

The Greyhound Industry on the World Stage



A caged racing greyhound in Ireland.

Commercial greyhound racing exists in seven countries at 115 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 in the United States, Australia, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, the United

Kingdom, and Vietnam.² Even within these jurisdictions, commercial racing has been outlawed in many states, most recently Oregon in the USA.³ Non-commercial dog racing is also known to exist in twenty-one countries.⁴

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.⁵ 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.

¹ "Greyhound Racing Tracks in Australia," *Australian Racing Greyhound*, australianracinggreyhound.com, September 11, 2015 (accessed March 2, 2020). The current total number of tracks accounts for the ban in the ACT, discontinuing racing at Canberra Greyhound track (Isaac Ling, "Greyhounds come to a close in Canberra," *Punters*, https://www.punters.com.au/news/greyhounds-come-to-a-close-in-canberra_168425/, April 28, 2018); John Anthony, "Greyhound racing faces uncertain future in NZ following damning NSW report," *Stuff*, <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/83731636/greyhound-racing-faces-uncertain-future-in-nz-following-damning-nsw-report>, September 2, 2016; "Our Stadiums," *Irish Greyhound Board*, <https://www.igb.ie/go-greyhound-racing/our-stadiums/> (accessed April 1, 2020); "Racecourses," *Greyhound Board of Great Britain*, <https://www.gbgb.org.uk/racing/race-courses/?alltracks=true>. The UK has an additional three operational unlicensed tracks, known as independent or flapper tracks; <http://duachovietnam.net/> (accessed April 1, 2020); "The Caliente Racetrack," <https://www.calientecasino.us/caliente-sports-books-tijuana/greyhound-racing/> (accessed April 1, 2020).

² "Greyhound Racing Around the World," *GREY2K USA Worldwide*, <https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/worldwide.php> (accessed April 1, 2020).

³ Peter Wong, "Courtney praised as he manages last bill in Oregon Senate," *Portland Tribune*, <https://pamplinmedia.com/pt/9-news/537853-430737-courtney-praised-as-he-manages-last-bill-in-oregon-senate>, March 2, 2022 (accessed May 12, 2022).

⁴ One such country is Portugal, which has a breeding system in place derived from predominantly Irish bloodlines. Races are held around the country and the issue has been debated in Parliament, although no betting is known to occur.

⁵ "Australasian Statistics," *Greyhounds Australasia*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/Australasian-Statistics_Greyhounds-Australasia-2016-05.pdf, May 12, 2016 (accessed April 1, 2020); "For the Record: NGA Office Statistics," *National Greyhound Association* (accessed March 22, 2019); Floyd Amphlett, "Registrations and Litters Both Down," *Greyhound Star*, <http://greyhoundstar.co.uk/registrations-and-litters-both-down/>, January 23, 2020 (accessed April 1, 2020).

Tens of thousands of dogs are bred for this cruel industry



A greyhound in an Australian kennel.

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, and supplies secondary jurisdictions with thousands of dogs as well.

Ireland reported 2,324 litters in 2019.⁶ Using the conservative estimate of six pups per litter, the industry bred approximately 13,944 greyhounds that year. In 2015, the most recent year of reported registrations, 8,344 of an estimated 13,184 available greyhounds were registered to race, both for commercial racing and hare

⁶ Floyd Amphlett, "Registrations and Litters Both Down," *Greyhound Star*, <http://greyhoundstar.co.uk/registrations-and-litters-both-down/>, January 23, 2020 (accessed April 1, 2020).

⁷ The discrepancy between the number of pups bred and the number of pups that are registered to race is analyzed extensively in a report prepared for the *Irish Greyhound Board* in September 2017 ("IGB Business Model Analysis," *Preferred Results Ltd.*, <https://www.igb.ie/globalassets/talking-dogs/pr/preferred-results---igb-organisation-restructuring-report---pages-1---65-compressed.pdf>, September 29, 2017).

⁸ *Ibid.*

coursing.⁷ 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.⁸ Each year, some 6,000 excess Irish greyhounds are known to be culled.⁹ Additionally, older racing greyhounds have been known to be exported to Argentina, Pakistan, and Spain — all countries where dogs are routinely killed and discarded.¹⁰

Australia reported 3,006 litters in 2015.¹¹ Using the conservative estimate of six pups per litter, the industry bred approximately 18,036 greyhounds that year. In 2015 only 11,732 were registered to race, a discrepancy of 6,304 dogs.¹²



Puppies from a breeding farm in the United States.

Australia regularly sends greyhounds to New Zealand, having exported 1,141 greyhounds

⁹ Conor Ryan, "Thousands of greyhounds 'culled each year' for not being fast enough," *RTE*, <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2019/0626/1057535-greyhound-rte-investigates/>, June 26, 2019 (accessed April 1, 2020).

