



**Charity SC039109**

**Patron: Kay Hamilton, Dowager Duchess of Hamilton**

Dear Member,

We would appeal to you to support the request from Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation that the racing of greyhounds be banned in Scotland.

SAGE has carried out sterling work drawing public and political attention to an exploitative trade which, in order to operate, conducts much of its business as far away from the light of scrutiny as possible.

The animals unfortunate enough to be caught up in this grisly enterprise are entering a world where they exist for the generation of revenue. Their lives are cheap and in constant peril lest they “fail” to be profitable.

There are however sometimes opportunities to recoup “losses” for owners by selling these animals on to be abused as breeding machines, often in country’s with no animal welfare legislation, or for human consumption as dog meat. Perhaps the industry’s nadir, arguable when the scale of general suffering within it is taken into account.

It is demonstrable that the greyhound racing industry is rife with suffering, and disregard for the welfare, wellbeing and intrinsic worth of these dogs. We have ourselves approached elected officials and Police Scotland with evidence of criminality connected to the abuse of animals. To our knowledge, to date no effective action has been taken.

SAGE has documented in alarming detail the death and injury resulting from this so-called sport. Ministers and numerous MSPs are aware of this, as are the Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare and Scottish Animal Welfare Commission. Again, no effective action taken.

The exposure and challenging of these highly unethical, and very often criminal activities has been left to a team of hard working campaigners and the concerned public.

Despite this misery being known to those in position to end it, the suffering and abuse continues.

Due to the now limited scale of live racing events in Scotland we believe that the few positions of employment connected to racing could easily be transferred to other areas should a ban be implemented, negating job losses.

Your committee has the chance to make history by recommending government brings forward legislation to ban greyhound racing. More importantly, I hope you will agree that this is a question of doing the right thing by ending the suffering and exploitation of animals.

The lives, safety and dignity of these dogs are in your hands.

Yours faithfully,

John Patrick

**Convenor**