



**YOUR NEW
BEST FRIEND**

A CONCISE GUIDE
TO GREYHOUND
SYNDICATION
IN IRELAND

**YOU'RE
ONTO A
WINNER**



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INTRODUCTION TO SYNDICATION

SEE GREYHOUND RACING IN A NEW LIGHT



Like the excitement of a race? Love the buzz of a night out at the greyhound track? As a member of a greyhound syndicate, you can combine these passions by experiencing the thrill of watching your own dog race.

It's easier than you think with Bord na gCon's Syndication Programme, designed to make greyhound ownership a rewarding experience for all involved.

Whether your syndicate will have corporate backing or you are a group of friends or colleagues teaming up, you'll benefit from our expert knowledge on issues ranging from the initial purchase decision through to trainer selection and advice on how to get the best from your dog.

WHAT IS A SYNDICATE?

A syndicate is a group of four or more members who own shares in a greyhound and who divide the costs and benefits associated with this ownership equally. It's an ideal route to take if you see the investment potential in greyhounds but don't have the time or resources to commit to the undertaking yourself.





Owning a greyhound can be a wonderful experience, as you follow its growth and development. One of the oldest breeds of dog domesticated by man, greyhounds possess great stamina and endurance, in addition to being both intelligent and gentle animals.

It is for their remarkable speed, however, that they are renowned. Capable of running at up to 60kph when in full flight, greyhounds are the 18th fastest land mammal and are born racers. They can, for instance, cover 480 metres in about 28 seconds, which is twice the speed of an Olympic athlete.

THE TIME IS RIGHT TO GET INVOLVED

In Ireland, major commitment and investment, together with the provision of top quality facilities at a large number of stadiums, has boosted the Irish greyhound industry significantly in recent years. The result is a complete resurgence in track attendance and increasing levels of participation from the general public.

It's an exciting time to stake your claim and syndication

makes it possible. With Bord na gCon, owning your own greyhound means minimum demand for maximum reward. To make your entry count, make it with the support of the experts.

CALL 1890 BOW WOW NOW TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH A BORD NA GCON ADVISOR.

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WHAT'S INVOLVED IN SYNDICATION

A SMALL PRICE
TO PAY FOR A
GREAT DEAL OF
SATISFACTION



Buying and training a greyhound is surprisingly inexpensive and probably far easier than you might imagine. A syndicate of six people, for example, could invest as little as €3,000 for a promising and well-bred young greyhound, making this a once-off cost of only €500 per member. During the dog's training programme, the ongoing commitment per member could then be as low as €10 for weekly maintenance.

In return, you get to share the stimulation and emotion of great race meetings, as well as the anticipation of success on the track.

WE'RE WITH YOU ALL THE WAY

Regardless of your budget, you'll have the full support of the Syndication Programme at all times. Bord na gCon will put you in touch with leading vendors and top-class trainers so that you get the best greyhound and training programme to suit your requirements. In addition, we are always available to answer any queries or address any concerns you might have relating to your greyhound ownership.





YOUR GREYHOUND'S PERFORMANCE

Like any athlete, your greyhound will need nurturing and developing before it can fulfil its potential. This will be the case, in particular, if you decide to buy a pup or an unraced greyhound.

As a rule of thumb, a greyhound will usually reach its peak between the ages of two and a half and three and a half. Your appointed trainer will know the dog's form and temperament best and will be able to guide you more accurately on what you can expect at different race meetings and why.

Young dogs starting out in their careers are likely to improve with age and experience and some maintain their form for much longer periods than others. Many greyhounds, for instance, will run five or six races in peak condition, slow down a little, and then show signs that they are once more running in top form. It's all part of the game and part and parcel of the stimulation of being a greyhound owner!



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BEGINNERS GUIDE TO BETTING & THE CHANCES OF WINNING

EXCELLENT PRIZE-WINNING POTENTIAL

Choose the right greyhound, make the right decisions, and your syndicate could enjoy a night that's memorable in every sense. There are plenty of opportunities to earn a return on your dog. For instance:

- 15 events in the Irish greyhound calendar offer a first prize of €7,500
- 8 events offer a first prize of €10,000
- 7 events offer a first prize of €15,000
- 4 events offer a first prize of €20,000
- 8 events offer a first prize of €35,000
- Winner of Irish Greyhound Derby €150,000

PLACING A BET?