¹⁰ Wayne O'Connor and Mark O'Regan, "Exported Irish greyhounds suffer horrific abuse at hands of new owners," *Independent.ie*, <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/exported-irish-greyhounds-suffer-horrific-abuse-at-hands-of-new-owners-35712353.html>, May 14, 2017 (accessed April 1, 2020).

¹¹ "Australasian Statistics," *Greyhounds Australasia*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/Australasian-Statistics_Greyhounds-Australasia-2016-05.pdf, May 12, 2016 (accessed April 1, 2020).

¹² *Ibid.*

between 2016 and 2021.¹³ In addition, it is estimated that since 2011, Australian trainers have also exported over 1,700 dogs to mainland China, Macau, and Vietnam, jurisdictions with no animal welfare laws in place.¹⁴

The United States reported 961 litters in 2019. Again using the conservative estimate of six pups per litter, the industry bred approximately 5,766 greyhounds in that year. In 2020, 4,898 were registered to race. The US exports both young and old dogs to Mexico, where they race at the Agua Caliente race track, often every other day, an unusually high rate as compared to other jurisdictions.¹⁵

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 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

Kennels vary widely across jurisdictions. In Macau, the greyhound kennel compounds were fifty-year-old sparse concrete structures with metal bars or fencing to contain the dogs, two-thirds of which “would fail to meet the minimum size for a racing kennel in Australia.”¹⁹ In the US, there are two standard cage sizes, 49”-36”-35” and 43”-30”-32”. The latter is barely large enough for some greyhounds to stand up or turn around.²⁰



A dog falls at a race track in the United States.

¹³ “Greyhound exports,” *Australian Government’s Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/live-animal-export-statistics/greyhound-exports> (accessed March 16, 2021).

¹⁴ Neil Keene, “Australian greyhounds ‘exported to misery,’” *The Daily Telegraph*, December 9, 2015.

¹⁵ Carey Theil, “Greyhounds Run Into the Ground at Mexico Track,” *GREY2K USA Worldwide*, October 7, 2015, <http://blog.grey2kusa.org/2015/10/greyhounds-run-into-ground-at-mexico.html> (accessed April 1, 2020).

¹⁶ Clifton Gray, “A Day in the Life of the Racing Greyhound,” *All About Greyhounds*, 2011.

¹⁷ “Review of Australian Greyhound Export Welfare Standards,” *Greyhounds Australasia*, 2012.

¹⁸ Clifton Gray, “A Day in the Life of a Racing Greyhound,” *All About Greyhounds*, 2011.

¹⁹ “Review of Australian Greyhound Export Welfare Standards,” *Greyhounds Australasia*, 2012.

²⁰ Penny Wick, “Crating for Safety and Wellbeing,” *National Greyhound Association*, March 1, 2016.

Greyhounds suffer serious injuries while racing

At dog tracks worldwide, greyhounds routinely suffer serious injuries. However, only some jurisdictions regularly publish injury data. The racing commissions of the American states of Arkansas and West Virginia produce 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.

In the United States, more than 12,000 injuries were reported from January 2010 to December 2021.²¹ Of these injuries, over 400 resulted in death.²²

Across Australia, 33,537 documented injuries were recorded from 2016 through 2021. Between 2015

and 2021, 19,595 deaths have been reported across six states.²³

In February 2021 and 2022, the Coalition for the Protection analyzed thousands of Australian official stewards reports, and found that 20,056 injuries occurred at Australian tracks in 2020 and 2021.²⁴

In the United Kingdom, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain was not required to report injuries until 2017. Between 2017 and 2021, 22,767 greyhound injuries were documented, including 1,026 track fatalities.²⁵

In Ireland, between 2015 and 2020, 2,146 injuries were documented, including 715 track fatalities.²⁶

New Zealand identified 900 greyhound injuries in 2021, as well as 2,571 greyhound deaths between 2014 and 2021.²⁷

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. Mexico and Vietnam do not publish injury data.

²¹ "Greyhound Racing in the United States," *GREY2K USA Worldwide*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K_USA_National_Fact_Sheet.pdf_June_5_2019 (accessed April 1, 2020).

²² *Ibid.*

²³ "Annual Report," *Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission*, <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/about/annual-report> (accessed May 16, 2022); "Annual reports," *Queensland Racing Integrity Commission*, <https://qric.qld.gov.au/about-us/publication-scheme/about-us/annual-report/> (accessed May 16, 2022); "Annual Reports," *Tasracing*, <https://tasracingcorporate.com.au/annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022); "Annual Reports," *Greyhound Racing Victoria*, <https://www.grv.org.au/about-us/grv-annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022); "Annual Reports," *Greyhounds WA*, <https://www.greyhoundswa.com.au/annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022).

