

Greyhound advocates celebrate as bill moves through legislation

February 11, 2016

10:37 AM MST

GREY2K USA Worldwide has a single goal in mind: to stop [greyhound racing](#) and relegate it to history as fast as humanly possible. To that end, they have been travelling around the country helping local activists learn how they can help stop greyhound racing in their state. Some of the most startling statistics about greyhound racing put the state of Florida squarely in the crosshairs of GREY2K USA's efforts. Florida's claim to fame is that **of the nineteen tracks that remain open around the country, twelve are in Florida**. Greyhound racing is so inherently cruel, thirty-nine states have outlawed greyhound racing outright.

Obviously, most days in Florida are not fitting for doing anything but going from an air-conditioned home to an air-conditioned car to an air-conditioned office. The killer heat in Florida affects animals just as it does humans. Forcing dogs to run in the blinding and scorching sun is animal cruelty. But it doesn't stop there. Greyhound injuries and deaths go unreported but GREY2K USA is working with Tallahassee on a bill to change that. Yesterday, activists had a reason to celebrate as a bill that would not only require racetracks to report injuries, but could possibly shut down tracks around the state altogether.

According to a statement released by GREY2K USA's co-founders Carey Theil and Christine Dorchak, Esq., "The House Regulatory Affairs Committee passed a bill that makes changes to the state's gambling laws by a vote of 12-6! Thankfully, this measure included several greyhound protection measures including greyhound decoupling and injury reporting. This vote means we are one step closer to phasing out dog racing in Florida! The bill will now go to at least one other committee, before being voted on by the full House of Representatives."

As it stands now, Florida State mandates require racetracks to include live racing at their venues if they want to continue to engage in other forms of betting, such as slot machines and gambling. This mandate has caused a major loss for taxpayers and for track operators.

According to GREY2K USA, “Decoupling is not about whether dog racing should be legal, but whether the state should force a business to conduct one activity so that it may offer another.”

An **action alert** has been issued by GREY2K USA asking Florida activists to please call the members of the Senate Regulated Industries Committee and ask them to vote yes on any bill that would include greyhound decoupling.

Making a few phone calls only takes a minute or two of your time, but consider this: a greyhound dies every three days in Florida. They are confined to tiny crates for most of the day and without a cooling system or room to move around. Thousands of dogs are bred and killed for an industry that is dying around the country. It's time for Florida to step up and do the right thing.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- **Help end dog racing in Florida and save a greyhounds life**
 - **Greyhound activists hold demonstrations across the state**
-



Michelle A. Rivera

West Palm Beach Animal Rights Examiner