

Open Letter to the readers of the *Irish Sun*

(please publish in print)

Dear *Irish Sun* reader,

Every year, 50,000 greyhounds are bred in Ireland for use in races. More than 40,000 of them die, either by lethal injection while they are still puppies because their trainers or owners deem them unfit for racing, or later, because they are no longer able to race.

Are people in Ireland doing anything to stop this atrocious scandal? What do you think of your Minister of Tourism going to continental Europe on a publicity campaign to attract visitors to greyhound races in your unquestionably beautiful country, when so many greyhounds in Ireland are born only to die young by lethal injection, bullet, or drowning? (Search for “**a greyhound’s last words**” on the Internet).

In Germany, there are a dozen animal rights organizations whose sole purpose is to rescue greyhounds. Every single person who has rescued a former race dog may be willing to do anything imaginable, but they wouldn’t give up their greyhound for all the money in the world.

How is it possible that in Ireland man’s best friend – and, in this case, one of the noblest breeds of them all – is bred for the sole purpose of briefly catering to the villains of the racing industry before being tossed aside, while people in other countries treat their greyhounds as family members and can’t stand the thought of losing them? As a living being, a greyhound will forgive a human until death; it can see through people with its eyes and yet trusts them.

Most unfortunately, greyhounds can’t speak. They will never be able to tell of the tens of thousands of dogs who are routinely killed as puppies, or shot or drowned somewhere off the racetrack after being thrown out of a race following a defeat; they’ll never be able to tell of the unlivable existence they have to bear as they are improperly fed, in the thousands, behind bars in cramped boxes or in cold barns with concrete floors.

The truth is that Irish people are no better or worse than other people. However, for purely commercial reasons, Ireland has gradually allowed greyhounds who were family pets to be banned from their homes and to be reduced to “items,” in a distortion of animal rights law driven by money and power. In a country whose citizens are considered the world over to be living in freedom and justice, calling a greyhound an “item” is disgraceful.

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Please rise up and join us in protesting against this, so we can finally put an end to the evil doings of the money-hungry greyhound murderers and immediately stop the partially subsidized overbreeding of greyhounds and the inevitably ensuing killing of “leftover” dogs.

Through the website Care 2, we have submitted a petition to the Council of Europe in Brussels, and we have already received support from all over the world. The encouraging comments we got from Ireland have particularly strengthened our resolve to appeal directly to the Irish people.

Please help us by signing the online petition “Finally put a stop to the mass-murder of greyhounds in Ireland”. On behalf of all of humanity, we call for the cessation of breeding activities and an immediate end to the killing of greyhounds in Ireland.

Seeing a greyhound who has seemingly lost all of its strength begin to thrive again through love and understanding is an incomparable gift.

Thank you very much for your support!

Greyhound-Friends Cologne

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