²⁴ "Lethal Tracks 2020," *Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds*, <http://greyhoundcoalition.com/lethal-tracks-2020/>, February 2021 (accessed March 16, 2021); "Lethal Tracks 2021," *Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds*,

<https://greyhoundcoalition.com/lethal-tracks-2021/>, February 2022 (accessed May 16, 2022).

²⁵ "Key Injury and Retirement Figures," *Greyhound Board of Great Britain*, <https://www.gbgb.org.uk/welfare-care/injury-and-retirement-data/> (accessed April 7, 2022).

²⁶ "At tracks around Ireland in 2020, 255 greyhounds suffered injuries and 90 were killed," *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*, <https://banbloodsports.wordpress.com/2021/01/30/at-tracks-around-ireland-in-2020-255-greyhounds-suffered-injuries-and-90-were-killed/>, January 30, 2021 (accessed March 16, 2021).

²⁷ "2021 Annual Report," *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, https://www.grnz.co.nz/Files/Annual%20report%202021/2021%20GRNZ%20Annual%20Report_v10.pdf (accessed May 16, 2022).

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, an internal industry memo from Greyhounds Australasia CEO Scott Parker stated that as many as 17,000 healthy greyhounds are killed each year.²⁸



Greyhound skeletons in a mass grave in Australia.

²⁸ Scott Parker and Matthew Corby, "Crisis to Recovery Program," *Greyhounds Australasia*, April 23, 2015.

²⁹ "Key Findings of Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, <https://www.smh.com.au/sport/racing/key-findings-of-special-commission-of-inquiry-into-the-greyhound-racing-industry-20160707-gq10hh.html>, July 7, 2016 (accessed April 2, 2020).

³⁰ Michael McHugh, "Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in New South Wales, Report Volume 1," *State of New South Wales*, June 16, 2016.

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 make it to the track.²⁹

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."³⁰ A few days after this analysis was released, a greyhound mass grave was discovered at the Keinbah Trial Track near Cessnock.³¹ Almost 100 greyhounds had been killed there "with a blow to the head, from either a gunshot or a blunt instrument."³²

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 that are adopted.³³ Between 2015/16 and 2020/21, 2,682 New South Wales greyhounds were destroyed.³⁴

In Victoria, Australia, the racing body released its Annual Report for 2015/16 which revealed that

³¹ "Independent Report Finds Mass Grave at Keinbah Trial Track," Greyhound Racing NSW, July 20, 2016.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ Charis Chang, "Anger over Australia's 'disappeared' greyhounds," *news.com.au*, <https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/animals/anger-over-australias-disappeared-greyhounds/news-story/2cc5946b00ffdc2fdbfbaacfece2a437>, October 18, 2019 (accessed April 2, 2020).

³⁴ "Annual Report," *Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission*, <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/about/annual-report> (accessed May 16, 2022)

3,157 greyhounds had been destroyed during the year.³⁵ Greyhound Racing Victoria also indicated that an even higher number had been euthanized in years prior.³⁶ Annual Reports for the years 2016/17-2019/20 reveal an additional 4,133 greyhounds were destroyed trackside over four years.³⁷

In Queensland, Australia, a mass grave was discovered by the Greyhound Racing Industry Task Force in Bundaberg.³⁸ Investigators discovered fifty-five greyhound skeletons of dogs which “may have been beaten to death.”³⁹ Two months later, a Queensland government inquiry into greyhound racing found that the “wastage rate” within the greyhound industry was unacceptably high.⁴⁰ 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.”⁴¹ The report described these extra greyhounds as “unaccounted for.”⁴²

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.⁴³ From 2018/19-2020/21, an additional 1,168 Queensland greyhounds were destroyed.⁴⁴

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.⁴⁵ In the years 2016/17-2020/21, an additional 936 greyhounds were destroyed or died.⁴⁶



David Smith of the United Kingdom burying ex-racing greyhounds.

³⁵ “Annual Report 2015/16,” *Greyhound Racing Victoria*, 2016.

³⁶ Alan Clayton, “CEO’s Monthly Update,” *Greyhound Racing Victoria*, December 2016.

³⁷ “Annual Reports,” *Greyhound Racing Victoria*, <https://www.grv.org.au/about-us/grv-annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022.)

³⁸ Kathleen Donaghey, “Some of the 55 greyhounds in mass grave may have been beaten to death,” *The Courier Mail*, April 3, 2015.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Alan MacSporran QC, “Queensland Greyhound Racing Industry Commission of Inquiry Final Report,” *Queensland Government*, June, 1, 2015.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ Rachel Riga, “Greyhounds still killed in the hundreds as government and industry accused of dragging feet on reforms,” *ABC*, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-24/hundreds-of-greyhounds-killed-as-reforms-not-implemented/10547874> (accessed April 2, 2020).

⁴⁴ Annual reports,” *Queensland Racing Integrity Commission*, <https://qric.qld.gov.au/about-us/publication-scheme/about-us/annual-report/> (accessed May 16, 2022).

