EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning in 1948, greyhound racing existed at multiple tracks in Colorado until finally ending in 2008. An examination of the record indicates that there were significant humane issues documented during this period.

Confinement

- Greyhounds endured lives of confinement at Colorado racetracks, kept in warehouse style kennels in rows of stacked cages
- According to the Colorado Division of Racing Events, the minimum dimensions for dog track cages were 29 inches by 40 inches by 29 inches
- This confinement is documented by photographs taken at Cloverleaf Greyhound Park in 2008
- Because greyhounds are kept confined, a transitional period is often necessary before they can be placed for adoption

Injuries

- Between 1993 and 2007, 2,636 greyhound injuries were reported at Colorado dog tracks
- Most of these injuries appear to have been serious and involved broken bones

Dying Industry

- Greyhound racing has ended at all five racetracks once offering live racing
- Gambling on dog racing declined annually since at least 1998
- The final remaining track to offer live greyhound racing lost $700,000 in 2007
- State regulators and racetrack executives have publicly stated that dog racing is no longer viable
- The Colorado Division of Racing Events has publicly stated that the reintroduction of greyhound racing would require an appropriation of state funds

Other Issues

- In 2006 a Colorado greyhound breeder was fined and had his license permanently suspended after nearly 200 dogs disappeared while in his control
- In 2004 a greyhound trainer was fined $500 and suspended for 90 days after a greyhound tested positive for cocaine at a Colorado dog track
- A greyhound trainer was repeatedly fined in 2006 for “mistreatment of (a) racing animal” after greyhounds under her control were found to be severely infested with ticks
- Thirteen greyhounds died on a Colorado breeding farm in a barn fire in 2005
- In 2005 Cloverleaf Kennel Club closed temporarily after at least 100 dogs fell ill due to an outbreak of kennel cough

Greyhound Racing in Colorado | November 2010
Greyhound racing was legalized in Colorado in 1948. Three dog tracks opened the following year: Mile High Kennel Club in Commerce City, Pueblo Greyhound Park, and Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park in Colorado Springs. Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park would later be named Post Time. In 1955, Cloverleaf Kennel Club was built in Loveland, followed in 1971 by the Interstate Kennel Club in Byers.

In 2003, the state legislature legalized simulcast gambling on greyhound racing, allowing Coloradans to wager on dog races held elsewhere.


Despite this history, Mel Johnson, president of the Colorado Greyhound Breeders Association publicly stated in 2010 that he is interested in opening a new greyhound racing track in the state:

"We are interested in building a greyhound track in Colorado. This way we can send our greyhound signals to other states and countries to bring in business."

---

3 Terry Frei, Colorado tracks gone (forever) to the dogs, Denver Post, May 27, 2010.
4 Frei.
5 Frei; Greyhound Network News.
6 Ibid.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid.
9 Ibid.
11 Frei.
12 Terry Frei, Response from Mel Johnson, president of the Colorado Greyhound Breeders Association, Denver Post, June 1, 2010.
When dog racing existed in Colorado, thousands of greyhounds endured lives of confinement.

When not competing, they were kept in warehouse style kennels in rows of stacked cages. A few times per month, they were taken to the track to compete, and were similarly confined while waiting to race.

According to the Colorado Division of Racing Events, the minimum dimensions for dog track cages in Colorado were 29 inches by 40 inches by 29 inches.\(^\text{13}\)

According to the American Greyhound Council, greyhounds stand between 23 inches and 30 inches tall at the shoulder, and weigh between 50 and 85 pounds.\(^\text{14}\) Large greyhounds cannot stand fully erect in dog track cages.

This housing model is documented by photographs taken by GREY2K USA Board Member Charmaine Settle at Cloverleaf Greyhound Park in April 2008.\(^\text{15}\)

Because racing greyhounds have been extensively confined, a transition period is often necessary when they are made available for adoption. Several Colorado greyhound adoption advocates publicly spoke about this transition period in a 2004 news report.\(^\text{16}\) According to Curtis Cloutier, who fosters greyhounds for Colorado Greyhound Adoption:

“It takes at least a week or so for their true personality to come out ... Stairs are a huge challenge for them. They've never seen stairs before ... cats are a totally alien concept. And you have to watch out for sliding glass doors.”\(^\text{17}\)

The need for a transition after greyhounds have lived at a racetrack was also echoed by adoption advocate Bev McInnis:

“Anything in a home is new to them, especially if it makes a sudden noise. They'll race to the other side of the house to get away from it because they're not familiar with it.”\(^\text{18}\)

Finally, Colorado Greyhound Adoption president Rick Bender indicated that when greyhounds enter his facility, they are not familiar with chew toys:

“That is not something they've had before.”\(^\text{19}\)

---

13 Daniel J. Hartman, Division Director, Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, letter to GREY2K USA dated May 4, 2007.
15 Charmaine Settle, photographic evidence taken at Cloverleaf Greyhound Park on April 5, 2008.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
19 Ibid.
A significant number of greyhounds were injured while racing in Colorado. Specifically, 2,636 greyhound injuries were reported in the state between 1993 and 2007, according to statistics provided by the Colorado Division of Racing Events.²⁰

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994-95</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-96</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996-97</td>
<td>218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-98</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-00</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-01</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-02</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-03</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-04</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Most Greyhound Injuries Were Serious**

Most of these injuries appear to have been serious. For example, in 2007 more than 55% of reported injuries involved broken bones, including broken legs and fractured spines.²¹

---

²⁰ Daniel J. Hartman, Division Director, Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, letter to GREY2K USA dated June 1, 2007.

