

U.S. GREYHOUND RACING FACT SHEET

INDUSTRY STATUS

- **April 2007:** There are currently **38** greyhound racetracks conducting live racing in **13** states; **10** tracks operate seasonally, **28** year-round.
- **Racing States** and the number of racetracks in each are: Alabama (3), Arizona (2), Arkansas (1), Colorado (1), Florida (15), Iowa (2), Kansas (2), Massachusetts (2), New Hampshire (3), Rhode Island (1), Texas (3), West Virginia (2) and Wisconsin (1).
- **Eight states** have banned live and/or simulcast dog racing since 1993. The states and the date the laws were enacted are: Maine 1993, Virginia 1995, Vermont 1995, Idaho 1996, Washington 1996, Nevada 1997, North Carolina 1998, and Pennsylvania 2004.
- **Dramatic declines** in attendance and wagering handles have forced **24** tracks to cease live racing since 1991. Eight of the 24 no longer exist; seven remain open for simulcasting. The nine remaining racetracks are either up for sale, in varying states of disrepair, or awaiting state approval of "enhanced gambling options."
- **Legislation** passed since the 1990s allowed six greyhound tracks in **four states** to operate video lottery terminals (electronic slot machines) or coin-drop slot machines. Wagering handles on live greyhound racing at those tracks — Mardi Gras Greyhound Track [**Florida**]; Bluffs Run and Dubuque [**Iowa**]; Lincoln Park [**Rhode Island**]; Tri-State and Wheeling [**West Virginia**]; and Southland Park (**Arkansas**) — continue to plummet. However, because these tracks are licensed as pari-mutuel racing venues they are bound *by statute* to continue offering live racing. As a result, thousands of greyhounds are being bred to supply these tracks with a live racing "product" that is of no interest to the wagering public. The Mardi Gras track in Hollywood, Florida, is the only greyhound track operating coin-drop slot machines.
- **Arizona and Florida**, home to 17 dog tracks, are examples of states where the failing industry has been subsidized by tax dollars. Hardship tax credits for Arizona's dog tracks have cost the state more than \$100 million since 1996. In May 2000, the Florida Legislature passed a \$14.4 million tax break bill for the dog racing industry, which is no longer able to pay for the cost of regulation or meet its other statutory obligations.

BREEDING STATISTICS

- **Historical Overview:** According to breeding statistics compiled by the National Greyhound Association [NGA] and published monthly in *The Greyhound Review*, **128,593 litters** were registered from 1986 through 2006. Multiplying the number of litters by the industry standard of 6.52 pups-per-litter, **838,426** racing greyhounds were whelped [born] during this 21-year period.
- **The NGA**, based in Abilene, Kansas, is the official registry for all racing greyhounds in North America, which includes Mexico. Greyhounds are tattooed by the age of three months and must be individually registered (named) prior to reaching the racing age of 12 to 18 months (varies by state).
- **Of the 838,426** greyhounds whelped from 1986 to 2006, **652,205** were individually registered, a difference of **186,221** young dogs eliminated from the system before reaching racing age. Because the rescue of farm dogs is rare, the majority of these culls are presumed dead.
- **A comparison** of the published numbers against the combined number of greyhounds estimated to be racing: **28,000**; alive on breeding and training farms: **28,000**; and greyhounds that have been adopted: **179,000**, indicates that more than **600,000** greyhounds have died in the 21-year period from 1986-2006.
- **On average**, a revolving baseline of 1,000 dogs is required to sustain a mid-sized racetrack operation. New greyhounds are continually entering the system to replace greyhounds that grade-off due to injury, age or poor performance.
- **Between 1971-1990** the number of operating tracks nearly doubled to 56. This rapid expansion fueled a breeding frenzy that produced 450,000 greyhounds in the 1980s alone. Dog racing is a supply and demand business; as new tracks were built, increasing numbers of greyhounds were bred to supply them.
- **Recent Statistics:** In 2006, **24,567** greyhounds were born. Of those, **22,951** entered the racing system. Approximately **14,800** graded-off greyhounds were rescued and adopted. An estimated **8,567** greyhounds were killed. This number includes **1,616** farm culls and **6,951** "retirees" who were not rescued.