⁴⁵ Rod Andrewartha and Tony Murray, “Review of Arrangements for Animal Welfare in the Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Industry,” *Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment*, March 13, 2015.

⁴⁶ “Annual Reports,” *Tasracing*, <https://tasracingcorporate.com.au/annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022)

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.⁴⁷ From 2016/17-2020/21, 1,026 greyhounds were destroyed or died.⁴⁸

In Western Australia, Australia, 1,239 greyhounds were destroyed between 2015/16 and 2020/21.⁴⁹

And in the years 2020 and 2021, the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds found that 3,637 greyhounds were killed by the industry across all Australian racing jurisdictions.⁵⁰

In New Zealand, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee assesses that as many as 300 greyhounds are destroyed each year.⁵¹ 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 2016-2017.⁵² Annual Reports from 2017/18 thru 2020/21 reveal that 1,124 greyhounds have been destroyed over four years.⁵³

In Ireland, 6,000 greyhounds are killed each year for not being fast enough.⁵⁴ Between 2015 and 2020, an additional 715 greyhounds were killed at Irish tracks.⁵⁵

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.⁵⁶ He was paid £10 per dog and buried them in a pit on his property.⁵⁷ In addition to 1,026 track fatalities, between 2017 and 2021, 2,486 greyhounds were reported as killed for other reasons such as treatment costs or being designated as unsuitable for adoption.⁵⁸

⁴⁷ Matt Corby, "Media Statement," *Greyhound Racing SA*, September 21, 2016.

⁴⁸ "Reports," *Greyhound Racing South Australia*, <https://sa.thedogs.com.au/DPage.aspx?id=213> (accessed April 3, 2020).

⁴⁹ "Annual Reports," *Greyhounds WA*, <https://www.greyhoundswa.com.au/annual-reports/> (accessed May 16, 2022).

⁵⁰ "Lethal Tracks 2020," *Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds*, <http://greyhoundcoalition.com/lethal-tracks-2020/>, February 2021 (accessed March 16, 2021); "Lethal Tracks 2021," *Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds*, <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/lethal-tracks-2021/>, February 2022 (accessed May 16, 2022).

⁵¹ "General Meeting," *National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee*, August 17, 2016.

⁵² Nicholas Jones, "'Disturbing' greyhound death rate revealed," *The New Zealand Herald*, nzherald.co.nz (accessed April 29, 2020).

⁵³ "2019 Annual Report," *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, https://www.grnz.co.nz/Files/Documents/GRNZ%20Annual%20Report%202019_3mmBleed_Individual%20Pages_Web%20compressed.pdf (accessed April 29, 2020); Kristin Hall, "Nearly 50 greyhound deaths not recorded in industry's annual report, prompting calls for transparency," *1 News*, January 7, 2021, <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/nearly-50-greyhound-deaths->

[not-recorded-in-industrys-annual-report-prompting-calls-transparency](https://www.grnz.co.nz/Files/Annual%20report%202021/2021%20GRNZ%20Annual%20Report_v10.pdf) (accessed February 12, 2021); "2021 Annual Report," *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, https://www.grnz.co.nz/Files/Annual%20report%202021/2021%20GRNZ%20Annual%20Report_v10.pdf (accessed May 16, 2022).

⁵⁴ Aidan Lonergan, "Almost 6,000 greyhounds killed in Ireland every year 'for being too slow', RTE documentary reveals," *The Irish Post*, <https://www.irishpost.com/news/almost-6000-greyhounds-killed-ireland-every-year-slow-rte-documentary-reveals-168431>, June 26, 2019 (accessed April 6, 2020).

⁵⁵ "Rewarding Cruelty: Greyhound Racing in Ireland," *GREY2K USA Worldwide* and the *Irish Council Against Bloodsports*, <https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/REWARDING-CRUELTY-Greyhound-Racing-in-Ireland.pdf>, November 2019 (accessed April 6, 2020).

⁵⁶ Jeremy Armstrong, "The Man Who's Shot 10,000 Greyhounds," *The Mirror*, July 7, 2006.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ British greyhounds were destroyed due to reasons such as treatment costs, no home found, no viable option away from the racecourse, designated unsuitable for adoption, sudden death, terminal illness, natural causes, and other ("Key Injury and Retirement Figures," *Greyhound Board of Great Britain*,

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



A racing greyhound in Ireland.

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

<https://www.gbgb.org.uk/welfare-care/injury-and-retirement-data/> (accessed April 7, 2022)).