²¹ Jennifer Davis, DVM, Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, letter to Bill Alexander dated March 9, 2009 (reporting the total number of greyhound injuries in 2007 as 67).
Gambling on live greyhound racing experienced a significant decline before eventually ending in 2008. Since at least 1998, wagering on live dog racing dropped every year.\textsuperscript{22}

![Amount Gambled on Dog Racing, 1998-2009](image)

This decline is also documented by actual racetrack losses. For example, according to Bruce Seymore, general manager at Mile High Kennel Club, the track lost $700,000 in 2007.\textsuperscript{23} Seymore also made public statements in 2010 indicating that he believes greyhound racing is no longer viable in the state:

"From my point of view, live dog racing is dead in the state of Colorado."\textsuperscript{24}

A report released in 2010 by the Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events also called into question the viability of greyhound racing:

"Over the past eighteen months, the greyhound industry has not only seen the closure of the Mile High Greyhound Park track in the Denver area, but has also seen major racing facilities in Phoenix, Arizona and outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin bring their meets to an end. Additionally, racetracks throughout New England have been closed by voter referendum. The popularity of the sport of greyhound racing is extremely tenuous. Given that reality and the economic climate in general at this time, resurgence of the live greyhound racing industry in Colorado is unlikely."\textsuperscript{25}

Finally, it is worth noting that the same state report indicates that the reintroduction of greyhound racing in Colorado would require an appropriation of state funds:

"Should at some time in the future, a racetrack operator/association wish to revive live greyhound racing, the Division would not have the available staffing to conduct the greyhound meet and, thus, would need to seek an appropriation to restore the essential regulatory positions."\textsuperscript{26}

\textsuperscript{22} Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, Annual Reports for the years 1998 to 2009, inclusive, online at http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/Rev-Racing/RRAC/1209030657498 (last visited on November 16, 2010.)
\textsuperscript{23} Aaron J. Lopez, End of season appears near at Mile High Greyhound Park, Rocky Mountain News, May 28, 2008.
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid.
Colorado greyhound breeder disciplined after hundreds of greyhounds disappear

In 2006, a Colorado greyhound breeder and trainer was fined $1,000 and had his license permanently suspended by racing authorities in Arizona after nearly 200 greyhounds disappeared while in his control.\(^\text{27}\)

The dogs were sent to his farm in El Paso County from an Arizona dog track for the purpose of being adopted. The dogs subsequently disappeared, causing regulators to state that he “disposed of these greyhounds in an inhumane manner.”\(^\text{28}\)

Greyhound tests positive for cocaine

A greyhound trainer was fined $500 and suspended for 90 days after a dog tested positive for cocaine at a Colorado dog track. The greyhound, named MG Super Cool, tested positive for the drug after a race on October 9, 2004.\(^\text{29}\)

Greyhound trainer cited for “mistreatment of (a) racing animal”

A greyhound trainer at Mile High Kennel Club was repeatedly fined in 2006 for “mistreatment of (a) racing animal” after greyhounds under her control were found to be severely infested with ticks.\(^\text{30}\) According to state records, in one incident “almost 30 ticks” were found on the feet of a greyhound named LPD Caryl when she was examined before racing.

Greyhounds die in kennel barn fire

In May of 2005 thirteen greyhounds died on a breeding farm in Adams County after a barn caught fire. When firefighters arrived, they were only able to rescue three greyhounds, a mother and her two pups. Outside the barn, there were 74 additional greyhounds in crates.\(^\text{31}\)

Dog track closes due to illness

In April 2005, Cloverleaf Kennel Club closed temporarily after at least 100 dogs fell ill due to an outbreak of kennel cough.\(^\text{32}\) According to track general manager John Manning, the virus spread quickly throughout the kennel compound:

“There’s not much you can do because its an airborne illness and very, very contagious. When one kennel comes down with it, they all get it.” \(^\text{33}\)

---

30 Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, citation 2686 dated July 22, 2006 and supporting documentation; Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, citation 2687 dated July 22, 2006 and supporting documentation; Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Racing Events, citation 2692 dated August 1, 2006 and supporting documentation.
## INDEX

1. Rocky Mountain News | Retired greyhounds find good life in the slow lane | p.8
2. Rocky Mountain News | Wembley PLC sells U.S. holdings | p.10
3. Associated Press | Greyhound tests positive for cocaine | p.12
4. The Denver Post | Kennel cough hits Cloverleaf | p.13
5. The Denver Post | Fire destroys kennel barn | p.14
6. KUSA TV News | Colorado trainer under investigation over missing greyhounds | p.15
7. The Coloradoan | Cloverleaf Kennel Club shuts doors for good | p.16
8. Reporter-Herald | Cloverleaf Kennel Club auction | p.17
9. Rocky Mountain News | End of season appears near at MHGP | p.19
10. The Denver Post | Place state bets on simulcasts | p.20
11. The Denver Post | Dog-betting bill races to finish | p.22
12. The Denver Post | Colorado tracks gone forever to the dogs | p.23
13. The Denver Post | Response from Mel Johnson, president of CGBA | p.27
Retired greyhounds find good life in the slow lane

By Rebecca Jones, Rocky Mountain News
January 5, 2004

Curtis Cloutier runs what you might think of as a halfway house for dogs.

Dinner comes at a certain time, they get out of their kennels to exercise at a certain time, lights out comes at a certain time. And the distractions that fill a pet dog's day - cats, chew toys, mail carriers - well, there's no such distractions at the track. Track life is very no-nonsense.

Yet these dogs may be no more than 3 to 5 years old. They still can have a long career as a pet ahead of them, but they've got to put their old life behind them first. Cloutier and other greyhound-loving volunteers are the first step in their transition from racer to pet.

"It takes at least a week or so for their true personality to come out," says Cloutier, who has fostered at least 50 racing greyhounds for Colorado Greyhound Adoption over the past six years. They've stayed in his care for as little as a few days to several weeks while he introduces them to pet life, in preparation for going into their forever-home.

"Stairs are a huge challenge for them," he says. "They've never seen stairs before. Some dogs pick it up right away. Others, it takes awhile."

"And cats... cats are a totally alien concept," says Cloutier, who also shares his home with two felines, as well as one permanent greyhound resident. "And you have to watch out for sliding glass doors. They're sight hounds, and they don't have a concept of glass. If they see a squirrel, they may take off after it and crash into the door."

Colorado Greyhound Adoption is one of five greyhound adoption organizations along the Front Range. Each group has a slightly different philosophy or serves a slightly different population, but they all try to maintain good ties with the racing kennels and the dog tracks in Colorado.

