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| Behind the Mandatory Implementation of Traceability in Board ná gCon. | Abstract  This research proposal critically evaluates and investigates the concepts, background and application that has made up traceability within the greyhound racing sport in Ireland. Traceability is an aspect that is integral to animal welfare, regulatory compliance, and sports transparency. Through the combination of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. This proposal research that will examine current practices, identifies gaps, and contrasts Ireland's position and shows the Ireland is the market leader delivering international best practices.  Donal Maher  Sba22178. Total Word count 9097. Actual word count 7445. Literature review word count 4219 |

# Introduction

Deep rooted into the culture and history of Ireland and over time has become a well-established and recognised sport. The Greyhound has been bred to run, leading to Greyhound Racing and Greyhound coursing. Breeding greyhounds and training them to chase/hunt a hare for the purposes of entertainment could now be considered cruel. Over this last number of years, the sport has been highlighted and areas within the sport have come under controversy with particular focus on the welfare of greyhounds involved in racing. Welfare is a very broad term and includes the welfare and traceability of Greyhound. Traceability, the tracing of the life cycle of a greyhound, whelped to death and medical treatments/veterinary treatments give, owners of, trainer of, when raced, when trailed, sampling and the events that occurred when death occurred. Poor traceability practices can give rise to animal cruelty, corruption, and scandal. This is a very important area, yet it’s not been fully researched area. The thesis will start with an exploration of the historical context of Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI), then a literature review of systems associated with traceability and traceability.

# Aim:

The mandatory implementation of Traceability has forever changed the responsibility of owning/training and breeding Greyhounds in the republic of Ireland. The aim of this paper lay the foundations set the objectives for the deliverer of an analysis of the Traceability of Greyhounds racing in Ireland and deliver an in-depth examination of traceability system. Using traceability systems, complaint, and non-Complaint updates from RCÉTS, RMS and updates made for the several categories of deaths generated through the RCÉTS app from owners, trainers, and breeders as they update their Greyhounds. To prove that implementing traceability has made an impact on the Greyhound sector. The paper will present the reasoning behind the mandatory implementation of Traceability by Reviewing three key reports and four annual reports to extract metrics that will all the conclusions to be drawn. To explore and analyse the current state of the greyhound industry focusing on racing greyhounds and the challenges it faces, which may identify potential opportunities within the sector. And with the hope to shed some light on the present state of traceability but also contribute to the formulation of improved policies and practices that ensure a sustainable and humane future for the industry. And to make predictions using a machine learning model to detail the state of greyhounds that are subject to traceability in the areas of deaths, exports and rehoming. future for the industry. e

# Objectives:

1. Evaluate the current traceability system. Justify the effectiveness and efficiency of the current system. Analyse the processes and technologies that have been implemented to trace the life cycle of greyhounds.

The compliance of regulatory requirements and guidelines of the traceability systems and their compliance with regulatory requirements and guidelines and industry standard for animal welfare regulations should be the key structure of the traceability system and how does traceability in Greyhound racing Ireland compared to traceability models build in other countries.

models build in other countries.

1. With the use of key figures and customer-facing data to draw more detailed conclusions on the current state of breeding, racing, retired and end of Life greyhounds to previously compiled data and how does implementation of traceability influence the public perception of the greyhound racing Ireland.

perception of the greyhound racing Ireland.

1. Implement an analysis and develop an accurate model to determine overall effectiveness and potential use of significant features such as deaths and exports to develop a machine learning model, using the data mentioned above to accurately make predictions of Greyhound deaths.

accurately make predictions of Greyhound deaths.

1. Validate the results and accuracy of a consolidate data system, collected from customer-facing applications and race Strada data to create model to determine deaths and exports and to pred the future occurrences.

deaths and exports and to pred the future occurrences.

## Sampling Strategy

The Population.

The populations consist of the entire population of greyhounds earmarked for Racing including unnamed pups.

Which would consist of all Owners, trainers, and breeders from 2016 and after.

Bias here is the comparing RMS and Traceability because traceability is additional element post 2021 and because in RMS pups are not recorded. Only named greyhounds (once named not considered pups). Greyhounds are only named during registration. This could be mistaken as a problem, but the problem with large deaths and large exports is that Greyhounds would need to trail or race to determine the quality of the greyhound, which means that they must register and be named.

The recording of all recorded deaths and exports of Greyhounds in Ireland during the period below. exports of Greyhounds in Ireland during t period below.

The sample size**:**

**The number of recorded deaths and exports with the periods below.**

Period between:

1. 2015 🡪2016
2. 2017 🡪 2018
3. 2021 🡪 2022

Taking a before traceability is implemented will give a good baseline to compare. But it is expected that the results will be positive.

# Sampling Method and Type

## Probability sampling.

The technique of sampling where all of the population has a equal change of being selected.

The sampling technique is simple random.

