

ANIMAL RACING POLICY PROPOSAL BRIEFING PAPER

JULY 11, 2024

ANIMAL RIGHTS POLICY WORKING GROUP

Contents

Policy Motion	3
Title of motion.....	3
Synopsis.....	3
Motion.....	3
Background information	5
Reasons to vote yes to the amended GPEW Animal Rights animal racing policy AR428, rewritten for clarity and banning greyhound racing outright:.....	5
Introduction	6
Abuse of dogs.....	7
RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross want a phased end to greyhound racing	10
Members of the public are ready to ban greyhound racing.....	11
Weaknesses of the GBGB.....	12
How to ban greyhound racing with the least harm to all	13
Gambling as a cause of human suffering	14
In conclusion, it is time to ban greyhound racing.....	14
Consultations	16
2024 consultations.....	16
2023 consultations.....	16
Appendix I	18
Appendix II Minutes from GAP/PWG meeting 14/06/23	39
Appendix II Email exchanges within the PWG	41
Original proposal from Hannah	41
Emails agreeing wording.....	42
Emails discussing background information.....	45
Emails agreeing internal consultation.....	50
Email agreeing external consultation.....	53
Appendix III Internal Consultation emails.....	55
Email sent to PWGs.....	55
Land Use PWG.....	57
Food and Agriculture	58
Asylum and Migration	59
Housing	62
Appendix IV External Consultation Emails.....	65
Email sent to GBGB	65

Response from GBGB	66
AR PWG reply to GBGB	75
Email sent to animal advocacy groups.....	88
Response from CAGED	89

Policy Motion

Title of motion:

Animal Rights (AR) Animal racing motion “Amend animal racing policy AR428 and include an additional paragraph banning greyhound racing.”

Synopsis

AR428 ends animal exploitation in commercial racing. As amended, AR428 explicitly bans the greyhound-racing industry (over 3–5 years) to prevent injuries, deaths and wastage of dogs. Many groups, RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross now support a ban – and a “ban greyhound racing” bill from a Green MSP is scheduled for the Scottish Parliament.

Motion

AR428 (current policy) reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Remove some words/rearrange for sense, put mention of greyhounds in the second paragraph and break the list of tasks into bullet points for clarity so that the amended policy reads:

AR428: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in all situations where animals are commercially raced. There will be an immediate ban on the whip in horse racing. A high compulsory levy will be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements. A single regulatory authority will be put in place for each industry, tasked with:

- establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards

- enforcing full traceability of all animals throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable)
- full publication of injury and death statistics to be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records
- tightly regulating and monitoring breeding and import of animals to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding
- regulating conditions and times of transportation of animals as well as animal housing.

A Green Government will ban greyhound racing. This will be carried out gradually, over three to five years, to reduce the probability of shelters being overwhelmed, beginning with a reduction in the import and breeding of racing dogs. The ban will help alleviate the suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry and contribute to measures aimed at reducing problem gambling. The Green Party will stop advertising and broadcasting greyhound racing on media platforms within 12 months. A high compulsory levy will be imposed on all greyhound racing betting, to be used solely for greyhound welfare, homing and industry wind-down. The Green Party will aim to support those persons deemed dependent on the industry through a “just transition” approach.

Background information

Reasons to vote yes to the amended GPEW Animal Rights animal racing policy AR428, rewritten for clarity and banning greyhound racing outright:

- **There is injury to, abuse and death of the dogs at every stage** from puppyhood, through training, racing and breeding, to leaving racing. The Greyhound Board of Great Britain cannot adequately protect puppies and dogs. There is over-breeding, poor kennelling and transportation, lack of vet care, doping and painful artificial insemination. Racing and training anticlockwise on the race-standard oval track causes numerous, predictable injuries to 20–22% (about 3,600) dogs per year. Injuries usually affect the left forelimb and right hindlimb.
- **RSPCA, Dogs Trust, Blue Cross and others are calling for a phased ban**, after years of trying to work with the industry, quoting “issues that cannot be resolved”.
- **Public opinion has moved as evidenced by surveys, and most people back a ban** – this is now seen as a mainstream option. Scottish Green MSP Mark Ruskell has lodged a bill to ban the industry in Scotland. GPEW could be among the first to commit and lead the way in policy (late reference <https://greens.scot/news/bill-to-ban-greyhound-racing-flies-out-of-the-traps>)
- **Greyhound racing is recognised as being an entry point into gambling, known as “gateway gambling”**. A ban will support the developing GPEW gambling policy, although it should be noted that “virtual racing” is becoming increasingly popular; virtual racing, which doesn’t involve real animals, will not be affected by a ban.



From Hope Rescue in Wales.

Introduction

The first greyhound racing track was opened in 1926 at Belle Vue Stadium in Manchester. The industry was brought to the UK by American, Charles Munn. At the time, there was no technology to observe the race other than watching it live, and most people didn't even have binoculars. The track was therefore configured into an oval with a mechanical lure, a design that persists to this day.

From over 200 tracks at its height, greyhound racing has now declined to 22 tracks in the UK, one unlicensed, or independent. Although much declined, there are still 5,000 race fixtures a year and, thanks to online betting, more money than ever is being spent, with races transmitted around the world. There is a turnover of approximately £740 million in the UK, with a tax revenue of less than £20 million.¹

The industry is self-regulated by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) which was registered in 2010. Its remit doesn't include N. Ireland or the Republic of Ireland (ROI). Well known arguments for racing include: *tradition and history; entertainment and fun* ("working class institution"); *the dogs love racing; all athletes must accept risk as part of the job* and *"most people think it's ok"*.

¹ Statista. Annual turnover of off course dog race betting in Great Britain from April 2008 to March 2022. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/469762/gambling-turnover-dogs-in-great-britain-betting/> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

We feel the points raised in the Alliance Against Greyhound Racing (AAGR) petition (2022) are the main lobbying issues:

“Thousands of greyhounds are forced to race for worldwide betting markets. We believe that the welfare of racing greyhounds is not adequately protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, the GBGB, or any independent body, and that greyhounds endure unavoidable suffering on tracks that can be dangerously configured, race in extreme weather & can be housed in kennels that have not yet been independently inspected to gain UKAS accreditation [UK Accreditation Service], despite commitments to DEFRA [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs].

Their petition reached 104,885 signatures and was debated in parliament.²

Abuse of dogs

“Wastage” – the killing of unwanted puppies, and euthanising dogs not fit to race. The number of registered dogs and the average size of a greyhound litter points to huge over-breeding – there is a massive number of missing puppies and dogs believed to be about 6,000 a year (in Ireland).³ Figures are not available for Great Britain, where the greyhound breeding industry is much smaller (only 139 litters – 885 puppies – in 2023). The greyhound racing industry incentivises over-breeding in the search for elite dogs, and directly causes the likely culling of less desired animals. The UK is dependent on Ireland to supply about 85% of racing greyhounds, and differences between logbooks show that around 6,000 “disappear” yearly. The UK racing industry is complicit in this, although there is some anecdotal evidence of young greyhounds being handed in to shelters in the UK.⁴

There is no record of the fate of greyhounds that come from Ireland for sales events – we have no idea what happens to those unsold. Dogs retired due to injury are probably euthanised in some way; transported to countries such as Pakistan and China for canned wild boar (or other animal) hunting; end up in the dog meat industry; or the lucky ones will be taken into shelters and homed. It is thought that adult dogs may sometimes be killed using a captive bolt gun, which is the most economical method.⁵ Any person can kill a greyhound with a bolt gun, as long as they are the legal owner. The bolt gun is not designed to work on a small-skulled animal like a dog and it often takes a few attempts before the animal dies as the bolt keeps sliding into nasal cavities. There is no recent evidence that

² UK Government. Ban greyhound racing to end unnecessary deaths & suffering of racing dogs. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554073> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

³ Preferred Results Ltd. 2017. *IGB Business Model Analysis*. <https://bit.ly/4auTqRP>.

⁴ Personal communication: Ray Harding, Board Member of The Greyhound Trust.

⁵ C.A.G.E.D. Ban the Bolt Campaign. <https://bit.ly/3ypFZNn> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

greyhounds are still being killed in the UK with a captive bolt gun. However, an Irish (ROI) documentary produced four years ago revealed evidence of widespread use.⁶

The oval track. Greyhounds suffer predictable injuries running and training anticlockwise up to 40 mph on oval tracks, with tight bends and long fast straights. Injuries are very specific to the fact that greyhounds are repetitively trained and raced on these tracks, always in the same direction which causes micro-fractures in particular bones. This leads to areas of demineralisation – areas of weakness and failure of bone structural integrity – resulting in stress fractures which are rarely, if at all, seen in any other breed. These fractures are generally in the left forelimb or right hindlimb of the dog. These are a predictable outcome and not an accident. It should be noted that the Animal Welfare Act 2006, Section 9, states, in the listed duties of a person responsible for an animal’s welfare, that they should protect the animal from pain, suffering, injury and disease. A good summary of veterinary articles on injuries in racing greyhounds is given in Andrew Knight’s report.⁷

GBGB’s consistent failure to minimise injuries can be seen in their published injury data which, in terms of percentages, have increased in the past five years. There have been 22,284 injuries and 2,392 greyhounds have died as a result of racing over the last five years.⁸

Injuries often lead to dogs leaving racing for either adoption (for the lucky ones) or other fates. Most greyhounds leave racing – the AAGR do not use the euphemistic term “retired” – from injuries or being too slow between the ages of 2–3 years, although it has also been estimated that the racing life of a greyhound is actually under a year, about seven months (see footnote 6). This has an additional knock-on effect on all breeds of dogs in rescue – as about 6,500 or more greyhounds leave racing every year.

Additional dogs are killed and injured on independent tracks.⁹ Amputation of limbs is not uncommon. Some dogs have been found with their ears cut off to prevent identification (the ear-marking tattoo is on the inside of the ear flap).¹⁰

Poor welfare of kept dogs. Eyewitnesses report that greyhounds are often kept in poor, barren conditions and muzzled a lot of the time. There are serious concerns (for example,

⁶ ***WARNING GRAPHIC FOOTAGE*** Naughton, M.; Shouldice, F. 2019. *RTE Investigates: Greyhounds Running for Their Lives*. RTE: Ireland. <https://youtu.be/ZYTb2qBjIMM>.

⁷ Knight, A. 2018. *Injuries in Racing Greyhounds*. Greyt Exploitations: Cleveland, UK, www.andrewknight.info/reports/injuries-in-racing-greyhounds/ or in more condensed form on the AAGR website, www.aagr.org.uk/2020/09/07/injuries-death/.

⁸ These data are described on the GBGB website on an “injuries per run basis”. In 2021, 15–18,000 dogs made about 360,000 “runs”. Their 1.2% “injuries per run” figure translates to 22–25% of the dogs being injured or euthanised every year. It also means that an increased number of runs makes the apparent injury rate drop, even though they may be the same, or increasing, on a per dog basis.

⁹ Not all tracks are GBGB licensed, some are independent or “flapper” tracks.

¹⁰ For example, BBC. Apr 24, 2009. Greyhound found with ears cut off. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/8017738.stm> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

from the RSPCA) about welfare during kennelling and transport, and regarding lack of socialisation.

The suffering and abuse of greyhounds in training kennels can be seen in RSPCA prosecutions. In 2023, trainer Rebecca Perkins was jailed and banned from keeping dogs for ten years after an unannounced GBGB inspection revealed starvation and suffering.¹¹ Two years earlier another greyhound trainer – Clive Elliot, attached to Swindon dog track – had left his dogs to starve.¹² There is anecdotal evidence of greyhounds being poisoned¹³ or killed and buried on site.¹⁴

Greyhounds held back from vet-care? An article in the *Journal of Small Animal Practice*¹⁵ found that greyhounds have a predisposition to dental disease believed to be linked to poor dental hygiene and diet in early life. GBGB addresses the dental disease issue with written documents on its website.¹⁶ Unlike many other companion dogs, redundant racing greyhounds are not accompanied with a veterinary record or any formal history of the dog's previous treatment.

Dr Dan O'Neill, Veterinary Epidemiologist and VetCompass™ researcher at the Royal Veterinary College, who was the main author of the paper cited above, said:

“Pet greyhounds are now a common breed treated in general veterinary practices in the UK. Retired racing greyhounds can make very good pets, but these results sadly show that they also carry health legacies from inherent breed predispositions as well as impacts from their prior racing careers. These potential problems include bad teeth, behavioural issues and arthritis. Our new VetCompass evidence especially reveals a worryingly high level of dental disease. This awareness should encourage all those who care for the greyhound to prioritise preventive and remedial strategies for these issues and therefore to improve the welfare of this lovely breed, both before and after rehoming as pets.”¹⁷

Doping of racing dogs. Figures are hard to come by, but the GBGB estimates a doping rate of about 1% – although only about 3% of racing dogs are tested, a small sample. In 2020, there were 318,346 dog runs and of those only 6,288 samples were taken leaving 312,058

¹¹ Campbell, J. Greyhound trainer Rebecca Perkins jailed after dogs found in sickening state at East Yorkshire kennels. *Hull Live*. Jul 5, 2023. <https://bit.ly/3WLR0Yq>.

¹² Anon. Swindon greyhound trainer jailed for 20 weeks for “appalling” cruelty. *Swindon Advertiser*. Feb 7, 2020. <https://bit.ly/4ajbWUI>.

¹³ Personal communication from Caged Nationwide.

¹⁴ Anon. Greyhound killer to face tougher sentence. *Guardian*. Feb 16, 2007. www.theguardian.com/uk/2007/feb/16/ukcrime.animalwelfare.

¹⁵ D. G. O'Neill et al. Epidemiology of periodontal disease in dogs in the UK primary-care veterinary setting. *Journal of Small Animal Practice* (2021) 62, 1051–1061. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jsap.13405>.

¹⁶ GBGB. Safeguarding welfare throughout a greyhound's life. <http://www.gbgb.org.uk>.

¹⁷ RCVS. Bad teeth revealed as biggest problem for pet greyhounds. Jun 4, 2019. <https://bit.ly/3QQ0Bo7> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

(or 99%) dog runs untested for drugs prior to racing and therefore excluded from detection of doping.

The most common drugs used are those that mask injuries, such as painkillers and anaesthetics, or make the dog highly excitable like cocaine or amphetamines. For example, at Shawfield stadium in Glasgow 28 dogs have tested positive for banned drugs since 2009, including steroids, beta blockers and prohormones (bodybuilders). One Scottish trainer denied doping two of his dogs with cocaine, saying a friend had borrowed his van and spilt cocaine on some bones that his greyhounds may have eaten. Cocaine causes heart attacks, seizures and strokes in dogs.¹⁸

Artificial insemination (AI) of greyhound bitches. The GBGB website states that cervical (non-surgical but highly intrusive) AI of greyhound bitches must be carried out by a vet in the UK, although trans-vaginal AI can be carried out by anyone. Surgical AI where the abdomen is cut open, the uterus lifted out and semen injected straight into the uterus requires a general anaesthetic and has been banned in the UK by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons since 2019, and this ban is noted on the Kennel Club website. It is considered that the resulting pregnancy puts strain on abdominal wounds causing extreme pain.¹⁹ This method is not banned in the ROI where 85% of GB racing dogs come from. AI of greyhound bitches is not specifically mentioned by the GBGB although most greyhound breeding is carried out by this method using frozen semen. There is no evidence of monitoring semen collection in the industry. Methods of semen collection for dogs are invasive procedures. There are three common methods: digital manipulation, electroejaculation and pharmacological collection.²⁰ Both electroejaculation and pharmacological collection involve general anaesthetic or sedation²¹ which could pose health and welfare concerns.²² No information is available about the frequency of semen collection for individual dogs, although plenty of fresh and frozen semen is available for sale.

RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross want a phased end to greyhound racing

In a statement in September 2022, the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross called for a phased end to greyhound racing over five years.²³

¹⁸ Briggs, B. Dozens of greyhounds racing in Scotland test positive for banned substances such as cocaine. Oct 1, 2019. <https://theferret.scot/greyhounds-racing-shawfield-cocaine> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

¹⁹ Anon. Artificial insemination in dogs. <https://bit.ly/3V2S6IX> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

²⁰ Kutzler, M. A. Semen collection in the dog. *Theriogenology* 2005, 64 (3), 747–754.

²¹ Carneiro, J. da S., Motheo, T. F. Pharmacological semen collection in domestic and wild canids and felids: Literature review. *Animal Reproduction* (2023), 20(4), e20230036. <https://doi.org/10.1590/1984-3143-AR2023-0036>.

²² Jones, H., Robson, K., Maddox, T., Alderson, B. Incidence of and risk factors for poor recovery quality in dogs recovering from general anaesthesia – prospective case control study. *Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia* (2024) 51 (3), 227–234. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaa.2023.12.002>.

²³ RSPCA. End greyhound racing in the UK. <https://bit.ly/3WMZdq4>. (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

All three organisations have worked with the greyhound racing industry for many years to improve conditions for greyhounds but they conclude: *“While this has led to some improvements, we all believe there are still significant welfare issues for racing greyhounds which have not been resolved and cannot be resolved.”*

The following is taken directly from the RSPCA website:

“Greyhound racing is inherently dangerous for the dogs involved. Running at speed around oval tracks causes significant injury to many dogs, and in some cases, the injuries are so severe that it is necessary to euthanise the dog.”

Members of the public are ready to ban greyhound racing

Greyhound racing is on its last legs and the time has come to abolish it. Don't be misled by terminology: greyhound racing is not a “sport”, it's an industry that is sustained by gambling. None of the UK Sports Councils acknowledge greyhound racing as a sport because, unlike horse racing, it does not involve any human participation. More recently, the Government has dropped the term ‘sport’ and now refers to it as an industry.

