

Outlawing Anabolic Steroids in Dog Racing (HB 743 & SB 512)

- Female greyhounds are routinely given injections of an anabolic steroid, testosterone, to prevent the loss of race days. This reckless practice is outlawed in Britain, Australia and New Zealand, but allowed in Florida under an obscure state regulation.
- This humane legislation will outlaw the use of anabolic steroids in the greyhound racing industry. It has been filed by Representatives Carlos Guillermo Smith and Alex Miller in the House, and Senator Dana Young in the Senate.
- These bills are supported by greyhound protection group GREY2K USA, the Humane Society of the United States, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, the National Greyhound Adoption Organization and Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay.
- The use of anabolic steroids is one of several shortcuts greyhound breeders use to maximize short-term profits while incurring the least amount of costs. It's wrong and must be stopped.
- The greyhound industry knows that anabolic steroids are potentially harmful but uses them anyway. Industry handbook *Care of the Racing and Retired Greyhound* cites serious side effects including virilization and aggression, and steroid use has been shown to have a negative effect on dogs' heart function. Some studies have even linked anabolic steroid use to liver, kidney and cartilage damage, gastrointestinal problems and shock.
- Allowing anabolic steroids raises red flags about the integrity of wagers being placed at racetracks. These drugs have been repeatedly used to manipulate the outcome of human athletic events and could be used to fix races. In 2009, a veterinarian with the University of Florida Racing Laboratory told state regulators that steroids would be "excellent" for illegally enhancing racing performance.



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