

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

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Thirty-five Greyhounds Found Dead in Oregon Kennel

Eagle Creek: An air-conditioning failure at a greyhound kennel was blamed for the death of 35 greyhounds during a triple-digit heat wave. The dogs were discovered Friday, July 21, by a worker about six hours after the kennel owners, Curtis Washburn and his wife, Mary Repman, left to attend a family reunion in Tillamook.

Repman said the dogs died from heat exhaustion on a day when the temperature was above 100 degrees. Another 17 greyhounds survived, but two needed to be treated by a veterinarian.

Repman said she does not know what went wrong with the air conditioner. She said it was working when they left for the trip and was running again sometime after they returned home.

Tom Weaver, presiding state greyhound judge, told *The Oregonian* newspaper that he learned of the incident shortly before midnight Friday and rushed to the kennel with another official. When Weaver arrived, a rescuer had already taken several of the dogs outside and was giving them intravenous fluids.

Weaver and others placed wet towels on the 17 surviving dogs. "It was heart-wrenching," said Weaver, describing walking into the kennel to find dog after dog dead. "I've never seen anything like it." Weaver said it was the worst such incident in his 45 years in Oregon dog racing.

A Clackamas County sheriff's deputy visited the property, but left after state racing officials said there was no reason to suspect wrongdoing.

Repman said most of the dogs were 5- to 8- years old and retired from racing. She said some of the former racing dogs were there for breeding and others were waiting for adoption. Among the dead was Curtis Washburn's first champion, a 10-year-old red fawn named Chase.

Although greyhound racing ended in Oregon in December 2004, several kennel owners continue to operate in the state. Washburn and Repman have other racing kennels in Arkansas and Arizona.

Sources: *The Oregonian*: Aimee Green; The Associated Press; KGW-TV Local News: Antonia Giedwoyn, Jane Smith

Respiratory Infection Kills 18 Florida Racing Dogs

Bonita Springs, Florida: An outbreak of a contagious canine respiratory infection spread rapidly in South Florida in June, killing at least 18 greyhounds. The majority of deaths occurred at the Naples-Fort Myers Greyhound Track in Bonita Springs, but two dogs at the Palm Beach Kennel Club also died, according to Kristen Alexis Ploska, spokeswoman for the Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering, which oversees 15 dog tracks throughout the state.

The University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine is trying to determine the cause of the infection and how to treat it. Researchers' preliminary diagnosis indicates the disease is an upper respiratory infection that mimics but is not canine flu, said Sarah Carey, UF's director of public relations.

The infection exhibits symptoms that are similar to an illness that spread from horses to canines in January 2004, killing eight Jacksonville-area greyhounds

Reports of the recent illnesses at the Bonita Springs track came almost exactly one year after a smoldering fire at the facility claimed the lives of 17 dogs and forced dozens more into early retirement.

Sherry Farris, who worked with the Bonita Springs track doing greyhound adoptions for many years, said tight living conditions and lax kennel operators might have contributed to the dogs' deaths. "They've got 40 dogs crammed into a small area," Farris said. "It's not clean. It doesn't surprise me at all." Farris is now a Florida representative for the California-based Greyhound Protection League.

By early July, every dog track in Florida was under quarantine to halt the spread of the disease. Quarantines were also in place at greyhound tracks around the country, but no other deaths were reported.

Sources: The Associated Press; *Naples News*: Anne Marie Apollo

Juarez Greyhounds Return Home to the United States

Abilene, Kansas: American Greyhound Council Communications Coordinator Gary Guccione announced in a press release dated June 28 that the 126 greyhounds shipped to the Juarez Racetrack in Mexico have returned to the United States. The last 60 greyhounds crossed the border on June 25, according to Greyhound Pets of America president Rory Goree.

Guccione, who also is executive director of the National Greyhound Association, said that the NGA will not rescind the policy it adopted in June 2005 discouraging any further movement of greyhounds to the Juarez track. Guccione said concerns expressed by adoption groups and greyhound breeders about inconsistent enforcement of greyhound welfare policies at the Juarez track prompted the decision.

"It's one thing to have proper policies and procedures on paper," Guccione said, "but it's something else to make sure that they are properly implemented on a daily basis."

In mid-August, 26 of the Juarez greyhounds were taken to Ohio State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Columbus and enrolled in the school's Greyhound Health and Wellness Program, established by faculty member Dr. Guillermo Couto. "The students get to do the physical exams and learn about greyhound medicine, which is different than other dog medicine," Couto said, adding that the dogs will be spayed and neutered and placed into adoptive homes.

Couto, who has been involved in greyhound rescue for two decades, travels to Barcelona regularly and helps promote the adoption of galgos in his workshops and conferences. He adopted two galgos from SOS Galgos several years ago.

Sources: AGC Press Release; NBC 4-TV News

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS UPDATE: June through mid-September 2006

ALABAMA

Birmingham: Video sweepstakes gambling machines at the Birmingham Racecourse are back in operation after a judge ruled Jan. 31 that the tracks' 1,300 machines are legal under Alabama law. "The operation looks and sounds like a gambling casino, but under Alabama law it is not," said Jefferson County Circuit Judge Scott Vowell.