As facts about greyhound racing have become known, public opinion has moved and many people now think it is a form of animal abuse. A poll conducted by PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) and the League Against Cruel Sports in Oxford revealed that 71% of respondents did not want dog racing in their city.²⁴ Hope Rescue Centre in Wales administered a survey and found that 45% of people wanted to ban greyhound racing; 17% were against a ban; and 38% didn't know or were unsure (mentioned in a parliamentary E-petition debate in 2022 relating to greyhound racing).²⁵ Also, in 2022 a YouGov poll found that 91% of the British public does not follow or participate in greyhound racing and 64% believe the “sport” is not important to British culture.²⁶

A petition from the AAGR (2021) showed that 104,885 UK citizens supported a ban.²⁷

Scottish Green MSP Mark Ruskell has been heavily involved in lobbying for a ban in Scotland and has lodged a member's bill “Proposed Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Scotland) Bill”. The consultation ran until 1 May 2024.²⁸

²⁴ DeGarvre, H. 71% of Oxfordshire respondents don't want greyhound racing. Jun 28, 2022. <https://bit.ly/3K9t9p1> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

²⁵ UK Parliament. LIVE: E-petition debate relating to greyhound racing. 28 March 2022. www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD80MGXpnHs (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

²⁶ YouGov/RSPCA. 2022 *YouGov / RSPCA Survey Results*. https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/5ue6z1j8dd/RSPCA_Greyhound_220914_W.pdf.

²⁷ UK Government. Ban greyhound racing to end unnecessary deaths & suffering of racing dogs. <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/554073> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

²⁸ Ruskell, M. Proposed Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Scotland) Bill. <https://bit.ly/44RqQAE> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

Regarding other places in the world where traditionally there has been greyhound racing, it has been banned in 41 states in the USA, and only two US States now have active dog racing tracks²⁹; a ban has also been discussed in New Zealand.³⁰

Many are now calling for an end to the use, abuse and senseless destruction of these gentle intelligent dogs in the service of the gambling industry.

Weaknesses of the GBGB

Greyhound racing is part of the gambling industry and is self-regulating in Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland). The GBGB is the self-regulating body that oversees licensed greyhound racing in Britain. It is ethically committed to greyhound racing because it believes it to be “the majority view of society” and its activities consist of education and the development of continuous professional development (CPD) for stakeholders such as owners and trainers. The GBGB talks about minimising possible injuries and says “welfare is at the heart of what we do” but actually *racing* is at the heart of what they do, welfare is secondary.

The GBGB has big shortcomings that make it unfit for the purpose of monitoring the industry:

- The GBGB has no ability to prosecute – this falls to the usual authorities such as the Police, the Crown Prosecution Service and the RSPCA. (From “A good life for every greyhound” GBGB’s new strategy published on their website).
- The GBGB have no record or awareness of Independent or non-GBGB tracks (see footnote 9) or Northern Irish racing, therefore no awareness of any dog that is not GBGB licensed. Currently there may be about 18,000 greyhounds licenced to race on GBGB tracks, but more exist outside of GBGB. An academic paper on demography and common disorders of greyhounds estimates that there are about 15,000 *active* racing greyhounds at any one time in the UK.³¹ The GBGB has no record of the number of greyhound puppies born (and disposed of) as most of this happens in ROI before earmarking or registration. As mentioned previously, this may be as many as 6,000 puppies a year. Most British racing dogs are bred in Ireland (85%) and therefore British racing is a strong driver for greyhound over-breeding and the search for elite dogs.³² Puppies that are bred in Britain itself have to be registered with the greyhound stud book in terms of litter size and number of males/females,

²⁹ Humane Decisions. The cruelty of greyhound dog racing. <https://bit.ly/455n46R> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

³⁰ Anon. Greyhound racing “no longer viable”, decision delayed on its future. Stuff. May 23, 2023. <https://tinyurl.com/mt5zdyse> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

³¹ D. G. O’Neill et al. Greyhounds under general veterinary care in the UK during 2016: Demography and common disorders. *Canine Genetics and Epidemiology* (2019) 6, 4. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40575-019-0072-5>.

³² Anon. Greyhound racing. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_racing (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

but nothing beyond that – and nothing obvious that could identify an individual greyhound, or link to GBGB-registration.³³

- There is no awareness of the export, abandonment or killing of many post-racing dogs. In Great Britain, a dog’s racing period normally ends when he or she is between 4–6 years (usually up to three years) and the dog leaves racing. The GBGB strategy of homing ex-racing greyhounds using shelters means that this potentially overwhelms homes and shelter places, pushing out other dogs.
- The GBGB compares greyhound racing to human sport where athletes sometimes get hurt; this overlooks the fact that greyhounds do not choose to race – their human owners choose it for them. Also, they don’t “race” they simply chase a mechanical lure. If the lure fails, the “race” fails and has to be re-run. Greyhound racing capitalises on the natural willingness of sighthounds to chase moving prey.
- The Scottish Animal Welfare report of February 2023 regarding the GBGB’s welfare plans accurately describes the plans as of no real benefit to the greyhounds.³⁴
- The GBGB is funded by the British Greyhound Racing Fund which consists of voluntary donations from bookmakers. This makes the GBGB’s job of overseeing the industry a classic case of “marking your own homework”.

How to ban greyhound racing with the least harm to all

Current homing crisis. Over 6,500 greyhounds are streamed into homing centres every year, and rescues are full, often with waiting lists of over 100 dogs. They rely on the public mostly to fund the homing. Rescuers and volunteers are stressed and burnt out, and the industry continues to breed more dogs that will inevitably become unwanted once they are no longer of further use.

A phased ban is important. If greyhound racing was stopped abruptly there is a chance that trainers and owners would dump their dogs, and shelters would see about 24,500 dogs put up for homing in one year, instead of the usual, around 6,500. This would be catastrophic for the greyhounds and the shelters. This is why the Green Party is proposing a three-to-five year phased ban, and why the RSPCA is proposing a five-year phased ban. It is impossible to predict how trainers will react, but it is likely they will hang on to their dogs as long as there is money to be made. The phasing process could begin with a ban on import and breeding of young greyhounds (“to turn off the tap”) to encourage gradual stepwise cessation.

A just transition. Workers in the greyhound industry need to be supported as there will be unavoidable changes to the labour markets around greyhound racing. People thought to be dependent on greyhound racing include stadium and track employees, some administrators (of the GBGB and Greyhound Stud Book [GSB], for example), trainers, and finally, breeders

³³ National Coursing Club. Breeding update 2023. <https://bit.ly/4bIzJyb> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

³⁴ Scottish Animal Welfare Commission. 2023. *Report on the Welfare of Greyhounds Used for Racing in Scotland*, p. 31. Edinburgh. <https://bit.ly/3WQ7XMs>.

(although the greyhound breeding industry is very small in GB as evidenced by the GSB – it is estimated that each breeder only registers one litter a year).

Here, the Green Party will follow the principles of “just transition” which are used in the context of climate change. The idea of a just transition framework has been used in the trade union movement with the aim of ensuring that implementing transition to net zero does not disadvantage workers and communities: an inclusive approach that also recognises the opportunities transition can bring through the creation of decent, “green” jobs.

Just transition principles include: *social dialogue* (participation, consultation and negotiation, via relevant trade unions where appropriate); *social protection* against the adverse impacts of job losses; *skill development*, via education and training, to ensure new employment opportunities, which also takes into account gender equality.³⁵

The Green Party believes that while a greyhound racing ban primarily benefits dogs, it can also benefit local economies (e.g. houses could be built on stadium sites; less family money spent on gambling) and shelters (fewer dogs to re-home).

Ideas around the details of a just transition have been requested from GBGB but they have not yet responded to that request, instead putting forward a defence of greyhound racing.

Gambling as a cause of human suffering

HelpGuide.org is recognised as a transparent and trustworthy provider of quality health information. On gambling, in general, it says that too much time spent on gambling can lead to relationship and legal problems, job loss and mental health problems, including depression and anxiety, and even suicide.³⁶

In conclusion, it is time to ban greyhound racing

- **The dogs are vulnerable to abuse, injury and death at every stage from puppyhood, through training, racing and breeding, to leaving racing.** The GBGB cannot adequately protect puppies and dogs and there is no protection at all for the many unregistered dogs. There is over-breeding, poor kennelling and transportation, lack of vet care, doping and painful artificial insemination. Racing and training anticlockwise on an oval track cause numerous, predictable injuries

³⁵ International Labour Organization. 2015 *Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All*. Geneva. <https://tinyurl.com/495yj2ux> London School of Economics, What is the just transition and what does it mean for climate action? Feb 20, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/2p9c2kry>.

³⁶ Segal, J., Smith, M., Robinson, L. Gambling addiction and problem Gambling. Feb 5, 2024. <https://bit.ly/3V5Vhj5> (accessed Jul 11, 2024).

to 20–22% of dogs (about 3,600 dogs) per year. Injuries usually affect the left forelimb and right hindlimb.

- **RSPCA, Dogs Trust and the Blue Cross are calling for a phased ban** after trying to work with the industry for decades, quoting “issues that have not been resolved and cannot be resolved”.
- **Most members of the public now back a ban** – a ban is increasingly seen as a mainstream option. Scottish Green MSP Mark Ruskell has lodged a draft bill to ban the industry in Scotland (2024). GPEW could be among the first to commit and could lead the way with this policy.
- **Greyhound racing is recognised as being an entry point into gambling, known as “gateway gambling”**. A ban will support the developing GPEW gambling policy. However, it should be noted that a lot of greyhound racing is now virtual racing. This is not a real event; it is simulated by a computer and graphically animated in a live stream. Software decides the course of the race and the placement of the animals. It seems probable that the convenience and cheapness of virtual racing will gradually replace live racing, thus contributing to the “natural wastage” in greyhound racing using live animals (this form of betting is available from William Hill, Skybets, Bet 365, BetVictor, BetFred, PaddyPower, Ladbrookes, Unibet and others).

Especial thanks go to Trudy Baker of the AAGR for much of the information presented in this report.

Consultations

The motion was extensively consulted on in 2023 and accredited on the basis of those consultations. As it was referred back for re-wording, the motion has also been consulted on in 2024 as below (see appendices).

2024 consultations

Meetings:

- 2023 AGM unanimous decision to work on development of an explicit greyhound racing ban (Minutes enclosed).
- March 2024 Policyfest session (transcript enclosed)
- 1 April 2024 joint GAP/ARPWG meeting (Minutes enclosed)

Emails:

- Correspondence with Ray Harding, Trustee of the Greyhound Trust
- Correspondence within 5 PWGs of the Green Party (Finance and Economy PWG; Health PWG; Worker's Rights and Employment PWG; Culture, Media and Sport PWG; Tourism and Heritage PWG June 2024)
- Correspondence with Hayley Pattrick of Norfolk Greyhound Rescue 18 June 2024 hayleyngr@gmail.com
- Correspondence with Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) 20 June 2024
- Correspondence with Hope Rescue in Wales enquiries@hoperescue.org.uk 23 June 2024
- Correspondence with Rita James, founder of CAGED (Campaign Against Greyhound Exploitation and Death)

2023 consultations

1. The policy proposal was first discussed and endorsed by the Animal Rights PWG and GAP during a meeting on the 14/06/23 (see Appendix I)
Discussion of the detail of wording and intent were carried out by email exchange between members of the PWG (see Appendix II).
The motion was then discussed at Policy Fest (27/06/23) the discussion can be viewed here: <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/node/298>
The PWG members involved in writing the proposal were:
 - Hannah Spencer
 - Diana Newson
 - John Davis
 - Emma Randall
2. The proposal was posted on the First Agenda Forum (<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/content/perma?id=143991>) and received positive comments: e.g. "Having campaigned against Belle Vue Greyhound Racing Stadium in

Manchester I fully endorse this motion and happy to speak on it at conference. Well done for getting this together!” – Jake Walsh

It was then posted on the Final Agenda

(<https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/content/perma?id=154703>) and again received likes and positive comments.

No negative comments were posted on either forum.

3. Emails were sent to all PWGs (see Appendix III)
Replies show there is no conflict with current policy and no opposition to the proposal.
4. Emails were sent to the following organisations asking for feedback.
 - Greyhound Board of Great Britain
 - Greyhound Trust
 - National Greyhound Centre
 - Dogs Trust
 - Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
 - Greyhound Forum
 - Forever Hounds Trust
 - Alliance Against Greyhound Racing
 - CAGED
 - Action for Greyhounds
 - Alliance Against Greyhound Racing

A reply was received from GBGB outlining their position – their statement was reviewed, and a response provided by the PWG (Appendix IV)

CAGED endorsed the principle of the policy and provided helpful advice about approaches to winding down the industry that could be campaigned for – this could be useful for a Green Party campaign once the principle of banning the industry has been accepted by conference (Appendix IV).

Appendix I – 2024 correspondence and minutes

Minutes

Consultations 2024 for Animal Rights (AR) Animal racing (draft) motion “Amend animal racing policy AR428 with an additional paragraph banning greyhound racing.”

The motion was extensively consulted on in 2023 and accredited on the basis of those consultations. As it was referred back for re-wording, the motion has also been consulted on in 2024 as below.

Meetings:

- 2023 AGM unanimous decision to work on development of an explicit greyhound racing ban (Minutes enclosed).
- March 2024 Policyfest session (transcript enclosed)
- 1 April 2024 joint GAP/ARPWG meeting (Minutes enclosed)

Animal Rights PWG AGM Minutes

Zoom meeting: Wed 14 June 2023, 7 pm

Please note: minor corrections to these Minutes may be added later if necessary.

Zoom details

Topic: GAP & AR PWG AGMs

Time: June 14th 2023 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6889247261?pwd=t3lczoQu7ZAJBJekX3EQNIKRJlbQVJ.1>

Meeting ID: 688 924 7261

Passcode: 974628

One tap mobile

+443300885830,,6889247261#,,, *974628# United Kingdom

Present, Members: Debbie Charman, John Davis, , Diana Newson, Nick Newson, Maralyn Pickup. **Other GAP members:** Eve Allsop, Bob Beggs, Helen B

Apologies: no apologies were sent

1. All present voted to accept the unchanged Constitution

2. All present voted to reinstate Diana Newson as co-convenor with Emma Randall. Diana had stepped down in December 2021 due to pressure of home-life and work but now has some space to pick up the Animal Rights work again.

3. All present accepted Diana Newson as interim Secretary unless another volunteer steps forward.

Current Work

The ARPWG is currently working to update AR428 so that the Green Party stands for an immediate ban on greyhound racing. The three key points that support a change are a change of public opinion as facts about the industry become more widely known; cruelty and indifference to the dogs at every stage of their lives; and an acceptance that gambling ruins lives, so a reduction of gambling indirectly supports the anti-gambling work of Health and Mental Health services and charities.

This work was discussed and it was unanimously decided that this should be developed for our next Policy update and motion to conference.

It is hoped that these updates will be accepted at Autumn Conference, 6-8 October 2023, Brighton.

Policyfest session: Animal racing 3 March 2024

Anne Gayfer S Lincs and PDC

Nick Breckland

Diana Newsom Beckland

Ray Harding

Claire Higson W Suffolk

Wendy Rooke reading and Woking

Cassie Wells Hinckley and Bosworth

Emma Randal Brentwood and

Maralyn Pickup

Ryan Brinklow Luton and Bedfordshire

Ben Auton Sutton Coldfield

Claire Higson West Suffolk

Jack Underwood Canterbury

Jill Merchant E Cambs

Miranda Fyfe Cambridge and S

Nick Barnett Sutton and Croydon

Hannah Spencer Trafford

Jake Welsh Manchester

Diana

Last conference tried to amend animal racing policy but it was referred back, some wording needed clarifying. We have drafted what we hope is a better policy.

12000 puppies a year disappear (includes Irish puppies as well). **Action Diana:** to check this figure and the jurisdiction it applies to (See clarifying document “Loss of greyhound pups, evidence” but we also expect more clarification around this)

During racing and training, greyhounds run anticlockwise on an elliptical track. This means they accumulate micro-injuries and often crash or fall. The Greyhound Injury Board is 2%, based on a per run (a run is a single dog running a race; there are 8-10 runs (or dogs) per race and any dog can do hundreds of runs in a year) figure, the per dog figure is 20-25%. Most get re-homed, some are used for coursing, dog meat, or otherwise sold abroad.

Most people in Scottish & Wales GP, members of public are ready for a greyhound ban. It is a gateway into gambling. Horse racing and dog racing are used to attract people into gambling.

This is in the Lib Dem manifesto and the timing is right for the GP to take it further.

Emma

We know from Hannah’s rehoming of a greyhound, the veterinary burden on those people is very high. Some greyhounds cannot be re-homed and spend their life kennels or disappear.

The regulations don’t work. Many are imported from Ireland, where there are fewer animal welfare regulations as re breeding and racing. Breeding animals are often exported to places like China where they are kept in poor conditions.

Exploitative on many levels.

The gambling industry benefits greatly from this carrying on.

Last year there was objection from the floor was that we were sneaking something in about Horseracing under the guise of a motion about greyhounds.

Ray: works for Greyhound Trust. Questioned the 12000. 80% dogs racing in GB are bred in Ireland. Figures need to be solid. RSPCA asking for a ban over 3 years as an overnight ban would mean a problem re-homing all the dogs (8000 running at any one time).

Diana: we are proposing a phased ban over 3 years & the RSPCA ban is over 5 years.

Emma: also looking to engage with the industry to retrain and redeploy staff so that there is a just transition. We appreciate the cultural transition that will need to be made.

Ben: for those who regard this as culturally “normal” is there a risk that this will be pushed underground? Emma: have a policy for a license and an abuser list. Don’t want to be authoritarian, want to work with people involved in dog racing, possibly through citizens assembly type activities, to listen to them. We must enforce boundaries around animal welfare, even where people are not looking.

Jake: the policy failed was because it mentioned horse and dog racing replaced by one just on dog racing. If both dog and horse racing were to be banned, feel it would have passed. Think if we mentioned the big horse event it would not be popular. Should the policy be broadly the same for horse racing or should we just ban both? Do we go for greyhound racing first or go for both together? Diana: together, ATM this is what the new policy will aim for.

Ray: one area that is important in the transition. Horse racing, largely middle class, greyhound, largely working class. The gambling levy is only compulsory for horse racing, and the greyhound levy must be made compulsory and at the same level as horse racing.

NB The new greyhound racing ban policy commits to a high levy on all gambling.

New policy

Miranda: Horse jumps racing: what do you cover in this? It is very complex, don't like flat racing or hunting with dogs, but the different disciplines are entwined and defining what you are targeting will be difficult. There should be more strict welfare rules, but this would target the whole equestrian industry and the physical and mental wellbeing of a whole community. To ban this massive aspect of the horse industry would cause more damage than it solves. Diana: this only targets jumps-racing that start with a crowded field.