⁵⁹ Michael Morrah, "Racing regulator inquires into condition of dogs owned by John McInerney, NZ's most prolific greyhound trainer," *Newshub*, May 4, 2022,

- In May 2022, it was revealed that eight greyhounds linked to New Zealand's largest greyhound breeder John McInerney were offloaded to an adoption kennel with severe signs of 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" kennels in New Zealand, with failures including unvaccinated dogs, unapproved medications administered, incomplete treatment records, and an increase in dental issues.⁵⁹
- 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

newshub.co.nz (accessed May 11, 2022); Michael Morrah, "Racing regulator issued up to 300 warnings to greyhound trainers over health and welfare failures in under a year," *Newshub*, May 5, 2022, newshub.co.nz (accessed May 11, 2022).

Abilene. Authorities have refused to take action against any of these perpetrators.⁶⁰

- 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 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.⁶¹
- 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.⁶²
- 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.⁶³



A greyhound on the property of Ronald John Williams.

- 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.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ “Live Lure Training,” *GREY2K USA Worldwide*, https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/live_lure.php.

⁶¹ “Administrative Complaint,” *State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/records/2019.01.28_FL_Blanchard_rules.pdf, January 28, 2019 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁶² “Result of Inquiry – Mr. T. Rasmussen,” *Greyhound Racing SA*, <https://sa.thedogs.com.au/Uploads/Inquiry%20-%20Media%20Release/RESULT%20OF%20INQUIRY%20->

[%20T.%20Rasmussen%2012.01.2017.pdf](#), January 12, 2017 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁶³ “Stipulation and Consent Order,” *State of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Pari-mutuel Wagering*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/records/2017.02.24_FL_Klingbeil_welfare_drugs.pdf, February 24, 2017 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁶⁴ Adam Pengilly, “Trainer who used cattle prod on greyhound unlikely to face criminal charges,” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, <https://www.smh.com.au/sport/racing/trainer-who-used-cattle-prod-on->

- 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.⁶⁵
- 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.⁶⁶ Since 2001, at least 3,500 greyhounds had been exported to Macau from the Australian state of Victoria alone.⁶⁷
- 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.⁶⁸ 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.⁶⁹
- On November 3, 2014, BBC *Panorama* released an undercover report of race fixing in the greyhound racing industry in Great Britain. Trainer Chris Mosdall openly admitted to doping dogs to fix races by slowing them down with drugs for several races until the betting odds became highly profitable at which point he would enter them without.⁷⁰
- 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.⁷¹ They were being exported from Ireland to Spain by way of France.⁷²
- 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.⁷³ The reporter also called into question the use of the word "retired" as a euphemism for "euthanized."⁷⁴
- 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.⁷⁵ 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.⁷⁶

[greyhound-unlikely-to-face-criminal-charges-20161201-gt1edr.html](#), December 1, 2016 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁶⁵ "Judges' Ruling #12," *Before the Board of Judges Mardi Gras Racetrack*, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/records/2016.05.07_WV_JONES_welfare.pdf, May 7, 2016 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁶⁶ Caro Meldrum-Hanna and Sam Clark, "Slow' Australian greyhounds being exported to Macau, China to go on 'death row,'" *ABC News*, December 9, 2015.

⁶⁷ Sal Perna, "Annual Report 2015-2016," *Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner*, October 27, 2016.

⁶⁸ Caro Meldrum-Hanna and Sam Clark, "Making a Killing," *Four Corners*, February 16, 2015.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

⁷⁰ Daniel Foggo, "Drugs and Money: Dog Racing Undercover," *BBC Panorama*, November 3, 2014.

⁷¹ Celia Caradec, "11 chiens retrouvés morts dans un ferry à Cherbourg," *Tendance Ouest*, October 27, 2014.

⁷² *Ibid.*

⁷³ Paula Penfold, "Let Me Entertain You," *3 News*, March 6, 2013.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ Aine Fitzgerald, "Greyhounds [sic] shot and dumped at County Limerick quarry," *Limerick Leader*, April 11, 2012.

⁷⁶ Gerard Fitzgibbon, "Greyhounds shot and dumped in Limerick quarry after poor trials," *Limerick Leader*, May 2, 2013.

- 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.⁷⁷ Kennel operator Ronald John Williams was charged with thirty-seven counts of felony animal cruelty.⁷⁸ The bodies of eight more dead dogs were found at Williams's home, bringing the total up to forty.⁷⁹

Greyhounds test positive for serious drugs

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.⁸⁰

Five racing countries have regulatory frameworks in place to handle drug screening — the US, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and the UK.⁸¹

⁷⁷ "Investigative Report No. 2010054357," *Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation*, October 29, 2010.

⁷⁸ "Trainer arrested for felony animal cruelty," *Chipley Bugle*, October 31, 2010.

⁷⁹ Mary Scott Speigner, "Update: More Dogs Found Dead," *WMBB News 13*, November 1, 2010.

⁸⁰ "Uniform Classification Guidelines for Foreign Substances and Recommended Penalties and Model Rule," *Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc.*, April 8, 2015.

⁸¹ "Take Action: Worldwide," *GREY2K USA*, 2017, <http://www.grey2kusa.org/action/worldwide.html> (accessed January 1, 2017).

