on greyhound racing as having accounted for 2.9% (£76.7m) of the Gross Gambling Yield. By way of comparison: football £1.2bn and horse racing £856mn.

² Hansard HC Deb (25 June 2019) Col 262 WH: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2019-06-25/debates/72E07CBB-614C-4487-A6CF-EC8D9641A946/GamblingLevyOnlineGamblingAndGreyhoundRacing#contribution-90975608-6D3B-460A-AAAA-83F09B454024>



15. What is the legal situation?

- The legislation provides inadequate protection for racing greyhounds.
- It is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal under the Animal Welfare Act (2006). Anyone in charge of an animal has to look after the animal's welfare, ensure its needs are met and that it does not suffer pain or injury. Yet greyhounds are put at known risk of injury every day on the racetrack.
- Greyhound racetracks may be licensed either by a local authority or by a body under the purview of UKAS according to "The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations (2010)" as secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act.
- The "Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations (2010)" cover licensing conditions, veterinary presence, track kennels and record-keeping. They are restricted to England. The Regulations present two parallel systems: GBGB tracks and independent tracks. Greyhounds can pass between both systems which exist throughout the United Kingdom.
- Independent tracks in Scotland and Wales do not have any regulation yet dogs from GBGB tracks may race on Scottish and Welsh independent tracks where vets may not be present
- It is not clear that the regulator refers off-track Animal Welfare Act breaches (including the administration of Class A drugs or severe neglect) to law enforcement. There were 5 disciplinary hearings in 2020 and 2021 about wholesale neglect in trainers' kennels with dogs dying or suffering severely. However, only one (with RSPCA intervention) went to court. One was to be referred to the Procurator Fiscal in Scotland but slow process meant the statute of limitations prevented it being considered by the PF.





16. Will jobs be lost if greyhound racing is phased out? The GBGB claims greyhound racing contributes to 'levelling up' and boosts under-served communities. Is this true?

- Daily racing is streamed from empty stadia to serve high street bookmakers and internet gambling every three minutes.
- The last industry commissioned estimate³ using 2012 data put the employment figure at over 7,000 jobs in the core racing business (racing staff, trainers, administration and betting staff with a direct link to dog racing). However, since this analysis:
 - 3 greyhound stadia (Belle Vue, Peterborough and Wimbledon) have closed;
 - Henlow is earmarked for closure; and
 - one previously closed track (Mildenhall, Suffolk) has been re-licensed but is not open to public spectators. It is used to provide streamed racing.
- A report by the Social Market Foundation in 2021⁴ concludes that while gambling supports tens of thousands of jobs across the UK and contributes about £8bn to economic output p.a., it is unlikely that the economic contribution is additional to activity that would have taken place if gambling did not exist. The report points to reductions in gambling displacing economic spend into other sectors with a gain for the Exchequer.

17. What about the GBGB reform programme?

- In 2018 the GBGB launched its 5 year reform plan aimed at driving down greyhound death and injury rates as well as improving welfare, safety, integrity and transparency.
- The GBGB introduced a funded injury recovery scheme to prevent dog deaths on economic grounds, as well as a match funded greyhound retirement bond.
- GBGB injury statistics show minor fluctuations in racing greyhound injuries as a percentage of 'dog runs' since 2017: 1.15% (2017), 1.16% (2018), 1.21% (2019), 1.12% (2020). This is not sustained improvement.
- The greyhound racing industry has not improved whatsoever in its core statistic of trackside deaths. GBGB figures show: 257 greyhounds (0.06% of 'dog runs') died in 2017 and 200 greyhounds: (0.06%) died in 2020. In 2017 dog deaths at the racecourse accounted for 23% of all racing greyhound deaths. In 2020 dog deaths at the racecourse accounted for 49% of all racing greyhound deaths. The 2020 death rate accounts for more than double the proportion of deaths that it did in 2017.
- The GBGB's published annual injury, retirement and death data has been sloppy, lacking transparency and noticeably missing an audit statement. There have been discrepancies between published data on the day of publication and the information ultimately posted on the GBGB website. Erroneous prior year data has been carried over to the current year publication. The GBGB's online registry is insufficiently transparent. The dog racing population is not published in the annual statistics, nor is track level data, nor is the number of puppies failing to make the grade.

18. How much does it cost to rehabilitate an ex-racing greyhound to prepare for homing?

- The Greyhound Trust estimates the average cost to be £750-£950 per dog. Some independent rescues may have much higher veterinary bills for legacy racing injuries per dog. Often treatment of neglected dentals cost £'000s.