Jake: like amendment 1. Amendment 2: a welfarist rather than an abolition approach. Amend 2 would abolish horse jumps racing, what is the thought behind that as there is also welfare and exploitation issues. Diana: it would make the policy too extreme to be voted in, this tackles the highest priority.

We are targeting where most harm is happening.

Claire: disappointed (live in Newmarket) horse put down, gambling, harm - pregnant mares are raced. Why not just have the top half of the amendment 2. Amendment 1 just have top bit. Don't know what other racing there is - pigeon racing. Fossil fuel funding is pulling out and the racing is going broke? Is this what she said? Just focus on animal cruelty and gambling. There is plenty of problems in flat racing and dressage. From a political point of view, feel in reality, the context is that the money is dropping out of horse racing as the money comes from the fossil fuel companies. Amend 1, just stick with that.

Emma: this is where we were. It's not clear whether the conference understood that the treatment of horses was being better or worse protected. There is human and animal exploitation.

Jake: is this motion going to be proposed and will the amendments go separately? The greyhound bit will be the main motion - we would like to pass it. The second one is the horse one, as we expect more opposition to that. Emma: we don't want to put the greyhound racing motion at risk by including the horse racing motion with it.

Ray: if greyhound racing is to be banned, consultation with the animal welfare section, including about the capacity for re-homing is really important. If you subsequently ban horse racing, we want our policy to have set a good example. Will there be any inspection? Inspections now give notice and present the best they can, ship off any dogs in cramped conditions etc. Should be on a no notice basis. 15-18k racing dogs in GB. Of those 4k are shipped out as they get injured. Offered to get data **action Diana:** to give Ray her email

Miranda: The previous re-write got rid of stuff on horse racing, new proposal is better re greyhounds.

Next steps: to word the policy so that it is crystal clear. You get 3 minutes at conference. Please sign up to the Animal Rights Green Space

A summary of this session is given on the next page.

Policyfest session on proposed Animal Racing motion (03 March 2024)

1. Summary (posted on AR Green Spaces)

A transcript of the session is available (follows here) and also available is a view of the Zoom recording of the session. A link to the recording is given in the Policyfest timetable in our slot on Sunday 3rd March, 2.45 pm.

The Policyfest session was very useful. The main areas raised by participants were:

- Check figures for “wastage” – loss of unwanted puppies prior to registration. This has been done and the figure has been revised down from 12,000 to about 8,000.
- More thought is needed around the phasing of a greyhound racing ban to control the flow of dogs into rescue centres.
- More consultation with homing centres and animal welfare sector is needed.
- Removing protections around horse racing last year was a bad move – but a horse racing ban in this motion may distract and confuse. It may be easier to just focus on one ban?
- Horse racing may be scaling down anyway, due to withdrawal of financial support.

A copy of the proposed motion will be posted on the pre-agenda forum, **please comment** as these comments show consultation which is needed for accreditation. The proposed new policy consists of our current animal racing policy (unchanged except for removal of a single clause for sense) with a 2nd paragraph specifically banning greyhound racing.

The first paragraph keeps the protection for horses, and any other raced animal (such as pigeons) and the second brings forward the much-needed greyhound racing ban. A specific horse-racing ban could be added as an amendment to the motion, but note the 4th bullet point above.

2. Transcript: Animal racing 3 March 2024

Anne Gayfer S Lincs and PDC, **purple, clarifications added.**

Nick Breckland
Diana Newsom Beckland
Ray Harding
Claire Higson W Suffolk
Wendy Rooke reading and Woking
Cassie Wells Hinckley and Bosworth
Emma Randal Brentwood and
Maralyn Pickup
Ryan Brinklow Luton and Bedfordshire
Ben Auton Sutton Coldfield
Claire Higson West Suffolk
Jack Underwood Canterbury
Jill Merchant E Cambs
Miranda Fyfe Cambridge and S
Nick Barnett Sutton and Croydon
Hannah Spencer Trafford
Jake Welsh Manchester

Diana

Last conference tried to amend animal racing policy but it was referred back, some wording needed clarifying. We have drafted what we hope is a better policy.

12000 puppies a year disappear (includes Irish puppies as well). **Action Diana:** to check this figure and the jurisdiction it applies to

During racing and training, greyhounds run anticlockwise on an elliptical track. This means they accumulate micro-injuries and often crash or fall. The [Greyhound Board of Great Britain \(GBGB\)](#) gives an injury rate of 1- 2%, based on a per run* figure, the per dog figure is 20-25%. Injured dogs are tracked out of racing, most get re-homed, some are sold abroad, go into coursing or dog meat. Some are euthanized terackside.

*A run is one dog running round the track. A race may have several "runs" depending on the number of dogs entered. The number of runs for 2021 was 360,000 performed by 15-18,000 dogs. Therefore any one dog perform a number (average 20) of runs.

Most people in Scottish & Wales GP, members of public are ready for a greyhound ban. It is a gateway into gambling. Horse racing and dog racing are used to attract people into gambling.

This is in the Lib Dem manifesto and the timing is right for the GP to take it further.

Emma

We know from Hannah's rehoming of a greyhound, the burden on those people is very high meaning that some greyhounds cannot be re-homed and spend their life kennels or disappear.

The regulations don't work. Imported from Ireland, there are fewer regulations as regards breeding and racing. Breeding animals are often exported to places like China where they are kept in poor conditions.

Exploitative on many levels.

The gambling industry benefits greatly from this carrying on.

Objection from the floor was that we were sneaking something in about Horseracing under the guise of a motion about greyhounds.

Ray: works for Greyhound Trust. Questioned the 12000. 80% dogs racing in GB are bred in Ireland. Figures need to be solid. RSPCA asking for a ban over 3 years as an overnight ban would mean a problem re-homing all the dogs (8000 running at any one time). Diana: we are propping a phased ban over 3 years & the RSPCA ban is over 5 years.

Emma: also looking to engage with the industry to retrain and redeploy staff so that there is a just transition. We appreciate the cultural transition that will need to be made.

Ben: for those who regard this as culturally "normal" is there a risk that this will be pushed underground? Emma: have a policy for a license and an abuser list. Don't want to be authoritarian, want to work with people involved in dog racing, possibly through citizens assembly type activities, to listen to them. We must enforce boundaries around animal welfare, even where people are not looking

Jake: the policy failed was because it mentioned horse and dog racing replaced by one just on dog racing. If both dog and horse racing were to be banned, feel it would have passed.

Think if we mentioned the big horse event it would not be popular. Should the policy be broadly the same for horse racing or should we just ban both? Do we go for greyhound racing first or go for both together? Diana: this is what the new policy will aim for.

Ray: one area that is important in the transition. Horse racing, largely middle class, greyhound, largely working class. The gambling levy is only compulsory for horse racing, and the greyhound levy must be made compulsory and at the same level as horse racing.

New policy

Miranda: Horse jumps racing: what do you cover in this? It is very complex, don't like fair racing or hunting with dogs, but the different disciplines are entwined and defining what you are targeting will be difficult. There should be more strict welfare rules, but this would target the whole equestrian industry and the physical and mental wellbeing of a whole community. To ban this massive aspect of the horse industry would cause more damage than it solves.

Diana: this only targets jumps racing that start with a crowded field.

Jake: like amendment 1. Amendment 2: a welfarist rather than an abolition approach. Amend 2 would abolish horse jumps racing, what is the thought behind that as there is also welfare and exploitation issues. Diana: it would make the policy too extreme to be voted in, this tackles the highest priority.

We are targeting where harm is happening.

Claire: disappointed (liven Newmarket) horse put down, gambling, harm - pregnant mares are raced. Why not just have the top half of the amendment 2. Amendment 1 just have top bit. Don't know what other racing there is - pigeon racing. Fossil fuel funding is pulling out and the racing is going broke? Is this what she said? Just focus on animal cruelty and gambling. There is plenty of problems in flat racing and dressage. From a political point of view, feel in reality the context is that the money is dropping out of horse racing as the money comes from the fossil fuel companies. Amend 1, just stick with that.

Emma: this is where we were. It's not clear whether the conference understood that the treatment of horses was being better or worse protected. There is human and animal exploitation.

Jake: is this motion going to be proposed and will the amendments go separately? The greyhound bit will be the main motion - we would like to pass it. The second one is the horse one, as we expect more opposition to that. Emma: we don't want to put the greyhound racing motion at risk by including the horse racing motion with it.

Ray: if greyhound racing is to be banned, consultation with the animal welfare section, including about the capacity for re-homing is really important. If you subsequently ban horse racing, we want our policy to have set a good example. Will there be any inspection? Inspections now give notice and present the best they can, ship off any dogs in cramped conditions etc. Should be on a no notice basis. 15-18k racing dogs in GB. Of those 4k are shipped out as they get injured. Offered to get data **action Diana**: to give Ray her email

Miranda: The previous re-write got rid of stuff on horse racing, new proposal is better re greyhounds.

Next steps: to word the policy so that it is crystal clear. You get 3 minutes at conference. Please sign up to the Animal Rights Green Space

Date, time and venue of meeting: Monday 1 April 2024, 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm, on Teams.

1. **Attunement** (1 Minute) was carried out.
2. **Attendees:** Helen Banks (HB), John Davies (co-Chair of GAP JD), Anne Elliott-Day (AED), Patricia Fairey (PF), Anne Gayfer (PDC representative, non-participating), Diana Newson (ARPWG co-convenor DJN), Nick Newson (AR PWG Chair NMN), Ash Norris (AN), Emma Randall (ARPWG co-convenor ER), Susan Tibbles (ST)
3. **Apologies were received from:** Helen Brown, Eve Allsop, Debbie Charman
4. **There were no Matters Arising** from previous meetings
5. **It was agreed to drop horse-racing from the 2024 motion text.**
 - Conference has changed, in that the workshops are now held online in the weeks prior to conference and the conference audience is often completely new to the motion. Hence description, explanation and justification of the motion must be very clear in the 3 minutes allowed.
 - A clear greyhound racing ban is our absolute priority – nothing should jeopardise this. From our session at March Policyfest we learned that the horse racing ban is confusing (what about other equestrian pursuits?) and that people thought protection of horses was adequately covered in the current policy. A couple of people stated that the greyhound racing ban is absolute priority.
 - DJN did not want to try and split the focus, hence her preference that the horse racing paragraph will be dropped for now. Apologies to the horses who need our help, they are postponed but not forgotten.

Comments were received from ER JD and PF,

- The wording requires tweaking for sense and to remove repetition (PF).
 - A query was raised about the detail of a “just transition” and it was agreed that this would be expanded in the background paper (ER).
 - It was agreed that a finalised version of the motion text would be forwarded to JD who would send it out to all on Action Network, and Loomio.
6. **It was agreed that we should share a joint Green Space.** The AR PWG and GAP are two separate groups. The PWG is a Policy Working Group and GAP is a Special Interest Group and a Liberation Group. However, we work very closely together and most people who are in the PWG are members of GAP. It makes sense to share resources. JD agreed to combine the green spaces, although files kept on green spaces will have to locate to each group.
 - We will make maximum use of mutual benefits – resources and people
 - There will be no confusion among animal-aware people about which green space to join – they can all join the single AR PWG and GAP space.
 - We can share meetings, speakers and AGMs – officially 4 a year per group.

- 7. A possible Secretary for the AR PWG has been identified.** AED is willing to consider the post (see the role description filed with the AR PWG constitution).
- 8. Regular catch ups with other PWGs are scheduled.** At the last meeting of GAP (at conference 2023) several GAP members volunteered to join other PWGs so that we can maintain an overview of policy development within the Party. DJN for example, attends Wildlife and Habitats PWG and Food and Agriculture PWG. We agreed on two actions:
- JD to forward the conference 2023 meeting minutes, to provide a list of who is doing what.
 - DJN to create a timetable of contacting volunteers to capture any news and to post on ARPWG and GAP green space and Loomio.
- 9. AOB: Show of hands or polling system on Teams is an acceptable form of voting.** JD queried the voting system we use (usually a show of hands) and wondered if it should be formalised. AG confirmed that a show of hands is fine.

Close of meeting 8.25 pm.

Acronyms

AR PWG Animal Rights Policy Working Group
 GAP Greens for Animal Protection
 PDC Policy development Committee

Action Table

Point in Minutes	Action	Who	When by
5	Re-wording the motion to remove horse racing.	DJN/ER	ASAP
5	Proof-reading the motion (send by email to mailto:patricia@phoncoop.coop)	PF	ASAP
5	Expanding background paper: details of just transition.	DJN/ER	1 May 2024
5	Sending final wording out on Action Network.	JD	9 June 2024
6	Combination of our two green spaces.	JD	ASAP
7	Consideration of AR PWG Secretary role.	AED	ASAP
8	Forwarding of conference 2023 GAP minutes to DJN.	JD	1 May 2024
8	Establishment of regular updates posted on green spaces.	DJN/AED(?)	In due course

Emails:

Correspondence with Ray Harding, Trustee of the Greyhound Trust

Correspondence with Ray Harding of the Greyhound Trust (April 2024) interrogating our figures for the disappearance of greyhound pups. As a result of this correspondence our figures were revised down to 6,000 pups a year “vanishing” from Irish breeders.

From Diana Newson, 11 April 2024 at 11.51

Are British-bred greyhound pups disappearing?

Hi Ray,

I'm not sure if the situation regarding loss of about 6,000 puppies a year in Ireland has changed.

Unfortunately it seems that it is impossible to trace exactly what happens to British-bred greyhound pups. There is anecdotal evidence of greyhounds being poisoned (personal communication from Caged Nationwide) or killed and buried on site (<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2007/feb/16/ukcrime.animalwelfare>), but also anecdotal evidence of pups/young dogs being handed in to shelters (eg your shelter, The Greyhound Trust).

All British litters are supposed to be registered with the Greyhound Stud Book (GSB), although registration can be up to 18 months after the original whelping date. This would allow unsuitable animals to be weeded out prior to registration, and maybe the combination of two or more litters of promising stock, but the whelping date seems to control for this - assuming that the ages of the greyhounds can be accurately assessed on the track, which is debatable.

The pups are not identified beyond dog or bitch in the GSB, and it's not possible to trace any individual greyhound from the information. It seems from the average numbers that all or most of these greyhounds go on to race. Looking at 2023, there were 139 litters registered, 885 pups in total (an average of 6 per litter) and 3x this (2,655 pups) correlates to about 15% of the dog racing population (assuming a dog is raced between 2 and 5 years and the average number of active racing dogs in GB is 15,000-18,000). These numbers demonstrate that significant disappearance of GSB-registered pups is unlikely.

The names and figures show that each dam, and almost each sire, only produces one litter a year (looked at in detail for 2023 only). Therefore the greyhound breeding industry seems quite small in England and Wales.

I can't find any connection between litter registration (<https://www.greyhoundstudbook.co.uk/greyhound-stud-book/breeding-update/year-2023/>) and GBGB-registration of racing dogs. I can't find a list of registered dogs on the GBGB site (<https://www.gbgb.org.uk/>) or even on the greyhound data site (<https://www.greyhound-data.com/index.htm>) so the list may be unavailable to view. Ear tattoo or microchip number is the only way to track an individual dog and these don't have to be in place until a dog is 12 weeks (GBGB microchip) or 3 months (ear tattoo). The existence of “flapper” tracks where non-registered dogs can be raced (plus registered dogs) muddies the water further.

In summary the system is not transparent, and it can't be established if unregistered (or even GSB-registered) young greyhounds are “disappearing” or not, although obviously there are significant numbers of unregistered dogs at every stage who are vulnerable to being removed without anyone knowing.

I hope this casts a bit of light, but let me know if you uncover any definitive evidence either way?
Many thanks Ray.

Diana

(Diana Newson and Emma Randall, co-convenors AR PWG)

On 5 Apr 2024, at 16:55, Ray Harding <ray.harding@greenparty.org.uk> wrote:

Hi Diana,

I've read the papers you refer to, they relate to the situation in Ireland & reference 6,000 young greyhounds being unaccounted for in that country. I'm not aware if the regulatory bodies in Ireland made any changes to their systems following receipt of the report in order to address the issues raised, although I appreciate that the report wasn't published? I remain sceptical about the additional 2,000 without viewing evidence related to the situation in GB for the reasons outlined in my earlier email.

Ray

-----Original Message-----

From: Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk>

Sent: 03 April 2024 14:26

To: Ray Harding <ray.harding@greenparty.org.uk>

Cc: Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk>; John Davis <john@headweb.co.uk>; Eve Allsop <Eve.a@live.co.uk>

Subject: Re: Greyhound pups etc

[You don't often get email from diana@diananewson.co.uk. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Thanks Ray. It would be good if puppies were homed instead. I meant also to ask you if there are other greyhound homing centres that you would recommend for consultation, if you have time for this. I look forward to hearing from you, and many thanks for your help.

Diana

On 3 Apr 2024, at 13:47, Ray Harding <ray.harding@greenparty.org.uk> wrote:

Hi Diana,

Thank you for your email. I don't know a great deal about the situation in Ireland But I will make enquiries. As regards greyhound puppies breed in the UK are concerned I would be surprised if greyhound puppies that were unwanted 'disappeared', at our local branch of the Greyhound Trust where I volunteer we are approached from time to time by trainers who also breed greyhounds about puppies that are going to be too small to race or similar. We help them to find homes for these dogs & they are much easier & quicker to home than adult retired dogs.

Ray

-----Original Message-----

From: Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk>

Sent: 02 April 2024 10:53

To: Ray Harding <ray.harding@greenparty.org.uk>

Cc: Anne Gayfer <Anne.Gayfer@greenparty.org.uk>; Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk>; John Davis <john@headweb.co.uk>; Eve Allsop <Eve.a@live.co.uk>

Subject: Greyhound pups etc

Hi Ray,

I guess our Animal Rights greyhound racing ban session at March Policyfest is a dim and distant memory... so sorry to have delayed responding to your queries for so long. It's been a busy GP time.

As you may have seen, posted on AR Green Spaces on March 10, was some evidence around the disappearance of greyhound pups. This includes both Irish and English pups as up to 80% of our greyhounds are imported from Ireland and therefore the industry in this country is a driver for breeding, both here and in Ireland. As a result of your query the figure in our background paper was revised down from 12,000 to 8,000, so I'm very grateful for you raising the query. Let me know if you still think the figure is questionable, I enclose our evidence.

