

A GREYHOUND'S RACING LIFE

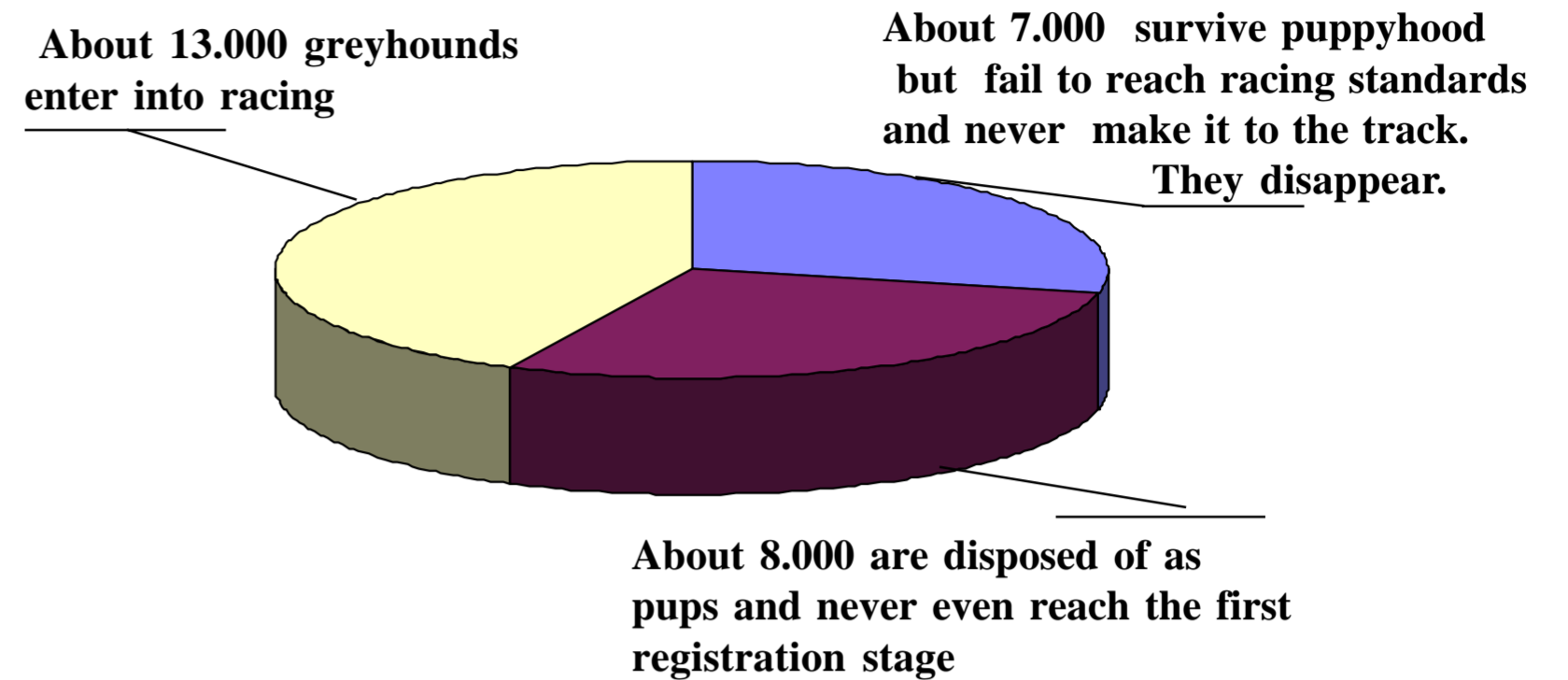
As pups:



Shamie was rescued in Ireland at the age of 10 week

Not every dog bred for racing has got the qualities that the industry require. Thousands of greyhound pups and young dogs are put to death before they even reach the stadiums because they fail to reach the standards required for racing. If a dog is not fit, has not got the racing mentality, gets injured during training or is not of use to the racing industry, it is most likely disposed off.

Destiny of the about 28.000 dogs bred every year for the British racing industry



As racers:



Minnie - Kept in appalling conditions at the premises of a greyhound trainer in Devon, rescued.

It has been estimated that greyhounds running on British tracks sustain more than 12,000 injuries every year and that 10% of the dogs running are already suffering from injuries. Injured toes, torn muscles, broken hocks, strained tendons and arthritic joints are commonplace, and many have to be put down.

Most of these dogs have only ever known a life inside kennels, being transported all over the country in the back of vans to race at different tracks and the roaring of the crowds at the racing stadiums.



Sally: an starvation case from Devon.

These dogs are just mere cogs for a multi-billion pound gambling industry where there is little space for any love or affection.