Simple random sampling on the population for Owner, trainer, and breeders for the give period. But give a larger sample size I would expect a greater accuracy. Using the library of “random sample” python will help give a random / pseudo random sample.

The information that I will collect but not limited to is the deaths, exports complaint and noncompliant updates.

While it must be noted here that other probability sampling methods could be used here as the total population could be broken down into three populations, breeder, owners, and trainer, but it must be noted that owners could be trainer and trainer can be owners, breaking down to apply stratified sample, and cluster (dividing each subgroup into subgroup) sampling. And while stratified sample is probability the correct one as I’m breaking down into time periods. I’m not sure such limitations will be and accurate.

Sampling random sampling at this stage could be the most effective method of probability sampling that will allow the performance of data analysis using the statistical techniques to explore patterns and relationships and tends within the selected sample size. [0]

By Implementing this probability sampling strategy, the project will benefit will ensure that the data that is collected representative of the different perspectives within the greyhound racing industry. of the different perspectives within the greyhound racing industry.

Primary Research Methodology:

Interviews and observation are the primary research methodology which will be a combination of qualitative and quantitative primary research methods.

combination of qualitative and quantitative primary research methods.

Qualitative:

Interviews.

The interviews will be the backbone of this research, even though there could be a large amount of bias from each interviewee. Gaining a further insight into the industry and achieve result that could redirect the sport into a place where greyhound racing could be a more accepted form of recreation.

Quantitative:

The second is observation of the data, because of my location to the data, and in a position that will allow the data for be queried and for historical research.

The alternative to my selected primary research methodology

Conducted on key figures with the organisation, interim CEO, customers (trainer, owner or Breeder). And while an interview would be interesting for Deputy Catherine Murphy.

1. While the three should have conducted
2. Surveys would be helpful in the adaption or uptake of the traceability system.

Potential Interviewees.

1. IGB – interim CEO John,
2. IGB - head Welfare Pat
3. IGB – Rehoming
4. ISPCA Conor Dowling.
5. A customer (to be determined)

Point number 5 would be the idea candite for surveys but it should be noted that response would not be easily received.

The approach outlined here may enable the triangulation of the research data. Further increasing the reliability and increasing the validity of the overall finding in the research.

## 

## Literature Review.

## Introduction

Greyhound racing has been around for a very long time developed from coursing back in 1926. The sport has deep roots within all of Ireland. A time where a greyhound entered a race, and the winner received the prize money. Greyhounds were neither racing nor coursing. Greyhounds that won races became sough after and were bred to sell their offspring for larger amounts of money. Many owners saw their Greyhound as a source of income and a family pet. In more recent years the spotlight has highlighted elements of a once simple sport that into a sport that bred large amount of greyhound in the hopes that one would become a greyhound that would be considered a pedigree greyhound that would generate large amount of money through winning races and breeding. In some ways the sport is linked to horse racing in more closely.

In 2016 Greyhound racing industry has around 10,300 job and generated €500m for the exchequer.

During the period from 2011 to 2013 there were 47,702 Greyhound were registered by giving the unique names by submitting the registering forms to the Irish Coursing Club (ICC). And in Ireland there were 18,690 greyhounds exported to the UK. Since 2001 Irish board of Greyhounds (IGB)/ Bord nag Con now the Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) has received about €174.5 million from the exchequer with €14.8 million from 2016. The total income in the industry peaked in 2007 with a large amount of 78 million which fell to €39.8 million a 49% decrease in by 2014. The recommendation of the committee’s report is that new and up-to-date information be gathered.

The same report recommendations an improved traceability system and a single register where each greyhound is held in central database to be held in Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine. Which contains whelped date and Microchip from both sources, GRI and the ICC.

Recommended that owners that abandon greyhounds are to receive increased penalties.

Increase the penalty for cruelty to lifetime bans. And giving back prize money and returning the prize money the exchequer.

A zero-tolerance policy is vital for prohibited substances and enhanced powers to the welfare committee. Published January 2016 highlighted. Was the recommendation of a community which was a requirement to implement a system that could trace the lifecycle of every greyhound in the republic of Ireland. [19][20][21][22][23][24][25][26][27][28][29][30]

Traceability phase1 comprises of several features including the customer facing RCÉTS application that allows owner, trainer, and breeders to enter mandatory updates on the condition and location of each of the greyhounds that they owner. But traceability is not just the RCÉTS app. Traceability is the life cycle tracing of each greyhound in the republic of Ireland. Data collected from RCÉTS has analysed internal procedures to generate complaints events which determine if updates are within regulation and welfare specified times. A two-way feed between GRI and ICC allows both organizations to collaborate to have the most accurate data on each greyhound in the republic of Ireland. This project will analysis the past, current state of Greyhound racing Ireland and use machine learning to predict. The results will show why traceability was implemented to act in improve the welfare of Greyhounds, and how its impact has affected the sector. That with increasing meeting result in reduced attendance.