Jefferson County sheriff's deputies confiscated 300 of the machines during a raid on the track last December, soon after track owner Milton McGregor unveiled the machines for operation. County attorneys argued the machines were illegal gambling devices disguised to resemble sweepstakes. Prior to the ruling, the 300 machines were returned to the track under an agreement they would not be used until their legal status was determined.

McGregor said revenues from the machines could pave the way for the return of horse racing at the track. The Birmingham Racecourse opened in 1992 as a dual horse and dog track. Thoroughbreds have not raced at the track since 1995.

Sources: *Mobile Register*; The Associated Press; *The Montgomery Advertiser*

ARIZONA

Phoenix: The city of Phoenix has agreed in principal to purchase Phoenix Greyhound Park for \$35 million and will eventually use the 60-acre dog track for support operations at Sky Harbor International Airport. No date was reported for completion of the sale. The city also has agreed to lease the track site back to the current operators for the next five to 15 years. The track will continue to be a racing venue for the foreseeable future. "I would expect it to be business as usual here," said track general manager Dan Luciano.

Sky Harbor, one of the busiest airports in the nation, is on the brink of a \$2 billion expansion plan. "This is really about protecting the economic engine that is Sky Harbor," said acting Aviation Director Danny Murphy. "It just gives us much more flexibility when it comes to meeting the future needs of the airport."

The track sits just north of the airport's existing boundaries. Because Sky Harbor is landlocked to the south, east and west, it can only expand to the north. Airport officials said the track property offers many use options, such as additional parking facilities

and maintenance hangers, because it is close to downtown Phoenix and Tempe, and is adjacent to the future light-rail route now under construction.

Source: *Arizona Republic*: Ginger D. Richardson

COLORADO

Denver: BLB Investors, the state's largest dog and horse track operator, relaunched May 22 with a new name and a plan to revitalize an industry in which revenues dropped from \$241 million in 2000 to \$160 million in 2005. BLB acquired Wembley's racetracks in Colorado and Rhode Island (Lincoln Park) in July 2005 for \$455 million.

Mile High Racing & Entertainment, formerly Wembley Park, is adding family oriented attractions, including live music on weekends. BLB's two other greyhound tracks in Pueblo and Colorado Springs will be open only for off-track betting this year. Live racing is expected to return to the Pueblo track in 2007.

Source: *The Denver Post*: Andy Vuong

CONNECTICUT

Plainfield: Connecticut Yankee Greyhound Racing, Inc., the corporate entity that owns Plainfield Greyhound Park, has voluntarily surrendered its gaming license to the state. In a letter to the Division of Special Revenue dated May 15, Karen Keelan, the track's vice president, notified gaming regulators that, "Plainfield Greyhound Park will permanently cease pari-mutuel operations." The track operated for 31 years.

"It certainly is not our preferred choice," Keelan wrote, "but given the economic and business circumstances, we believe that this is the prudent and responsible course of action for the business and the company."

Source: *The Day*: Megan Bard

FLORIDA

Daytona Beach: Delaware North Companies of Buffalo, New York, owner of the Daytona Beach Kennel Club, purchased a 40-acre parcel of land for \$6.7 million to build a new track and single-story, 60,000-square-foot clubhouse a mile south of its current location. The deal was brokered last September by a local group calling itself North Delaware Land Acquisition Co., led by Ormond Beach attorney David L.

Ferguson. Construction of the new track could begin in about a year, said Dan Francati, the kennel club's general manager. "It will be roughly the same size as our current facility, but it will have a different configuration to reflect what our business is today," he said. The new facility will have more space for poker games — 38 tables, up from 24 at the current facility. In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2005, the track's poker revenue rose to \$4.5 million, up 61 percent from the \$2.5 million collected a year earlier.

On May 1, the North Delaware group applied to the St. Johns River Water Management District for a permit to use the land for a dog track, clubhouse and paddock. Two additional parcels would be set aside for future development. If the dog track receives a building permit from the city by November, Francati said, the new facility would open by the spring of 2008.

Delaware North is negotiating a possible sale of the existing track at 2201 W. International Speedway Boulevard to its neighbor, International Speedway Corp. (ISC). John Graham, an ISC vice president, said negotiations are continuing. "We have not reached a deal at this point," Graham said. ISC has been trying to buy the 22-acre dog track for more than a decade. The Daytona Beach Kennel Club opened in 1948. Sources: *Daytona News-Journal*: Tom Brown; *Orlando Sentinel*: Ken Ma

IOWA

Dubuque: For the first time in more than a decade, the wagering handle on live greyhound racing increased at the Dubuque Greyhound Park & Casino. In April, the track posted \$384,000 in handle, up nearly 10 percent from April 2005, according to the latest figures from the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission. "I don't remember the last time the numbers were up," said Bruce Wentworth, the track's general manager. "It has been a spiraling decline."