The consultations for our re-jigged policy will start very soon, and I hope we can send the policy to you to for comment in your capacity as Board member of the Greyhound Trust.

I hope you will join the AR Green Space, if you haven't already.

With thanks, Diana

(Diana Newson and Emma Randall, co-convenors of the AR PWG)

Promoted by Chris Williams on behalf of The Green Party, both at PO Box 78066, London, SE16 9GQ

Promoted by Chris Williams on behalf of The Green Party, both at PO Box 78066, London, SE16 9GQ

Correspondence within 5 PWGs of the Green Party (Finance and Economy PWG; Health PWG; Worker's Rights and Employment PWG; Culture, Media and Sport PWG; Tourism and Heritage PWG June 2024)

Additional consultations within the Green Party 2024.

1. To Peter Sims, Finance and Economy PWG, 13 June 2024

Hi Peter,

I hope you're well.

The ARPWG is submitting a motion to conference calling for an outright ban on greyhound racing. I don't think a ban on greyhound racing will have much effect on the economy - the turnover from greyhound racing is around £740 million in the UK, with a tax revenue of less than £20 million (source: Statistica). However, I'd be really grateful if you could have read through our background paper and proposed motion text so that you can give us your opinion as to whether the motion will impact on Finance and Economy, and I would be grateful for any other thoughts that occur. Thank you so much for your time, your reply will form part of our internal GP consultations.

Diana

Diana Newson (co-convenor Animal Rights PWG)

2. To Linda Freeman, Health PWG, 13 June 2024

Hi Linda,

I hope you're well.

The ARPWG is submitting a motion to conference calling for an outright ban on greyhound racing.

I'd be really grateful if you could have read through our background paper and proposed motion text so that you can give us your opinion as to whether the motion will impact on Health, from the angle of mental health and gambling addiction, or any other angle. Suggestions of improvements in wording are very welcome. Dog and horse racing are often considered "gateway gambling" and introduce people to gambling who would otherwise not come across it.

Thank you so much for your time, your reply will form part of our internal GP consultations.

Diana

Diana Newson (co-convenor Animal Rights PWG)

3. To Meg Shepherd-Foster, Culture, media and sports PWG, 13 June 2024

Hi Meg,

I hope you're well.

The ARPWG is submitting a motion to conference calling for an outright ban on greyhound racing. I'd be really grateful if you could have read through our background paper and proposed motion text so that you can give us your opinion as to whether the motion will impact on Culture Media and Sport, and I would be grateful for any other thoughts that occur.

It's worth noting that greyhound racing is no longer considered a sport by UK Sports Councils as there is no human involvement - it is now referred to more properly as an industry. I would be grateful for your views regarding impact on your developing gambling policy, as dog racing (along with horse racing) is often considered to be "gateway gambling" bringing in people who don't normally gamble. I'd also like your opinion on whether we have been realistic with our intention of stopping advertising within 12 months.

Thank you so much for your time, your reply will form part of our internal GP consultations.

Diana

Diana Newson (co-convenor Animal Rights PWG)

4. To Philip Nelson, Tourism and Heritage PWG, 13 June 2024

Hi Philip,

I hope you're well. Many thanks for your interesting talk at Policyfest last night. I'm on the case and will get comments back to you by the weekend.

The ARPWG is submitting a motion to conference calling for an outright ban on greyhound racing. I'd be really grateful if you could have read through our background paper and proposed motion text so that you can give us your opinion as to whether the motion will impact on Tourism and Heritage, and I would be grateful for any other thoughts that occur.

It's worth noting that greyhound racing is no longer considered a sport by UK Sports Councils as there is no human involvement - it is now referred to more properly as an industry. However, it often forms part of outings and excursions and therefore might crop up in low-level tourism. The other point I'd be grateful if you would consider is the idea that dog racing forms part of a "working class tradition", although it's only been in the UK since 1926. I'm so pleased that in the opening text of the Tourism and Heritage PSS it acknowledges that some traditions have a negative impact, and I think that animal racing (such as greyhound racing) is one of those areas, like fox hunting for example. Anyway, let me know what you think.

Thank you so much for your time, your reply will form part of our internal GP consultations.

Diana

Diana Newson (co-convenor Animal Rights PWG)

5. To Catherine Rowett, Worker's Rights and Employment PWG, 13 June 2024

Hi Catherine,

I hope you're well and I hope you're the right person to send this query to.

The ARPWG is submitting a motion to conference calling for an outright ban on greyhound racing. I'd be really grateful if you could have a read through our background paper and proposed motion text so that you can give us your opinion with regard to our commitment to a "just transition" during shut down of the industry, or any other thoughts that occur.

Thank you so much for your time, your reply will form part of our internal GP consultations.

Diana

Diana Newson (co-convenor Animal Rights PWG)

Correspondence with Hayley Patrick of Norfolk Greyhound Rescue 18 June 2024
hayleyngr@gmail.com

Correspondence with Hayley Pattrick of the Norfolk Greyhound Rescue (June 2024).

From Diana Newson, 23 June 2024, 15.39

Putting a greyhound racing ban into Green Party policy

Hi Hayley,

To add to this email I'm enclosing our likely motion/policy text and our background paper on a greyhound racing ban, which I should have sent you earlier. If you have any other comments I'd be very grateful to hear them. Thank you very much for your earlier email.

Diana

(Diana Newson, co-convenor, Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group ARPWG)

On 20 Jun 2024, at 10:11, Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Hayley,

Thanks for your reply which told me several things I didn't know, which add evidence to the case for a ban;

- about 80% of dogs bred are "waste"
- dogs are shipped to race in places like Spain, China and India
- none of the dogs are neutered
- I agree that breeding, both registered and street breeders, needs to stop. Also importation from Ireland.

If racing were stopped, I agree the number of dogs scheduled to be dumped would be massive (about 18,000) but if racing were wound down over a period of years would there be more of a gradual dumping of racing dogs by owners/trainers? The RSPCA says greyhound racing should be wound down over 5 years, we say 3. I'm not sure if I should change the number of years to 5 like the RSPCA and would be interested in your view.

I take your point about it going underground, but think over time there will be less casual cruelty to puppies and dogs just because there will be fewer of them.

Having worked for Cats Protection in the past, I know that people buy a "lovely fluffy baby animal" which turns into an "expensive time-consuming adult animal" which is often surrendered to charities and homing centres. It sounds as if you and Richard are working your socks off for the hounds, remember to conserve a bit of energy for yourselves! You can only do what you can do.

The way of getting something into Green Party policy is that the new policy has to be written, researched and consulted on. The greyhound racing ban is at this stage. The next stage is to give a talk on it at the Green Party conference and it is voted on by ordinary members. If we win, the policy is written into their long-standing documents. It means our spokespeople can bring up and defend the policy again and again, and our policies also influence those of the main parties.

Our conference is in September, so this is when it would become policy (with any luck). I thank you very much for your reply, let me know if you think wind-down of the industry should be 3 years or 5 years?

Thanks again,

Diana

(Diana Newson, co-convenor of the Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group)

On 19 Jun 2024, at 16:59, hayley pattrick <hayleyngr@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Diana.,

Thank you so much for your email.

Sadly the mass number's of greyhound bred for the industry is sickening and totally overwhelming.

Norfolk Greyhound Rescue are a tiny independent charity. We are not like greyhound homing facilities such as Yarmouth Homefinders or the RGT (Retired Greyhound Trust) both of these are funded by the GBGB the governing broad of greyhound racing in the UK. NGR is self funded and unlike the YH or RGT totally against greyhound racing.

All of our GH are in foster homes. We have one kennel, which we keep for emergencies. So we don't run a 'shelter or kennelling facility'

Realistically there won't be a ban, and if there were, it would ultimately drive GH racing underground. It may mean more dogs shipped to Spain, China and India to race in the most disgusting places, where there is either little or no animal welfare in place.

On average 80% of GH born into the racing industry are 'waste' Literally thousands every year are bred for racing, so many don't make the grade for several different reasons. Racing owners are not going to admit how many dogs they PTS every year, so it's impossible to acquire the true numbers of GH born to the industry.

None of the GH in racing are neutered, so mistakes happen., a related pair of dogs (brother/sister mum/son for example). The owner wouldn't be able to register these dogs with the GBGB as they are interbred. So these dogs would be terminated as soon as they were born, as they wouldn't be allowed to race.

There will never be enough homes and rescue spaces for all these unwanted dogs.

If racing were to be stopped the massive influx of dogs coming out of racing and looking for a rescue places would be immense ! Sadly, most of those dogs would be PTS, either through lack of places available in rescue, or deemed 'unhomeable' because of their temperament.

Rescue's are full, all of them. The breeding, not only in the racing industry, but back street breeders, and all those 'responsible' breeders need to stop.

The amount of dogs being surrendered to welfare and charity is ridiculous.

So many families buy a puppy, they don't consider the upkeep of a dog, with food, worming, flea treatments and extortionate vet bills.

They keep their puppy until it's not that tiny fluffy, cute baby and then they phone a rescue ! Normally, they aren't neutered, or vaccinated and a lot still aren't chipped.

It's harder and harder for rescue's to keep up with unwanted, homeless and abandoned dogs.

We would love to see the end of greyhound racing, we are literally moping up their unwanted waste.

We would be over joyed to shut our doors, because there were no more dogs to re-home.! Richard and I are the charity Norfolk Greyhound Rescue, we don't get paid, we do this for the love of the dogs, and to find them good loving homes.

It's a 7 day a week unpaid job, we would gladly retire from if there were no more unwanted hounds !

I hope this gives you an insight to NGR, our outlook on the racing industry and what we would wish for.

Many thanks,
Please don't hesitate to contact us again if we can help further.

Hayley & Richard
Charity No 1167605

On 18 Jun 2024, at 16:11, Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Hayley,
I'm co-convenor of the Animal Rights Policy Working Group, for the Green Party. For the 2nd year running we are trying to change our animal racing policy to include an explicit greyhound racing ban, within a time-frame of three years. I would be so grateful if you would be willing to talk about this from the point of view of an animal shelter - I would like to forward our proposed policy and background paper to find out what you think of our approach. A point that has been raised a couple of times is that a ban in England would result in overwhelm of shelters. Part of getting a wider acceptance for the policy is consultation with involved people.

Thanks for all that you do for these lovely dogs.

Diana

(Diana Newson, co-convenor of the Animal Rights Policy Working Group)

Correspondence with Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) 20 June 2024

Additional correspondence with the GBGB 20 June 2024

Green party, proposed greyhound racing ban

Hi there,

The Animal Rights Policy Working Group of the Green Party are proposing a greyhound racing ban for England and Wales. The proposed policy is going forward to the national GP conference in September 2024. I enclose the likely wording of the new policy and our background paper.

I realise the GBGB will not be in favour of this policy, but would very much welcome your arguments as to why the policy is not needed. I'm particularly interested in the view of GBGB with regard to the transfer of jobs to other equal employment, if a ban went ahead.

With many thanks for your engagement.

Diana

Diana Newson (Co-convenor of the Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group).

Correspondence with Hope Rescue in Wales enquiries@hoperescue.org.uk 23 June 2024

Correspondence with Hope Rescue Centre in Wales, 23 June 2024

Possible greyhound racing ban in Green Party policy

Hi there,

I am the co-convenor of the Animal Rights Policy Working Group of the Green Party, and we are taking a motion to the GP conference in September, moving to **an outright ban on greyhound racing**. As you can see from our background document it has an image which has reached us via a vet and is attributed to Hope Rescue - I hope this is accurate and ok with you - please consider this email a request to use the image in our document. It will only be used internally in GP communications.

If I am contacting the wrong place can you let me know? Many thanks.

I would be very interested in your view of a greyhound racing ban, particularly our time schedule of 3 years. Do you think a ban would result in massive dumping (and worse) of dogs? We want to avoid overwhelm of shelters. The RSPCA talks about an industry wind-down over 5 years and I would be interested to know your opinion as to whether 3 years sounds feasible.

I enclose our likely motion/policy wording and our background document which sets out the reasons for a ban.

With very many thanks for your time.

Diana

(Diana Newson, co-convenor of the GP Animal Rights Policy Working Group ARPWG)

Correspondence with Rita James, founder of CAGED (Campaign Against Greyhound Exploitation and Death)

7/9/24, 4:27 PM

AOL Mail - Re: Info request about UK bred greyhounds

Re: Info request about UK bred greyhounds

From: Caged Nationwide (info@cagednw.co.uk)

To: emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Date: Sunday 7 April 2024 at 21:20 BST

Hello Emma

Thank you for contacting me.

There is no traceability for those unregistered to race and there is no public register for us to trace registered dogs who go unaccounted for. Your informant may have been referring to the GBGB retirement forms however we are aware that these are not always submitted by owner/trainers and we can point you to evidence of this.

We occasionally get reports of greyhounds being needlessly destroyed. I can give you at least two names of Irish bred greyhounds imported to England that never raced here but fortunately because I had their names brought to me by a whistleblower, I was able to trace them as registered to the GBGB, by this time both were dead of course. These were dogs that went to a kennel in Bury who had a GBGB banned kennel hand entering their premises on a regular basis. I reported the deaths to the GBGB as well as the banned kennel and we landed up in quite a dispute with them. If I had not brought these dogs names to light, I believe the case would never have gone public and the trainer disqualified. We would never have even been aware of these dogs existing. I can send you the GBGB disciplinary committee results so that you can read about the case.

On asking the GBGB whether the dogs were given post mortems they were very vague and had me going in circles with them, as they eventually used the Data Protection Act as the reason for not disclosing this to me. A poor excuse as their Chairman, Jeremy Cooper, had earlier discussed details to me in another case concerning 2 post mortems of dogs that we believe were poisoned at trainer kennels. I did point this out to them. DPA seems to be used as a means to escape answers and unfortunately they are within their rights to quote it under these kinds of circumstances.

There needs to be a public register for all greyhounds bred, showing traceability from cradle to grave.

Best wishes

Rita

www.cagednw.co.uk

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. Please note that any views or

opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The company accepts no liability for any damage caused by any virus transmitted by this email.

C.A.G.E.D North West [Campaign Against Greyhound Exploitation & Death]

On Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 6:24 PM Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Rita,

We contacted you last year regarding our Green Party policy proposal for a ban on greyhound racing. We need further evidence to back up the proposed policy change and wondered if you would be able to help.

We can't find any information about the number of greyhound pups bred for racing that do not go on to race (so are not registered). Although we are aware that some of those pups will be re-homed, there doesn't seem to be any information available that reliably traces their fate.

We'd be very grateful if you could let us know if there is any research available that could answer our questions - our contact in a greyhound re-homing centre is confident that all pups are traceable and likely found homes but has not provided a source of evidence supporting their view.

Best wishes

about:blank 1/2 7/9/24, 4:27 PM AOL Mail - Re: Info request about UK bred greyhounds

Emma

(Diana Newson and Emma Randall, co-convenors of the AR PWG)

Appendix II GAP/PWG Minutes (June 2023)

NB These Minutes are included in this document twice, once in the 2024 justifications and once in the 2023 justifications.

Animal Rights PWG AGM Minutes

Zoom meeting: Wed 14 June 2023, 7 pm

Please note: minor corrections to these Minutes may be added later if necessary.

Zoom details

Topic: GAP & AR PWG AGMs

Time: June 14th 2023 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6889247261?pwd=t3lczoQu7ZAJBJekX3EQNIKRJlbQVJ.1>

Meeting ID: 688 924 7261

Passcode: 974628

One tap mobile

+443300885830,,6889247261#,,,,*974628# United Kingdom

Present, Members: Debbie Charman, John Davis, , Diana Newson, Nick Newson, Maralyn Pickup. **Other**

GAP members: Eve Allsop, Bob Beggs, [Helen Brown](#)

Apologies: no apologies were sent

1. All present voted to accept the unchanged Constitution
2. All present voted to reinstate Diana Newson as co-convenor with Emma Randall. Diana had stepped down in December 2021 due to pressure of home-life and work but now has some space to pick up the Animal Rights work again.
3. All present accepted Diana Newson as interim Secretary unless another volunteer steps forward.

Current Work

The ARPWG is currently working to update AR428 so that the Green Party stands for an immediate ban on greyhound racing. The three key points that support a change are a change of public opinion as facts about the industry become more widely known; cruelty and indifference to the dogs at every stage of their lives; and an acceptance that gambling ruins lives, so a reduction of gambling indirectly supports the anti-gambling work of Health and Mental Health services and charities.

This work was discussed, and it was unanimously decided that this should be developed for our next Policy update and motion to conference.

It is hoped that these updates will be accepted at Autumn Conference, 6-8 October 2023, Brighton.

Original proposal from Hannah

8/13/23, 10:26 AM

AOL Mail - Re: Green Party policy

Re: Green Party policy

From: Diana Newson (diana@diananewson.co.uk)

To: hannahkspencer1@gmail.com

Cc: emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Date: Wednesday, 12 April 2023 at 15:34 BST

Hi Hannah,

Yes, I agree, it should be banned in our policy.

The best way to start would be on our informal discussion platform Loomio. I think the first step would be for me to join you into GAP and the ARPWG both on Action Network and Loomio. It's great that you would like to take the lead on this. Let me know if you would like to join the ARPWG and GAP (assuming you're not already a member), and we'll go from there.

Best wishes, Diana

On 11 Apr 2023, at 19:26, Hannah <hannahkspencer1@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

I'm Hannah Spencer, I'm part of Trafford Green Party and a very keen campaigner to end greyhound racing. Vix Lowthian passed me your email and I hope I'm okay getting in touch.

I was wondering if there are any current plans to create policy around a total ban? I know there is AR428 but that doesn't call for a ban. I'd be very happy to be involved or lead on anything if needed.

Kind regards Hannah

about:blank

1/1

Appendix III Email exchanges within the PWG (2023)

Emails agreeing wording

8/13/23, 10:48 AM

AOL Mail - Re: Greyhounds, Title and Synopsis for 1st agenda

Re: Greyhounds, Title and Synopsis for 1st agenda

From: Emma Randall (emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk)

To: animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk

Cc:john@headweb.co.uk; hannahkspencer1@gmail.com

Date:Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at 15:05 BST

Thanks Diana,

This looks great, I like that it is much more succinct than the original policy as well as having the commitment to ending greyhound racing.