When racing season ends at a track, that's typically the time a kennel owner will assess his dogs and decide which ones just can't cut it as racers any longer. Then they give a call to one of the rescue groups.

"There's a steady supply," says Rick Bender, president of the 6-year-old Colorado Greyhound Adoption, which places around 400 dogs a year into new homes. "We typically have about 35 dogs in foster care at any one time."

Finding adoptive homes for retired racers isn't hard. They make marvelous pets, for they were bred specifically for two qualities: speed and friendliness toward humans. The speed drops off at some point, but the friendliness will last a lifetime.
"The biggest misconception people have about greyhounds is they feel they can't have one because they need a huge back yard," Bender says. "That's not true. These dogs' nickname is 'the 45-mph couch potato.' They take their retirement very seriously. They really do just lounge around. They're not hyper dogs."

Bev McInnis, of Centennial, is another longtime foster care provider for racers. Her favorite dog was a 10-year-old brood matron who stayed with her for six weeks.

"The older girls are very, very grateful to be out of the kennel, to be in a warm house, to have soft beds," says McInnis. "They're real happy just to lie around and take naps in the sun for the rest of their days. They are very undemanding and very pleasant to be around. They probably make the best pets, if people would just look beyond their age."

But even after fostering about 25 greyhounds, McInnis still gets surprised by some of the things other pets take for granted that greyhounds find astounding.

"Your blender," she says. "Your coffee grinder. Vacuum cleaners are a big thing. TVs will fascinate them. And mirrors! They try to get behind the mirrors to find the dog that's in there. Anything in a home is new to them, especially if it makes a sudden noise. They'll race to the other side of the house to get away from it because they're not familiar with it."

"They're adults, but they act like puppies because they've got this whole new world to explore and investigate," says Bender, who has declared himself a foster caregiver of last resort only because he finds it nearly impossible to part with the dogs who come into his care. "But they adapt amazingly quickly. And they figure out what a dog bed is really fast."

Same with chew toys. "That's not something they've had before," he says. "And they learn real quick."
Wembley PLC sells U.S. holdings

Colo. racetrack operator part of $359 million deal

By John Accola, Rocky Mountain News
February 9, 2005

The British parent of Colorado racetrack operator Wembley USA announced plans Tuesday to sell its U.S. holdings to a consortium of hotel and gambling interests.

The $359 million deal led by Starwood Capital Group and casino operators Kerzner International and Waterford Group hinges on lender financing and whether state regulators in Rhode Island approve Wembley’s new owners.

London-based Wembley PLC derives the lion’s share of its income from the video-lottery gaming profits of a single dog track in Rhode Island.

Under the purchase agreement, the consortium BLB Investors LLC - Wembley's biggest shareholder with a 22 percent stake - is paying $20 million for Wembley USA, the Aurora-based subsidiary that runs three Front Range greyhound tracks and Colorado's only horse track in Arapahoe County.

For 10 years, Wembley's books have valued the Colorado holdings at $45 million. In 1995, more than $16 million was spent just in renovations at Wembley Park, the flagship greyhound track in Commerce City that also doubles as a practice facility and headquarters for the Colorado Crush Arena Football League team.

Wembley USA President Ty Howard said the latest round of negotiations with BLB started several months ago. The deal follows last year's bid battle for Wembley PLC between BLB and MGM Mirage, which BLB won but later fell short of getting full shareholder approval.

"I have met with them (BLB Investors), and they don't plan to change what we are doing here," said Howard, who oversees a $10 million annual payroll for the company's 550 Colorado employees.

In Colorado, Wembley has a virtual lock on the racetrack business, with its four racetracks and an off-track gaming parlor in Aurora accounting for most of the $186 million wagered in 2004.

Although that's down from $207 million in 1990, BLB spokesman Michael Doyle said Tuesday the consortium is pleased with Wembley USA's business strategy, including its expansion into food services and special-event hosting for weddings, trade shows and private parties.

Separately, Wembley PLC said it plans to auction its profitable British gaming business, which runs six dog tracks. Wembley, one of the oldest names in British sports, began a worldwide liquidation of its assets in 1999, starting with the sale of its famed 80,000-seat stadium and surrounding real estate outside London.

Wembley, which hopes to close the deal by May 30, said it needs approval from Rhode Island's legislature of a new revenue-sharing agreement with the state to increase the number of video lottery terminals at its Lincoln Park racetrack from 3,002 to 4,752.
BLB also has agreed to spend $125 million remodeling Lincoln Park, the state's only track with the slot machine-like devices.

Tuesday's announcement comes in the second week of a criminal trial in Providence federal court where two former Wembley executives and Wembley's Lincoln Park Inc. are charged with criminal conspiracy. Prosecutors allege the defendants attempted to bribe former Rhode Island legislator John Harwood in hopes of getting approval for more video slots at the track.

Doyle said the uncertain outcome of the trial isn't a factor in the deal. Wembley has entered an agreement with the U.S. Justice Department to pay as much as $8 million in penalties if Lincoln Park is found guilty of wrongdoing.

"Anything related to the trial is separated from this thing," Doyle said.

Two of Wembley's former Colorado executives brought the Rhode Island investigation to light when they filed suit in Denver District Court in May 2001. Former President Francis Sherman and Chief Financial Officer David Brents alleged they were fired for refusing to approve a six-year contract that would pay Harwood's law firm millions of dollars for unspecified services. The lawsuit was settled out of court, under a confidential agreement, in December 2001.

Colorado racing director Dan Hartman said BLB Investors, as a major Wembley shareholder since last year, already has been approved to operate in the state.

"It looks like a good company," Hartman said. "They've gone through all our background (checks)."
Greyhound tests positive for cocaine
Friday February 11, 2006

DENVER (AP) A dog trainer at Wembley Park in Commerce City has been fined $500 and penalized after one of his greyhounds tested positive for cocaine.

A state official said only a trace amount was detected, while a greyhound advocate said the test result raised questions about the integrity of betting at Wembley Park.