Wentworth attributed the increase to the sheer number of people coming through the doors the same month the racetrack casino added table games, including poker. A glass-encased tournament room is at the track entrance, and Wentworth said some of the poker players are making their way to the dogs. "Pari-mutuel players and poker players are cut from the same cloth, and we believe there is some crossover there."

Dubuque recorded a \$919,000 loss on its pari-mutuel operation in the last fiscal year; the year before, the track lost \$873,000 on greyhound racing.

Source: *Telegraph Herald*: M.D. Kittle

MASSACHUSETTS

Revere: According to *The Boston Herald*, "Revere's beleaguered Wonderland dog track is on the brink of closing, with a decision expected in coming weeks." Richard Dalton, the track's top executive, told the *Herald* May 23, "Without significant changes in how we do business, we are not going to be able to stay in business much longer." The track is bleeding red ink after a long and steady decline in dog racing.

Track owner Charles Sarkis is reportedly weighing whether to close the failing track. The 30-acre site, located just minutes from Boston and two major highways, make it attractive for development. "I think it has tremendous development potential," said David Begelfer, head of the local chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties. "I think you would have a waiting list of developers excited about proposing alternative uses."

The track property is valued from \$700,000 to \$1.1 million per acre, real estate executives estimate. With a shortage of warehouse and back-office operations space near Boston, the Wonderland site is a prime location, said Trey Agnew, a senior director in the Boston office of Cushman & Wakefield.

Wonderland Greyhound Park opened on June 12, 1935, one year after the Massachusetts Legislature legalized pari-mutuel wagering. [See Massachusetts Legislative update on page 5. — *Ed.*]

Source: *The Boston Herald*: Scott Van Voorhis

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Belmont: A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Friday, June 30, to mark the grand opening and the return of live racing at The Lodge at Belmont. The track, formerly known as Lakes Region Greyhound Park, was renamed by its new owner, Marlin Torguson, whose Mississippi-based company, Torguson Gaming Group, Inc., purchased the track for \$4.1 million last September. The live racing season ended August 31.

The track has been closed since April 2005, after a federal criminal probe led to the indictment of two Lakes Region executives for their role in a five-state, \$200 million illegal gambling and money-laundering

scheme. [See *GNN* Spring 2005 online at www.greyhoundnetworknews.org, or contact *GNN* through the website to request a print copy.]

The Lodge opened for simulcasting on June 9, two days after Torguson, operating as Belmont Racing LLC, received his state gaming license. The New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, the state's Pari-Mutuel Commission and an independent auditor hired by the state, conducted a six-month investigation of Torguson Gaming before issuing the license.

The track has undergone extensive renovations to the building's facade and interior, as well as renovated space for three new restaurants, including an upscale steakhouse, a blues club and a grandstand buffet. Simulcast races from numerous harness, thoroughbred and greyhound tracks around the country can be viewed on 500 big screen televisions. Automated betting stations also have been added.

According to Jeana Tribble, the track's vice president of marketing, further expansion might include on-site lodging on the 200-acre site at some point in the future.

Sources: *Concord Monitor*: Elizabeth Walters; *The Union Leader*: John Distaso; *Nashua Telegraph*: Kevin Landrigan; The Associated Press

TEXAS

El Paso: Hardrick Crawford Jr., the former special agent in charge of the FBI office in El Paso, was convicted on Aug. 16 by a jury in U.S. District Court in El Paso on two of five felony charges stemming from his friendship with Juarez Racetrack owner Jose Maria Guardia.

Crawford was charged with four counts of making false statements and one count of concealing material facts during a Justice Department investigation into the gifts he and his family received from Guardia, which prosecutors described as lavish. Those gifts included trips to Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay and the Four Seasons, membership in an El Paso country club, and a \$5,000 a month salaried position for Crawford's wife at the Juarez Racetrack.

In his closing arguments, Assistant U.S. Attorney James Blankinship said Crawford continued his relationship with Guardia even after FBI agents told Crawford about Guardia's alleged involvement with drug trafficking and money laundering.

Crawford, who will remain free on a signature bond, is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 9. Each count is punishable by up to five

years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Source: *El Paso Times*: Louis Gilot, Tammy Fonce-Olivas

WEST VIRGINIA

Wheeling: Standard & Poor's Rating Services has downgraded the credit rating for the Wheeling Island greyhound track and casino to B+ with negative implications, citing imminent competition from slot machines at Pennsylvania racetracks. Pennsylvania legalized casino gambling in 2004 and regulators are expected to begin issuing licenses in October for 14 venues around the state, six of which are horse racing tracks.

The Wheeling Island dog track and casino is approximately 30 miles west of The Meadows, a harness racing track in Meadowslands, Pennsylvania. Wheeling Island's general manager Bob Marshall, said, "Sixty percent of our business resides in the Pittsburgh market, and they drive past The Meadows to get to us."