## Body

The RCÉTS allows owners, trainers, and breeders to make updates to their greyhounds which will enable Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) to track each greyhound from birth to death inputs into traceability which updates the two-way ICC feed.

What is RCÉTS? RCÉTS (Rásaíocht Con Éireann/ Greyhound Racing Ireland Traceability System) is the newly developed traceability system for racing greyhounds. [1]

This Literature review will take in several key papers and a selection of annual reports from greyhound racing Ireland to detail the need for Traceability in the sector and to extract metrics from the published reports. This paper will attempt to show how with the aid of the research already conducted by Preferred Results Ltd and reports such as the Indecon report and Morris report state of the sector. This paper will take key metrics taken from annual reports which will be used to compare before and after the introduction of Traceability and the RCÉTS app of Ireland in this project. Delving deep into history behind and the contributors to the mandatory implementation of Traceability to become the model that other country’s use in the animal Traceability.

Traceability was applied in 2021. RCÉTS is backed up by a GRI scanner, welfare offices and control Stewarts.

The key behind traceability is welfare inspection where a welfare officer will carry a GRI scanner and expects to find each greyhound on a owners/trainer’s premises once RFID tag is scanned.

If an owner, trainer, and breeder does not make an update via the RCÉTS app (web, android or IOS) every 70 days for each greyhound they owner or train they will be suspended from racing.

The Scanner will be used to identify all greyhound, in welfare inspections and during race meeting, trails official and unofficial.

Greyhound Racing Ireland has 16 tracks across the nation of Ireland broken down into 14 tracks in the republic and 2 tracks in the north of Ireland. Traceability does require that owners, trainer, and breeders to make updates to their greyhounds on export, change of location and status, no traceability will be applied to owners, trainers, and breeders in Northern Ireland. Greyhounds with owners in the north will be subject to traceability if they wish for their greyhounds to race in the south of Ireland (republic of Ireland).

Greyhound Racing Ireland work closely with the Irish Coursing Club (ICC), where all greyhounds’ pups must be registered with the ICC. Date transfer between ICC and GRI is one of the key factors in Traceability.

Greyhound Racing Ireland is a semi-private company and is part funded under the horse and Greyhound racing fund.

This part of outlines the need for traceability. The business analysis conducted by Preferred Results Ltd [2]. On behalf of Irish Greyhounds Board (IGB) rebranded as Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI).

**See table 1 in appendix 1.**

The table 1 in appendix 1, shows that the number of greyhounds that were breed from 2009 and 2016 major of which were exported to the UK for a fraction of their rearing cost. Which flooded the UK market with Irish Greyhounds.

From the report on average, it was estimated that 5,987 greyhounds were culled each year.

The breakdown:

1. "Those who failed to produce qualifying times" (2,673)
2. "Failure to produce desired entry level times" (1,989)
3. "Unacceptable decline in performance" (1,326).

In September 2017, the consultants delivered a presentation to the IGB's directors and its chief executive, Ger Dollard, on the findings from the work.

However, the subsequent report was not adopted by the board.[1]

This was highlighted by a RTE prime time report back in 2017.

Further to the finding of the RTE prime time investigates it was found that the ICC registered 86,754 [3] between 2013 -2017 approximately 31,231, 36% were exported to the UK. Reported died in the same period is 6720. Based on the annual report for 2017 and 2018. In the 2017 annual report the chairman speaks of the Indecon report [4] which was commissioned by the department of agriculture and the marine 2014.

Which outlines how the Irish Greyhounds board (IGB) now Greyhound Racing Ireland was to save money because its current financial state which includes 21 million of debt and a 6.8 million pension deficit. The Irish Greyhounds board (IGB) now GRI would be selling assets. Including the closure of 3 tracks, which included Lifford in Donegal with the sale of its famous Harold Cross Greyhound Stadium in Dublin.  
  
The opening statement from a publication on the opening statement, Irish Council Against Blook Sports (ICABS).

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports is a voluntary organisation that does a lot of campaigning for the end to the hunting of wild animals with dogs and other cruel sports that exploit and abuse animals.

Greyhound racing and coursing is inherently cruel, resulting in the premature deaths of thousands of greyhounds annually, while hares suffer terror and stress by being snatched from the wild, kept captive and used as live lures for greyhounds at coursing matches. The majority of legislators have turned a blind eye to the cruelty and voted the Bill down, despite the majority of citizens wanting to see hare coursing outlawed. The Irish Coursing Club advises greyhound owners not to give away unwanted greyhounds, as it is better to put them painlessly to sleep. Marion Fitzgibbon of Limerick Animal Welfare, who has been rescuing abandoned greyhounds for decades, said that there are up to ten thousand put to sleep.

RTE's Prime Time programme that aired in 26 June 2017 highlighted the dark side of greyhound racing, the doping and the cruelty. The public now knows where their taxes are going to fund a cruel, cheating, debt-ridden industry.