I think it's ok that we don't mention the whip for 2 reasons. Firstly it hints at reform rather than abolition which might hinder us when we get on to writing the horse racing ban policy. Also, it likely would get attention from recreational riders which might lead us into debates about that, switching focus and taking time from what the actual proposal is.

[REDACTED]

Emma x

On Tuesday, 18 July 2023 at 14:14:31 BST, AR PWG
<animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk> wrote:

Hi Emma, what do you think of this wording to go on the 1st Agenda? Must admit I wondered if we should keep banning the whip and jumps racing for horses, but I think it is covered in the new AR428. I've changed a few things from our previous text, and include the updated background paper. I think we could include the numerous petitions in the background paper? Hope you're well, and enjoying the brand new hip! xD

Title: Greyhound Racing Ban

50-word synopsis

Revised AR428 commits to end animal racing, with an immediate ban on greyhound racing. Intractable problems with this industry include "wastage" (about 12,000 dogs vanish annually); injuries; neglect; useless "policing"; and routine race-fixing by doping. The RSPCA, Dog's Trust, Blue Cross, and most of the public support a ban.

AR428 reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horseracing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Re-write so that it reads:

The Green Party will end the exploitation of all animals in commercial racing. In the first instance, a

Green Government will end greyhound racing as soon as practicable, at least within three years. This will stop the unnecessary deaths and suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry, and contribute to the body of measures aimed at reducing the harm from problem gambling. We will stop advertising and broadcasting animal racing on all media platforms within 12 months (e.g. racing 'tips' on Radio 4). A high compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare and re-homing, and industry wind-down. Finishing any animal racing industry will be carried out with support for those persons deemed dependent

on the industry.

about:blank

2/2

Emails discussing background information

Re: Greyhounds outline of first jobs - background info

From: Diana Newson (diana@diananewson.co.uk)

To: john@headweb.co.uk

Cc: hannahspencer1@gmail.com; emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Date: Friday, 9 June 2023 at 14:09 BST

Hi John, I too am working on greyhounds today; fantastic that you are pursuing likely revenue, looks complicated. I hope to get round to helping, if you need to work on other stuff, that's how it has to be! Talk later.

xD

On 9 Jun 2023, at 12:57, John Davis <john@headweb.co.uk> wrote:

Hi All,

I thought it might be easy to find the tax from greyhound racing. However, there are conflicting figures and a new jargon to navigate. I've been working on this, on and off, for the past few days and think I'm newly there but need to get on with some other stuff. I thought I'd send now in case anyone would like to join in (hint)

This Wikipedia page gives some interesting information.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_racing_in_the_United_Kingdom

See: [Treasury written questions on 29-11-22](#)

Lord Lipsey (Labour)

To ask His Majesty's Government what is the estimated overall contribution of licensed greyhound racing to HM Treasury in the latest available year; and in the two years before that, what is the estimated tax on revenue received through (1) bookmakers who offer bets on greyhound racing, and (2) directly from greyhound racing.

Answer from Baroness Penn.

HMRC does not hold information on the breakdown of General Betting Duty revenue by forms of betting such as greyhound racing, horseracing and football.

+++++

+ **However JD notes:**

The **annual turnover** of dog race betting in Great Britain amounted to nearly **740 million** British pounds between April 2021 to March 2022. This shows an increase from the previous period, most likely as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on sporting events in 2020.

(Note: 'Online only' is £500m – see below) <https://www.sta-sta.com/sta-sta/469762/gambling-turnover-dogs-in-great-britain-beng/>

Revenue from General Betting Duty largely paid by bookmakers on all forms of betting was £586 million in 2019 to 2020, £595 million in 2020 to 2021 and **£649 million in 2021 to 2022**.

Ques on – is this just 'bookmakers' – shops, online, all?

Table at foot of page shows... Total turnover in 2019 - 2020 for 'all' £7.7Bn

The total yield for 'all' is £1.2Bn (If correct Tax is approx. 15%) – [But this is only 'over the counter' (OTC) gambling!]

Therefore OTC tax for greyhound (£304m) could be £47.4m

(this is a first run through so needs checking – next need to look at 'over the counter' vs all and/or online - below)

+++++++ contradictory figures? ++++++

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greyhound-welfare-boosted-through-multi-million-pound-deal-with-gambling-industry>

Bookmakers agree additional payments worth up to £3 million in a positive step which will ensure a fair return to the sport from industry giants

If £3m is 0.6% of the online turnover, the total revenue of ONLINE turnover to the gambling industry (from greyhound racing) is $(3m \times 100 / 0.6)$. So the *online turnover* is **£500m. (£0.5 billion)**

- Add this to £304m above and it comes to £804m
- Tax at 15% would be £120m

+++++++ more info

+++++++ [Press release... 10-1-](#)

2019 Notes to editors:

For further information contact the DCMS press office on: 0207 211 2210

Under the terms of the agreement, operators will contribute **0.6%** of their **online turnover** on bets placed on British greyhound racing, **in addition to their current contributions from their betting shops** business, with effect from 1 January 2019. For betting exchanges, an equivalent rate based on sportsbook gross gambling revenue* will be applied to the commission on UK greyhound bets.

[*NB Gross gaming revenue (GGR) is a key metric used by gambling and betting companies. It represents the difference between the amount wagered minus the amount won. GGR margin measures gross gaming revenue as a percentage of the amount wagered.

For UK total GGR see...

NEWS - <https://sbnews.co.uk/sportsbook/2023/06/08/uk-ggy-data-q4/>

UK GGY hits £1.3bn mark [this is for qtr] **according to latest Commission data**

[Ted Orme-Clay](#) June 8, 2023 [Europe](#), [Latest News](#), [Sportsbook](#), [UK](#) Comments Off on UK GGY hits £1.3bn mark according to latest Commission data

Note JD – This needs looking at – 1.3bn for the qtr = **£5.2Bn /yr**

However, data below shows GGY **of £14Bn** ... We need to determine 'Turnover' vs 'yield' vs 'profit' vs tax to treasury Also – total gambling vs greyhound. ... Can we extrapolate as a percentage of horse racing vs dog racing... I think we can.

<https://www.sta-sta.com/sta-sta/cs/467892/gross-gambling-yield-in-total-in-great-britain/>] And

<https://www.sta-sta.com/topics/3400/gambling-industry-in-the-united-kingdomuk/#topicOverview>

As of March 2022, the [gross gambling yield \(GGY\) in Great Britain](#) amounted to a little over 14 billion British pounds, up from the previous year's GGY of 12.7 billion pounds. [Lower in previous year due to covid]

Ladbrokes-Coral, long-term retail contributors, started online payments on the same basis from 1 January 2018 and Bet365 is also a long-term contributor. Land-based operator JenningsBet also agreed to commence contributions from 1 January 2018. The **Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB)** is responsible for the governance, regulation and management of the sport of licensed greyhound racing in England, Scotland and Wales. It receives funds through the British Greyhound Racing Fund in the form of voluntary contributions from bookmakers on their turnover from bets placed on licensed British greyhound racing.

The GBGB's spending on welfare has been protected in recent years and has remained consistent at around £3 million per year.

The Greyhound Trust rehomes over 4,000 greyhounds each year.

The Government introduced regulations to protect the welfare of racing greyhounds at race tracks in England in 2010 (the 'Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010'). Defra reviewed the 2010 Regulations in 2016 and found that while they appeared to have been successful judged against their original objectives, the industry needed to do more to tackle issues of transparency and standards at trainers' kennels.

The main industry regulator, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) agreed to take forward several self-regulatory reforms, which they are currently in the process of delivering. GBGB are delivering on what they have promised, but Defra is monitoring their progress closely. In 2017, 370 greyhounds were put to sleep due to medical treatment being too expensive, or a poor prognosis.

JD Note: GBGB was formed in 2019 (imo) to protect the greyhound 'industry' from the bad press and an anti-racing feelings across the UK. The wiki page below shows that covid was also a factor.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_Board_of_Great_Britain

+++++ more GGR Info +++++

<https://greyhoundstar.co.uk/betting-industry-bleak-way/>

Lots of figure to chew over here. The following should allow us to make some good comparisons.

'the dogs' accounts for just 3.5% of on-line 'betting' compared to 32.% for horses and 46% for football.

It's worth noting that this is an 'inside view' of gambling, so also provides insight.

"Our role is to safeguard the integrity and future prosperity of British greyhound racing so that it remains a successful and sustainable sport with welfare at its heart."

Note: 'welfare at its heart' – in this context I'd say it shows they are reacting to bad press. If this were true though then it gives us a good ground to fight on.

From the above website... NOTE "Off Course" – If 'yield' is 'profit' then all we need is the rate of tax to show contribu on to UK Gov't. <image002.jpg>

John Davis
Headweb
0796 704
3958
01562 740
375

<image001.jpg>

From: Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk>
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2023 8:00 AM
To: Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk>
Cc: Hannah <hannahspencer1@gmail.com>; John Davis <john@headweb.co.uk>; Eve Allsop <eve.a@live.co.uk>
Subject: Re: Greyhounds outline of first jobs

Thanks for these Emma, they've all come through fine, and look very interes ng. They will feed well into the background paper, which will take a few weeks (realis cally about 3 weeks, I think) to produce a first dra .

To everyone/anyone: What I also need for the background paper is informa on about the Industry, eg how much is is worth to the UK, how much money the government makes from gambling - so if anyone has any info, could you send to me?

Big thank yous! Do you think we should include Ria in emails at this stage?

xDiana

On 3 Jun 2023, at 17:58, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Thanks Diana, that would be brilliant if you could do a background paper. I've attached a folder with some research papers I saved the last time we looked at this. If there are any papers you want but can't access and I might be able to get hold of them. A panel discussion would be amazing, I think I should be able to attend that zoom.

Emma

On Saturday, 3 June 2023 at 13:33:49 BST, Diana Newson <diana@diananewson.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Hannah and Emma,

John has put together his thoughts and sent me a document which will be a good basis for a background paper. I am happy to work on this and send you both the finished-ish item for you to add to and comment on; are you ok with me doing this? The background paper will consolidate the reasons and evidence for the motion, useful for the accreditation process. It is a fluid document, ever added to!

Hannah, are you still ok with creating the first draft amended wording for AR428, calling on Adina and anyone to help? I enclose a draft from John, which will hopefully feed into what you create. When we have a first draft it needs to go on Loomio for discussion (in ARPWG group) and after this the final version posted on the AR green spaces and pre-Agenda stream (asap, absolute latest deadline is 13 July) and then First Agenda (deadline is 27 July). Either you or I can do the posting bit. Hopefully Emma will keep us on track with dates.

I've booked a slot (Zoom session) at Policyfest on Tues 27 June between 17.45 19.00. I have got my fingers absolutely crossed that you will be free to deliver your wonderful talk, but it will be a team effort, and we will carry it through, whatever. Must admit, I thought that a panel discussion might be very interesting if we could find one or two speakers. I think the exact length of our slot is half an hour.

Hope this tallies with what you both think is going to happen...we're all hoping/assuming Hannah you'll take the motion to autumn conference in Brighton 6 to 8 October.

xDiana

John's dra AR428 The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations

where animals are competitively raced. A Green Party Government would bring to an end

Greyhound racing within 3 years and seek to end Horse Racing within 5 years.

We would also bring to an end the broadcast of both greyhound and horse racing on all media platforms within 12

months. This would include racing 'spots' on Radio 4. This is not only due to the unnecessary pain, suffering and

deaths of dogs and horses throughout these industries, but also in recognition of the work being done across the

UK to reduce the harm from gambling to so many families which include: financial difficulties; relationship

breakdowns; and mental health issues. It is recognised that there are on-going costs from these to the NHS,

social services and other support services.

<Greyhound docs from last me.zip>

The information is intended to be for the use of the individual(s) or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient be aware that any disclosure, copying distribution or use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this electronic message in error, please notify by clicking reply.

Emails agreeing internal consultation

Re: PDC asking for minor correx

From: AR PWG (animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk)

To: emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Cc: john@headweb.co.uk

Date: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 15:58 BST

Thanks Emma - it looks great. I especially like the emphasis on the GP lagging behind. Yes I'd love you to send it out and also adapt it for external consultations. Your status in the group is unchanged we're both stuck with being co-convenors. (This needs correction with PDC who are just listing me.) The PWG email address was set up by John, and then put onto my computer by Nick so I am pretty useless here, however you should definitely have it so that we both see everything that arrives or is sent. I think John can help.

First Agenda is here: <https://spaces.greenparty.org.uk/s/autumn-conference-2023-agenda-forum/>

Emails of other convenors here: <https://members.greenparty.org.uk/policy-working-groups>

My post was on 24 July. I have just emailed SOC asking them if the omission of the word "motion" means I should re-post (see Bob Biggs's comment).

Fab that you're going to look at the co-proposer issue. I am currently looking through our PS updating it.

Don't overdo it! xDiana

On 25 Jul 2023, at 15:12, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Hi all,

Here's a draft email for internal consultation, let me know what you think.

I don't know if you want to include more names in the signature line? Or if it should just be from Diana? I'm not sure of my current status in the group!

I'm happy to send out but don't know how to work the PWG email address.

Also, could you send me a link to the First Agenda? I can't find it.

Don't think I'll be able to do any more this afternoon but will look at the co-proposer thing tomorrow and will also adapt email for external consultations.

Emma x

Dear

The Animal Rights PWG are submitting a policy proposal for Autumn conference aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing. The entrenched abusive practices within the industry have long been known and although they have had ample opportunity to reform through self-regulation, this has not yielded the promised welfare improvements. Moreover, the industry makes substantial contribution to the human harms inflicted through gambling.

Mainstream animal welfare organisations are now advocating a ban; we feel that the Green party is lagging behind and should have a clear policy on this issue.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if your policy area could be affected by the proposal and whether your PWG would be willing to endorse the new wording.

We are hoping the proposal will be accredited by SOC so would be grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall etc

Title of motion: Greyhound Racing Ban

Synopsis

Revised AR428 commits to end animal racing, with an immediate ban on greyhound racing. Intractable problems with this industry include "wastage" (about 12,000 dogs vanish annually); injuries; neglect; useless "policing"; and routine race-fixing by doping. The RSPCA, Dog's Trust, Blue Cross, and most of the public support a ban.

Motion:

AR428 reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Re-write so that it reads:

The Green Party will end the exploitation of all animals in commercial racing. In the first instance, a Green Government will end greyhound racing as soon as practicable, at least within three years. This will stop the unnecessary deaths and suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry, and contribute to the body of measures aimed at reducing the harm from problem gambling. We will stop advertising and broadcasting animal racing on all media platforms within 12 months (e.g. racing 'tips' on Radio 4). A high compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare and re-homing, and industry wind-down. Finishing any animal racing industry will be carried out with support for those persons deemed dependent on the industry.

On Tuesday, 25 July 2023 at 11:46:29 BST, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Thanks Diana, that's great.

Yes, I'll have time this afternoon to draft an email for consultations.

I think accreditation deadline is also 14th August (I'll double check that) so we should have a few weeks. I'll also see if I can work out the coproposing system.

Emma x

Email agreeing external consultation

8/13/23, 10:30 AM

AOL Mail - Re: Generic external consultation email

Re: Generic external consultation email

From: AR PWG (animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk)

To: emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Cc: john@headweb.co.uk

Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 at 14:47 BST

Hi Emma, I thought I had replied, but maybe not, so sending again. I think it's very good, two points:

1. Is it worth mentioning any of the major concerns (animal wastage, injuries etc) as it might stimulate a reply.
2. In the synopsis I've used the term "useless policing" which I thought summed it up at the time. However, now that it might be sent to those "useless police" ie the GBGB, I'm not so sure it's a very tactful way of putting it yikes. xD

On 28 Jul 2023, at 17:18, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Hi Diana and John,

Here's a generic email for external consultations that I can adapt for the different recipients.

Do you think it is generally ok?

Emma x

Subject: Developing policy to address the problems in greyhound racing

Dear

The Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group are submitting a policy proposal aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing.

To ensure our proposal is fit for purpose, we would like some feedback and hopefully support from organisations outside the party.

As you will be aware, there are serious welfare concerns that seem to be deep-rooted within the greyhound racing industry. The opportunity to reform through self-regulation, has not yielded the promised improvements.

Moreover, the industry seems to be contributing human harms inflicted through gambling.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if you would be willing to endorse the policy proposal. Any feedback on the proposal would be very welcome.

We are hoping to gain internal accreditation, so would be very grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall
Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Appendix IV Internal Consultation emails (2023)

Email sent to PWGs

Subject: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Dear

The Animal Rights PWG are submitting a policy proposal for Autumn conference aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing. The entrenched abusive practices within the industry have long been known and although they have had ample opportunity to reform through self-regulation, this has not yielded the promised welfare improvements. Moreover, the industry makes substantial contribution to the human harms inflicted through gambling.

Mainstream animal welfare organisations are now advocating a ban; we feel that the Green party is lagging behind and should have a clear policy on this issue.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if your policy area could be affected by the proposal and whether your PWG would be willing to endorse the new wording.

We are hoping the proposal will be accredited by SOC so would be grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall
Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Title of motion: Greyhound Racing Ban

Synopsis

Revised AR428 commits to end animal racing, with an immediate ban on greyhound racing. Intractable problems with this industry include "wastage" (about 12,000 dogs vanish annually); injuries; neglect; useless "policing"; and routine race-fixing by doping. The RSPCA, Dog's Trust, Blue Cross, and most of the public support a ban.

Motion:

AR428 reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full

publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Re-write so that it reads:

The Green Party will end the exploitation of all animals in commercial racing. In the first instance, a Green Government will end greyhound racing as soon as practicable, at least within three years. This will stop the unnecessary deaths and suffering of dogs in the greyhound racing industry, and contribute to the body of measures aimed at reducing the harm from problem gambling. We will stop advertising and broadcasting animal racing on all media platforms within 12 months (e.g. racing 'tips' on Radio 4). A high compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare and rehoming, and industry wind-down. Finishing any animal racing industry will be carried out with support for those persons deemed dependent on the industry.