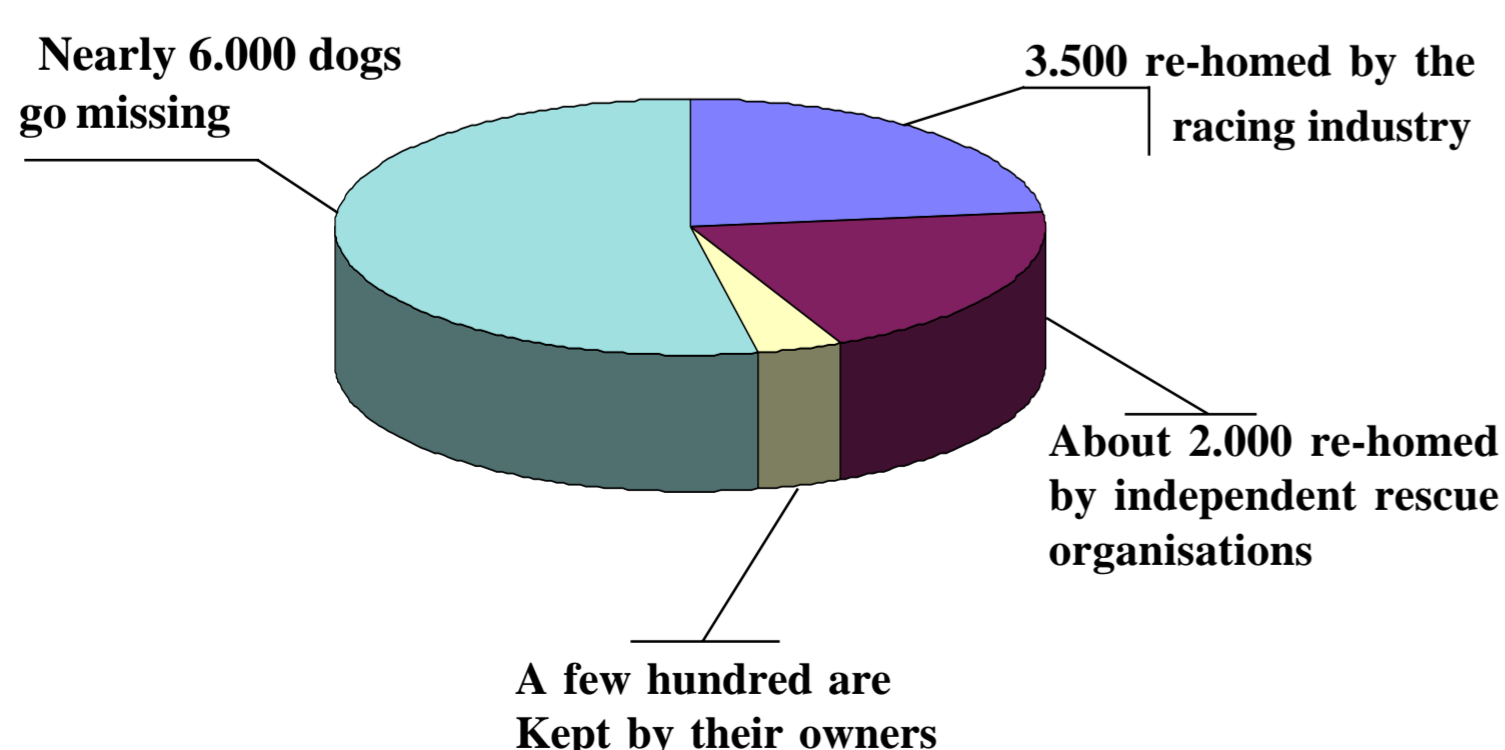
As ex-racers:

About 12.000 greyhound dogs are retired annually from racing at an average age of 3 years and half. The racing industry claims to relocate about 3,500 of these dogs every year. Other rescue organisations do their best to rehome as many as they can but this is unlikely to be more than 2,000 dogs a year. Few, not more than a few hundred ex-racers, continue to be looked after by their "owners". This leaves nearly 6,000 unaccounted dogs, and one can only wonder, in despair, what happens to them.



Twiggy: another starvation case from Devon. Now rescued.

Destiny of the 12.000 ex-racers generated every year



- A few hundred ex-racers are kept by their owners and trainers when they retire. Some racing people love their dogs and care for them but, sadly, this is only a small minority.

The truth for most of them is quite different:

- Some greyhounds are taken by rescue organisations. Many greyhounds rescued in this way have suffered considerable trauma due to abandonment.
- Others are taken to a vet by their owners and trainers, and killed by injection.
- Others will be killed by more horrific methods such as shooting, drowning, poisoning, being battered to death, or simply being left to starve to death in a locked shed.
- Others will die of starvation or in road accidents after being abandoned.