



by
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“Dog racing” basically equates to greyhound racing, so... Greyhound racing is an organized, competitive sport in which greyhound dogs are raced around a track. There are two forms of greyhound racing, track racing (normally around an oval track) and coursing. Track racing uses an artificial lure (now based on a windsock) that travels ahead of the dogs on a rail until the greyhounds cross the finish line. As with horse racing, greyhound races often allow the public to bet on the outcome. In coursing, the dogs chase a lure (originally a live hare or rabbit that could be killed by the dog).

In many countries greyhound racing is purely amateur and solely for enjoyment. In other countries, particularly Australia, Ireland, Macau, Mexico, Spain, the UK and the US, greyhound racing is part of the gambling industry and similar to horse racing – although far less profitable. Animal rights and animal welfare groups are critical of the welfare of dogs in the commercial racing industry where, in some countries, dog trainers illegally use live baiting. A greyhound adoption movement has arisen to assist retired racing dogs in finding homes as pets, with an estimated adoption rate of over 90% in the USA.

Modern greyhound racing has its origins in coursing. The first recorded attempt at racing greyhounds on

a straight track was made in Hendon, England, in 1876, but this experiment did not develop. The industry emerged in its recognizable modern form, featuring circular or oval tracks, with the invention of the mechanical or artificial hare, in 1912, by American, Owen Patrick Smith, who had aims for the industry to stop the killing of the jack rabbits and see "greyhound racing as we see horse racing". In 1919, Smith opened the first professional dog-racing track with stands in Emeryville, CA. The certificates system led the way to pari-mutuel betting, as quarry and on-course gambling, in the United States during the 1930s.

The industry of greyhound racing was particularly attractive to predominantly male working-class audiences, for whom the urban locations and the evening meetings were accessible, and to patrons and owners from various social backgrounds. Betting has always been a key ingredient of greyhound racing. Like horse racing, it is popular to bet on the greyhound races as a form of pari-mutuel gambling.

Greyhound racing enjoyed its highest UK attendances just after the Second World War— for example, there were 34 million paying spectators in 1946. The industry experienced a decline from the early 1960s—after the 1960 UK Betting and Gaming Act permitted off-course cash betting. Sponsorship, limited television coverage, and the later abolition of on-course betting tax have partially offset this decline.

Today, commercial greyhound racing is characterized by several criteria, including legalized gambling, the existence of a regulatory structure, the physical presence of racetracks, whether the host state or subdivision shares in any gambling proceeds, fees charged by host locations, the use of professional racing kennels, the number of dogs participating in races, the existence of an official racing code, and membership in a greyhound racing federation or trade association.

In addition to the eight countries where commercial greyhound racing exists, in at least twenty-one countries dog racing occurs but has not reached a commercial stage. In 2016, a bill was passed through the government of the state New South Wales, in Australia, to ban greyhound racing. This new law was to come into effect in the middle of 2017 but was reversed in late 2016, albeit with several new restrictions on the industry. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greyhound_racing]




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