In mid-August, the Wheeling Island track reported a 25.6 percent drop in second-quarter net income, due in part to lower revenues. Net income for the three months ending July 2 was \$4.7 million, compared to \$6.3 million for the same period a year ago. A state law approved in July 2005 that lowered the track's share of net (video lottery) terminal income also hurt gambling revenue, the company reported. The track also saw drops in pari-mutuel wagering, food and beverage, and lodging revenues.

Sources: *The Charleston Gazette*: The Associated Press; *The Whelling Intelligencer*

WISCONSIN

Delavan: Illinois-based NRB Land bought the 130-acre Geneva Lakes Kennel Club property for \$7.95 million and an adjacent 72-acre vacant property for \$6.5 million. NRB is marketing the combined 200-acre property to commercial, retail and residential developers. The sale of Geneva Lakes was finalized March 31.

Delavan Mayor Mel Nieuwenhuis said he was pleased with the sale. "I didn't want to have that white elephant sitting there for 10 years."

Geneva Lakes was one of five greyhound tracks to open in Wisconsin during the early 1990s. The track ceased live racing last November and simulcasting in April. Dairyland Greyhound Park in Kenosha is the last surviving dog track in Wisconsin.

Sources: *Wisconsin State Journal*: Associated Press; *The Janesville Gazette*: Mike Heine; *Small Business Times*: Andrew Weiland

ATTENTION READERS

Please check the address label on the back of this newsletter for any errors in your name or address, regardless of how minor the error may appear. The U.S. Postal Service "up-graded" its computer system in the spring and unfortunately many copies of the Winter 2005/Spring 2006 newsletter, which was mailed in May, were returned to GNN, marked "insufficient address." GNN's mailing list is verified through the national database of the USPS before it is sent via first-class mail. Attempts to re-mail the newsletters were unsuccessful.

In an effort to reduce similar problems with this issue, GNN has resumed using fee-based "Address Service Requested" on the back of the newsletter, which requires the USPS to send a printed postcard with the corrected address to the sender.

Joan Eiding, Editor
September 15, 2006

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS®

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The newsletter, in print for more than a decade, continues to be the primary source of information about the worldwide dog racing industry. This newsletter is dedicated to all the racing greyhounds who have suffered and died in service to this industry.

Editor & Publisher

Joan Eiding

Contributors

Sylvia Arena
Renata Golden
Susan Netboy

Legal Advisor

Stephanie Nichols-Young

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GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

P.O. Box 44272

Phoenix, Arizona 85064-4272

www.greyhoundnetworknews.org

Letters to the Editor

Please accept the enclosed donation in honor of my beloved greyhound, Lenny, who is about to pass due to bone cancer. He will be ten years old in July, if he can hold on until then. He has been my best friend for the last six years.

I've never been so attached to a pet before, and I've had many. My whole life has been put on hold so that I can care for Lenny during his last few months. Thank goodness I have very supportive friends and employers.

It's the least I can do for him as he has given me six years of love. I cannot imagine life without him.

Greg Mandel, Florida

Please accept this donation in memory of my beloved Doris, who died from bone cancer. Doris was a beautiful soul who



would march in front of racetracks with me when I lived in Florida. I'll miss her forever.

Diane Shull, Massachusetts

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Conquistador's Runaway — tattoos obliterated, rescued last December in Tucson after he ran away from where he was chained to a porch on Grant Road — and for all the others I have rescued, placed, loved and lived with.

Kay Redding, North Carolina

Enclosed please find my yearly donation. Sadly, my beautiful greyhound Abbey developed aggressive lymphoma last August and I had to put her down since she was suffering. She was surrounded by love always, from me of course, as well as friends and family. Everyone loved her — she was very special. I am not ready to get another dog, but someday I am sure I will honor her memory by giving a good home to one of Abbey's buddies. Thanks for all you do.

Donna Dapuzzo, New Jersey

Enclosed is a donation in memory of our beautiful greyhounds, Greyce and Eliot, who we lost to osteosarcoma. The pain of losing our dogs is immeasurable. Thank you for letting us honor them and share their memory in GNN.

We believe GNN is one of the greatest advocates for the greyhounds. You tell the truth that needs to be told. We thank you especially on Greyce's behalf. She was an Irish greyhound racing in Spain until she was eight years old. The horrific conditions in places like Spain and Ireland need to be revealed as surely as the plight of U.S. greyhounds. We wish you could know the difference your newsletter makes!

Sarah and Jack Peak, Kentucky

I am interested in receiving a sample copy of Greyhound Network News and a brochure about the newsletter. I am very interested in rescue work and learning all I can about the rescue mission and the dogs. I hope to own a greyhound some day and perhaps your newsletter can help me attain my dream. Blessings for your most important work.

Liz Grasso, New York

Thanks for keeping all of us who want to see an end to greyhound racing up-to-date on the good and not-so-good news about what is happening in this nasty business worldwide. A contribution is enclosed.

Debbie Arsenault, New Hampshire

Enclosed is an American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals grant check to be applied to mailing costs for your newsletter. Each year I know I can depend on its fact-based reporting to keep me up-to-date on what is going on regarding legislation and industry faux pas.