State Division of Racing records show the test was done on a urine sample from a greyhound named MG Super Cool who ran fourth at Interstate Kennel Club Greyhound Racing at Wembley Park on Oct. 9.

Division Director Dan Hartman said a "very low trace amount" of cocaine was detected but that it was impossible to tell whether it came from the dog's feed or if the sample was contaminated from another source. The dog's trainer, Steve Bunn, was penalized because Colorado has zero tolerance for banned substances, he said.

Bunn did not say where the cocaine came from but was fined and agreed to undergo drug counseling and rehabilitation at his expense in a settlement signed Dec. 16. Penalties also included a 30-day suspended license and the loss of purses from the race. Hartman did not know the purse amount Bunn forfeited. Under terms of settlement, 87 days of the license suspension would be canceled if Bunn and his dogs fulfilled terms of the settlement.

Division officials also will be able to test Bunn randomly in the next year for drugs.

Bunn did not return a phone message seeking comment.

The settlement showed that investigators found no cocaine in Bunn's kennel. Hartman said investigators found nothing linking the cocaine directly to Bunn, and the case was not referred to police or federal officials.

The greyhound protection group Grey2K USA, which opposes greyhound racing, uncovered the test after a routine request for records from state regulators.

In the last year, Rhode Island officials have confirmed that four greyhounds that raced at the dog track at Lincoln Park tested positive for cocaine and one dog tested positive in Massachusetts, the Somerville, Mass.-based group notes. There have been 109 positive tests in Florida in the last three years.

Grey2K USA President Carey Theil said it's unclear why the greyhounds would be given cocaine, but speculated that the drug could affect the outcome of a race. Theil said it appeared the greyhound in Commerce City may not have been intentionally drugged:

"Either scenario is troubling. In fact, I'm not sure which is worse, that greyhound trainers use cocaine to fix races, or they're handling dogs while under the influence of serious narcotics like cocaine," Theil said.

"Any time you have dogs testing positive for serious narcotics like this, it calls into question the integrity of wagers at Wembley Park."

Hartman said it was the first positive test for cocaine that he had seen in his 12 years with the division.
Kennel cough hits Cloverleaf

By Bill Briggs
Denver Post Staff Writer

Thursday, April 28, 2005

The Cloverleaf dog track in Loveland will close today because of an outbreak of kennel cough among its greyhounds.

"Just about every kennel racing here has some sickness," said John Manning, general manager of the Cloverleaf Kennel Club that owns the track.

"As a precaution, most of the kennels are taking their dogs off the active list or scratching them because if they race with this sickness, it makes it worse," Manning said. "We're running short of greyhounds right now."

Since last Thursday, the virus has forced 100 dogs to be scratched from Cloverleaf races. About 20 kennels from northern Colorado and Denver are affiliated with the track.

Some of the greyhounds that fell ill last week have recovered, but the outbreak continues to spread, Manning said.

"It takes about three days to run its course," he said.

Cloverleaf plans to hold doubleheaders Friday and Saturday but may be closed Sunday as a result of the virus, Manning said.

Veterinarians can administer a Bordetella vaccine, given nasally. That helps protect dogs but can't completely prevent kennel cough.

"It's a virus," Manning said. "It's like the flu in a human. You can medicate it, make it better and make it go away a little faster. But really there's not much you can do because it's an airborne illness and very, very contagious. When one kennel comes down with it, they all get it."

This month, dog tracks in Houston, Kansas City, Mo., and St. Petersburg, Fla., have suffered similar outbreaks. Kennel cough usually is not fatal and often clears up without treatment.

Bill Briggs can be reached at 303-820-1720 or bbriggs@denverpost.com.
Fire destroys kennel barn; 13 dogs killed

May 1, 2005

Kirk Mitchell
Denver Post Staff Writer

A fire early Saturday killed 13 greyhounds and destroyed a barn owned by dog breeders in Adams County.

Firefighters rescued three greyhounds - a mother and her two pups - from inside the barn before it was too unstable to enter, said Wendy Krajewski, spokeswoman for North Metro Fire Rescue.

"I'm amazed that any dogs were saved," Krajewski said. "When they arrived, the barn was completely engulfed."

Firefighters did save 74 greyhounds that were in crates just outside the barn, she said.

Fire investigators have not determined the cause of the blaze, but do not suspect foul play, she said.

A passer-by called the fire department at 2:26 a.m. and woke the owners of the greyhound kennel at 16201 Colorado 7.

Mountain View and Brighton fire departments were also called in to maintain water supply to the remote property.

Firefighters were able to carry many of the dogs to safety because they were in crates, Krajewski said.

Seven greyhound adults and six puppies were killed.

A car and cooling equipment that were inside the barn also were torched, Krajewski said.

Staff writer Kirk Mitchell can be reached at 303-820-1206 or kmitchell@denverpost.com.
Colorado trainer under investigation over missing greyhounds

written by: Anasasiya Bolton  Reporter
posted by: Jeffrey Wolf  Video Producer

Created: 10/25/2006 7:02 PM MST  Updated: 10/26/2006 11:33 AM MST

KUSA - Nearly 200 greyhounds are missing and a Colorado dog trainer and breeder is under investigation.

According to an Arizona Department of Racing document, the agency believes Richard Favreau has "disposed of these greyhounds in an inhumane manner."

The Department of Racing says Tucson Greyhound Park contracted with Favreau to ship 192 retired greyhounds to his facility in El Paso County and to place them in adoption agencies.

The Greyhound Protection League, a California-based group, says starting in December 2005 through July 2006, Favreau made multiple trips from Arizona to Colorado, hauling close to 200 dogs. Tuscon Greyhound Park paid him $150 per animal.

The general manager of the Tuscon Greyhound Park did not return calls to 9NEWS Wednesday.

The director of the Arizona Department of Racing says Favreau has not been able to provide documentation accounting for all the dogs.

"This is an atypical situation that requires our greatest attention," said Geoffrey Gonsher, director of the Arizona Department of Racing. "We want to be sure they're taken to proper destinations and they're cared for properly."