Land Use PWG

On Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 09:09:21 BST, Anne Gayfer <anne.gayfer@greenparty.org.uk> wrote:

Hi Emma, thank you for consuling the Land Use policy working group. I do not see your proposal as being significant for this area of work (obviously we do have land for sport in our model, but by comparison with things like farming, it's ny so changes are also insignificant given all the other variables).

Anne

From: Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk>

Sent: 26 July 2023 18:37

To: Anne Gayfer <Anne.Gayfer@greenparty.org.uk>

Cc: Animal Rights PWG <animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk>

Subject: Internal consultaon - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Dear Anne,

The Animal Rights PWG are submitting a policy proposal for Autumn conference aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing. The entrenched abusive practices within the industry have long been known and although they have had ample opportunity to reform through self-regulation, this has not yielded the promised welfare improvements. Moreover, the industry makes substantial contribution to the human harms inflicted through gambling.

Mainstream animal welfare organisations are now advocating a ban; we feel that the Green party is lagging behind and should have a clear policy on this issue.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if your policy area could be affected by the proposal and whether your PWG would be willing to endorse the new wording.

We are hoping the proposal will be accredited by SOC so would be grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall

Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Food and Agriculture

Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

From: Emma Randall (emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk)

To: alanmeasures8@gmail.com

Cc: philippafleming@icloud.com; diana@diananewson.co.uk; john@headweb.co.uk

Date: Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 17:45 BST

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your response, it's good to know that you don't have any issues with the proposal.

Thanks also for the information regarding illegal hare coursing activities. I guess the hope is that as more legal activities that are based around the abuse of animals are prohibited, there will not be so many contradictions arising between legal and illegal abuses, which could contribute to a decline in those illegal activities.

Of course, how laws are enforced is a crucial issue with tackling crime; the current punitive legal system could be replaced by a reformative/restorative approach under a Green government which would go some way to alleviating the injustices that minority groups experience in the criminal justice system - I think this would lead to better resolution of issues that seem to be driven by cultural differences. All the best

Emma

On Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 03:57:47 BST, Alan Measures <alanmeasures8@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Emma

I guess that commercial breeding of dogs might just be considered an agricultural activity but I have never heard of it being talked of or considered as such. I imagine the GP has policies re puppy farming?

Personally I have no objection to the proposals - I can circulate your note to those who more regularly attend the PWG on food and agriculture and suggest they individually respond to you direct if they are interested.

The one area of contact I have had with dog racing on farmland concerns hare coursing with greyhounds or lurches. It is already illegal and the police, I believe, have powers to euthanise dogs found being used for this (though in my experience are very reluctant to do this) and can have the coursers' vehicles crushed. These powers have made this activity much more confrontational and anyone challenging hare coursers is at

risk of physical violence - although in my experience this has been true for many years. Some coursing is done at night using powerful lights when the coursers know police presence is minimal or non-existent. Coursers are associated with theft, will look for things to steal while coursing and return at a later date. The more organised groups have dogs competing and followers betting on the outcome. This sort of activity is associated with the traveller community which adds another layer of contention. It has long been a problem to farmers and landowners - increasingly high penalties for those caught have reduced but not eliminated it. Best wishes

Alan Measures

Joint convener Food and Agriculture
PWG North Northants GP

On Wed, 26 Jul 2023 at 18:37, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Asylum and Migration

8/8/23, 4:34 PM

AOL Mail - Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

From: Graham Woodruff (graham@claymallet.net)

To: emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk

Date: Tuesday, 1 August 2023 at 21:07 BST

Hi Diana, Emma,

Thanks for sending this through.

Just a quick note to say we looked it at the mo on at our PWG mee ng last night and can confirm our policy area is not affected.

Good luck with it.

Best wishes

Graham

Tel: 07855 313819

Chair Green Party Asylum & Migration Policy Working Group

From: Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk>

Date: Wednesday, 26 July 2023 at 18:35

To: Graham Woodruff <graham@claymallet.net>

Cc: Animal Rights PWG <animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk>

Subject: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Dear Graham,

The Animal Rights PWG are submitting a policy proposal for Autumn conference aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing. The entrenched abusive practices within the industry have long been known and although they have had ample opportunity to reform through self-regulation, this has not yielded the promised welfare improvements. Moreover, the industry makes substantial contribution to the human harms inflicted through gambling.

Mainstream animal welfare organisations are now advocating a ban; we feel that the Green party is lagging behind and should have a clear policy on this issue.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if your policy area could be affected by the proposal and whether your PWG would be willing to endorse the new wording.

We are hoping the proposal will be accredited by SOC so would be grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

about:blank 1/2 8/8/23, 4:34 PM AOL Mail - Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Diana Newson and Emma Randall

Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Housing

8/8/23, 4:43 PM

AOL Mail - Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

Re: Internal consultation - Animal Rights PWG proposal for Autumn conference

From: Emma Randall (emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk)

To: shmckenna@googlemail.com

Cc: animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk

Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2023 at 10:57 BST

Hi Stephen,

Thanks for your comments. It is great to know that you are sympathetic to the plight of animals. Best wishes

Emma

On Tuesday, 1 August 2023 at 20:06:18 BST, Stephen Mckenna <shmckenna@googlemail.com> wrote:

Hi Emma

I have sympathy with the principle of the motion in that such sports often sustains a view that humans must dominate nature. In terms of cruelty I m not sure what goes on in greyhound racing so feel unable to comment. Good news is it doesn't clash with our housing policy ideas.

Cheers

Stephen

Housing PWG

On Wed, 26 Jul 2023 at 18:37, Emma Randall <emmarandall2804@aol.co.uk> wrote:

Dear Stephen,

The Animal Rights PWG are submitting a policy proposal for Autumn conference aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing. The entrenched abusive practices within the industry have long been known and although they have had ample opportunity to reform through self-regulation, this has not yielded the promised welfare improvements. Moreover, the industry makes substantial contribution to the human harms inflicted through gambling.

Mainstream animal welfare organisations are now advocating a ban; we feel that the Green party is lagging behind and should have a clear policy on this issue.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if your policy area could be affected by the proposal and whether your PWG would be willing to endorse the new wording.

We are hoping the proposal will be accredited by SOC so would be grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall

Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Stephen McKenna

Site Manager

Buckland Park Lake

Estate Office

Lawrence Lane

RH3 7BE

Direct : 01737 333532 Mbl : 07789 746425

--

Appendix V External Consultation Emails (2023)

Email sent to GBGB

Subject: FAO Mark Bird: Request for feedback on policy proposa

Dear Mark,

The Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group are submitting a policy proposal to be considered for adoption by the party. Our aim is to set out the party's opposition to the harms experienced to animals in greyhound racing.

To ensure our proposal is fit for purpose, we would like some feedback and hopefully support from organisations outside the party.

As you will be aware, there are serious welfare concerns for racing greyhounds and self-regulation has not yielded the promised improvements. We are also concerned about how the industry could be contributing to human harms inflicted through gambling addiction.

We would be very grateful if you would read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached). We are cognisant that as an organisation that is striving to support the industry and mitigate welfare harms, you are unlikely to support a phase out of racing but we would still appreciate any feedback on the proposal. Many states in the USA and Australia have or are expected to ban racing and few countries in the world currently hold races; so it is vital that a just transition is carefully planned to protect those dependent on the industry. So we would especially value your view of how a just transition could be managed in a way that would ensure they would not be left without a meaningful way to earn a good living.

The Green Party conference votes on all policy proposals, we are hoping to gain internal accreditation to ensure our proposal is heard, so would be very grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Response from GBGB



Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group – Policy on Greyhound Racing

Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) Response

August 2023

INTRODUCTION

As the regulator for British licensed greyhound racing, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) oversees the highest standards of welfare and integrity across the sport.

We were very concerned by some of the claims made – and references used – within the Policy Working Group’s (PWG) paper on the sport, which have relied upon inaccurate information and unsubstantiated opinion rather than fact. Thus to ensure the PWG has correct and reliable information with which to form their policy position, we have set out below further detail and evidence.

To be clear, greyhound welfare sits at the heart of the regulated sport. Under our [Greyhound Commitment](#), which was launched in 2018 and is supported by Defra, the sport works to promote and protect racing greyhounds throughout their careers and long into their retirement. Combined with GBGB’s [Rules of Racing](#), this provides protection far beyond what is afforded to any other working dogs or domestic pets in the UK.

Taking this further, our long-term welfare strategy ‘[A Good Life for Every Greyhound](#)’ was launched in

2022. Led by Independent Director Professor Madeleine Campbell (an EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist and a RCVS Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law) this comprehensive and wide-ranging strategy seeks to further optimise the care and protection that racing greyhounds receive throughout their lives – not just during the period they are

racing. The strategy has been externally peer-reviewed by respected veterinarians in the field of animal welfare.

We hope and expect that the PWG will take the appropriate time to review all the facts and evidence available on the welfare standards currently upheld within British licensed greyhound racing. We trust that the below provides useful clarification on the paper provided as you review the Party's policy position, but we would of course also be open to meeting with the PWG to discuss our response further.

VIEWS ON GREEN PARTY PWG PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT

We believe strongly that effective and robust regulation of animal activities is the only way to safeguard welfare successfully. Within British licensed greyhound racing we have already seen transformative improvements across greyhound welfare and care over the past few years, which is evidenced by our annual, externally verified data on injuries and retirements within the sport.

A ban on regulated greyhound racing – or other British licensed sports such as horseracing – would only risk driving the sport underground with no welfare standards in place and where practices cannot be monitored. Whether phased over three years or not, a ban on the sport would needlessly end the lives of thousands of greyhounds with nothing in place to protect them; at a time when rehoming charities such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross are already struggling to meet demand due to the impact of current cost-of-living pressures.

We note you have also raised concerns around commercialised betting; a ban on the sport would encourage illegal and unlicensed betting and make it harder for regulators and legislators to manage issues like problem gambling.

SPECIFIC COMMENTARY AND CLARIFICATION ON POLICY PAPER

1. "Greyhound racing is on its last legs" (p1)

Greyhound racing remains a highly popular spectator sport in the UK and one followed by millions of racing enthusiasts across the country and globally.

There are 20 licensed racecourses in Great Britain operating successfully within their communities. In the past couple of years, two new tracks have opened (Oxford and Suffolk Downs Stadiums) and Towcester has reopened.

The licensed sector of the sport supports not only the local and national economy but thousands of livelihoods in hard-working areas of the country. There are over 7,000 licensed GBGB trainers as well as thousands more roles across racing offices, hospitality, residential greyhound kennels and breeding.

2. “Public opinion has moved as facts about the sport have become known and many people now think greyhound racing is a form of animal abuse” (p1)

This is conjecture and not supported by evidence. The poll quoted was undertaken by PETA and the League Against Cruel Sports – two groups openly opposed to the sport – in one location and summarised in misleading terms alongside many other harmful and untrue statements.

Myths about greyhound racing still draw upon historic concerns, anecdotes and images that in no way reflect today’s sport in Britain. The [data and evidence](#) show a transformation in the welfare standards within regulated British greyhound racing since the launch of GBGB’s Greyhound

Commitment in 2018 through to the present implementation of our long-term welfare strategy. **3. The sport has been “banned in 41 states in the USA” (p1)**

We question the relevance of this and its use as ‘evidence’ to suggest that UK public opinion has changed.

4. “Greyhound racing is part of the gambling industry and is self-regulating in Britain” (p1)

The combination of regulatory structure and independent expertise across the GBGB Board, the Greyhound Regulatory Board, the Disciplinary Panel and the Impartiality Committee ensures robust safeguarding of animal welfare.

The Board of GBGB includes four Independent Directors alongside a Veterinary Director and its Chair, who was previously Chief Executive of the RSPCA and a Director at Dogs Trust. Among the Independent Directors: one is a RCVS and European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law; one has a strong background in animal welfare, having served as Shadow Environment Minister and as a Senior Member of EFRACom.

The Greyhound Regulatory Board, which has status independent of GBGB, is charged with implementing and managing the Rules of Racing. This includes investigating any alleged breaches; the licensing of racecourses, trainers, kennel staff and track officials; the registration of owners and their racing greyhounds; managing GBGB’s drug sampling programme and setting standards to safeguard the sport’s integrity.

GBGB’s work overseeing welfare and integrity is supported through a voluntary levy on the bookmakers, however it is completely independent of the bookmaking industry.

GBGB also notes that British horseracing, like GBGB-licensed greyhound racing, is self-regulated. British greyhound racing is the only sport in the UK currently accredited by UKAS.

5. “Big shortfalls of the GBGB make it unfit for the purpose of monitoring the sport” (p1-2), including the following allegations:

a. “No ability to prosecute”

Through GBGB’s Rules of Racing, there is robust regulation of the industry and there are strict rules on how greyhounds must be treated both at the track and in residential kennels (as set out in the Code of Practice) as well as when being transported.

The Greyhound Regulatory Board, which has status independent of GBGB, is charged with implementing and managing GBGB’s robust Rules of Racing. This includes investigating any alleged breaches; the licensing of racecourses, trainers, kennel staff and track officials; the registration of owners and their racing greyhounds; managing GBGB’s drug sampling programme and setting standards to safeguard the sport’s integrity.

All racing greyhounds in England and Wales are covered by the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Welfare Act Scotland covers racing greyhounds in Scotland. GBGB works in partnership with relevant authorities with prosecutorial powers, including the RSPCA, wherever necessary. Indeed, GBGB’s own investigations have been used as evidence to support a successful prosecution in one rare case where charges were brought against an individual involved in greyhound racing on animal welfare grounds.

Under our own regulatory system, there is no place for mistreatment of any greyhounds and we would not hesitate to apply strict sanctions in line with our policies if ever necessary; this can include a lifetime ban from the sport.

b. “No awareness of independent or Northern Irish racing, therefore no awareness of any dog who is not BGBG-licensed [sic]”

GBGB’s remit covers greyhound racing in Great Britain. We do, however, work in close partnership with Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) – our counterpart in the Republic of Ireland – and with the Greyhound Stud Book to support welfare standards and greyhound monitoring across the British

Isles.

c. “No awareness of the puppies born (and disposed of) as most of this happens in N Ireland before earmarking or registration. This may be as many as 12,000 puppies a year. The majority of British racing dogs are bred in Ireland (95%).”

We question the validity of these figures given that Wikipedia is an open-source platform.

Since the beginning of 2021, Greyhound Racing Ireland have been using a traceability system, for all greyhound puppies at 12 weeks old, before being entered onto the racing system at 3 months. This system, the RCET, has full traceability.

To be clear, however, as above, we work closely with GRI and the Greyhound Stud Book to monitor breeding and rearing practices. Our welfare strategy sets out further initiatives to

support and promote British breeding, including through the development of an Assured Breeders' Scheme in collaboration with the Kennel Club.

d. "No awareness of the export, abandonment or killing of many post-racing dogs."

This is misleading and unevidenced. We have a robust system for monitoring all GBGB-registered greyhounds. All retirement destinations are recorded, with national figures for the sport published publicly each year.

The most recent data shows that, in 2022, 95% of greyhounds were successfully retired from the sport – in line with the previous two years. This is partly due to the [Greyhound Retirement Scheme](#) (GRS) which ensures the costs associated with a greyhound's retirement are met before they step foot on the track. Since its launch in September 2020, over £3.3 million has been paid out through the scheme helping to home over 8,300 greyhounds. When launched, GBGB promised that the GRS would bring about a step change in the way greyhounds are homed and the data for the past couple of years shows this to be the case.

GBGB records all deaths of registered greyhounds including for reasons unrelated to racing; our data therefore includes deaths due to long-term illness or natural causes which affect working and nonworking dogs alike. In total, over the course of 2022, 306 GBGB registered greyhounds were put to sleep or died naturally. In 2021, the equivalent figure was 359 and in 2018, it was 932 representing a reduction of 67%.

We continue to drive improvements in these figures and our new '[Responsible Homing Policy](#)' goes even further to ensure that every racing greyhound, wherever possible, enjoys a long and happy retirement.

GBGB also has a clear policy opposing the export of British greyhound racing greyhounds to countries where the welfare standards cannot be sufficiently verified. Whilst this is not illegal according to UK law, we have worked closely with the relevant UK government departments in the few cases where we believe a racing greyhound to have been transported to another country with lower welfare standards to repatriate the greyhound.

e. "The BGBG [sic] compares animal sport to human sport where athletes sometimes get hurt – this overlooks the fact that greyhounds do not choose to race, their human owners choose it for them."

No greyhound can be made to race if it does not want to. As sighthounds, greyhounds have a strong natural instinct to chase; regulated racing helps to fulfil this instinct in a controlled way. Whereas there are currently no specific requirements on domestic dog owners to provide enrichment or exercise, regulation within greyhound racing ensures clear standards and expectations about the level of exercise and care which greyhounds need. There is a wide range of racing 'grades' to accommodate a variety of racing skills and preference, and any greyhound that does not have an in-built drive to chase is identified during its training career and prepared for domestic life as a pet.

f. “BGBG [sic] is funded by the British Greyhound Racing Fund which consists of voluntary donations from bookmakers. This makes the BGBG’s [sic] job of overlooking the sport a classic case of ‘marking your own homework’.”

This is wholly misleading and inaccurate. Whilst GBGB’s work overseeing welfare and integrity is supported through a voluntary levy on the bookmakers, it is completely independent of the bookmaking industry.

6. “Over 2,000 greyhounds died in the four years 2018 to 2021 and there were 18,000 injuries. Injuries often lead to dogs being tracked out of racing into either adoption (for the lucky ones) or other fates.” (p2)

This statement includes highly concerning conjecture.

Contrary to what is suggested, as already set out, our annually published [retirement and injury figures](#) demonstrate significant and transformative improvements in the years since 2018. To aggregate numbers in this way is therefore misleading and unhelpful.

We already have a range of initiatives in place to support the successful retirement of racing greyhounds; this includes the GRS (as before) as well as the Injury Recovery Scheme (IRS). The latter provides financial support for the veterinary treatment of injuries sustained at GBGB-licensed tracks and has contributed to a reduction in the number of the number of greyhounds put to sleep on a vet’s advice away from the track from 144 in 2018 to 43 in 2022 (a reduction of 70%). GBGB has also significantly enhanced its veterinary resource and expertise across the sport through the appointment of a Veterinary Executive as well as a network of Regional Regulatory Vets.

