



**WHAT'S
WRONG WITH**

**GREYHOUND
RACING?**

Greyhounds are typically very loyal, gentle and friendly dogs. They are also explosively fast runners and their natural speed is the basis upon which an exploitative racing industry has been built. Annually, thousands of healthy young dogs whose only 'crime' is being slower than the others are given death sentences.

HOW ARE GREYHOUNDS EXPLOITED?



TOO MANY BRED TOO MANY DEAD

Abbey (above) showed no interest in chasing a lure. She was obviously never going to be profitable and was surrendered for economic euthanasia at the age of two.

Sasha (top right) had a racing career, but when her performances and earnings dropped off, she too was surrendered.

Happily, these girls were both rescued, but most racing greyhounds are not so lucky and are killed at relatively young ages. An estimated 20 000 greyhounds are bred each year in Australia and only about 5% are re-homed by the industry's Greyhound Adoption Program.¹

Most Australian states lack responsible breeding programs, so greyhounds are massively overbred in the hope of producing champions. An astonishing 38% of dogs bred do not even make it to the track.²

Accurate, reliable and transparent tracking systems from birth to death are not available, but even the industry has publicly acknowledged its large 'wastage' problem.³

TOO MANY INJURIES TOO MANY DEAD

Collisions and serious injuries happen. It's not surprising when you consider the speeds at which greyhounds travel. More than 14 000 race injuries occurred over a twenty-one month period from January 2012. Bone fractures, especially fractured hocks, led to more than 200 greyhounds being euthanased trackside during this same period.⁴

To save veterinary costs, many racing greyhound owners even prefer to euthanase their dogs for treatable injuries. May (below) was surrendered for euthanasia at just sixteen months of age, all because of a broken toe. Today she is a healthy, happy houndie!



DRUGGED FOR PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT

Doping is a recognised problem in greyhound racing. Anabolic steroids, cocaine, caffeine and amphetamines are some of the drugs known to have been used on dogs by unscrupulous trainers.⁵

Smithers (cover) was a racing greyhound in Queensland. His vet strongly suspected he had been subjected to a regimen of performance enhancing drugs. His skin condition was described as typical of 'drug dogs' and upon rescue he appeared paranoid and extremely withdrawn. Smithers' emotional state gradually improved but he was then diagnosed with both Lupus and kidney disease. Just months later, his adoptive family had to make the heartbreaking decision to euthanase their beautiful boy when his physical and mental condition began to markedly decline. Smithers was only four years old.

EXPLOITED FOR BLOOD PRODUCTS

Tiger (bottom right), a failed young racer, was surrendered to an emergency vet for euthanasia. His intended fate was to be bled to death – to provide blood products for clients' pets. Luckily, an Animal Liberation Qld supporter witnessed Tiger's surrender and his rescue was negotiated, but most are not so fortunate.⁶

A few veterinary practices have begun voluntary blood donor programs, taking blood regularly from clients' animals. These businesses have responded positively to a growing awareness of the ethical conflict arising if trainers are provided with free euthanasia of their dogs in exchange for vets gaining their blood and blood products.



GREYHOUND RACING NEEDS A TOTAL BAN

Criticisms of the industry are usually met with the defence that only a minority of 'rogue' trainers and owners do the wrong thing. Typically, accusations of poor welfare are countered with protestations of love for their animals.

Let us reflect on genuinely loving dog owners:

- They accept life-long responsibilities for their animals
- They avoid putting their animals in situations with increased risks of injury and death
- They obtain veterinary care for treatable injuries
- They avoid breeding litters if the chances of finding homes are low.



If the proof of love, responsibility and care is found in actions, not words, then the standards of many in the greyhound industry come up glaringly short.

Racing greyhounds will always be vulnerable to exploitation and neglect by an industry driven by profit margins. Slow dogs are a liability often leading to poor treatment and premature deaths. It is unlikely that the industry will ever provide sufficient resources to ensure life-long positive welfare outcomes for all the greyhounds who literally are running for their lives.

The solution is clear:
Ban this unnecessary gambling industry. It causes suffering to so many greyhounds who are utterly deserving of their opportunity to be man's best friend.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Never attend greyhound racing events, never use greyhound club facilities and never bet on greyhound races.
- Tell your family, friends and workmates about the exploitation of racing greyhounds.
- Join Animal Liberation Qld. Visit alq.org.au, 'like' us on Facebook, contact us if you'd like to be a volunteer on this campaign or to learn more.
- Write to your local state MP telling them why you oppose this industry.
- Raise this issue in the media whenever an opportunity arises.

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CREDITS

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