While the probe continues, Favreau has been fined $1,000 and his license has been suspended.

Gonsher has the authority to permanently suspend Favreau's license and fine him up to $5,000.

The next hearing in the case is in November.

The Greyhound Protection League says only eight of the dogs Favreau transported have been placed with a local adoption agency.

Greyhound advocates nationwide have put up a $10,000 reward for information leading to the missing dogs.

9NEWS has been unable to contact Favreau to comment on this story.
Cloverleaf Kennel Club in Loveland, suffering from dwindling crowds and increased limited stakes casino gambling, shut its doors for good Monday afternoon laying off about 10 workers.

A longtime employee said workers were told at about 3:30 p.m. to cash out and be ready to go at 4 p.m.

Cloverleaf Kennel Club announced last year it would not run dogs this year for the first time since 1955 and has instead relied on its bar business and off-track betting on horse and dog races televised via satellite.

The greyhound season runs February to June.

Keli Murray, who managed the bar for eight years, said the board of directors came in and met with General Manager John Manning at 3:30 p.m. then sent officer personnel around to tell workers to cash out and be ready to leave.

Manning was unavailable for comment Monday night.

Murray said she had about a half a dozen "regulars" at the bar and about 10 others at the facility when it closed Monday.

Daily operations had already been reduced to a single room where bettors monitored races, general manager John Manning told the Coloradoan last year.

The facility, sandwiched between the Medical Center of the Rockies and Fort Collins/Loveland Airport, sits on 42 highly desirable and developable acres just north of the booming Interstate 25/U.S. 34 interchange.

Loveland-based McWhinney, developers of the 3,000-acre Centerra project that encircles the club, has an option to buy it in 2012 if Cloverleaf does not upgrade its property to fit in with its neighbors.

With the club now shut down, it's highly likely McWhinney could exercise its option four years sooner than expected.

Chad McWhinney did not return phone calls seeking comment Monday night.

During its heyday, the club drew crowds in the thousands, filling the glass-enclosed stands visible from I-25.

But business has waned since casinos opened in Blackhawk and Central City and the state's tax structure made it tough for dog tracks to compete for gaming dollars, board president Harry Hess told the Coloradoan a year ago.

Hess said at the time Cloverleaf's future depended on changes to the state's tax structure on pari-mutuel betting.

The present structure imposes a 4.5 percent tax on the gross "handle" of greyhound tracks in addition to a license fee of $133,400 per month of live racing, according to a state report on Colorado's racing industry.

Casinos pay a lower rate based on their net revenues, making it tough for dog tracks to be competitive, he said.

Four years ago, Cloverleaf invested about $30,000 in upgrades to the facility including a new exterior and interior paint job, upgrades to the high rollers' club and other minor renovations to the clubhouse to try to draw customers back in.
Keeping track
Cloverleaf Kennel Club auction generates interest as bidders, others mark the passing of an institution

By Sarah Bultega
The Reporter-Herald

With one loud “sold!” at a time, almost everything at Cloverleaf Kennel Club was auctioned off Saturday, and the 52-year-old dog racing track’s equipment, appliances and memorabilia were dispersed among the highest bidders.

More than 100 people gathered around a TV screen that displayed each item — from flagpoles to tractors to kitchen sinks — while auctioneers rattled off prices, pointed out bidders and yelled the winning numbers.

The auction at the dog track, which closed at the end of last year, will clear the way for the site’s sale and redevelopment.

“I’m amazed it’s selling as well as it is,” said Shelley Lund, who has worked at the track for more than 20 years. “I didn’t expect (so many people).”

Many of the bidders who gathered at the track said they’d come for the great deals more than anything else. Brighton’s Keith Lange won a Ford F150 for $1,700 — a bid he said was offered on a whim.

Loveland’s Joyce Cox attended to try to win some kitchen utensils. She’d never been to the track before but thought it looked like an interesting sale.

Yet among the bargain hunters and seasoned bidders were those who’d come to say goodbye.

“I have kind of an emotional attachment to it,” said Denver’s Tim O’Brien.

The restoration contractor has an adopted, retired greyhound whose brother and sister raced at the very track.
And his connection to the sport reached even further into his past — O’Brien said his great-grandfather, Owen Patrick Smith, invented the mechanical lure that led dogs around the track.

With all that history, O’Brien said there was a lot of anxiety for him at the auction.

“The industry is going through a rebirth, and the tracks of Colorado are going away,” he said. “So I was a bit emotional on that.”

But through the auction, he was able to take home a piece of the track that meant so much to him.

After fighting through bids around the room, O’Brien won two 5-foot-long wooden greyhound signs for $150 each. He plans to send one to his father in California and hang the other in his basement.

“I wanted to have that kind of connection,” he said.

However, while O’Brien was among the bidders attending to say goodbye to good memories, others attended to celebrate the track’s end.

“I was just happy to see the racetrack was closing,” said Charmaine Settle, a board member of Grey2K USA, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending the cruelty of greyhound racing, according to its Web site.

Settle drove to the auction from Boulder to say adieu to the place that housed a cruel and inhumane sport, she said, citing poor living conditions and the euthanasia of thousands of greyhounds.

“I guess I wanted to give one last farewell from someone who cares about the dogs,” she said.

Settle didn’t bid on any items but instead took a stroll around the track.

“I thought of the decades, of all the the dogs that ran there and what that meant to them,” she said.

Auction company representatives estimated that with about 80 lots up for sale every hour and 1,000 in total, it could take 10 hours for everything at Cloverleaf to be sold.

Lund, the track’s office manager, said she wasn’t planning to bid on anything but was going to miss the track.

“It had a good run,” she said. “It’s sad to see it go. But that’s progress, I guess.”
End of season appears near at Mile High Greyhound Park

By Aaron J. Lopez

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

An extended racing season has become a long shot at Mile High Greyhound Park.

Negotiations between Colorado kennel operators and track officials broke down Wednesday, and the final day of 2008 live racing could come as soon as June 28.

