

THIS PICTURE TRIGGERED MANY PEOPLE TO ACT ON BEHALF OF GREYHOUNDS.



One of two greyhounds found washed up on a shore with concrete bricks tied to their necks off a pier in West Cork.

Tom Mellif from Skibbereen was out walking one morning along the banks of the River Ilen when he saw the dogs. "I was horrified — I know the stretch of the river well and the dogs had been dumped overnight," said Mr. Mellif, a consultant construction engineer.

The owners of these two dogs – aged one and two years old respectively – decided to cruelly end their lives when they became an economical liability. To them they were no more than profit making means.

The dogs were among an estimated 4,000 greyhounds who are slaughtered or abandoned each year by the racing industry.

REMEMBER RUSTY

On May 2nd 2004 Rusty was discovered by a dog walker, who heard him whimpering in agony in a rubbish tip on top of Fochriw Mountain in South Wales. Rusty had been injured in several ways, including being shot in the head with a captive-bolt pistol, and his ears had been hacked off, because they contained tattoos that could identify him. Despite this appalling torture, Rusty was still alive – and wagging his tail - but his injuries were so extensive that he was later "put to sleep" by a vet.

At Caerphilly Magistrates Court on December 22nd 2004, greyhound "executioner" Andrew Gough was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for torturing Rusty and banned from keeping animals for life. It emerged during Gough's trial that Rusty's owner and trainer had handed him over to Gough to kill, after a toe injury had ended the greyhound's racing career.

Sadly, this case is just the tip of a very large iceberg. Reports by both the All Party Group for Animal Welfare in the Welsh National Assembly and Greyhound Rescue Wales suggest that hundreds of greyhounds are discarded and killed, often by shooting, in the region every year, when no longer required by the racing industry.

Rusty's body was cremated and his ashes have been scattered on a mountain called "The Waun" in the Rhondda Valley, where Rusty used to enjoy being taken for a walk, before his horrific death.



We are asking the public not to attend or bet on dog racing, so it dies out through lack of financial support.

