

THE BUZZ

From the staff of the Tampa Bay Times

Voters in one county could have say on tougher dog track regulations



Jeremy Wallace, Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

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A non-profit group dedicated to ending dog racing has cleared a key hurdle to require more public disclosure of dog racing injuries at a key central Florida race track and open that facility up to more inspections from regulators.

GREY2K USA is one of the groups behind the Committee to Protect Greyhounds, which announced it had collected more than 18,000 signatures to force the Seminole County Commission to vote on tougher dog track regulations or put the issue to a county wide vote in the fall. The referendum is directed only at the Sanford Orlando Kennel Club, which Committee to Protect Greyhounds said has had 27 greyhounds die at the facility since 2013.

“Our humane proposal will ensure that greyhound injuries at the Sanford Orlando Kennel Club are disclosed to the public, require trainers to report on the fate of dogs that leave the track, and eliminate a special interest loophole that exempts racing greyhounds from animal licensing and inspection laws,” the Committee to Protect Greyhounds said in a statement.

Florida is one of five states that still have active dog racing tracks. There are 12 active dog racing tracks in Florida.

Besides GREY2K USA, the Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, Humane Society of the United States, ASPCA and Greyhound Adoptions of Florida have also endorsed the potential ballot initiative.

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