

Dog electrocuted during Tucson Greyhound Park race, city official says

21 HOURS AGO • KIMBERLY MATAS ARIZONA DAILY STAR

A dog was electrocuted Friday night while racing at Tucson Greyhound Park and a Tucson councilman said it's the second such death in a month.

Video posted on the Tucson Greyhound Park shows a dog in a green jersey running with the pack in the 14th race. As the dogs round the first turn, the dog in the green jersey is bumped by another dog and driven into an electrified rail in the center of the track that carries the lure.

Near the end of the race, the video shows the lure stop and the greyhounds gathering around it.

What the video doesn't show is why the lure is stopped, said Tucson City Councilman Steve Kozachik, an outspoken opponent of Tucson Greyhound Park. He was not at the track Friday night, but said he got calls from people who witnessed the incident.

After the dog was electrocuted a man ran onto the track to try to help the dog, Kozachik said. The lure operator shut down the electrified rail so the man on the track did not get injured.

It is the second time in a month a dog has been electrocuted at the track, Kozachik said.

The previous incident occurred during a schooling race, which gives dogs an opportunity to qualify for official races.

Kozachik said the only barrier between the dirt track and the electrified rail is a small, concrete curb.

Telephone messages left Saturday afternoon for Dale Popp, general manager of Tucson Greyhound Park, and the owners of the dog and the kennel that trained the dog were not returned.

Arizona is one of just 12 states where commercial greyhound racing is legal, according to the nonprofit greyhound advocacy organization, Grey2K USA.