Ministers and officials at DEFRA have welcomed GBGB’s commitment to transparency and accountability; indeed, we publish more data about racing greyhounds than animal welfare charities such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross make available about their own homing operations.

7. RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross “want to end greyhound racing” (p2)

The charities listed have changed their position on the sport following internal reviews which they have said was based on fact and evidence.

However, despite numerous requests, these internal reviews have not been presented to us so we have seen no evidence to support their concerns; they have only provided anecdotal evidence rather than any quantifiable evidence to support their argument.

We continue to work with a number of well-respected animal charities, including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, as part of the Greyhound Forum.

8. "Greyhounds are often kept in poor, barren conditions and muzzled 95% of the time. There are serious concerns (for example from the RSPCA) about welfare during kennelling and transport, and regarding lack of socialisation." (p2)

This is untrue.

Whereas there are currently no specific requirements on domestic dog owners to provide enrichment or exercise, regulation within greyhound racing ensures clear standards and expectations about the level of exercise and care which greyhounds need.

Our sport is the only one to be licensed by UKAS in the UK and our Rules of Racing set the standards for ensuring the highest possible levels of welfare and safety. More information on a greyhound's experience when visiting a track to race can be found [here](#). Equally, each year, a GBGB licensed trainer's residential kennels will receive:

A minimum of two unannounced visits by GBGB Stipendiary Stewards;

An annual veterinary inspection which examines all aspects of the greyhounds' care, health and wellbeing;

An annual audit by independent auditors to ensure they meet the standards required by the British Standards Institute's (BSI) Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for greyhound trainers' residential kennels; PAS 251:2017.

In 2020, GBGB also introduced – in consultation with animal welfare charities, including the RSPCA and Dogs Trust, and veterinary professionals – a comprehensive Code of Practice for Residential Kennels which sets out clear rules and guidelines on how greyhounds should be looked after at home at their trainer's kennels. This includes specific requirements around diet, bedding, kennel construction and size, dental care, environmental enrichment as well as their daily exercise routine.

As with any other dog, greyhounds spend the vast majority of their daily lives unmuzzled. Guidance on appropriate use is contained within GBGB's Code of Practice.

9. "It is thought that the greyhounds are held back from veterinary treatment during their racing careers." (p2-3)

This is unsubstantiated conjecture and untrue.

GBGB-registered racing greyhounds are – as part of our strict welfare and integrity processes – checked by veterinary surgeons on regular and numerous occasions.

A veterinary surgeon must be present at every trial and race meeting to inspect each greyhound before, during and after racing and to provide treatment if necessary. Each GBGB-licensed greyhound trainer must also receive a full veterinary inspection at least once a year.

In addition, as part of our welfare strategy, GBGB has an Executive Veterinarian, supported by a team of Regional Regulatory Vets which provide additional support and guidance to ensure the highest levels of greyhound care and husbandry.

10. “Greyhounds have a pre-disposition to dental disease believed to be linked to poor dental hygiene and diet in early life.” (p3)

As regulator, GBGB has a number of initiatives in place to support the development and adoption of best practice across the sport, including in greyhound care and husbandry. This includes our comprehensive Code of Practice for Residential Kennels which sets out clear rules and guidelines on how greyhounds should be looked after at home at their trainer’s kennels. This includes specific requirements around diet and dental care and was developed in consultation with animal welfare charities, including the RSPCA and Dogs Trust, and veterinary professionals.

11. Reference to “wastage” and “killing of unwanted puppies and euthanizing dogs not fit to race” and that there are allegedly “a massive number of missing puppies believed to be about 12,000 a year” (p3)

This is harmful conjecture with no evidential basis. GBGB does not condone or recognise this practice and we work closely with our counterparts at GRI and the Greyhound Stud Book to promote best practice in breeding and rearing.

Our welfare strategy contains a number of additional initiatives to promote British breeding, including through the development of an Assured Breeders’ Scheme in collaboration with the Kennel Club.

12. Alleged use of bolt gun: “Adult dogs are often killed using a captive bolt gun, which is the most economical method” (p3)

This is untrue.

The use of the captive bolt gun is never acceptable in licensed greyhound racing and is prohibited in GBGB’s Rules of Racing. According to [Rule 18](#): ‘if it is necessary for the Greyhound to be euthanised on humane grounds, the Owner ensuring, subject to Rule 58,

that such euthanasia is carried out by a registered Veterinary Surgeon in accordance with the Euthanasia Policy.'

13. "The greyhound racing incentivises this massive over-breeding in the search for elite dogs, and directly causes the subsequent culling of less desired animals" (p3)

This is harmful conjecture with no evidential basis. Please see previous responses on the topic of breeding and rearing.

14. Alleged doping of racing dogs (p3)

We have a robust anti-doping strategy; in 2021, 7,182 samples were taken for analysis. Of these, 0.67% were confirmed by LGC – a leading UK testing facility – as positive for prohibited substances and fewer further were determined to be high enough exposure levels to indicate 'deliberate' administration (i.e. they were trace quantities).

15. Artificial Insemination (AI) of greyhound bitches (p3)

As regulator, we ensure our policies are closely aligned with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) guidance, including the use of artificial insemination (AI). Our [welfare strategy](#) includes detail of our policy on AI which is in line with current RCVS advice.

Members of GBGB's Welfare and Veterinary Standing Committee (WVSC) with veterinary and ethical expertise in animal reproduction are already keeping a 'watching brief' on scientific publications around welfare and breeding methods. The WVSC will review relevant policies against any new scientific publications.

16. "Gambling as a cause of human suffering" (p4)

GBGB's remit is the regulation of welfare and integrity within the licensed sector of our sport, not gambling. We do, however, support the work of the Gambling Commission to ensure that the right protections are in place against problem gambling.

AR PWG reply to GBGB

Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group

10 August 2023

Dear Saoirse,

Many thanks for your response to our request for consultation regarding our proposed policy to ban greyhound racing. It is good to see, and we accept, that GBGB is greatly concerned with greyhound welfare at all stages. However, weaknesses of the GBGB position have become apparent to us, and can be summarised:

- Racing at high speed on circular tracks is not “natural” for the dogs and is inherently dangerous for them.
- The British licenced greyhound racing industry drives the greyhound breeding industry in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland where GBGB have no oversight. Most British racing dogs are imported from Ireland.
- The British licenced greyhound racing industry drives the unlicenced industry in that the same dogs are used. GBGB has no jurisdiction here.
- GBGB are unable to prosecute for welfare failures but depend on the police and CPS or the RSPCA.

Therefore, in spite of GBGB efforts, and the production of comprehensive documents like “A good life for every greyhound”, the Rules of Racing and the GBGB Code of Practice, dogs are still abused in this sport. It is outside your remit to influence fundamental activities (such as breeding), and yet your industry provides financial incentive for the activity to continue.

I enclose your paper with our detailed answer to each point raised, and a request for more information where relevant.

Again, many thanks for your engagement.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Newson and Emma Randall (Co-convenors of the Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group)



Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group – Policy on

Greyhound Racing

Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) Response *August 2023*

INTRODUCTION

As the regulator for British licensed greyhound racing, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) oversees the highest standards of welfare and integrity across the sport.

The GBGB can't oversee the breeding and training industry in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; racing on unlicensed tracks; or prosecute for welfare failures but depends on police/CPS/RSPCA.

We were very concerned by some of the claims made – and references used – within the Policy Working Group's (PWG) paper on the sport, which have relied upon **inaccurate information** and **unsubstantiated opinion rather than fact**. Thus to ensure the PWG has correct and reliable information with which to form their policy position, we have set out below further detail and evidence.

Many thanks for this. However, eyewitness evidence is valid evidence and can't just be dismissed as anecdotal.

To be clear, greyhound welfare sits at the heart of the **regulated** sport. Under our [Greyhound Commitment \(a written charter\)](#), which was launched in 2018 and is supported by Defra, the sport works to promote and protect racing greyhounds throughout their careers and long into their retirement. Combined with GBGB's [Rules of Racing](#), this provides protection far beyond what is afforded to any other working dogs or domestic pets in the UK. [Rules of Racing contains the GBGB Code of Practice a 117-page document:](#)

[This is a good resource and describes the ideal situation in kennels.](#)

Taking this further, our long-term welfare strategy '[A Good Life for Every Greyhound](#)' a 76-page document, was launched in 2022. Led by Independent Director Professor Madeleine Campbell (an EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist and a RCVS Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law) this comprehensive and wide-ranging strategy seeks to further optimise the care and protection that racing greyhounds receive throughout their lives – not just during the period they are racing. The strategy has been externally peer-reviewed by respected veterinarians in the field of animal welfare.

We hope and expect that the PWG will take the appropriate time to review all the facts and evidence available on the welfare standards currently upheld within British licensed greyhound racing. We trust that the below provides useful clarification on the paper provided as you review the Party's policy position, but we would of course also be open to meeting with the PWG to discuss our response further.

[Agree that the welfare standards outlined in the Code of Practice and A Good Life for every Greyhound are comprehensive.](#)

VIEWS ON GREEN PARTY PWG PROPOSED POLICY STATEMENT

We believe strongly that effective and robust regulation of animal activities is the only way to safeguard welfare successfully. Within British licensed greyhound racing we have already seen transformative improvements across greyhound welfare and care over the past few years, which is evidenced by our annual, externally verified data on injuries and retirements within the sport.

A ban on regulated greyhound racing – or other British licensed sports such as horseracing – would only risk driving the sport underground with no welfare standards in place and where practices cannot be monitored.

[We disagree here. "Being driven underground" is not a reason to keep an activity legal. Should badger-baiting be legal because a few people carry it out in secret? A law is there to uphold what is right, not what is expedient.](#)

Whether phased over three years or not, **a ban on the sport would needlessly end the lives of thousands of greyhounds with nothing in place to protect them**; at a time when rehoming charities such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross are already struggling to meet demand due to the impact of current cost-of-living pressures.

Why would banning the sport end lives, unless all the trainers would immediately euthanise their dogs? The current greyhound-rescue charities would step in to rescue as many racing greyhounds as possible as they do now...if ending the sport means thousands of greyhounds have to be re-homed, how many more thousands will have to be re-homed if the sport continues for years? This is a silly argument....! Eg in 2021 6,014 greyhounds were re-homed (BGBG data): if the sport continues for another 10 years 60,000 greyhounds will need to be re-homed. If the sport is phased out over 3 years 18,000 greyhounds will need re-homing.

We note you have also raised concerns around commercialised betting; a ban on the sport would encourage illegal and unlicensed betting and make it harder for regulators and legislators to manage issues like problem gambling.

This implies that there would be more betting if the sport was banned than there is now- very questionable.

SPECIFIC COMMENTARY AND CLARIFICATION ON POLICY PAPER 1. “Greyhound racing is on its last legs” (p1)

Greyhound racing remains a highly popular spectator sport in the **UK** (but the BGBG is only concerned with England, Scotland and Wales) and one followed by millions of racing enthusiasts across the country **and globally**.

Question: “Millions of enthusiasts” world-wide, is vague. Do you have figures for the number of enthusiasts in England Scotland and Wales only?

There are 20 licensed racecourses in Great Britain operating successfully within their communities. In the past couple of years, two new tracks have opened (Oxford and Suffolk Downs Stadiums) and Towcester has reopened.

The licensed sector of the sport supports not only the local and national economy but thousands of livelihoods in hard-working areas of the country. There are over 7,000 licensed BGBG trainers as well as thousands more roles across racing offices, hospitality, residential greyhound kennels and breeding.

These people would be supported in any wind-up of the industry and it was specifically this area that BGBG was asked to comment on, but unfortunately no comment was received.

2. “Public opinion has moved as facts about the sport have become known and many people now think greyhound racing is a form of animal abuse” (p1)

This is conjecture and not supported by evidence. The poll quoted was undertaken by PETA and the League Against Cruel Sports – two groups openly opposed to the sport – in one location and summarised in misleading terms alongside many other harmful and untrue statements.

From the background paper: “Greyhound racing is on its last legs and the time has come to abolish the so-called sport. Public opinion has moved as facts about the sport have become known, and many people now think greyhound racing is a form of animal abuse. A poll conducted by PETA and the League Against Cruel Sports in Oxford revealed that 71% of respondents did not want the sport in their city (<https://www.peta.org.uk/blog/oxfordshire-respondents-dont-want-greyhound-racing/>). Hope Rescue Centre in Wales performed a survey and found that 45% of people wanted to ban greyhound racing; 17% of people were against a ban; and 38% of people didn’t know or were unsure (this was also mentioned in this parliamentary E-petition debate relating to greyhound racing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD80MGXpnHs>)). Additionally, a 2022 a YouGov poll found that 91% of the British public does not follow or participate in greyhound racing and 64% believe the sport is not important to British culture (https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/5ue6z1j8dd/RSPCA_Greyhound_220914_W.pdf).”

We would welcome sight of other surveys with different results.

Myths about greyhound racing still draw upon historic concerns, anecdotes and images that in no way reflect today’s sport in Britain. The [data and evidence](#) show a transformation in the welfare standards within regulated British greyhound racing since the launch of GBGB’s Greyhound Commitment in 2018 through to the present implementation of our long-term welfare strategy.

I don’t really understand the data as measured, using number of “runs” as a baseline. What is a “run”? Is it a single dog racing down the track = 1 run? A 1.23% injury rate (2021 GBGB data) translates to over 4,000 dogs injured. As there are 18,000 registered greyhounds this is a 22% injury rate. I think the data is calculated for number of runs to drastically reduce the appearance of this injury rate. Please convince us otherwise!

3. The sport has been “banned in 41 states in the USA” (p1)

We question the relevance of this and its use as ‘evidence’ to suggest that UK public opinion has changed. [Not evidence, just implication as what happens in the States does affect what happens here.](#)

GBGB (in this document) quote [worldwide numbers](#) “millions of enthusiasts” as part of their case that the sport is popular. If we can’t use “outside GB numbers” surely they can’t either?

4. “Greyhound racing is part of the gambling industry and is self-regulating in Britain” (p1)

The combination of regulatory structure and independent expertise across the GBGB Board, the Greyhound Regulatory Board, the Disciplinary Panel and the Impartiality Committee ensures robust safeguarding of animal welfare.

The Board of GBGB includes four Independent Directors alongside a Veterinary Director and its Chair, who was previously Chief Executive of the RSPCA and a Director at Dogs Trust. Among the Independent Directors: one is a RCVS and European Veterinary Specialist in Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law; one has a strong background in animal welfare, having served as Shadow Environment Minister and as a Senior Member of EFRACom.

The Greyhound Regulatory Board, which has status independent of GBGB, is charged with implementing and managing the Rules of Racing. This includes investigating any alleged breaches; the licensing of racecourses, trainers, kennel staff and track officials; the registration of owners and their racing greyhounds; managing GBGB's drug sampling programme and setting standards to safeguard the sport's integrity.

GBGB's work overseeing welfare and integrity is supported through a voluntary levy on the bookmakers, however it is completely independent of the bookmaking industry.

GBGB also notes that British horseracing, like GBGB-licensed greyhound racing, is self-regulated. British greyhound racing is the only sport in the UK currently accredited by UKAS.

So, GBGB agrees that greyhound racing in Great Britain is self-regulated.

5. "Big shortfalls of the GBGB make it unfit for the purpose of monitoring the sport" (p1-2), including the following allegations:

a. "No ability to prosecute"

Through GBGB's Rules of Racing, there is robust regulation of the industry and there are strict rules on how greyhounds must be treated both at the track and in residential kennels (as set out in the Code of Practice) as well as when being transported.

The Greyhound Regulatory Board, which has status independent of GBGB, is charged with implementing and managing GBGB's robust Rules of Racing. This includes investigating any alleged breaches; the licensing of racecourses, trainers, kennel staff and track officials; the registration of owners and their racing greyhounds; managing GBGB's drug sampling programme and setting standards to safeguard the sport's integrity.

All racing greyhounds in England and Wales are covered by the Animal Welfare Act and the Animal Welfare Act Scotland covers racing greyhounds in Scotland. **GBGB works in partnership with relevant authorities with prosecutorial powers, including the RSPCA, wherever necessary.** Indeed, GBGB's own investigations have been used as evidence to support a successful prosecution in one rare case where charges were brought against an individual involved in greyhound racing on animal welfare grounds.

Under our own regulatory system, there is no place for mistreatment of any greyhounds and we would not hesitate to apply strict sanctions in line with our policies if ever necessary; this can include a lifetime ban from the sport.

I do not see that this disagrees with us but will include mention of RSPCA in the Background Document.

- We say “No ability to prosecute – this falls to the usual authorities such as the Police. (From “A good life for every greyhound” BGBG’s new strategy published on their website gbgb.org.uk p21)”
- They say “Nonetheless responsibility for enforcing certain aspects of welfare rests with other agencies (such as the police/the Crown Prosecution Service [CPS] and governmental agencies), for example prosecutions under the Animal Welfare Act (2006) or proceedings relating to the illegal export of greyhounds.

b. “No awareness of independent or Northern Irish racing, therefore no awareness of any dog who is not BGBG-licensed [sic]”

GBGB’s remit covers greyhound racing in Great Britain. We do, however, work in close partnership with Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) – our counterpart in the Republic of Ireland – and with the Greyhound Stud Book to support welfare standards and greyhound monitoring across the British Isles.

- They say in *A Good Life for every Greyhound* p27 “ Nonetheless the link between licenced British greyhound racing for which GBGB has regulatory responsibility and the greyhound industry in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland over which GBGB has neither regulatory jurisdiction nor any control can sometimes be problematic for GBGB.”

c. “No awareness of the puppies born (and disposed of) as most of this happens in N Ireland before earmarking or registration. This may be as many as 12,000 puppies a year. The majority of British racing dogs are bred in Ireland (95%).”

We question the validity of these figures given that Wikipedia is an open-source platform.

Since the beginning of 2021, Greyhound Racing Ireland have been using a traceability system, for all greyhound puppies at 12 weeks old, before being entered onto the racing system at 3 months. This system, the RCET, has full traceability.