These industry organizations are responsible for finding and handling drug violations.



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

Since 2008, GREY2K USA Worldwide has obtained 640 drug-related rulings from American racetracks.⁸² Racing greyhounds have tested positive for a variety of serious drugs including cocaine and oxycodone.⁸³ 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.⁸⁴

In the UK, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain has published hundreds of greyhound positives since 2009, twenty-four alone in contract year 2019/20.⁸⁵ These include stanozolol, barbiturates,

⁸² "About Dog Racing: State Rulings," *GREY2K USA*, 2021, <https://www.grey2kusa.org/about/rulings.php> (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ "2019 Annual Report & Accounts," *Greyhound Board of Great Britain*, https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/gbgb-prod-assets/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/15124443/21908_GBGB2019ARA_web.pdf (accessed March 16, 2021).

and morphine.⁸⁶ 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.⁸⁷ A trainer admitted to giving his dog valoids to slow him down, waiting a few races until the betting odds became favorable, then taking him off the drugs to result in a faster race pace.⁸⁸ Scottish greyhounds have continued to be drugged: one trainer’s greyhounds tested positive for cocaine and a betablocker in March 2019.⁸⁹ Altogether, twenty-eight drug positives have occurred at Shawfield Stadium since 2009, including five for cocaine.⁹⁰

In Ireland, the Irish Greyhound Board has posted 200 greyhound drug positives since 2012 in the form of Control Committee Reports and Adverse Analytical Findings.⁹¹ These include cocaine, amphetamine, and pentobarbital positives.⁹² While



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

cocaine and amphetamine are known as dangerous performance-enhancing drugs, pentobarbital is a performance-reducing drug. In large doses, it has been used for both animal and human euthanasia and appears in nearly 20% of all IGB drug positives.⁹³

In New Zealand, the Racing Integrity Unit found forty-four greyhound drug positives from 2014 to 2021.⁹⁴ According to New Zealand’s Judicial Control Authority, some of these positives were morphine.⁹⁵ Additionally, two greyhound trainers tested positive for cannabis.⁹⁶

⁸⁶ Max Daly, “Coked-Up Greyhounds Are Still a Problem in the Dog-Racing Industry,” *Vice*, https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/8x8xak/coked-up-greyhounds-are-still-a-problem-in-the-dog-racing-industry, September 21, 2017 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁸⁷ Gordon Blackstock, “Sunday Post Investigates: The dark secrets of dog racing where greyhounds are drugged and races rigged,” *The Sunday Post*, December 11, 2016.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ Oliver Norton, “Unfair Lead: Greyhound trainer loses licence after winning dog found to be high on cocaine,” *The Scottish Sun*, <https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/4482617/greyhound-trainer-loses-licence-after-winning-dog-found-to-be-high-on-cocaine/>, July 14, 2019 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁹⁰ Billy Briggs, “Dozens of dogs doped at Scots greyhound track,” *The Sunday Post*, <https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/dozens-of-dogs-doped-at-scots-greyhound-trackmake-a-list-anything-you-need-injections-anything-ill-get/>, September 22, 2019 (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁹¹ “Adverse Analytical Findings,” *Irish Greyhound Board*, <https://www.igb.ie/Resource/adverse-analytical-findings/> (accessed April 7, 2020). Analysis by *Greyhound Awareness Cork*.

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ “Annual Reports 2015-2019,” *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, 2014-2019.

⁹⁵ “Judicial Decisions,” *Judicial Control Authority for Racing*, 2016, <http://www.jca.org.nz/judicial-decisions> (accessed January 1, 2017).

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

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.⁹⁷



Dogs poisoned to death after racing in Vietnam.

In New South Wales, greyhounds have tested positive for EPO, amphetamine, and codeine.⁹⁸ Between 2015 and April 2018, 201 greyhounds tested positive for drugs in New South Wales.⁹⁹ In Victoria, eight greyhounds tested positive for

codeine and morphine in 2016.¹⁰⁰ In Tasmania, greyhounds have tested positive for caffeine and cobalt.¹⁰¹ In South Australia, greyhounds have tested positive for amphetamine and cobalt.¹⁰²

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.¹⁰³ In Western Australia, a greyhound tested positive for Fertagyl, a drug normally used in cows to control estrus cycles.¹⁰⁴

Gambling on greyhounds is stagnant

Total wagering, also known as the handle or turnover, is an industry metric that gauges public interest in a particular gambling sector. For example, in the last ten years, wagering on greyhound racing in Ireland and the US has diminished by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Australia is the lone country where wagering on greyhound racing is steadily increasing, and the \$3.54 billion (AUD4.99 billion) wagered on

Australian racing in 2018 accounts for over half of the \$6.44 billion worldwide greyhound handle.