You might also like to try your luck at betting – on your own or another greyhound. The easiest way to do this is at the track tote. Small stakes are accepted at most venues and there are several fun bets that can pay big dividends for a relatively small outlay. These include:

- WIN – your greyhound must be first past the post.
- PLACE – your greyhound must finish either first or second.
- FORECAST – where you choose two greyhounds to finish first and second respectively. A reversed forecast is another popular option, where your greyhounds can finish first and second in either order.
- TRIO OR TRIFECTA – similar to the forecast except that here you must pick the first three home.

- COMBINATION BETS – covering two, three or even four greyhounds. You could, for instance, choose three greyhounds and place a forecast combination, effectively giving you six bets in one. If any two of the three greyhounds finish first and second, then your bet has been successful.
- SPECIALITY BETS – in addition to these regular betting formats, many tracks also run jackpots and other unusual betting systems which usually involve the outcome of more than one race.

BOOKMAKERS

You might also find yourself being tempted by the bookmakers who trade by the side of the track. Most bookmakers will only accept win bets, at the price displayed on the bookie's board when you strike the bet. Regardless of whether the price shortens or lengthens thereafter, the odds you have taken won't change. This system differs from the tote in that the tote price of individual greyhounds is only determined after the race has started and the computer has worked out and divided the entire pool, less the track's commission, among the winning tickets.

Off-course bookmakers are also willing to take bets on greyhounds and many offer appealing speciality and multiple race bets. The off-course bookmakers do enforce limits, however, and it is always worth checking these out before you place your bet.

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TESTIMONIALS**FROM FAMOUS OWNERS AND GREYHOUND SYNDICATES**

There are moments when you can be particularly proud to be part of a greyhound syndicate. In 1998, for example, the Ray Nicholas syndicate from Limerick won the Irish Oaks with their very first greyhound. To date, the syndicate has won over €95,000 in prize money.





OWNING A GREYHOUND IS A NEW EXPERIENCE FOR ME, AND ONE THAT I'M THOROUGHLY ENJOYING. IT'S A GREAT EXCUSE TO GET A GROUP OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES TOGETHER FOR A NIGHT OUT. IT'S ALSO QUITE AMUSING TO HEAR THEM ALL SHOUT "GO ON CHARLIE!" AT THE TOP OF THEIR VOICES!

CHARLIE BIRD, CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT, RTE

BUYING A DOG WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST YEAR. AS I'M AWAY A LOT IT'S A GREAT EXCUSE TO SPEND SOME TIME IN DUBLIN AND HAVE A COUPLE OF PINTS WITH THE LADS. WINNING IS A BONUS AND IT'S GOOD TO KNOW HE'S BEING LOOKED AFTER WHEN I'M AWAY.

COLM MEANEY, ACTOR

I LOVED THE IDEA OF OWNING MY OWN DOG BUT WHEN THE LADS SAID I HAD TO ORGANISE AND HANDLE THE ADMIN SIDE OF SYNDICATION, I WASN'T THAT ENTHUSED. THANKFULLY THERE'S NO HASSLE AT ALL. I REALLY ONLY HAVE TO TURN UP AND CHEER. IT'S GREAT CRAIC, ALWAYS A GREAT NIGHT OUT, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU WIN.

DONAGH MCGRATH, NEWS EDITOR, RTE

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FAQ'S

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



ABOUT SYNDICATES

ARE THERE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PEOPLE ALLOWED INTO A SYNDICATE?

No. We recommend, however, keeping the group to 20 at the most as any more than this makes administering the syndicate very complex.

CAN SOMEONE OPT OUT OF A SYNDICATE IF THEY NO LONGER WISH TO BELONG TO IT?

Syndication is a partnership and, as in business, a partnership agreement is drafted with its formation. This will generally stipulate that, on leaving, a member is obliged to sell his or her share of the greyhound to existing members of the syndicate for the same price he or she originally paid.

HOW ARE PAYMENTS TRANSFERRED?

The up-front payment for a greyhound will usually be by bank draft. Thereafter, payments from each member of the syndicate to the appointed trainer are typically made by direct debit.

ABOUT GREYHOUNDS

HOW MUCH DOES A GREYHOUND COST?

This depends in particular on the dog's breeding. Average costs are between €3,000 and €10,000. The Syndication Programme will put you directly in contact with an owner or will buy on your behalf if that is the preferred option.