Using a method called Blooding to train a Greyhound to hunt the hare.

Blooding of greyhounds is a common training method in the greyhound racing industry, using rabbits, hares and other small animals. It is widely believed that to keep a dog keen to follow a mechanical lure, it must be blooded. In 2014, a tiny piglet was savaged by greyhounds as part of a blooding exercise.

In 1994, a high-profile case of blooding of greyhounds was recorded at a training track in Donaskeagh, Co. Tipperary. John Martin wrote in the Irish Independent *that greyhound racing would not continue to exist without blooding and that Bord na gCon would not admit it. Doping of greyhounds is a serious problem in Ireland, with the Morris review and RTE Primetime programme citing high-profile cases of doping. Exports of greyhounds to destinations with low standards of animal welfare are also a concern, with the Canidrome track in Macau being the only region of China where gambling is legal. If a greyhound does not finish in the top three in five races in a row, it is destroyed.* **[1.1]**

Greyhounds were doped, and the screening was non-random and easy to evade. IGB’s current sampling strategy perceptible of “no element of surprise” and that the existing functions of the control committee were “seriously hampered”.

The Indecon Report outlined the key challenges facing the industry and noted that between 2006 and 2013 there was "an overall decline in revenue from €63.5 million to €28.2 million. This represents a fall of 55.6% over the period.

As the IGB now GRI is heavily funded by Irish taxpayers to the tune of 20% of the allotted Horse and greyhound fund. The board’s chairman must answer to the Oireachtas agriculture committee which has funded the sport since 2001. Interest between 2001 and 2010 the allocated funds totalled 180 million.

As expect, following the financial crisis and Irish budgetary difficulties post-2008, there has been a sharp slump in the level of funding granted. As the Indecon report highlights, this has been coupled with a further drop in other revenues sources. It would appear the sport faces serious challenges in the years ahead.

The boards annual report 2017 references both Indecon report and the Morris report [5].

The Morris review and review of the Anti-Doping and Medication Review was commissioned in December 2014 publicised 14/06/2016 by the IGB now GRI and found that:

* “Longstanding and significant deficiencies in policies, processes, and [IGB] implementation that have been undermining the integrity and reputation of greyhound racing in Ireland”;
* Improvements being conducted by IGB are being disrupted by “the legacy of mistrust and lack of communication”;
* An “intelligence-led approach” to anti-doping measures is required alongside greater inter-agency co-operation, which could include the horse-racing and equine sectors as well as gardaí;
* Regulations and legislation could also be overhauled with existing measures such as the Animal Remedies Regulations not viewed as easily accessible to support medication control;
* “The current approach to the permissive use of ABPs [animal byproducts] in racing greyhounds in Ireland is incompatible with modern international standards of anti-doping and medication control”, with the review recommending “a total ban on use of category 2 ABPs”.
* On publishing the review, the IGB warned owners and trainers not complying with regulations that “they will be targeted and severely sanctioned from the sport”.
* It said out-of-competition testing is now possible through new statutory instruments introduced in the past month.[2]

Simple metrics that are extracted for annual reports 2017 🡪 2020.

**Table 2 see appendix 2.**

From the annual report 2017 [5] [],

The IGB also said its “comprehensive” response to concerns within the industry over the past year includes publishing all laboratory results where there is an adverse analytical finding, testing at greyhound sales and trials, and revoking the licences of trainers found to have committed anti-doping breaches.

Greyhound Racing Act 2019 [50][51][52][53]

This act replaces all previous act and instruction of the renaming of Irish Greyhounds Board, Board ná gCon to Greyhound Racing Ireland, Rásaíocht Con Éireann. Details among other the requirements of GRI to traceability.

Traceability of greyhounds – traceability database 28.

(1) The Board may, after consultation with the Minister, make regulations for the registration and traceability of greyhounds in relation to the following:

(a) making provision for the registration in the traceability database of owners of greyhounds or holders of licenses granted for the purposes of paragraph

(b) or both prior to engaging in greyhound racing activities, including trailing, breeding, training, selling, or racing’s) licensing of c

(c) requiring owners of greyhounds to register greyhounds intended for greyhound racing activities in the traceability database.

(d) making provisions for the conditions for registration and the information required to be kept in the traceability database.

(e) requiring the owners, breeders, or the trainers of such greyhounds to notify specified life events to the Board.

(f) specifying the life events which are to be notified in accordance with the regulations (which events may include birth, sale, acquisition, death, loss, 29 PT.4 S.28[No. 15.] Greyhound Racing Act 2019. [50][51][52] treatment for disease or injury, training, race entries, stud or breeding events, the collection of semen or embryos, periodic status reports, track injuries, tests and results, including adverse analytical findings in relation to substances regulations, appearance at sales, export, offences under the Greyhound Racing Acts 1958 to 2019 or racing sanctions).

(g) requiring the owner, breeder, or trainer of a greyhound to provide the Board with details of the keeper of and location where a greyhound is being kept.