⁹⁷ "Stewards' reports," *Queensland Racing Integrity Commission*, <https://qric.qld.gov.au/stewards-reports/greyhound/> (accessed April 7, 2020).

⁹⁸ "Inquiries and Appeals," *Greyhound Racing New South Wales*, 2020.

⁹⁹ Nigel Gladstone, "Greyhounds test positive for drugs 10 times more than horses at races," *The Sydney Morning Herald*, <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/greyhounds-test-positive-for-drugs-10-times-more-than-horses-at-races-20180425-p4zbnj.html>, May 6, 2018 (accessed April 7, 2020).

¹⁰⁰ "Stewards Inquiries," *Fast Track*, 2016.

¹⁰¹ "Decisions," *Office of Racing Integrity*, 2013-2020.

¹⁰² "Stewards Inquiries," *Greyhound Racing SA*, 2012-2020.

¹⁰³ "Stewards' Report," *Queensland Racing Integrity Commission*, August 3, 2016.

¹⁰⁴ "Greyhounds – Stewards Inquiry – Mr Peter Hepple and Dr Phillip Lawton," *Racing and Wagering Western Australia*, October 25, 2016.

In Ireland, the Irish Greyhound Board reported \$24.38 million (€23 million) in total racing turnover in 2019, a decline of 30.03% since 2010.¹⁰⁵

In Macau's final full year of racing, 2017, \$26.16 million (MOP218 million) was wagered, a decline of 86.86% from its peak in 2010.¹⁰⁶

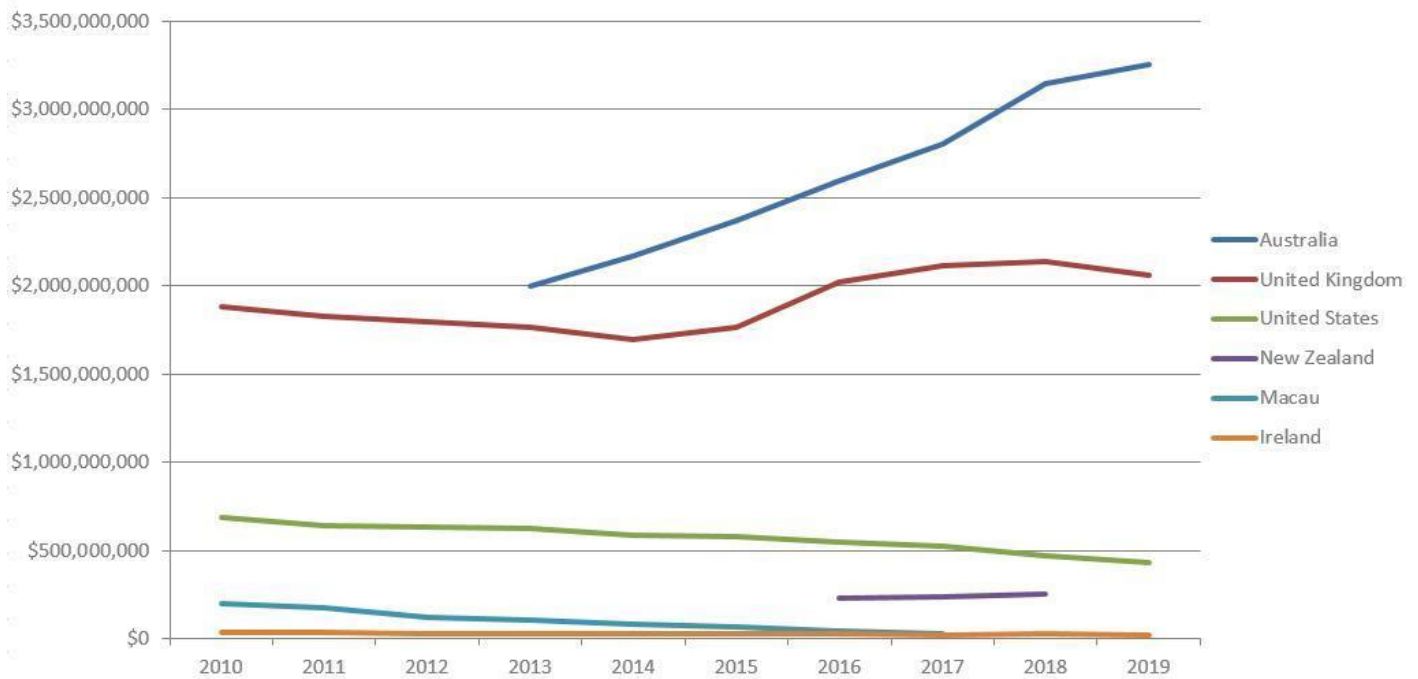
Between 2016 and 2018, turnover in New Zealand has registered between \$233 million and \$257 million (NZD382 million and NZD421 million) each year.¹⁰⁷

In the United States, \$432.79 million was wagered in 2019, a reduction of 37.05% since 2010.