19. How much is the GBGB Greyhound Retirement Scheme (GRS) and how does it work?

- A racing owner pays £200 per greyhound registered for racing. When the dog ceases racing the GBGB matches the £200.
- To promote British breeding, owners of British bred greyhounds registered between Sep 2020 and Aug 2022 pay only £100 and the GBGB contributes £300.

³ Deloitte: "Economic Impact of the British Greyhound Racing Industry" (published 2014); GBGB: "The Greyhound Commitment - The First Year" (published 2019)

⁴ Social Market Foundation: "Double or Nothing: Assessing The Economic Impact of Gambling (published 2021)"



- The rescue centre receives the £400 per dog to assist with homing.
- The GRS money covers kennelling and care. It does not cover veterinary fees.

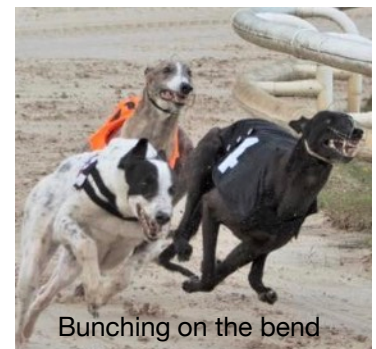
20. As the GRS payment per dog is less than the estimated cost of homing, who funds the shortfall?

- The rescue centre must make up the difference with its own funds because this multi million pound industry is not taking full responsibility for the redundant dogs.
- The families adopting ex-racing greyhounds are often left to pick up vet bills for dentals and old racing injuries.

21. Has self-regulation of greyhound racing had too many chances?

Greyhound racing started in the UK in 1926. The National Greyhound Racing Club oversaw racing from 1928. In 2006 The Sunday Times revealed a Seaham builders' merchant had killed 10,000 greyhounds over 15 years using a bolt gun for £10 a dog. This catalysed public outrage and a chain of enquiries which have brought about limited change:

- 2006: an All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare called inter alia for the racing industry to be required by law to record and publish annual injuries on a central database.
- 2007: Lord Donoughue's report conducted on behalf of the racing industry focused on self-regulation and anonymous data recording.
- 2009: The Greyhound Board of Great Britain replaced the National Greyhound Racing Club.
- 2010: Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations introduced.
- 2016: DEFRA Post-Implementation Review of the 2010 Regulations. The Regulations were considered to be "successful" subject to some caveats. The DEFRA review agreed that GBGB should have done more in the preceding 5 years to be transparent. DEFRA committed to consider other approaches including regulation if necessary.
- 2015/16: The Select Committee on Environmental Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) reviewed the 2010 Regulations. Again the lack of data made it difficult to judge the welfare provision. The GBGB had been collecting data but not collating it centrally. EFRA proposed a 2-year probationary period
- 2015 DEFRA secured the GBGB's commitment to publish statistics with a full data set to be ready by end 2017. The final and complete 2017 stats were published in January 2019. Incomplete data was published in March 2018 failing to take account of the 6 month time lag in retirement figures.
- 2016: the GBGB agreed to develop a Publicly Available Specification through the BSI for trainers' kennels off-track and have it incorporated into its UKAS accreditation by December 2017. This was delayed until 2021.
- 2018: GBGB announced its "Greyhound Commitment", a welfare reform programme. It conveniently converted EFRA's proposed 2 year probationary period into a 7 year breathing space.
- 2018: All Parliamentary Dog Advisory Welfare Group (APDAWG) meeting: "Greyhound Racing in the UK: an Update on Welfare". Prof. Andrew Knight presented: "Injuries in Racing Greyhounds" which prompted Forever Hounds Trust to change from a neutral position to one of opposition to greyhound racing. FHT called for racing to be phased out.
- 2019 (May 22nd): Greyhound Forum discussed Prof. Knight's report and the GBGB agreed to meet Prof. Knight to discuss updated science. To date the GBGB has not pursued this.





22. Why is Ireland so important?

- 80 - 83% of greyhounds racing in the UK are bred in Ireland.
- The Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) is a semi-state commercial body and receives funding of €16.8m p.a. from the Irish Government via the Horse & Greyhound Racing fund.
- A 2019 RTE Investigates TV programme showed that the racing industry in Ireland is producing 1,000% more greyhounds each year than needed to sustain a racing industry.
- About 6,250 greyhounds are exported annually to the UK at prices which are less than 50% of the “production cost”. This is dumping in international trade terms.
- The RTE programme revealed that 6,000 greyhounds are culled annually.

23. Is greyhound racing legal in the USA?

- Dog racing is illegal in 41 US states
- Reps Tony Cardenas (California) and Steve Cohen (Tennessee) are sponsoring a federal bill to make engaging in commercial dog racing a federal crime.

24. How many countries in the world have greyhound racing?

- Seven: Australia, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, UK, USA, Vietnam