(h) requirements in respect of the electronic identification of greyhounds (including the implantation into, or the attachment to, a greyhound of any electronic device).

(2) The Board may establish and maintain by it, or by another person on its behalf, a database for the registration and traceability of greyhounds (in this section referred to as the “traceability database”) to hold details of matters provided for in regulations made under subsection (1). (3) A person who contravenes a regulation made under subsection (1), and which is stated in the regulations to be a racing sanction provision, commits a sanction breach of the Racing code and is liable to a racing sanction. Welfare of racing greyhounds 29. (1) The Board, after consultation with the Minister, may make regulations for the health and welfare of racing greyhounds in relation to the following: (a) requiring measures to be taken by the owner, breeder or trainer of a racing greyhound to protect the health and welfare of the greyhound; (b) requiring an owner, a breeder or trainer of a racing greyhound to inform the Board of measures taken in respect of the greyhound to comply with the requirements of regulations made under this section for the purposes of paragraph (a); (c) the establishment of and administration of funds for the health and welfare of greyhounds, including to make provision for the rehoming of greyhounds, at the end of their racing or breeding careers; (d) making provision for a racing greyhound affected by disease or which may be affected by disease to be refused entry or removed from race tracks, trials and public sales; (e) making provision for the treatment of a racing greyhound that is affected by a disease or disease agent or injury. (2) A person who contravenes a regulation made under this section, and which is stated in the regulations to be a racing sanction provision, commits a sanction breach of the Racing code and is liable to a racing sanction

Compliance with EU Regulations – offence and penalty 62. The following section is inserted after section 36 of the Act of 2013: “36A.Where a person contravenes or fails to comply with an obligation imposed on the person by a provision of a Regulation of an institution of the European Union relating to animals or animal products, including disease, health, welfare, identification, movement, transport, import, export, traceability, sale or supply, which is stated in regulations made under this section to be a breach to which this section applies, the person commits an offence and where the contravention or failure is stated in the regulations— (a) to be a breach to which this paragraph applies, is liable, on summary conviction, to a class A fine, or (b) to be a breach to which this paragraph applies, is liable— (i) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both, or 53 PT.11 S.62[No. 15.] Greyhound Racing Act 2019. [2019.] (ii) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or to both.”.

Compliance with EU Regulations – offence and penalty 62. The following section is inserted after section 36 of the Act of 2013: “36A.Where a person contravenes or fails to comply with an obligation imposed on the person by a provision of a Regulation of an institution of the European Union relating to animals or animal products, including disease, health, welfare, identification, movement, transport, import, export, traceability, sale or supply, which is stated in regulations made under this section to be a breach to which this section applies, the person commits an offence and where the contravention or failure is stated in the regulations— (a) to be a breach to which this paragraph applies, is liable, on summary conviction, to a class A fine, or (b) to be a breach to which this paragraph applies, is liable— (i) on summary conviction, to a class A fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both, or 53 PT.11 S.62[No. 15.] Greyhound Racing Act 2019. [2019.] (ii) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or to both.”.

46. Giving effect to an act, or a provision of an act, of an institution of the European Union in respect of animals or animal products, including disease, health, welfare, identification, movement, transport, import, export, traceability or sale or supply of animals or animal products. [1.2]

The welfare of Greyhounds. [] The welfare of Greyhounds. []

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|  |  | (1) The Board, after consultation with the Minister, may make regulations for the health and welfare of racing greyhounds in relation to the following: |
|  |  | (a) requiring measures to be taken by the owner, breeder, or trainer of a racing greyhound to protect the health and welfare of the greyhound; |
|  |  | (b) requiring an owner, a breeder or trainer of a racing greyhound to inform the Board of measures taken in respect of the greyhound to comply with the requirements of regulations made under this section for the purposes of *paragraph (a)*; |
|  |  | (c) the establishment of and administration of funds for the health and welfare of greyhounds, including to make provision for the rehoming of greyhounds, at the end of their racing or breeding careers; |
|  |  | (d) making provision for a racing greyhound affected by disease or which may be affected by disease to be refused entry or removed from racing tracks, trials and public sales; |
|  |  | (e) making provision for the treatment of a racing greyhound that is affected by a disease or disease agent or injury. |
|  |  | (2) A person who contravenes a regulation made under this section, and which is stated in the regulations to be a racing sanction provision, commits a sanction breach of the Racing code and is liable to a racing sanction.[88] |

Oireachtas.[19]-> [80]

As Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) Bord nag Con is a semi state body funded by the exchequer it is subject to questions relayed to the Minister for Agriculture and Marine which get an answer within two weeks. This section follows the story from that point of view. The expectations here is to identify members of the house of the Oireachtais that would be key advocates and opposition to GRI.

ISPCA.[84]

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA). For 2017 the ISPCA took over 16,000 calls, had 3200 investigations which resulted in 21 prosecutions which included 18 months prison sentence for cruelty offences. Seizing 1250 animals, which included 785 dogs.