Thanks for all you do to keep your readers so well informed. You perform a highly valued service.

Jacque Schultz, New York

Enclosed is a long overdue donation. Keep fighting the good fight!

Jivleen Sandhu, Virginia

Thank you for the wonderful, dedicated work you do for the the greyhounds.

Alanna Watson, Florida

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

ARIZONA: Senate Bill 1329, a measure that would have ended Tucson Greyhound Park's exclusive right to operate off-track betting (OTB) in Pima County and threaten its survival, died in the Senate in the final days of the legislative session. The bill, had it passed, would have removed the "dome" over Pima County, which was created by the Legislature in 1994 to ensure that southern Arizona's racetracks would survive the advent of both simulcast wagering and Indian casino gaming, and would have allowed Turf Paradise to operate its own OTB sites in Tucson.

Breaking News: On Sept. 6, Tucson's KOLD-TV 13 reported on its 11:00 p.m. newscast that off-track betting on horse racing had abruptly ended in Tucson. Chris McConnell, TGP's general manager, said the horse racing signal to TGP and its nine OTB sites was cut off as retribution by Turf Paradise for not supporting SB 1329. Turf Paradise spokesman Vincent Francia disagreed, saying an offer was extended to TGP, but they never responded.

Sources: *Arizona Daily Star*: Howard Fischer; KOLD

ARKANSAS: Circuit Court judges in Crittenden and Garland Counties ruled in May in favor of Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis and the Oakland Park thoroughbred park in Hot Springs in lawsuits brought by the Family Action Council Committee to keep the tracks from offering electronic games of skill. Family Action has appealed the ruling to the Arkansas Supreme Court.

Both judges also ruled that Act 1151, a state law enacted in March 2005, is constitutional. The act authorized the two tracks to hold special elections to let voters decide the issue of expanded gambling. Voters in West Memphis and Hot Springs approved the measures last November.

On Aug. 1, the Arkansas Racing Commission (ARC) approved a request from Barry Baldwin, general manager of Southland Greyhound Park, to change the track's name to Southland Park Gaming & Racing. Baldwin said the name change will help promote "all the different activities that will be available," with electronic gaming and other entertainment options when the \$40 million expansion and renovation of the 50-year-old facility is completed.

State regulators have reviewed the new rules and regulations for the operation of electronic games of skill, employee licenses,

Dog Racing Ban Excluded from Massachusetts Ballot

The Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) July 13 ruled that the proposed Dog Protection Act cannot be placed on the November ballot. The measure would have increased criminal penalties for existing animal abuse and outlawed greyhound racing. The court found that combining several proposals into one ballot question would deprive voters of their right to exercise "a meaningful choice in the initiative process."

Chief Justice Margaret M. Marshall wrote in the unanimous opinion: "The aggregation of these two very different sets of laws [animal cruelty and pari-mutuel greyhound racing] into one petition that the voter must accept or reject would... deprive voters of their rights."

In its ruling, the SJC, the highest court in Massachusetts, also said Attorney General Tom Reilly's office should not have certified the question because it violates a provision in the state constitution that prohibits citizen initiatives that contain multiple, unrelated subjects.

The court's decision was a victory for George Carney, owner of the Raynham-Taunton Greyhound Park, who

challenged the ballot question Feb. 21 in a complaint filed with the SJC through his attorney, Joel Kozol. After the ruling, Kozol said, "It bears out the proposition that the voters are entitled to an up or down vote, and the attempt to mix in unrelated matters was improper."

In an editorial opinion published July 17, the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* stated: "We have no special fondness for Massachusetts' politically wired pari-mutuel dog racing industry, and we certainly deplore animal cruelty. However, the use of the emotional issue of animal abuse to leverage a ban on racing was a calculated abuse of the initiative petition process that the justices correctly and unanimously rejected."

Supporters of the Dog Protection Act included the Humane Society of the United States, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Animal Rescue League of Boston and Grey2K USA, who co-authored the Act. Campaign volunteers, who had collected more than 150,000 signatures, were stunned by the ruling.

Sources: *Boston Herald*: Associated Press; *Boston Globe*: *Telegraph & Gazette*: Denise LaVoie, Associated Press; *Taunton Gazette*: Gerry Tuoti

accounting and internal controls and security. Southland has presented its application and plan to the ARC, which is expected to approve the plan in October.

The track is expected to reopen its renovated facility in mid-November with 920 video poker and other gaming machines. Baldwin told the ARC that he expects the games to more than double the weekly purses offered at the dog track.

[Editor's Note: Southland is the sixth greyhound track in the fourth state that has been allowed by the state Legislature to operate electronic gaming. The Arkansas track follows Lincoln Park in Rhode Island, Bluffs Run and Dubuque in Iowa, and Wheeling Island in West Virginia.

Racetracks are licensed as pari-mutuel facilities and, as such, are *bound by statute* to continue offering live racing. Revenue from the machines is used to supplement purses, despite the decline of wagering on live racing. These six greyhound tracks are unlikely to ever close.]