In the United Kingdom, \$2.14 billion (£1.7 billion) was wagered in 2018, amounting to just more than a third of worldwide handle. Turnover declined to \$2.06 billion (£1.64 billion) in 2019, a decline of 3.66% from 2018.

Given that the UK has observed an average annual rate of inflation of 2.9% between 2010 and 2019, if the greyhound betting industry had kept pace, turnover would be at \$2.4 billion (£1.93 billion). Instead, turnover is stagnant, and lagging behind the rate of inflation by hundreds of millions of dollars.

Total Amount Gambled on Live and Simulcast Dog Racing



¹⁰⁵ Sean McCarthaigh, "Greyhound racing profits fall in 'year of two halves,'" *Irish Examiner*, <https://www.irishexaminer.com/business/companies/arid-40082816.html> November 16, 2020 (accessed March 17, 2021).

¹⁰⁶ "Macau Gaming: Betting Amount: Greyhound Racing," *CEIC*, <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/macau/gaming-statistics/gaming-betting-amount-greyhound-racing> (accessed April 20, 2020).

¹⁰⁷ "2018 Annual Report," *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, https://www.grnz.co.nz/OldAdmin/Files/Documents/GRY0035%20AR2018_web_FA.pdf (accessed April 20, 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, that significantly outpaces the downturn in overall wagering. This occurs because gambling operators retain a lower percentage of the turnover when bets are placed remotely.¹⁰⁸

Greyhound racing is a dying industry

The greyhound racing industry is dying. Around the world, dozens of tracks have closed and continue to close. Fewer than 120 commercial tracks currently exist, and more are slated to close in the near future.¹⁰⁹ This decline is the result of increased public awareness that dog racing is cruel and inhumane, coupled with competition from other, faster forms of gambling including internet wagering.

Since GREY2K USA Worldwide began its US campaign in 2001, forty-five American dog tracks have closed or ceased live racing.¹¹⁰ Most recently,

¹⁰⁸ Andrew Dixon, "Gambling Commission Industry Statistics," *Gambling Commission*, November 28, 2019 (accessed April 20, 2020).

¹⁰⁹ O. Kay Henderson, "Closure of Florida tracks may doom Iowa Greyhound Park," *Radio Iowa*, <https://www.radioiowa.com/2019/11/18/closure-of-florida-tracks-may-doom-iowa-greyhound-park/>, November 18, 2019 (accessed April 7, 2020).

¹¹⁰ "Greyhound Racing is a Dying Industry," *GREY2K USA Worldwide*, March 26, 2020, https://files.grey2kusa.org/pdf/GREY2K_USA_Dying_Industry_Fact_Sheet.pdf (accessed March 26, 2020).

¹¹¹ "Greyhound Racing Tracks in Australia," *Australian Racing Greyhound*, australianracinggreyhound.com (accessed March 2, 2020). The current total number of tracks accounts for the ban in the ACT, discontinuing racing at Canberra Greyhound track (Isaac Ling, "Greyhounds come to a close in

Oregon became the forty-second state to outlaw dog racing outright.

Once numbering over 100, Australia's tracks have continued to close. Today, the country has sixty-four greyhound tracks, the most recent one closing in April 2018.¹¹¹

New Zealand once operated thirteen tracks and now maintains only seven.¹¹²

The UK once had at least seventy-seven licensed tracks.¹¹³ Now only twenty-two operate there, with Poole having closed in August 2020.¹¹⁴ In London itself, once the home of over thirty greyhound stadiums, the last track at Plough Lane held its final race in March 2017.¹¹⁵ Wimbledon will now be used as a soccer stadium.¹¹⁶

In China, the Canidrome was ordered to close by the Macau government In July 2018.¹¹⁷ This was the only legal dog track in the entire country.

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

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Canberra," *Punters*, <https://www.punters.com.au/news/greyhounds-come-to-a-close-in-canberra-168425/>, April 28, 2018).

¹¹² "Tracks of New Zealand," *Greyhound-Data*, 2016, <http://www.greyhound-data.com> (accessed December 1, 2016); "Clubs & Tracks," *Greyhound Racing New Zealand*, 2009.

¹¹³ Jon Henley, "Going to the dogs," *The Guardian*, August 8, 2008.

¹¹⁴ "Poole Closure – Gaming International Statement," *Greyhound Star*, <http://greyhoundstar.co.uk/poole-closure-statement/>, August 5, 2020.

¹¹⁵ "Racecourses," *Greyhound Board of Great Britain*, <https://www.gbgb.org.uk/racing/race-courses/?alltracks=true>. The UK has an additional three operational unlicensed tracks, known as independent or flapper tracks.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ Niall Fraser, "Macau's dog racing track given ultimatum as city upgrades its mass tourism appeal," *South China Morning Post*, July 23, 2016.