This report dated 09/05/2017 shows the concerns that the ISPCA has about Greyhound Racing Ireland. These concerns summarize into:

* 1. ISPCA is opposed to the use of animals in sports or entertainment. [ISPCA].
  2. That the IGB should have and end of life/retirement plan in place for each Racing Greyhound, which is deemed to be retired once the owner decides that the Greyhound is valueless.
  3. That Greyhound Racing Ireland and the Irish Coursing Club should take full responsibility for the disposal of “unwanted dogs” [84]
  4. It notes that quality over quantity is the best policy reefing to the British Greyhound Board, which reduced the breeding of Greyhounds from 10,000 to 1,000 per year.
  5. The culture of the disposal for a throw away dog must change.

From 2010 to 2015 a total of 3410 greyhounds entered dog pounds in Ireland 75% were surrendered specifically for euthanasia [44]. And noted a reduction of 672 surrendered greyhounds during the same period.

This begs the question. Given that the greyhounds now cannot be euthanized have surrounding then to pounds etc, given the pounds/

Question: how has the ICC taken measures to combat the effect of unwanted greyhounds?[30][48]

The Irish Retired Greyhound Trust (IRGT) is a registered charity established in 1997 that works to rehome greyhounds after retirement and promote them as domestic pets. It provides advice on veterinary procedures, coordinates transport, provides financial support, and supports public awareness of greyhounds as pets.

The main role of the IRGT is: Advising owners on what Veterinary procedures are required prior to the rehoming of their greyhounds i.e., neutering/spaying, issuing of pet passports, administrations of rabies shots, vaccinations and inoculations, flea, and tick treatments, etc. [85]

An opening statement from the joint committee on agriculture and food and the marine, Irish council against blood sports [86]

Back in 2004, greyhound racing got a hugh boost as the late late shows Pat Kenney owned a greyhound called “Late Late Show”, this greyhound was trained by Michael Foley, and during the greyhound, career won €218000. It was a time when the Marketing department gifted several greyhounds to celebrate.

Pedigree of Greyhounds Analysis conducted in 2015 by greyhound racing Ireland. The objective of this analysis is to study and quantify the genetic diversity and related population parameters of the modern Irish greyhound populations. Used to benchmark against international guidelines on the ideal generic diversity. Used to inform future studbook management. The conclusions shows that Irish Greyhound population has excellent pedigree information. The analysis concludes that rated of accumulation of inbreeding in recent years is 0.15% per year which is a 0.98% per year. The recommended threshold is 1% per generation set out by the world Food and Agriculture Organisation. Compared to the coursing inbreeding is greater that the track population. Recommends conducting performance testing o individual greyhounds to differentiate from inbreeding levels. [87]

## Literature Review Conclusions:

GRI is a sector that begin 1927, this type of legacy is hardcoded into greyhound owners/trainer and breeder many of which have a long standing in Greyhound Racing. Was it the impact of mandatory implementation of traceability on greyhound racing.

Owners, trainers, and breeders in the north of Ireland are not subject to Traceability, this is because both tracks in the north of Ireland. In the remaining tracks in the south owner, trainer breeder is in part taking ownership of past mistakes and are invested to make their sport exist in the future.

The industry was flooded with the over breeding of Greyhound. This is a finding of literature review which was reported in the business analysis conducted by Preferred Results Ltd. Shows that the sector had been flooded by the over breeding of greyhounds which has led to non-preforming greyhounds when culled or exported. The rejection of finds from these reports may have helped speed up the implementation of traceability.

The data contain with the annual reports show year on year decline in attendance of the attendances before 2020. Attendances a greyhound racing Ireland Strada is in decline of the number year before covid 19.

The attendance to greyhound Strada has declined year on year since 2017.

Rehoming of Greyhounds has steadily increased over the years since introduction.

In 2021 traceability went live which handed over racing suspension to owner, trainer, and breeders from non-compliance.

## Traceability in other countries.

Several countries have implemented various forms of greyhound racing traceability and do measure animal welfare, transparency, and accountability.

Australia: Has several different bodies that look after the welfare of greyhounds in Australia, 1, Victoria (GVR), Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) and Greyhound Racing in New South Wales (RWWA) and others. Implemented traceability of racing greyhounds in New South Wales in 2020 and all greyhounds has an entry in a national database. But unlike the traceability model in Ireland the greyhound must be brought to a stadium where the representative i.e., control Stewart/ welfare Stewart will conduct a detailed inspection of each greyhound’s condition identification through earmark and microchip RFID tag. And employs a Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP). Despite the implementation of traceability and resulting welfare improvements the greyhound sport its faces criticism and challenges around this welfare and racing.

