



Horror greyhound abuse: ‘They burned Emily’s ears, hacked off tail & left her in ditch’

EXCLUSIVE by GARY MENEELY

Time/Date: 16:45, 5 Jan 2016



THIS greyhound had both ears burned out with acid, her tail hacked off and was dumped in a ditch to die emaciated.

The Irish Sun today exposes the dark underbelly of greyhound racing as the body which controls the industry launches a probe into our shock investigation.

Some trainers are taking sickening action against ex-racing dogs who might easily have been turned into pets or put in retirement kennels when they’re too slow or old to race.

Our exclusive photos show how Emily the greyhound was left in a ditch in Clonmel, Co Tipperary — ears burned out so she couldn’t be identified through her ear tattoo. Traumatized Emily’s tail was also hacked off as she was dumped and left to starve to death.



Miraculously, a passer-by spotted the dog, which may have been dumped by someone from outside the area, and she is currently being cared for in an animal sanctuary.

But racing insiders warn Emily's case is the "tip of the iceberg". One source said: "This type of brutality is happening all the time."



"Some owners believe that by burning or cutting greyhounds' ears to remove tattoos, they can't be traced. But they can sometimes be traced through hair follicle testing."

“This type of sickening action is the disgusting underbelly of the greyhound world.”



Once dogs reach three-and-a-half to five years old they are deemed too slow to compete. The Irish Greyhound Board — responsible for the control and development of the greyhound industry — has a trust to look after its former stars.

But many owners take action into their own hands.

Another source said: “Unfortunately this isn’t an isolated incident.



“Too many owners and trainers have no sense of a duty of care towards the dogs once it is decided they are no longer of use.”

Emily is being cared for by the Deise Animal Sanctuary at Ballymacarbry, Co Waterford.



Volunteer Pat Edwards, the sanctuary’s welfare officer and manager, told the Irish Sun: “This is our latest cruelty case. A blue greyhound girl, ears burned out with chemicals, tail hacked off, bone protruding out the end and emaciated.

“She put herself in that ditch to die and lay there waiting for the end. She’s been to the vet and had her ears cleaned out. This type of cruelty can make us very angry.”

When contacted about Emily’s case, the Irish Greyhound Board — Bord na gCon — revealed they have launched an investigation.



It said: “Bord na gCon was recently made aware of the discovery of a stray greyhound in the south Tipperary area, which was found in a poor state of health.

“The matter is being investigated by welfare officers of Bord na gCon. Bord na gCon condemns all acts of greyhound cruelty and neglect.”

Ms Edwards has pledged to nurse Emily back to health.

She said: “This girl is safe and warm tonight.

“Maybe she was a champion racer. But all that’s left of her now is a broken abused body. Only love and care from here on out though.”