

Greyhound Racing

Quaker Concern for Animals *briefing*



Racing for their Lives



Photo courtesy of Jo-Anne McArthur / We Animals

Although legal in only 7 countries, greyhound racing is often promoted as a fun evening out. However, the reality behind this image is very different.

Racing dogs are bred to supply the global gambling industry. Welfare is not a priority as we would like to see it. During their racing lives they face the threat of broken backs, toe injuries, torn muscles and strained tendons. These often go untreated for economic reasons, and those who aren't killed could look forward to a retirement crippled by painful joint problems.

- ★ **Over-breeding.** Action for Greyhounds estimate that 17,900 dogs are bred each year and that only around 9,000 will race. There are approximately 14,000 dogs racing in the UK, most of which are bred in Ireland.
- ★ **Poorly regulated.** Greyhound racing is self-regulating. Government regulations are limited and fail to meet the welfare recommendations of campaigner groups. There is no independent regulatory body to hold breeders, trainers or race-track owners to account.
- ★ **Poor conditions.** On average, racing dogs are caged for 95% of their time. Many are muzzled to prevent fighting in their cramped cages. Greyhounds are naturally sensitive animals and require warm and comfortable housing due to their physical fragility.
- ★ **Short and dangerous racing lives.** Typically a dog will start racing at 15-18 months and will race for 3-4 years. Injury can shorten a dog's racing life. In 2017, 355 greyhounds were killed due to expensive treatment, poor prognosis or because they could not be homed.

Quaker Concern for Animals is asking individual Friends and meetings to hold in the Light all those dogs who suffer in the name of entertainment.

There are a number of ways you can help to stop the exploitation of greyhounds in the racing and gambling industries.

Quaker Concern for Animals recognises the preciousness of each unique life and we try to express this through the actions of our daily lives.

The promptings of love and truth in our hearts has opened our eyes to the great sufferings of other species.

We witness to the divine in creation and the equality of all creatures.

- ✓ **Read** the report, *'The state of greyhound racing in Great Britain: a mandate for change'*. (see our website)
- ✓ **Refuse** to attend or bet on greyhound racing
- ✓ **Inform** those thinking of attending a race of the plight of dogs bred for racing
- ✓ **Lobby your MP** calling for an end to greyhound racing
- ✓ **Foster or adopt** an ex-racing greyhound
- ✓ **Volunteer** at your local greyhound rescue centre or organise a collection on their behalf
- ✓ **Remember** the dogs who have suffered by participating in Greyhound Remembrance Weekend each July.

Visit greyhoundcompassion.org or quaker-animals.co.uk or further information and more suggestions for ways to be involved.



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Membership of *Quaker Concern for Animals* is open to persons of any faith or of none. To find out more, please visit our website



quaker-animals.co.uk

You can also find us on social media

