

Local Greyhound Rescue Charity Shocked by China's Plans to Import Racing Greyhounds

Press Release – 11th March 2011

Local greyhound rescue charity GRWE has expressed serious concerns over recent meetings between the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) and Chinese investors in relation to developing a greyhound racing industry and exporting Irish racing greyhounds to China.

Little animal welfare legislation exists in China to protect dogs, and the *Insert Region Name* Region of GRWE, the UK's largest greyhound and lurcher rehoming organisation, is concerned that the basic welfare needs of the greyhounds would not be met, should greyhound racing gain popularity there.

Reports of the meeting first came to light in a Sunday Times article recently, which stated that the IGB was planning to help with the development of greyhound racing in China, with suggested interest in exporting Irish greyhounds.

Mr Adrian Neilan, CEO of the IGB, has since confirmed that such meetings have taken place but that talks are at an early stage.

Insert Region Name here Rehoming Officer, *insert name here*, commented: "We were shocked to learn of these meetings, and we have already written to the IGB to urge them to reconsider any plans they have to support greyhound racing in China.

"Around 12,000 greyhounds are retired from racing every year in the UK, many of these dogs are taken in by rescues and adopted as pets at the end of their racing career, usually between 3-5 years old. However in China these dogs would be more likely to face suffering and a premature death, since there is virtually no hope of greyhounds being rehomed there once their racing days are over."

GRWE will continue to challenge the IGB on their involvement in such a scheme, and is hoping many pet-loving Britons will join them in expressing their concerns. You can find out more about this issue, and about ways that you can help to support GRWE through volunteering, donating, or homing a dog, on their website www.grwe.com.

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Notes to editors:

- 1) GRWE is a Registered Charity (Reg. Charity No. 1131399) and the largest independent greyhound rescue organisation in the UK working specifically to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned and abused greyhounds and lurchers. Last year GRWE rehomed over 800 dogs across England and Wales.
- 2) The Sunday Times article that this release refers to is from 27th February 2011 – ‘Chinese set to take-away Irish dogs’. It can be found at: <http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/>
- 3) GRWE receives no funding from the racing industry, is run entirely by volunteers, and is entirely funded by donations. More information about the charity can be found at www.grwe.com
- 4) The image shows a retired GRWE greyhound, Liz, relaxing at her new home as the perfect pet