"I think we're at a pretty serious impasse," said Eric Morgan, who represents the Colorado Greyhound Kennel Association. "Unless something changes dramatically, the question is just a matter of when the last day of racing in 2008 is going to be."

Mile High's agreement with the kennel operators runs through June 28, but there is a request before the Colorado Racing Commission to race until Sept. 1.

"There's nothing that we would like to see more than the kennels that have supported the industry in Colorado continue," said Bruce Fraser, executive vice president for BLB Investors, which owns and operates the dog track in Commerce City. "We're just exercising our privilege as a licensee to run these dates (eight months out of the year). That's what's most cost effective for us."

When the Cloverleaf Kennel Club in Loveland canceled its 2007 live schedule, Mile High picked up the dates and ran through the winter. State law requires the track be heated for winter racing, an expense that can range between $25,000 to $40,000 a month.

"In 2006, we were profitable. In 2007, we lost $700,000," Mile High general manager Bruce Seymore said. "That's pretty much it in a nutshell."

During negotiations, Mile High proposed extending the live racing season through October, but that does not appear likely.

"It's a possibility, but I don't think our group is going to be real favorable to doing that," Morgan said.

If live racing ends June 28, many Colorado kennel operators might go out of business, Morgan said.

"Our whole objective was to keep live racing going so they could feed their dogs and feed their families," he said.

Fraser suggested dog owners fill the void by competing in Arizona or other warm-weather states during the winter. The track plans to resume live racing at Mile High next spring.

"(People) may hear a story that Mile High has decided to close," Fraser said. "Our intention is to race. We will be putting in for our appropriate dates for 2009 at the Colorado Racing Commission meeting in July."
Place state bets on simulcasts

Bill Johnson writes Monday
The Denver Post

Posted: 03/09/2009 12:30:00 AM MDT
Updated: 03/09/2009 12:33:23 AM MDT

I wanted to know whether this year I could do what I have done almost every year on my birthday: bet the ponies.

It is just past 10 a.m. when I walk in, and the regulars are already at it, studying the Racing Form, making their notations before rushing to the cage to put down money on the next race.

I am here to see Karen Cloud, who with her brother Randy has run Red & Jerry's, the enormous off-track betting and sports bar in Sheridan, for 13 years. She has just returned from the Capitol, where she was monitoring Senate Bill 174, which, she insists, will decide the fate of her business.

SB 174 is a complicated, yet simple bill that will yield no winner.

It would allow additional days of greyhound and horse-racing simulcasts, likely killing the Colorado greyhound-racing industry, but letting places like Cloud's thrive. That will ensure I can celebrate my birthday betting on ponies.

It will be heard by the full Senate this week.

The bill has triggered a split between the state's betting industry and greyhound kennel operators, who fear allowing greyhound simulcasts without live racing will finish off their struggling industry in Colorado.

The bill would allow Red & Jerry's to take bets throughout the year, rather than the 250 days state law now permits.

It also would allow Cloud to resume simulcasts of greyhound racing from around the country, a practice she had to halt when the last of Colorado's live greyhound meets went dark last June.

Limited to horse-racing simulcasts, attendance at Red & Jerry's has fallen sharply. She says the rule that greyhound racing can be simulcast only if there is a live event in Colorado must be lifted for her to remain in business.

"It simply costs too much money to run live events."

She would know. Her grandparents, Inez ("Red" she was dubbed, for her flaming red hair) and Jerry, opened Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park in Colorado Springs in 1949. The family ran it for 53 years.
"Back then, it was a great business. It was really the thing to do, except go to the movies or the day the rodeo came to town," she said. "Two thousand people a night would come. In recent years, maybe 40 would."

If allowed to simulcast dogs and horses year-round, Cloud virtually swoons at the thought of the people she could hire, the events she could stage beyond wrestling matches and quinceañeras she books now to stay afloat.

To Bruce Seymour, executive director of Mile High Racing and Entertainment, a failure of SB 174 means the end of horse-race betting in Colorado. He can’t imagine off-track-betting places like his can survive on horses alone.

Without the bill, thousands of people will be out of jobs and millions of dollars of revenue to Colorado lost, he said.

Seymour said the company lost $700,000 on the last full greyhound meet at Mile High Park.

Since 2000, he said, 19 dog tracks in the U.S. have closed, not including two scheduled to close in Massachusetts next year.

"It is just more proof the dog-racing business model doesn’t work," Seymour said. "The greyhound people are nice people, but they don’t want anything in that dying business to change."

Eric Morgan, executive director of the Colorado Greyhound Kennel Association, says his membership objects only to the bill’s provision allowing dog-racing simulcasts from around the country. It would kill them, he said.

"Without a live-greyhound-racing provision, this legislation would put my clients out of business. Forever. No bill should ever do that."

My guess is that without SB 174 passing, everybody in both industries will be flat out of business in Colorado. Forever.

And that would make for one very lousy birthday present.

Bill Johnson writes Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Reach him at wjohnson@denverpost.com or 303-954-2763.
Dog-betting bill races to finish

The measure eases Colorado rules for wagers placed on simulcasts of out-of-state greyhound events.

By Andy Vuong
The Denver Post

Posted: 05/01/2009 12:30:00 AM MDT

Racetracks and off-track betting parlors are closing in on a big win at the state Capitol.

The House and Senate have approved Senate Bill 174, a measure that enables tracks and betting shops to take wagers on out-of-state greyhound races even if live dog races aren't held in Colorado. Currently, greyhound simulcasting is allowed only if dogs are racing in-state during the same week.

Greyhounds stopped racing live in Colorado last summer after kennel and track operators couldn't agree on a new contract.

The measure could reach Gov. Bill Ritter's desk today or Monday, said Bruce Seymour, who helped draft the bill and is executive director of Mile High Racing and Entertainment, which operates two racetracks and one off-track-betting parlor.

Backers say the measure could revive the struggling racing industry. With minimal expenses, simulcasts are more profitable for track operators than live races.

