

# IT'S TIME TO BAN HARE COURSING IN IRELAND!



On 16th September 2020, Paul Murphy TD introduced the 'Animal Health & Welfare (Ban on Hare Coursing) Bill 2020' in the Dáil. This bill will go to second stage in a few months – so it is very important to lobby your local TDs, to ensure they vote in support of the bill.

**National Animal Rights Association**

Hare coursing is a cruel bloodsport that involves releasing a wild-caught, defenceless hare into a large field before releasing greyhounds to chase after them. The hare will usually be given a 100 yard head start before the greyhounds are released. The dogs will usually catch up quickly, as they are bigger and faster. Unaware the dogs are muzzled, the hare is literally running for their life. However, even with a muzzle, the dogs can still severely injure or kill the hares by crushing them into the ground or pushing their delicate bodies into the air. If the hare reaches an 'escape' area without being caught by the dogs, unfortunately they still continue to be exploited by coursing club officials.

Irish hares are protected under the 1976 Wildlife Act, but it also protects hare coursing – it's illegal to trap or sell hares unless it's for the purpose of coursing them. In Ireland, there are two forms of coursing: Enclosed coursing and open coursing. They both involve a live hare. Approximately 5,000 hares are used each coursing season. They are subjected to stressful environments, injury, and even death. In 1993 the Irish Coursing Club (ICC) were forced by the government to muzzle greyhounds at enclosed meetings, and in 2015 the ICC adopted the same policy for open meetings.

Although the ICC do not condone 'blooding' – a gruesome event which involves a small animal such as a rabbit or kitten being mauled to death by a greyhound – it is seen as 'essential' to many dog owners, as it gives the greyhound a taste for blood and makes them perform better. Although it is illegal, blooding is widespread amongst the coursing community. It's also important to realise that the rules, regulation, and activity of coursing clubs are monitored by coursing officials themselves, not an independent or state body.

**This has to stop.**

**Please help us ban hare coursing in Ireland.**

**Join the campaign, attend protests, contact us with information, lobby your local TDs, and please contact the Minister of Agriculture below, who is responsible for allowing hare coursing to continue.**

**Minister of Agriculture: Charlie McConalogue**

**minister@agriculture.gov.ie and charlie.mcconalogue@oireachtas.ie**



**Contact us for more Information:**

**info@naracampaigns.org   www.naracampaigns.org**

Special thanks to the Irish Council Against Blood Sports for the photos & information

**Title:** It's Time to Ban Hare Coursing in Ireland

**Organisation:** National Animal Rights Association (NARA)

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