

## GREYHOUNDS ENDURE LIVES OF CONFINEMENT

### OVERVIEW

At racetracks across the country, greyhounds endure lives of confinement. They live inside warehouse-style kennels in stacked cages that are barely large enough to stand up or turn around. They are confined for long hours each day, with shredded paper or carpet remnants as bedding.

### GREYHOUNDS ARE CONFINED FOR 20 OR MORE HOURS EACH DAY

According to industry statements, greyhounds are generally confined in their cages for approximately 20 hours per day.<sup>i</sup> Greyhounds are confined perpetually with two exceptions:

1. A few times per month, greyhounds are transported from the kennel compound to a local racetrack to compete.
2. A few times per day, greyhounds are turned out in a large group and allowed to relieve themselves.



Photo by the New Hampshire Racing and Charitable Gaming Commission, 2008

### DOG TRACK CAGES ARE BARELY LARGE ENOUGH FOR GREYHOUNDS TO STAND UP OR TURN AROUND



Photo by Wonderland Greyhound Park, 2006

The standard size for cages at dog tracks is 32 inches wide by 42 inches deep and 34 inches high.<sup>ii</sup> They are produced by commercial companies that specialize in racetrack cages, such as G&T Crates, an Iowa company.<sup>iii</sup>

According to the American Greyhound Council, greyhounds stand between 23 inches and 30 inches tall at the shoulder, and weigh between 50 and 85 pounds.<sup>iv</sup>

Using these dimensions provided by the industry, large greyhounds cannot fully stand erect in racetrack cages.

*Last Updated on January 26, 2010*

<sup>i</sup> Casey O'Neil, Kennel Manager, North Shore Kennel, Learning to be a kennel helper at Wonderland Greyhound Park 2006, (describing turn out time as forty-five (45) minutes) (four (4) turn outs equal a minimum confinement period of twenty (20) hours per day) (on file with author).

<sup>ii</sup> Massachusetts State Racing Commission, 205 CMR 12.04(4)

<sup>iii</sup> G & T Crates, Inc. advertisement, Greyhound Review, April 2008.

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.agcouncil.com/node/17> (last visited January 26, 2010).