"It's a necessary piece of legislation for Colorado so that we can continue with the industry and keep some jobs and revenue," said bill sponsor Sen. Ken Kester, R-Las Animas.

Pending approval from Ritter and the state racing commission, greyhound simulcasts may resume as early as the week of May 12, Seymore said.

A provision in SB 174 lowers the tax rate on greyhound simulcasts from 4.5 percent to 0.75 percent, which is the rate currently charged on horse races and simulcasts. The bill also allows bets to be taken on simulcasts year-round, lifting the 250-day cap.

Kennel operators say the measure effectively kills live greyhound racing in Colorado because if track operators were to resume holding dog races, the tax rate on those races and simulcasts would shoot back up to 4.5 percent.

Horsemen support the measure because a portion of the revenue from greyhound simulcasts will go toward purse money for live horse races.

Andy Vuong: 303-954-1209 or avuong@denverpost.com
Colorado tracks gone (forever) to the dogs

By Terry Frei
The Denver Post

Posted: 05/27/2010 01:00:00 AM MDT

"Gentlemen, start your engines!" Austin Curl, 9, of Arvada, is all decked out for racing as he gives the thumbs-up to drivers at the starting line at Colorado Motorsports Park near Byers. (Lindsay Pierce, Special to The Denver Post)

greyhound figure at the base of his grandstand isn't going to be there much longer.

"Somebody wants to put it on the outside of his barn," Kendall said.

That afternoon, when the card at the one-third-mile dirt oval featured the Rocky Mountain Midget Racing Association, there was other evidence of the facility's previous life as Interstate Kennel Club. Inside the glass-enclosed grandstand, long counters have cutouts where the pari-mutual wagering tote machines used to spit out tickets when the track hosted greyhound races.

Once the king of legal gambling pursuits in the state, and to a large extent across the country, live greyhound racing ceased in Colorado two years ago. The reasons for the sport's demise are complex, tied to the economy, costs, criticism from animal rights activists and competition from casinos, likely the biggest factor. More than 20 tracks across the country have closed in the past decade, and greyhound racing as a business seems healthy only in Florida, where tracks have become mini-casinos.

In Colorado, the exit was gradual, with only Mile High Kennel Club in Commerce City holding live racing in 2008. Earlier, live racing ended at IKC, Pueblo Greyhound Park, Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park in Colorado Springs and Cloverleaf Dog Track in Loveland. In 2010, the Pueblo site — renamed Southern Colorado Gaming and Event Center — and Mile High are

BYERS — Colorado Motorsports Park owner Jerry Kendall, sitting in a motor home near the pit area Sunday, confided that the huge, 3.3-ton
The Colorado Springs and Loveland tracks are shut down.

East of Denver next to Interstate 70, IKC was built in the early 1970s, mainly because state officials insisted no two tracks could be close together and that racing meetings were limited to about three months. IKC's meeting was in the winter, and in the early years, most of its customers would try to hit the "twin quin" at those betting windows in the final two races to make it a profitable night, then drive back to the Denver area. Once the state allowed simulcast wagering, many more fans would bet on the IKC races at Mile High than were at the Byers track. Recognizing that the setup made little sense, the state legislature allowed the meeting's dates to be moved to Mile High. IKC's last race was run in 1991.

Kendall, a commercial mortgage broker, bought the IKC property and opened the auto racing facility this year. He and promoter Joe Bellm scheduled race cards for most Sundays through the summer. Kendall lives in a house beyond the first turn.

"The infrastructure's all here for racing," Kendall, 49, said. "Most people start with a track and try to get this. This time we started with grandstands and a facility that was dilapidated, but you couldn't build it for what it would cost now and support racing."

Kendall is realistic about the task ahead.

"There are a lot of cosmetic things we'd like to do," he said.

But he laughed and pointed out that one of his track's major advertising selling points is that it combines general admission, an enclosed grandstand and indoor bathrooms.

"If you're racing, you get dirt and mud on you, but if you're a spectator, you can walk in on asphalt, stay on asphalt, stay inside and not even have to hear the loudness," he said. "But if you like it, you can go in and out both ways. If you're the die-hard racing fan, you can be right out in the mud, the dirt, the dust and the noise and feel right at home too."
Dogs race in Colorado Springs in 2003. (Helen H. Richardson, The Denver Post)

Kendall’s track represents a unique use of the state’s former dog tracks. A look at the others:

Mile High Kennel Club, Commerce City: The state’s one-time showcase track is an off-track wagering site, taking bets on greyhound and horse races from around the country. It is under the Mile High Racing and Entertainment umbrella, and the company also owns Arapahoe Park, the simulcast wagering outlet and horse track that opens its 39-day live racing season on Saturday, plus Havana Park, the simulcast betting facility in Aurora.

In his office at Havana Park, Bruce Seymore, Mile High Racing and Entertainment’s executive director of Colorado operations, said a semi-pro football team uses the Mile High infield for practice and games, and lacrosse and rugby games also are played there.

Other than that, he said, plans are for the facility to remain a simulcast wagering site, without live racing. He said he regretted that Mile High and kennel owners couldn’t come to an agreement that would make live greyhound racing viable as a limited-season enterprise at a facility that takes simulcast wagering year-round, following the lead of Arapahoe Park and the horse racing meeting.

"From my point of view, live dog racing is dead in the state of Colorado," Seymore said.

Pueblo Greyhound Park: Local partners Craig Law, William Gradishar and Tiffany Moruzzi bought the track on the southern edge of Pueblo from Mile High for $1.3 million and reopened it as Southern Colorado Gaming and Event Center last December.

Like Mile High, even though it still takes simulcast wagering on races around the country, the Pueblo facility still has a bit of a ghost-town feel to it, with a huge parking lot and with the starting boxes and tote board still in place.

"My partners and I were born and raised in Pueblo," Law said. "We’re kind of South Siders, and we think that land is going to be a great area for development. Plus, with the off-track wagering part of it, we saw that there was a demand and a need for that in this area. We’re going to continue on with that, but we certainly don’t need 40 acres for that, and we’re going to try to continue to develop the land around it."

Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park, Colorado
Springs: Mile High Racing and Entertainment also operated it as a simulcast wagering site — under the name Post Time — until shutting it down last year. The property was sold, and the track, at least temporarily, is being used as a warehouse-type commercial storage area.

Cloverleaf Greyhound Track, Loveland: Many of its fixtures and memorabilia were auctioned off in 2008. It is ticketed for demolition to make way for an expansion of the Medical Center of the Rockies.

Bet on the wrecking ball and the bulldozers to win that one.

Terry Frei: 303-954-1895 or tfrei@denverpost.com

Trail and Byers have had their turns this spring; Strasburg, Bennett and Limon residents get their chances later in the year.

Racing: Many of the programs feature International Motor Contest Association-sanctioned categories, plus the RMMRA and the United Rebel Sprint Series.

Other attractions: The Culpepper Merriweather Big Top Circus is scheduled for June 13. Management also hopes to schedule Monster Truck and mixed martial arts programs.

On the Web: coloradomotorsportspark.com

Terry Frei, The Denver Post

**Racing cars, not dogs**

*Colorado Motorsports Park, near Byers, is the only one of the state’s five former greyhound racing tracks to hold live racing in 2010 — but it’s of the four-wheeled, not four-legged, variety.*

Track: One-third-mile, semi-banked dirt oval.

Capacity: Enclosed grandstand seats 2,000.

Admission: $10 adult general admission. On various Sundays this year, the track admits residents of specific area communities free. Deer
Greyhound racing: Response from Mel Johnson, president of the Colorado Greyhound Breeders Association

BY TERRY FREI |

In the wake of my story on what has happened to the former greyhound racing tracks in Colorado, I heard from Mel Johnson, president of the Colorado Greyhound Breeders Association.

The story was mainly about the fates of the former tracks and was not meant to be an in-depth look at the demise of greyhound racing in the state.

However, Mr. Johnson took exception to the position of Bruce Seymore, the head of Mile High Racing and Entertainment, which operates the former Mile High Kennel Club as a simulcast wagering site (in addition to Arapahoe Park and Havana Park). Seymore said he believed greyhound racing was dead in Colorado.

Mr. Johnson's position is that the greyhound breeders would want to be a part of a track operation themselves in this state, taking simulcast wagers from greyhound races around the country as well, but that Mile High and other forces sabotaged that possibility. He writes: "We are interested in building a greyhound track in Colorado. This way we can send our greyhound signals out to other states and countries to bring in business and generate revenue for the state of Colorado."

He brings up the Colorado Legislature's Senate Bill 99, passed in 1990, "which allowed out-of-state horse race simulcasting into the greyhound tracks in the state of Colorado. SB-99 allowed the horse track to reopen, which was in the process of bankruptcy. SB-99 allowed the proceeds from greyhound bets [to] go to the greyhound owners and the proceeds from the horse bets [to] go to the horses."

Johnson continues, referring to the British company that owned Mile High Racing and Entertainment at the time: "In 1999, Wembley went to [the Legislature] to try and bring video slot machines into the greyhound tracks and make them into racinos. This was vetoed by the governor.

"In the early 2000's, Wembley bought out Rocky Mountain Greyhound Park. The renamed it Post Time. In 2003, Wembley took video slots to a vote of the people in Colorado. The people overwhelmingly voted against video slots at the greyhound tracks in Colorado. The people of Colorado wanted to keep video slot gambling in the mountain towns and live greyhound racing on the Front Range. Since Wembley did not get video slots into the greyhound tracks, which was what their interests were, they wanted to sell the race tracks after the people voted slots down. In 2006, Wembley sold the four greyhound tracks and one horse track to a company called B.L.B."

In 2008, live greyhound racing ended in Colorado.

Johnson continues: "Without live greyhound racing, SB-99 would automatically be repealed because out-of-state horse simulcasting races was tied directly to a 30-day live greyhound race meet. In 2009, SB-09-174, replaced SB-99, [allowing] out-of-state greyhound simulcast races to come into the State of Colorado 365 days a year, under a 30-day horse meet without live greyhound racing. A 30-day horse meet under Statute SB-09-174 allows the horses to receive all the proceeds from out-of-state..."
simulcasting of greyhound races to go to horses and none of the proceeds go to the Colorado Greyhound Breeders, which has build the greyhound business in the State of Colorado for over 60 years.

"SB-09-174 Legislation game the Racing Commission the authority (if there was no live greyhound racing) that they may allow or disallow out-of-state simulcasting of greyhound races under a 30-day horse meet under their own discretion. The Colorado Greyhound Breeders opposed out-of-state greyhound simulcast signals to come into the state under a 30-day horse meet without live greyhound racing.

"The Racing Commission voted and allowed out-of-state simulcast signals to come into the State of Colorado without live greyhound racing even with the Colorado Greyhound Breeders opposed to it."

Referring to Seymour’s comment that live greyhound racing in the state is dead, Johnson writes: “Keep in mind Mr. Seymour worked for Wembley/B.L.B. for years to suppress the Greyhound Breeders and greyhound racing industry in Colorado. The creation of SB-09-174 siphons millions of dollars out of Colorado to go into other states by way of simulcasting out-of-state greyhound [racing] into the state of Colorado 365 days each year... The Greyhound Breeders in the State of Colorado did not want to stop greyhound racing and it was not the Colorado Breeders' fault that live greyhound racing ended. Live greyhound racing was sabotaged in this state of Colorado by the green-eyed monster of hate and greed."

Email: tfrei@denverpost.com
GREY2K USA

GREY2K USA is a national, non-profit greyhound protection organization. We are a network of humane-minded citizens who work to pass stronger greyhound protection laws and phase out dog racing. We also offer adoption referral information to help the thousands of greyhounds still racing.

For more information contact:

GREY2K USA
P.O. Box 442117
Somerville, MA 02144

866.247.3925
www.GREY2KUSA.org
Email: info@GREY2KUSA.org

© 2010 GREY2K USA. All Rights Reserved.
Design by Danielle Festa.