

GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



Submission relating to Petition PE1758 End greyhound racing Rural Affairs and Islands Committee - June 2023

Formed in 2001, GREY2K USA Worldwide is the largest greyhound protection organisation in the world. As a non-profit entity, it works to pass stronger greyhound protection laws and end the cruelty of dog racing on both national and international levels. It also promotes the rescue and adoption of greyhounds across the globe.

Greyhound Board of Great Britain - Injury and retirement data for 2022

The recently published [data](#) (20th June 2023) from the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, which provides a breakdown of injury, fatalities and retirement data from the 20 registered tracks in GB is of great concern to GREY2K, and we wish to bring this to the Committee's attention, in relation to petition 1758.

The data shows the injury rate for racing dogs is higher now than it was in 2018. This situation is clearly not acceptable. Not only does it show the inherent risks racing dogs are exposed to, including fatalities, but also that the industry is past reform. Only an end to greyhound racing in Scotland will prevent the unacceptable suffering and death caused during the activity of greyhound racing.

We are aware that Scotland's last remaining track is not covered by these figures, but that does not mean dogs raced at Thornton won't suffer in exactly the same way as dogs racing on regulated tracks. In fact, the situation is worse, as there is no vet in attendance at Thornton, as the Committee heard in a previous evidence session.

It is also worth noting that this data is presented in such a way as to downplay the risk. The industry compares the rate of injuries to the number of 'starts', the total number of times a greyhound is entered into a race. In using this metric, the industry counts the same dogs repeatedly, creating the impression that a much larger number of dogs are competing than actually are. Additionally, unlike injury reporting in other jurisdictions, the specific injuries (eg broken leg, head injury, seizure) are not named, further obscuring understanding of the realities faced by racing greyhounds.

GREY2K hopes the Committee will consider this data as it progresses petition 1758. This data also highlights that the legislation in place to protect all dogs, the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, is not effective for preventing suffering caused by greyhound racing. Our position is clear, we support an end to dog racing in Scotland, and we urge the Scottish Parliament to adopt this same position.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you wish any further information.
Yours sincerely

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