Sources: *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*: Rodney Bowers; *Pine Bluff Commercial*: Ann Bergman, Associated Press; Arkansas News Bureau: Rob Moritz

FLORIDA: A lawsuit challenging voter approval of a state constitutional amendment allowing two South Florida counties to permit slot machine gambling at racetracks was reinstated by an appellate court Aug. 7. A three-judge panel of the Florida First District Court of Appeal ruled 2-1 that a favorable popular vote does not automatically validate a constitutional amendment.

The Humane Society of the United States and a greyhound advocacy group alleged in the lawsuit that slot backers submitted thousands of forged signatures, including those of dead people, in a petition campaign that put the measure on the 2004 ballot in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. Broward voters approved the amendment; Miami-Dade voters rejected the measure.

The appellate judges sent the case back to a Tallahassee circuit judge for a trial to determine if the amendment's sponsors submitted a sufficient number of valid signatures to qualify for the ballot. The appellate judges said if fraud is found, "the trial court should declare the slots initiative invalid."

Source: The Associated Press; Bill Kaczor

Greyhound Killing Field Uncovered in North East England

Seaham, County Durham: After receiving a tip from an industry insider, *The Sunday Times* launched an undercover investigation of a greyhound killing field in this small seaside town in North East England. The information led *Times* reporter Daniel Foggo and a photographer to the home of David Smith, a builder's merchant, who has operated an unofficial slaughterhouse behind his home for the greyhound racing industry for the last 15 years. Smith took over the "business" from his father.

On July 12, Foggo and the photographer covertly filmed the owners of two greyhounds paying Smith £10 for each dog before they were handed over for disposal. Smith led the two dogs, one a fawn brindle, the other black with white markings, into a block shed. "Seconds later two sharp reports rang out," Foggo wrote. "The dogs emerged lifeless and limp in Smith's bloodied wheelbarrow. He dumped them into a freshly dug hole on one side of his one-acre garden before covering the grave with earth." The dogs had been killed with a captive bolt gun, a weapon that fires a metal bar into the skull.

The following day, Smith told Foggo, who was posing as a dog owner who needed Smith's services, "I'm doing this as a service because the council and everyone who comes here . . . begged us not to pack it in because if I pack it in there will be dogs all over the streets."

When the reporter suggested Smith might run out of room in the garden to bury the dogs, Smith said it took him three years to fill the field, at which point he simply started all over again. "Within a year the bodies have gone," he said. "It takes about three years to get across there and by the time I get there I can start back here again and there are only a few bones left so it doesn't worry us."

According to the unidentified informant, Smith's disposal business has been a well-kept secret among greyhound trainers and owners. "Only doing two dogs a day is a bad day for him," the informant said. "It is not unheard of for him to do around 40 a day and if anyone ever digs up that garden, it will be like the killing fields."

Another industry insider told the *Times*, "This man kills dogs for 40 licensed trainers. Many of the bigwigs knew it was going on."

According to calculations by the *Times* and statements made by two racing insiders, it is conservatively estimated that Smith has killed at least 10,000 greyhounds.

Greyhound Activists Not Suprised

Dorothy Rothery, who runs a greyhound sanctuary in West Yorkshire, said thousands of greyhounds are disposed of each year under the noses of racing authorities. "It is a sordid secret, but nobody wants to know and it is about time it was exposed," Rothery said. "The RSPCA have told me they have not got time to pursue greyhound abusers and Parliament does not do anything because they are making too much money from the industry." According to the *Times*, £2.5 billion is wagered on dog racing each year and about £70 million goes to the government in tax.

Tony Peters, co-founder of Greyhound Action, said, "We estimate that in the British Isles as many as 40,000 greyhounds are bred every year and only a few of those greyhounds survive beyond three and a half years." Which is why, he said, "We are calling on the general public to boycott greyhound racing, not to bet on it, not to go to it, to tell all their friends and family to boycott it as well." [Visit Greyhound Action's website at www.greyhoundaction.org.uk to read all the articles on the killing field. —*Ed.*]

Government Response

The scandal sent shock waves through the government and the racing industry. Minister of Parliament Stephen Hepburn, who is pressing for tough action against the wholesale slaughter of former racing dogs, said, "The government is extending the Animal Welfare Bill and I hope this will help stamp out this awful practice."

Animal Welfare Minister Ben Bradshaw said the welfare bill "provides powers to introduce secondary legislation to regulate animal-related activities. We are considering making specific regulations" regarding the welfare of racing greyhounds. Bradshaw said the racing industry has been told to clean up its act. "If they can't clean up their act, Government will intervene."

Sources: *The Sunday Times*: Daniel Foggo; *Daily Mail* (London); *Sunderland Today*; *South Tyneside Today*: Terry Kelly; BBC News; *The Mirror* (London); *In The News*; *Nottingham Evening Post*; *The Racing Post*: Jim Cremin

EUROPE

Waterford, Ireland: The London *Daily Mail* June 3 reported that an abandoned greyhound whose ears had been cut off is recovering from her injuries. The 2-year-old dog, now named Aoife after the vet who treated her for loss of blood and dehydration, was found on a roadside in County Waterford in early May by members of the Waterford Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (WSPCA). Aoife's brutal treatment generated national media attention and hundreds of 'get well' messages and donations for her care.

