



Greyhound racing in Alabama and 6 other states face wagering woes, racing foes

The Associated Press By **The Associated Press**

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Greyhound racing is illegal in 39 states, and waning interest and profits have shuttered racing in four others. In most of the places where it continues, track operators want lawmakers to boost or continue to boost their businesses.

Alabama is one of the last seven states with dog racing. Two tracks, one in Birmingham and the other just outside Mobile, hold live racing year-round.

Each is regulated by a county racing commission rather than the state. The tracks are not required to report greyhound injuries.

Mobile Greyhound Park is owned by the Poarch Creek Indian tribe's gambling arm, which also runs three casinos in Alabama and the Pensacola Greyhound Track and Poker Room in Florida's Panhandle.

Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Iowa, Texas and West Virginia also have dog racing operations. Dog racing operations there and in Alabama face mounting challenges.

"Eventually, these tracks can't continue," said Eddie Menton, an 18-year member of the Mobile County Racing Commission. "We just don't know when that is."

"This track is in kind of a survival mode," said Kip Keefer, the executive director of the Birmingham Racing Commission, "just trying to hang on in the hopes that something happens."

AL.com staff reporters contributed to this report.

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