To be clear, however, as above, we work closely with GRI and the Greyhound Stud Book to monitor breeding and rearing practices. Our welfare strategy sets out further initiatives to support and promote British breeding, including through the development of an Assured Breeders’ Scheme in collaboration with the Kennel Club.

Please give alternative figures as these are well known and widely quoted. By looking at the number of GBGB registered greyhounds in a year, using birthdates and knowing that the average litter size of greyhounds is (6.7 pups) it should be possible for GBGB to calculate the approximate number of pups missing from GBGB books for 1 year.

d. “No awareness of the export, abandonment or killing of many post-racing dogs.”

This is misleading and unevicenced. We have a robust system for monitoring all GBGB-registered greyhounds. All retirement destinations are recorded, with national figures for the sport published publicly each year.

The most recent data shows that, in 2022, 95% of greyhounds were successfully retired from the sport – in line with the previous two years. This is partly due to the [Greyhound Retirement Scheme](#) (GRS) which ensures the costs associated with a greyhound’s retirement are met before they step foot on the track. Since its launch in September 2020, over £3.3 million has been paid out through the scheme helping to home over 8,300 greyhounds. When launched, GBGB promised that the GRS would bring about a step change in the way greyhounds are homed and the data for the past couple of years shows this to be the case.

This is great, but 5% of 18,000 dogs is about 900 dogs a year that are unaccounted for. Clips of greyhounds in Pakistan, China and other countries is freely available online – some horrifyingly being boiled alive, killed with machetes, used to hunt living prey such as wild pigs etc. and getting wounded. We’ve assumed that some of these are the 900 dogs a year that are unaccounted for by GBGB, and would welcome evidence to the contrary.

GBGB records all deaths of registered greyhounds including for reasons unrelated to racing; our data therefore includes deaths due to long-term illness or natural causes which affect working and nonworking dogs alike. In total, over the course of 2022, 306 GBGB registered greyhounds were put to sleep or died naturally. In 2021, the equivalent figure was 359 and in 2018, it was 932 representing a reduction of 67%.

We continue to drive improvements in these figures and our new ‘[Responsible Homing Policy](#)’ goes even further to ensure that every racing greyhound, wherever possible, enjoys a long and happy retirement.

GBGB also has a clear policy opposing the export of British greyhound racing greyhounds to countries where the welfare standards cannot be sufficiently verified. Whilst this is not illegal according to UK law, we have worked closely with the relevant UK government departments in the few cases where we believe a racing greyhound to have been transported to another country with lower welfare standards to repatriate the greyhound.

We believe the 900 missing dogs form part of this export. According to GBGB they haven’t died, they haven’t “retired” so it seems sensible to believe they may have been exported or maybe illegally killed.

e. “The BGBG [sic] compares animal sport to human sport where athletes sometimes get hurt – this overlooks the fact that greyhounds do not choose to race, their human owners choose it for them.”

No greyhound can be made to race if it does not want to. As sighthounds, greyhounds have a strong natural instinct to chase; regulated racing helps to fulfil this instinct in a controlled way. Whereas there are currently no specific requirements on domestic dog owners to provide enrichment or exercise, regulation within greyhound racing ensures clear standards and expectations about the

level of exercise and care which greyhounds need. There is a wide range of racing 'grades' to accommodate a variety of racing skills and preference, and any greyhound that does not have an in-built drive to chase is identified during its training career and prepared for domestic life as a pet.

Racing anti-clockwise on a circular track does not help the dogs but is inherently dangerous for the dogs.

f. "BGBG [sic] is funded by the British Greyhound Racing Fund which consists of voluntary donations from bookmakers. This makes the BGBG's [sic] job of overlooking the sport a classic case of 'marking your own homework'."

This is wholly misleading and inaccurate. Whilst GBGB's work overseeing welfare and integrity is supported through a voluntary levy on the bookmakers, it is completely independent of the bookmaking industry.

It's hard to imagine how a regulatory body can be completely independent of its funders. This is unprovable either way, except that the GBGB supports greyhound racing, whereas, if truly independent, and truly caring only about the dogs, it would support a ban on the "sport".

6. "Over 2,000 greyhounds died in the four years 2018 to 2021 and there were 18,000 injuries. Injuries often lead to dogs being tracked out of racing into either adoption (for the lucky ones) or other fates." (p2)

This statement includes highly concerning conjecture.

What is the conjecture? We have put the numbers differently to GBGB, but there is no suggestion that this isn't true. It would be great if you could expand.

Contrary to what is suggested, as already set out, our annually published [retirement and injury figures](#) demonstrate significant and transformative improvements in the years since 2018. To aggregate numbers in this way is therefore misleading and unhelpful.

We already have a range of initiatives in place to support the successful retirement of racing greyhounds; this includes the GRS (as before) as well as the Injury Recovery Scheme (IRS). The latter provides financial support for the veterinary treatment of injuries sustained at GBGB-licensed tracks and has contributed to a reduction in the number of the number of greyhounds put to sleep on a vet's advice away from the track from 144 in 2018 to 43 in 2022 (a reduction of 70%). GBGB has also significantly enhanced its veterinary resource and expertise across the sport through the appointment of a Veterinary Executive as well as a network of Regional Regulatory Vets.

Ministers and officials at DEFRA have welcomed GBGB's commitment to transparency and accountability; indeed, we publish more data about racing greyhounds than animal welfare charities such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross make available about their own homing operations.

7. RSPCA, Dogs Trust and Blue Cross "want to end greyhound racing" (p2)

The charities listed have changed their position on the sport following internal reviews which they have said was based on fact and evidence.

However, despite numerous requests, these internal reviews have not been presented to us so we have seen no evidence to support their concerns; they have only provided anecdotal evidence rather than any quantifiable evidence to support their argument.

We continue to work with a number of well-respected animal charities, including Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, as part of the Greyhound Forum.

Great, but the following is taken directly from the RSPCA website: "Greyhound racing is inherently dangerous for the dogs involved. Running at speed around oval tracks causes significant injury to many dogs, and in some cases, the injuries are so severe that it is necessary to euthanise the dog."

8. "It is possible from eyewitness reports that greyhounds are often kept in poor, barren conditions and muzzled a lot of the time. There are serious concerns (for example from the RSPCA) about welfare during kennelling and transport, and regarding lack of socialisation." (p2)

This is untrue.

Our evidence here is from eyewitness accounts. We will change the wording and insert the purple wording above. We agree that the Code of Practice and A Good Life for every Greyhound are comprehensive documents.

Whereas there are currently no specific requirements on domestic dog owners to provide enrichment or exercise, regulation within greyhound racing ensures clear standards and expectations about the level of exercise and care which greyhounds need.

Our sport is the only one to be licensed by UKAS in the UK and our Rules of Racing set the standards for ensuring the highest possible levels of welfare and safety. More information on a greyhound's experience when visiting a track to race can be found [here](#). Equally, each year, a GBGB licensed trainer's residential kennels will receive:

- A minimum of two unannounced visits by GBGB Stipendiary Stewards;
- An annual veterinary inspection which examines all aspects of the greyhounds' care, health and wellbeing;
- An annual audit by independent auditors to ensure they meet the standards required by the British Standards Institute's (BSI) Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for greyhound trainers' residential kennels; PAS 251:2017.

In 2020, GBGB also introduced – in consultation with animal welfare charities, including the RSPCA and Dogs Trust, and veterinary professionals – a comprehensive Code of Practice for

Residential Kennels which sets out clear rules and guidelines on how greyhounds should be looked after at home at their trainer's kennels. This includes specific requirements around diet, bedding, kennel construction and size, dental care, environmental enrichment as well as their daily exercise routine.

As with any other dog, greyhounds spend the vast majority of their daily lives unmuzzled. Guidance on appropriate use is contained within GBGB's Code of Practice.

9. "It is thought that the greyhounds are held back from veterinary treatment during their racing careers." (p2-3)

This is unsubstantiated conjecture and untrue.

GBGB-registered racing greyhounds are – as part of our strict welfare and integrity processes – checked by veterinary surgeons on regular and numerous occasions.

A veterinary surgeon must be present at every trial and race meeting to inspect each greyhound before, during and after racing and to provide treatment if necessary. Each GBGB-licensed greyhound trainer must also receive a full veterinary inspection at least once a year.

In addition, as part of our welfare strategy, GBGB has an Executive Veterinarian, supported by a team of Regional Regulatory Vets which provide additional support and guidance to ensure the highest levels of greyhound care and husbandry.

What about unregistered greyhounds, or non-race suitable greyhounds? Does GBGB even know how many there are?

10. "Greyhounds have a pre-disposition to dental disease believed to be linked to poor dental hygiene and diet in early life." (p3)

As regulator, GBGB has a number of initiatives in place to support the development and adoption of best practice across the sport, including in greyhound care and husbandry. This includes our comprehensive Code of Practice for Residential Kennels which sets out clear rules and guidelines on how greyhounds should be looked after at home at their trainer's kennels. This includes specific requirements around diet and dental care and was developed in consultation with animal welfare charities, including the RSPCA and Dogs Trust, and veterinary professionals.

Great, improvement is expected here for GBGB-registered greyhounds.

11. Reference to "wastage" and "killing of unwanted puppies and euthanizing dogs not fit to race" and that there are allegedly "a massive number of missing puppies believed to be about 12,000 a year" (p3)

As previously suggested, it should be possible to work out the number of missing dogs using greyhound registrations/birthdates and litter size (6.7 average). We have accepted

others' figures on this and welcome the GBGB calculation. Simply not recognising it does not mean it doesn't happen.

This is harmful conjecture with no evidential basis. GBGB does not condone or recognise this practice and we work closely with our counterparts at GRI and the Greyhound Stud Book to promote best practice in breeding and rearing.

Our welfare strategy contains a number of additional initiatives to promote British breeding, including through the development of an Assured Breeders' Scheme in collaboration with the Kennel Club.

12. Alleged use of bolt gun: "Adult dogs are often killed using a captive bolt gun, which is the most economical method" (p3)

This is untrue.

The use of the captive bolt gun is never acceptable in licensed greyhound racing and is prohibited in GBGB's Rules of Racing. According to [Rule 18](#): *'if it is necessary for the Greyhound to be euthanised on humane grounds, the Owner ensuring, subject to Rule 58, that such euthanasia is carried out by a registered Veterinary Surgeon in accordance with the Euthanasia Policy.'*

Again, the use of the bolt gun may occur outside of recorded licensed greyhound racing and has been the subject of a petition by CAGED which has received over 420,000 signatures. Their website has film, personal stories and photos, and quotations from vets. It is pretty convincing.

13. "The greyhound racing incentivises this massive over-breeding in the search for elite dogs, and directly causes the subsequent culling of less desired animals" (p3)

This is harmful conjecture with no evidential basis. Please see previous responses on the topic of breeding and rearing.

Please give figures using the registrations/birthdates/litter size as previously requested. This is a well-known activity to create elite animals such as racehorses. Why should greyhounds be any different?

14. Alleged doping of racing dogs (p3)

We have a robust anti-doping strategy; in 2021, 7,182 samples were taken for analysis. Of these, 0.67% were confirmed by LGC – a leading UK testing facility – as positive for prohibited substances and fewer further were determined to be high enough exposure levels to indicate 'deliberate' administration (i.e. they were trace quantities).

Great, although you have no jurisdiction over unlicensed tracks.

15. Artificial Insemination (AI) of greyhound bitches (p3)

As regulator, we ensure our policies are closely aligned with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) guidance, including the use of artificial insemination (AI). Our [welfare strategy](#) includes detail of our policy on AI which is in line with current RCVS advice.

Members of GBGB's Welfare and Veterinary Standing Committee (WVSC) with veterinary and ethical expertise in animal reproduction are already keeping a 'watching brief' on scientific publications around welfare and breeding methods. The WVSC will review relevant policies against any new scientific publications.

Great.

16. "Gambling as a cause of human suffering" (p4)

GBGB's remit is the regulation of welfare and integrity within the licensed sector of our sport, not gambling. We do, however, support the work of the Gambling Commission to ensure that the right protections are in place against problem gambling.

Great.

Email sent to animal advocacy groups

Subject: Developing policy to address the problems in greyhound racing

Dear

The Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group are submitting a policy proposal to be considered for adoption by the party aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing.

To ensure our proposal is fit for purpose, we would like some feedback and hopefully support from organisations outside the party.

As you will be aware, there are serious welfare concerns that seem to be deep-rooted within the greyhound racing industry. The opportunity to reform through self-regulation, has not yielded the promised improvements. Moreover, the industry seems to be contributing human harms inflicted through gambling.

Many states in the USA and Australia have or are expected to ban racing and few countries in the world currently hold races; so it is likely that racing will come to an end and it is vital that a just transition is carefully planned to protect those dependent on the industry. So we would also value your view of how a just transition could be managed in a way that would ensure they would not be left without a meaningful way to earn a good living.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if you would be willing to endorse the policy proposal. Any feedback on the proposal would be very welcome.

The Green Party conference votes on all policy proposals; we are hoping to gain internal accreditation, so would be very grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Response from CAGED

8/11/23, 5:54 PM

Webmail :: Re: Developing policy to address the problems in greyhound racing

Re: Developing policy to address the problems in greyhound racing

To <animalrights.pwg@greenparty.org.uk> Date 2023-08-03 00:50



From Rita <rita@cagednw.co.uk>

Dear Dianna and Emma

I am happy to assist in whatever way possible.

Important reports.

Have you read the following reports?

PRL report 2017 paid for by the IGB, but later disputed by them following its disclosure;

The new IGB welfare strategy that didn't appear to materialise

The 2022 interim report prepared for us by PRL following complaints by the GBGB after we relied on the PRL 2017 data; partially because PRL referred to the missing dogs as culled within their report.

It all makes interesting reading and shows that British greyhound racing is entirely dependent on Irish greyhound racing and breeding. The Irish government is fundamentally paying for British racing to exist as they appear to be making a loss on every dog sold for British racing.

If our Local authorities allow more greyhound breeding facilities it would strengthen the industry.

In my opinion the quickest but not the simplest way to end greyhound racing would be to;

- 1) find a way to restrict the imports before the industry increase on greyhound breeding facilities in Britain

2) to cap how many greyhounds a trainer can keep at any one time as at the moment its unlimited and making easy betting profits for the gambling establishments, it also creates poorer welfare in kennels.

Homing Crisis. Is the GRS failing?

We are told dogs are backing up in trainers kennels with nowhere to go and meanwhile we noticed the GBGBs, GRS have removed Dogs Trust and Manchester Dogs home from their rehoming list. We do not know why and have written to the GBGB to ask of any alternative homing plan than the GRS as it does not appear to be working.

Non specific breed rescues on GBGB, GRS rehoming list;

Many of the rehoming centres they are using are mixed breed rescues which brings further concern. Greyhounds often need rehabilitation and proper assessment therefore need specialised help or they will bounce back to rescue or may even be euthanised if they appear to be unmanageable to an untrained eye. These can be powerful dogs with extremely high prey drive that are traumatized after spending long hours in kennels and trained to chase the lure.

Conflict over welfare;

We noted that the GBGB admit they do not agree with linking up with rescue centres that offend their sport by speaking up against it. It needs to be pointed out that the little bond money they offer would hardly cover a rescues overheads. Only the dogs are losing out here and we are growing increasingly concerned that they are shutting out rescue options.

The Captive bolt gun -Update;

While we had a lot of interest in the campaign; Defra will not entertain a ban unless we have evidence of widespread use. I was told by the APHA that official records do not have to be kept by knacker yards other than if they choose to for their own use.

Please let me know how else I can help.

Kind regards

Rita

On Wed, 2 Aug 2023, 17:23 animalrights.pwg@greeparty.org.uk > wrote

Dear Rita,

The Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group are submitting a policy proposal to be considered for adoption by the party aiming to set out the party's opposition to greyhound racing.

To ensure our proposal is fit for purpose, we would like some feedback and hopefully support from organisations outside the party.

As you will be aware, there are serious welfare concerns that seem to be deep-rooted within the greyhound racing industry. The opportunity to reform through self-regulation, has not yielded the promised improvements. Moreover, the industry seems to be contributing human harms inflicted through gambling.

Many states in the USA and Australia have or are expected to ban racing and few countries in the world currently hold races; so it is likely that racing will come to an end and it is vital that a just transition

https://webmail.gpew.org.uk/?_task=mail&_safe=0&_uid=106&_mbox=INBOX&_action=print&_extwin=1 1/2 8/11/23, 5:54 PM
Webmail :: Re: Developing policy to address the problems in greyhound racing

is carefully planned to protect those dependent on the industry. So we would also value your view of how a just transition could be managed in a way that would ensure they would not be left without a meaningful way to earn a good living.

Please read our proposal (below) and a supporting document (attached) and let us know if you would be willing to endorse the policy proposal. Any feedback on the proposal would be very welcome.

The Green Party conference votes on all policy proposals; we are hoping to gain internal accreditation, so would be very grateful for a response by the 7th August if possible.

Best Wishes

Diana Newson and Emma Randall
Co-convenors Green Party Animal Rights PWG

Title of motion: Greyhound Racing Ban

Synopsis

Revised AR428 commits to end animal racing, with an immediate ban on greyhound racing. Intractable problems with this industry include "wastage" (about 12,000 dogs vanish annually); injuries; neglect; useless "policing"; and routine race-fixing by doping. The RSPCA, Dog's Trust, Blue Cross, and most of the public support a ban.

Motion:

Existing policy AR428 reads: The Green Party will end the exploitation of animals in horse racing, greyhound racing and all situations where animals are commercially raced. There would be an immediate ban on the use of the whip in horse racing and in jumps racing, and on the use of a non-linear track in greyhound racing. A single regulatory authority would be put in place for each sport, tasked with establishing and enforcing strict welfare standards. There would be a requirement for full traceability of all animals involved in racing throughout their lives (using microchip technology where applicable) and full publication of injury and death statistics. These statistics would be used as evidence to close dangerous tracks and ban trainers with poor records. Breeding and import of animals for racing will be tightly regulated and monitored to improve welfare and prevent over-breeding. There would be regulation on the conditions and times of transportation of animals used in sport as well as the housing of all animals. A high level of compulsory levy would be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements.

Proposal to re-write so that it reads:

The Green Party will end the exploitation of all animals in commercial racing. In the first instance, a Green Government will end greyhound