In mid-August, the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) said it used DNA profiling to locate Aoife's owner. A hair sample from the dog was analyzed and compared to genetic records held in a central database of all Irish greyhounds. The Irish Coursing Club keeps the greyhound stud book and records of greyhounds bred in Ireland each year. The DNA records, which are kept at a laboratory in Kildare, are used to verify a dog's pedigree. This is the first time DNA profiling has been used to track an abusive owner.

The analysis confirmed Aoife's sire and the name of her Munster-based owner. When the investigation is complete, the IGB will hand over its evidence to gardai (police) in Tramore, who are expected to bring criminal charges against the owner.

The IGB investigation team will present its evidence to the IGB control committee in September. If Aoife's owner is convicted on a charge of cruelty and maltreatment of the greyhound, the person will be fined and banned from owning greyhounds and attending greyhound racetracks. The maximum fine is £2,000 but the committee is authorized to increase the amount if the case is deemed sufficiently serious.

WSPCA spokesman Andrew Quinn, who helped rescue the greyhound, told *The Sunday Times* that Aoife is being kept in a secret location by WSPCA, because of fears the animal may be kidnapped while the investigation is still in progress. "Until the case comes to a conclusion she won't be re-homed officially," Quinn said. "But she is extremely happy where she is with other greyhounds and she is fit and has put weight back on."

Sources: *Daily Mail*: Ann Mooney; *The Sunday Times*: Mark Tighe

International News Briefs

AUSTRALIA: A woman and her young son found the mutilated remains of six greyhounds August 15 while walking in bushland at Yendon, near Ballarat. She reported the gruesome find to the Moorabool Council, which identified the remains as greyhounds, but buried them before Greyhound Racing Victoria stewards could inspect them.

The bodies were exhumed by stewards four days later, and blood samples were taken to identify the animals through blood-line records; the dogs' ears had been cut off to prevent identification. Robert Dobrzynski, chief executive of the Moorabool Council, said, "This practice is abhorrent against common decency. Animals deserve better. Council will make every endeavour to investigate this thoroughly."

A Greyhound Adoption Program spokesperson said all breeding greyhounds were DNA tested, making it possible to identify the animals apart from their ear tattoos. Cutting off the dogs' ears "is completely unacceptable and we hope the perpetrators will be caught," the spokesperson said.

The adoption program was introduced in Victoria 10 years ago and has since adopted out 1,500 greyhounds.

Sources: *Herald Sun*: Grant McArthur; *The Ballarat Courier*

NEW ZEALAND: South Auckland greyhound racing veterinarian James Mason, who is responsible for official drug testing, has been banned from the sport for 10 years for doping dogs and then betting on them. Vets on duty on race days are forbidden to place bets. Glasgow-trained Mason, 46, denied placing bets on the dogs, but video surveillance showed him making and collecting bets. Mason also was fined \$5,000 following a judicial hearing.

Testimony was given at the July 28 hearing by Waikato trainer Ronald O'Regan, who said he saw Mason tampering with urine samples. The samples were sent by courier to an Auckland testing laboratory, but went missing two days later.

Greyhound racing journalist Peter Fenemor called the doping scandal an "absolute disaster," for the sport. The New Zealand Greyhound Racing Association also is under scrutiny for betting \$30,000 of its own money on greyhound races in an attempt to improve turnover.

Sources: *Sunday Star-Times*: Barry Lichter; *Waikato Times*: Aidan Rodley

Trainer Receives Probation in Greyhound's Death

Daytona Beach: Greyhound trainer Gene Wayne King, who faced two felony counts of animal cruelty for failing to obtain medical care for two greyhounds severely injured in a dog fight in his kennel, pleaded no contest Aug. 15 to a reduced misdemeanor cruelty charge. Prosecutor Sandy Derosiers asked for King to be locked up for two years after he pleaded no contest, but the judge ordered him released from jail, where he had been held since his arrest in February because he could not raise the \$20,000 bail. King must complete six months of probation.

King was the trainer for the Bad Boy Kennel at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. A racer named Petey, who was found with muscles and bones exposed from an attack by other dogs, died Nov. 24, 2005 following emergency surgery after he was left bleeding at the kennel for more than 24 hours. A second greyhound, Bert, was also injured but survived and has since been adopted.

Charges against John Douglas Fuhrman, the second defendant in the abuse case, were

dismissed Aug. 1 after his attorney successfully argued the state had charged him with cruelty by "omission or neglect" – language not found under the cruelty statute. Prosecutors with the State Attorney's Office plan to refile the charges.

Chris Miller, president of the Daytona Beach chapter of Greyhound Pets of America, said, "I don't know how the state law can read that it's not a crime to leave a dog bleeding on a board for 24 hours." Miller arranged for the



Photo courtesy of Chris Miller, GPA Daytona Beach

Bert, badly injured in a dog fight, survived and has been adopted.

transport of both dogs to an emergency animal clinic after receiving a call from another kennel.