United States of America: United States has the National Greyhound Association (NGA) is a voluntary non-profit organization founded in 1906. Not unlike the ICC in Ireland the NGA registers greyhound and provides the unique earmark tattoo and sets the standards from the welfare (health, kennel conditions, and after racing care) through its code of ethics. And violation of the NGA’s set does suspend or expulsion from the organization for the owner, trainer, and breeder. They implement traceability through registration and identification through tattooing, while it is considered to be traceability welfare regulations varies significantly through each state and identification is done through earmark tattooing only. NGA has taken criticism for its lack of animal welfare standards. Not all states in the USA have racing greyhound and some have banned the sport completely. Since September 2021 the greyhound racing industry is in decline with only a handful of tracks still running.

United Kingdom: In the United Kingdom the greyhound board is called the Greyhound board of Great Britain (GBGB) and this board does the full implementation of registration, microchipping, and welfare. Generates the ethics, a single body for greyhounds in United Kingdom. Which compare to Ireland, where greyhound in Ireland must registered with the Irish coursing club (ICC). In 2018 GBGB launched plan called the Greyhound Commitment, and point plan [89] to ensure welfare and care of racing greyhounds in the United Kingdom. The points which are:

1. Registration and traceability:

Registered at birth, and a record is maintained throughout the greyhound’s life.

1. Health checks and veterinary care:

Veterinary care and regular health checks provided. This ensures that each greyhound owned gets the adequate treatments and care to ensure that all injuries and illnesses are treated.

1. Training and Socialization:

To provide the training to allow the interaction between greyhound to stop greyhound fighting, which can suspend and owner. And ensures that when retirement occurs that the greyhound can have a greater chance of transiting to a pet.

1. Housing standards:

Kennels are kept to the standard, which ensures that the greyhound has a nice place to live.

1. Retirement and rehoming:

All the above point gives the greyhound a better life and better chance at retirement.

*The "Good Life for Every Greyhound" commitment is a significant step towards ensuring the welfare of greyhounds in the racing industry. It brings together breeders, owners, trainers, kennel staff, and rehoming organizations to work collectively towards the goal of giving every racing greyhound a life defined by care, respect, and enjoyment.* [89]

The model differs between Ireland and Australia in that welfare inspections occur at the premises in which the traceability recorded the greyhounds’ locations in the Irish model the greyhound is inspected but also the conditions of the kennel. Many kennels would be granted by GRI to make necessary upgrades where required. Comparing Ireland traceability to the Australia and USA, while Australia’s traceability would be detailed, but Irish model is the market leader and many greyhound associations look towards Ireland as Ireland is the only traceability model that using a custom build IOS application. Both Ireland and Australia have programs from the adoption of retired greyhound and both export to the USA for rehoming.

Would the combination of Irish coursing club (ICC) and Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) be a better for the Greyhound racing in Ireland. One point would be that the Irish coursing club (ICC) has a worse reputation than Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) as the ICC used to collect and trap hare for the purpose of coursing which normally allowed the caught hare to be ripped apart but two chasing/hunting greyhounds. Which was cruel. But now the Irish coursing club does not allow the chasing greyhound to kill the hare. Which is an improvement, but still chasing a panic-stricken hare until its pinned down could still be considered cruel.

It can happen that greyhounds from Ireland travel to GBGB regularly, a commitment from both Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) and Greyhound board of Great Britain (GBGB) to exchange formlines to ensure that penalties applied in either area are show on either side. Greyhound that are recorded as exported are removed from traceability in Ireland, and the only way that they can be imported back into Ireland is to Trail which brings the greyhound back to being subject to traceability. The concern is that an issues with the greyhound in Ireland can be bypassed by exported to GBGB and no record of the infraction is recorded there, and vice versa.

Ethical Considerations:

Through the project I will adhere to the Ethical point that are listed below:

1. Informed Consent:

Participants will have the opportunity to agree to participate without any coercion and given the right to withdraw without penalty.

1. Confidentiality and Privacy:

Any personal data collected from interviewee will be kept confidential. Information should be anonymized, and any data will be securely stored.

1. Respect for Participants/ animals:

Interviewee will be treated with respect and dignity.

1. Avoidance of Harm:

This research aims not to harm participants physically or psychologically. During the interview and will not ask for an answer if the interviewee seems distressed.

1. Integrity:

Research collated will be conducted with honesty and transparency. This will include accuracy when reporting findings, acknowledge limitation and will not manipulate data.

1. Conflicts of Interest:

As a employee of greyhound racing Ireland, it would be a mistake if it was not stated from the from the outset this fact. It’s important that the research is unbiased and that results are not influenced by personal or financial gain. As and active member I will not alter the finding to favour the outcome towards Greyhound racing Ireland (GRI).

By implementing these ethical guidelines, they can ensure that research that is conducted responsibly, respectfully and with the utmost integrity. from the adoption of retired greyhound export to the USA for Conclusions:

While this project has a significant amount of documentation that does proves the need for a traceability system, the systems itself is a relativity new and no analysis is conducted on this system. It can be seen that the systems were needed to be implemented because of the welfare neglect between Greyhound racing Ireland and the ICC on the greyhounds that were needed to keep the sport going.