WHO LOOKS AFTER IT?

A trainer in the area where the dog is likely to do most of its racing.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS OF ITS UPKEEP?

Again this varies, but a good estimate is between €50 and €60 per week. There will be small costs thereafter, for entry fees to races and so on.



CAN A SYNDICATE CHOOSE ITS OWN GREYHOUND?

Yes, subject to budgetary constraints.

WHO NAMES THE GREYHOUND?

Usually the syndicate itself. If a dog has already been named, the syndicate can choose to change the name if it wishes to. In both cases, guidelines for verification must be adhered to.

WHO CHOOSES WHICH RACES THE DOG WILL RUN IN?

Generally, this will be left up to the trainer who will know the greyhound's form best.

HOW OFTEN CAN A GREYHOUND RACE?

Each dog is individual and the frequency of their races will be determined in the best interests of their welfare.

HOW LONG IS ITS RACING CAREER?

Greyhounds begin racing from 18 months onwards and continue until they are about four years of age.

HOW MUCH PRIZE-MONEY CAN BE WON?

Over 70 events in Ireland annually command a first prize of €6,350 or more. However, there are numerous opportunities to win smaller amounts, ranging from €250 upwards.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE GREYHOUND GETS INJURED?

This depends on the extent of the injury. While most injuries can be treated, there are occasions where it may be more suitable to consider breeding the dog or keeping it as a pet.

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LIST OF TRACKS IN ROI

CORK

Curraheen Park Greyhound Stadium
Curraheen Road, Bishopstown, Co Cork
T: 021 4543095
Race Nights: Wed, Thurs & Sat

DONEGAL

Lifford Greyhound Race Co.
Lifford, Co Donegal
T: 074 41083
Race Nights: Sat & Sun

DUBLIN

Dublin Greyhound & Sports Association
Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W
T: 01 4971081
Race Nights: Mon, Tues & Fri
@ 8.00p.m.

DUBLIN

Shelbourne Park Greyhound Stadium
Shelbourne Park, Dublin 4
T: 01 6683502
Race Nights: Wed, Thurs & Sat
@ 8.00p.m.

DUNDALK

Dundealgan Greyhound Race Co
The Ramparts, Dundalk, Co Louth
T: 042 9321869
Race Nights: Mon & Sat

Unless otherwise stated, all race nights commence at 7.50pm
Dates are subject to change, please contact relevant stadium to confirm.

For more details on Greyhound Syndication, please contact: syndication@igb.ie
or call 1890 BOW WOW
BORD NA GCON, 104 HENRY STREET, LIMERICK T: 061 316 788 F: 061 316 739

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BORD NA GCON'S SYNDICATION PROGRAMME, OR TO TALK TO A SPECIALIST ADVISOR ABOUT SETTING UP YOUR OWN SYNDICATE CALL 1890 BOW WOW TODAY.

ENNISCORTHY

Enniscorthy Greyhound Stadium
Showgrounds, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
T: 054 33172
Race Nights: Mon & Thurs

GALWAY

Galway Greyhound Race Co.
College Road, Galway
T: 091 562273
Race Nights: Tues & Fri

KERRY

Kingdom Greyhound Stadium
Oakview Park, Tralee, Co Kerry
T: 066 7126986
Race Nights: Tues & Fri

KILKENNY

Kilkenny Greyhound Race Co.
St James Park, Kilkenny
T: 056 21214
Race Nights: Wed & Fri

LIMERICK

Limerick Greyhound Race Co.
Marketsfield, Limerick
T: 061 415170
Race Nights: Mon, Thurs & Sat

LONGFORD

Longford Sports Ltd.
Park Road, Longford
T: 043 42018
Race Nights: Mon & Fri

MULLINGAR

Mullingar Greyhound Race Co.
Ballinderry, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
T: 044 48348
Race Nights: Tues & Sat

NEWBRIDGE

Newbridge Greyhound Race Co.
Newbridge, Co Kildare
T: 045 431270
Race Nights: Mon & Fri

WATERFORD

Kilcohan Park Greyhound Stadium
Kilcohan Park, Waterford
T: 051 874531
Race Nights: Wed & Sat

YOUGHAL

Youghal Greyhound Race Co.
Youghal, Co Cork
T: 024 92305
Race Nights: Tues & Fri