Miller said one good outcome of Petey's death is that an emergency animal clinic has been set up near the track and kennel areas, "so if other dogs are hurt, they go right there."

Dan Francati, general manager of the Daytona dog track, said they no longer use the services of the Bad Boy Kennel. "We didn't renew their contract."

Source: *Daytona Beach News-Journal*: Jay Stapleton

Florida Racing Greyhounds Injured During Hauling Mishap

Columbia, South Carolina: Three racing greyhounds fell out of a moving hauling vehicle onto the interstate after one of the doors opened accidentally. Two of the dogs were rescued, but a third is still missing.

On Saturday, May 6, 30 racing dogs from the Bad Boy Kennel at the Daytona Beach track were loaded into a hauler bound for Belmont, New Hampshire. Sometime after midnight along a rural section of I-95 in South Carolina, the driver of the hauler was flagged down by motorists. The driver notified the kennel owner who then called Chris Miller, president of Greyhound Pets of America (GPA), Daytona Beach Chapter. Miller sent out a missing greyhounds alert via the Internet.

On Sunday afternoon, Doug and Elizabeth Mayer of Chapin were driving home

along I-95 and spotted a muzzled greyhound standing in the median. The Mayer's placed the injured dog into their vehicle and brought her to the South Carolina Veterinary Emergency Care Clinic. Emergency medical care was arranged for by GPA-South Carolina.

The 2-year-old female greyhound, identified as Mahogany, suffered from dehydration and extensive wounds, including scrapes and road rash, said Gretchen Dillon-Sauer, who works at the clinic. Mahogany is recuperating at the home of a GPA volunteer.

One of Mahogany's kennel mates, September Bride, also has been found and is in the care of Greyhound Lifesavers in Lexington. The third greyhound, Sparks, has not been found.

Source: *The State*: Robin Cowie Nalepa

State Investigates the Disappearance of 100 to 200 Greyhounds from Tucson Dog Track

Tucson, Arizona: The Arizona Department of Racing has launched an investigation into allegations that 100 to 200 greyhounds at Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) have disappeared. The investigation was opened in response to a complaint filed by the Greyhound Protection League (GPL), which alleges that retired greyhounds had not been transferred to Colorado adoption groups, despite repeated claims to the contrary by TGP management.

According to GPL President Susan Netboy, the allegations of missing dogs from Tucson have been circulating among greyhound advocates since winter. Netboy said the disappearances occurred during multiple hauls from Tucson to Colorado. "The greyhounds did not arrive at their destination, to the best of our knowledge." None of the Colorado adoption groups contacted by advocates has acquired Tucson dogs.

GPL is offering up to \$1,000 for information leading to the recovery of the dogs. The bi-lingual reward posters began appearing in South Tucson in early September.

Netboy wrote to the Colorado Division of Racing about the missing dogs in February and requested a formal investigation, but

the case became inactive after several months. On July 24, Netboy faxed a letter to Geoffrey Gonsler, Director of the Arizona Department of Racing, requesting a formal investigation into the missing dogs. "These concerns are serious enough for us to look into," Gonsler said. The department is working with its Colorado counterparts.

Tony Fasulo, the Tucson track's chief operating officer, said the track uses a Colorado-based trainer to haul the dogs to their next destinations. "He takes them to his farm in Colorado, and from there he takes them to various adoption groups."

Netboy and other greyhound protection activists have raised concerns about the Tucson track for more than a decade. TGP is widely known as an end-of-the-line track. Racing dogs that end their careers at the South Tucson track have nowhere left to run. The track's kennel compound can hold about 700 dogs, but the actual number fluctuates daily, according to general manager Chris McConnell.

Mike Brimmer, the state's chief steward at TGP, estimated that 20-25 dogs need to be adopted each month. Adoption groups, however, disputed that number. "There are

so many dogs up for adoption all the time, the limited number of groups here can't handle them all," said Lorri Tracy, founder of the Greyhound Adoption League. Tracy and others said they believe about 500 dogs need to be placed each year. The actual adoption numbers are unknown.

TGP has some of the lowest purses in the country, and as such its dogs are either beginning or ending their careers. This creates a backlog of retired racers that take up space. The backlog of dogs has been going on since last year. In October, McConnell issued letters to dog owners demanding they pick up their "abandoned" dogs within a week to make room for other racers.

Update: As of mid-September, the racing department's investigation of the missing greyhounds had not been completed. The Colorado hauler, who has not been identified in the press, is scheduled to appear at a stewards hearing at the Phoenix office of the Arizona Department of Racing Oct. 4. An additional \$3,100 has been pledged to augment the \$1,000 reward fund established by the Greyhound Protection League — www.greyhounds.org.

Source: *The Arizona Daily Star*: Josh Brodesky

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS
P.O. Box 44272
Phoenix, AZ 85064-4272

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