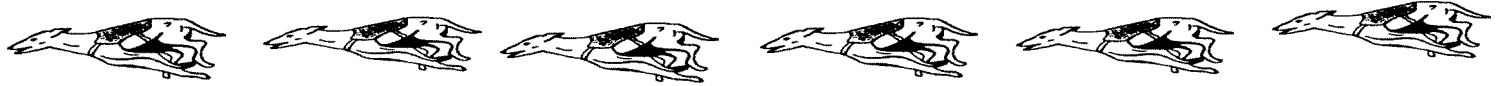




Running for their Lives!



Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 28 Nov/Dec 2009

Only one track left in Wales!

Swansea closes after owner guilty of illtreating dogs

Swansea dog track in South Wales closed on November 7th, less than two weeks after the owner, Eric Short, was fined £250 for keeping greyhounds in poor conditions.

Council inspectors found dogs kept on soiled bedding and kennels smelling of urine at the greyhound stadium.

There were wheelbarrows full of excrement outside the kennels and food waste lying around.

One greyhound had an open cut on the tail, which a vet thought was over a week old, and there was blood smeared across the kennel wall, magistrates in the city heard.



Other dogs were roaming loose and there was an open bin bag and a block of frozen meat dumped on the floor.

Kelly Byrne, prosecuting on behalf of Swansea Council, told the court that environmental health officers visited the stadium on March 5th and found the greyhound kennels were of a "very poor standard" and badly lit, with "some in complete darkness".

Above and left – Greyhound Action’s first ever demo was held outside Swansea Greyhound Stadium in July 1999



The stadium closed after the owners failed to obtain a new long lease with the Council.

John Rabbaiotti, race manager at the stadium, said: "The track needs £30,000 of investment and we can't risk spending that kind of money with the risk of losing it in a year."

The track's closure leaves just one greyhound stadium in Wales, where at one time there were at least half a dozen.



Evil - Andrew Gough



February 2005 – Demo outside Cardiff Crown Court, where Gough’s conviction was upheld

Although Swansea was one of Britain's smaller, independent tracks, we estimate that its existence was nevertheless responsible for the putting to death of dozens of greyhounds every year, so its closure is a cause for celebration and yet another victory in the struggle for greyhound protection.

The slaughter of greyhounds in South Wales was brought to public attention five years ago when local "greyhound executioner" Andrew Gough was sentenced to six months imprisonment for the mutilation of an ex-racing dog called Rusty.

2009 - Another great year for greyhound protection

Racing industry going to the dogs worldwide

2009 has been another very successful year for all those groups and individuals campaigning for greyhound protection throughout the world, with many tracks closing and the dog racing industry in global decline.

This would not have been possible without the hard work of all those dedicated people who have been out there educating the public with demos, leafletting and information stalls, supported by the generosity of all those who have contributed financially towards the production of the leaflets, posters and banners necessary to mount a winning campaign.

These photos give just a small indication of this year's efforts to protect greyhounds from suffering and slaughter. Let's do it again in 2010!



January – Hall Green Stadium, Birmingham



February – Nottingham Stadium



March – Brighton Vegan Fayre



April – Hove Stadium



May – Belle Vue Stadium, Manchester



June – Grantham town centre



August – Limerick Stadium, Ireland



Above and left, July - Greyhound Gathering, Bristol



September – Peterborough Stadium



September – Lifford Stadium, Ireland



October – Halloween, Poole Stadium