



14/11/2022

Dear Mr Carson,

I am making contact once again with the RAINE committee in my capacity as the petitioner of PE1758: End Greyhound Racing in Scotland. You will be aware that the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission wrote to the committee last week and advised that they are not yet in a position to confirm their stance on the future of greyhound racing as a whole at this time, instead intending to conduct more research and formalise their position early next year. In this letter they stated their continued assertion that greyhound racing at unregulated tracks, such as at Thornton Greyhounds in Fife, should not continue. They already informed the committee of this position in a letter back in May this year. Given that the SAWC has asked for yet more time to research further the regulated side of racing -albeit racing no longer exists in this form in Scotland – we are formally requesting that the committee wastes no more time in acting on the advice from SAWC back in May regarding unregulated racing.

If we allow yet more time to pass without acting on the clear advice from the SAWC, more dogs will be injured and potentially die through unregulated racing in Scotland. The owner of Thornton Greyhounds recently admitted to a media outlet what we have always asserted was the case - at least one dog has already died at the track this year, and we have no idea how many more have been injured through this cruel enterprise. We feel that the RAINE committee must write to the government and seek an interim measure which would protect the dogs racing on unregulated tracks where there is no drug testing carried out, no assessment of dogs by a vet, and no vet present at races to administer first aid or to quickly euthanise a dog in the event of catastrophic injuries to prevent further prolonged suffering. Six months have already elapsed with no action on this issue, when the advice is consistent and clear from the SAWC, the APPDAWG, the SSPCA, the RSPCA, the Dogs Trust, One Kind, Animal Concern, Scotland for Animals and others.

We look forward to seeing some positive action in your next steps with regards to the great many submissions and statements that have now been gathered under this petition.

Kind regards,

Gill Docherty
Petitioner, Chairperson