This project will be a very interesting, it will combine analysis and research and the expectation that the research will help show that the welfare of greyhounds is a now the focus of Greyhound Racing. But to what cost?

What are the challenges? As this organization is seen as both Irish coursing club (ICC) and Greyhound Racing Ireland (GRI) I foresee that interviews are going to be tough because, there is no real differencation between ICC and GRI, I hope that with the direction from a supervisor that good questions can generated because I will need a lot of direction on that.

Another challenge is the author bias. While I attempted to become a observer, it must be know that I have a role in Greyhound Racing Ireland which I must keep and if the findings of the research do not look good on the side of Greyhound racing Ireland (GRI), I hope that it won’t be held against me.

What are the Gaps and Challenges? I don’t really see any gaps in this area, I’m close to the data. I’m close to know who to interview. The only gap is that of It his proposal is accepted. It may result in a NDA which I hope it does not, because if this research is published then it may be picked up through public channels.

To prove that this research paper could help to change public perceptions of the greyhound industry.

The industries image has been damaged, not just in the last number of years. I expect a certain amount of bias.

And, because I have direct access to the traceability system data and the racing management systems data.

Stakeholders’ engagement. This will be a changeling, not just because of the difficulty to delivering persons to interview but because this is one aspect of my own comfort zone. And, with the correct supervision I hope that his will expand my own skill set.

This project has shown a part review of the of state of Greyhound racing Ireland.

The key to this project will be the interviews, showing hopefully not just the members of the Greyhound industry but hopefully direct objectors to the industry.

With the project completed it hoped that reading such a paper will deliver a current view of how the sport has changed to reflect the welfare of Greyhounds.

It must be shown a true reflection of the industry.

The first phase of traceability provided a consolidation of 1. RMS and ICC, 2. Updates directly from customers. This is what traceability is all about, where owners/trainers and breeders make updates to reflect the status of their own greyhounds.

Traceability in now in its second phase which will improve with the implementation of the line between Great Britain Greyhound board (GBGB).

Large amount of bias expected in interview, obviously interviewees will have preconceived and predetermined option which could be for and against Greyhound racing.

# Validity

1. Accuracy:

RECTS will record the information and insert in Traceability, this is secondary but the in Accuracy coming in when Owners, trainers, or breeders’ updates to from the app. Mistakes are made for example breeder do name their pups, owner will have to name, the name must be unique and not have been used for at least year the death of a greyhound. At present there is no requirement for an owner, trainer, or breeder to validate that a greyhound died. For example, if a Greyhound is not running fast enough/ not wining and owner, trainer breeder may put down the greyhound, the app will accept any reason for the greyhound death, this has been highlighted as a flaw in the system.

1. Reliable

The data collected from the RECTS application and race management system (RMS) is data that owners, trainers or breeders which is inserted in a SQL table and from there reports are collated.

The source of the data will be extracted from the Traceability and RMS systems. The traceability system must be updated, or suspension will occur. This is backed up by welfare inspections where welfare offices will visit a kennel and expect to find the exact number of Greyhounds as the traceability system has recorded for that owner, trainer, or breeder. For the circumstances where a welfare officer finds a Greyhound that is alive when reported dead, this can have implication on the data. Officer reports and the system is amended to reflect that error.

Appendix

Table 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Number of breed greyhounds(pups) |
| 2009 | 18,990 |
| 2010 | 18,018 |
| 2011 | 19,632 |
| 2012 | 17,880 |
| 2013 | 16,416 |
| 2014 | 16,806 |
| 2015 | 16,254 |
| 2016 | 15,120 |

Appendix2:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Annual report year 2017[6] | Samples | 5294 |
| Rehomed Greyhounds (combined) | 906 |
| Attendance | 514,546 |
| Meetings | 1566 |
| Prize Money | 8,001,782 |
| Kennel inspections | 477 |
| Annual report year 2018 [7] | Samples | 5288 |
| Rehomed Greyhounds (combined) | 1021 |
| Attendance | 506,142 |
| Meetings | 1586 |
| Prize Money | 9,100,000 |
| Kennel inspections | 422 |
| Racing Greyhounds | 93,412 |
| Annual report year 2019 [7] | Samples | 5702 |
| Rehomed Greyhounds (combined) | 985 |
| Attendance | 462,709 |
| Meetings | 1606 |
| Prize Money | 9,600,000 |
| Kennel inspections | 615 |
| Racing Greyhounds | 98,597 |
| Annual report year 2020 [8] | Samples | 4251 |
| Rehomed Greyhounds (combined) | 1775 |
| Attendance | 126,376 |
| Meetings | 1085 |
| Prize Money | 6,100,000 |
| Kennel inspections | 455 |
| Racing Greyhounds | Not reported |

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