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# SAMPLE RESEARCH PAPER!

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## Greyhound Racing and its Future in the United States

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or space before/after

introduce topic and your  
main points

Greyhound racing has existed in the United States for about 100 years. In that time, it has slowed down in popularity, but it remains a controversial issue for many reasons. Animal rights groups have expressed concerns about the treatment of greyhounds at the track, injuries sustained by greyhounds during racing, and the killing of greyhounds once their careers are over. On the other hand, the racing industry is working to keep racing legal while improving the treatment of greyhounds. Though greyhound racing is on the decline in the United States, it is a subject of controversy, due to concerns about animal welfare. *thesis at end of intro*

First 2 body paragraphs give  
background info + history

Though the greyhound racing industry in the United States is changing and declining, it remains a controversial issue. Greyhounds have been bred to race for thousands of years. Initially, greyhounds were brought to the United States to catch and kill jackrabbits. According to the National Greyhound Adoption Program (NGAP), "greyhound track racing, as we know it today, began in 1919 in California with the invention of a mechanical lure" ("History and Racing Data"). Greyhound racing tracks began to spread across the United States; spectators would come to watch the dogs race and place bets on winning dogs. It was a form of social entertainment.

↓ mis. website had no author, so just the title is in parentheses

In the earlier years of greyhound racing, many greyhounds were killed when their careers came to an end. The typical career span for a racing greyhound is about four years, according to

Never have a quote all alone! Always incorporate it into a sentence!

the Greyhound Racing Association of America. A look at various sources and research "indicates" that more than 600,000 greyhounds have died in the 19-year period from 1986-2005" and "an estimated 12,000 greyhounds were killed" in 2005 ("U.S. Greyhound Racing Fact Sheet"). These numbers have cause alarm among animal rights activists. In more recent years, greyhound rescues have become more prevalent as individuals seek a way to stop the killing of greyhounds after their careers have come to an end.

transitioning to next paragraph!

transition!

In modern times, greyhound racing has lost much of its popularity. Though greyhound racing was "once highly popular and profitable, [it] has been in steep decline across the country, under siege from giant Indian casinos, lotteries, and gambling boats that ply the offshore waters" (Sacks). In addition to racing tracks closing, more adoption groups are being formed around the United States to re-home greyhounds once their racing careers have ended. According to the Greyhound Racing Association of America (GRA), "about 90 percent of registered Greyhounds are adopted or returned to the farm as pets or for breeding purposes when they retire [and] those that are unsuitable for adoption or breeding programs are humanely euthanized by licensed veterinarians under American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines" (McKeon). However, the fact that any greyhounds are euthanized after racing is alarming to many animal rights groups.

use the author's name in parentheses when you have it!

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) cited a case in 2002 "the remains of approximately 3,000 greyhounds from Florida racetracks were discovered on the Alabama property of a former racetrack security guard who had been 'retiring' unwanted greyhounds with a .22-caliber rifle for more than 40 years" ("Greyhound Racing - Death in the Fast Lane").

Though there are standards in place to ensure the ethical treatment of racing greyhounds, rescue

next 2 body paragraphs explain current issues

groups worry that these regulations are not always followed, resulting in rogue breeders and/or trainers mistreating and even killing animals once they are deemed unwanted. The conditions of the racing kennels is also a concern for some opponents of greyhound racing. The ASPCA describes racing kennels as being “stacked in warehouse-style kennels for 20 or more hours per day. The cages are just large enough for the dogs to stand in. Most of the enclosures are not heated or air-conditioned, causing the short-coated dogs to suffer during severe weather temperatures. Many dogs suffer from fleas, ticks and internal parasites.” They go on describe the injuries that greyhounds can face while racing, which include “severed toes, broken legs, spinal cord paralysis, broken necks and cardiac arrest” (“Greyhound Racing FAQ”). Though adoption efforts have increased in recent years and the number of greyhounds being euthanized has decreased, many groups still oppose racing based on the conditions of racing kennels and the potential for sustaining injuries during racing careers.

always  
explain  
your  
quotes!

The future of the racing industry is unclear, though the evidence certainly points to greyhound racing being on the decline. Many states are moving to make greyhound racing illegal, due to ethical concerns. The ASPCA reports that “as of 2015 Greyhound racing is illegal in 39 states and tracks are operating in only seven states” (“Greyhound Racing FAQ”). Those opposed to the greyhound racing industry encourage people to take action in such ways as not attending greyhound races, working to help pass legislation to make greyhound racing illegal, adopting greyhounds, and educating others on the dangers of greyhound racing.

The greyhound racing industry, on the other hand, believes that there can be a positive future for the racing industry. The GRA suggests that individuals “should work constructively with the industry to maximize adoptions and secure a good home for every greyhound,” as that is

next 2 body paragraphs discuss the future of the issue

their goal (McKeon). They believe that, because greyhounds are natural racers who are in no way forced to participate in the sport, greyhound racing can be an enjoyable activity for both the dogs and humans, as long as efforts improve to both reduce unnecessary breeding of greyhounds and increase adoption rates.

conclusion - review main points

Greyhound racing began in the United States as a form of entertainment. Over the years, interest in racing has declined, and concerns over the treatment of greyhounds during and after their racing careers has increased. Currently, animal rights groups demonstrate concern over the continued killing of greyhounds, conditions of kennels, and injuries inflicted while racing. The future is uncertain, though opponents of racing continue their efforts to close tracks and make racing illegal, while the greyhound racing industry is working toward promoting ethical treatment and increasing adoption of greyhounds. Greyhound racing is a controversial issue that is declining in popularity due to a lack of interest and concern about the welfare of the greyhounds.

Restate thesis

## Bibliography

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\* note: I have no books,  
but you should have one.

\* This was printed 2-sided to save paper.  
Yours should be single-sided! \*

alphabetical order, hanging indent