



Professor Cathy Dwyer
Scottish Animal Welfare Commission
The Scottish Animal Welfare Commission Secretariat
Animal Health and Welfare Team
P-Spur, Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
Edinburgh EH11 3XD

1 November 2022

Dear Prof Dwyer

We write to you in relation to the letter (dated 4 October 2022) from the Convenor of the Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee requesting that you submit your position on greyhound racing in Scotland. Specifically, the Convenor requests you advise of SAWC's position on the conclusions of the policy review by the Dog's Trust, the RSPCA and the Blue Cross in respect of a phased end to greyhound racing in Scotland.

Briefly, Animal Concern is an independent charity (SC050422) working across the UK, based in Scotland, which campaigns across a broad range of animal welfare issues including factory farming, dog fighting, the fur trade and blood sports. We are a membership organisation and do not seek nor accept any form of statutory funding.

Animal Concern takes the view that greyhound racing is inherently cruel and therefore we add our voice to those of other animal welfare charities calling for an end to what we consider an intrinsically abusive practice.

Our concerns are several. We believe that the speeds greyhounds are trained to run at, compounded by the competitive requirement for ever greater race times, are to the detriment of greyhounds' health, and it is in this regard we see the sport as inherently contrary to animal welfare.

We disagree with the view of the Scottish Government that the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 provides sufficient safeguards. Equally we would disagree with any suggestion that the subsequent Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020 extends the appropriate safeguards the 2006 legislation lacks. There is too little evidence of either legislative framework being utilised in relation to greyhound racing, coupled with well-publicised instances of abuse, to substantiate the view that these safeguards are working.

Animal Concern has spoken out on greyhound racing in the past, specifically on instances of doping where cocaine and amphetamines have been administered to greyhounds. We have little doubt this practice continues to this day.

It is the position of Animal Concern that destroying healthy animals is never justified. We are gravely concerned about the fate of greyhounds who are either retired or are considered not fast enough, even in their prime, for competitive racing. With little required transparency within the sport, our organisation worries that greyhounds are killed when their competitive and monetary value expires.

We ask that the Commission be cognisant of these questions in its deliberations. We also add our support to the conclusion of the review conducted by the Dog's Trust, the RSPCA and the Blue Cross that greyhound racing be phased out in Scotland and hope you will share that view in your response to the parliamentary committee as well as in any advice on the matter to the Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Corbett
Campaigns Officer
Animal Concern

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Established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Limited we changed our name to Animal Concern in 1992.
Animal Concern incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society.
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