



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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**CHERYL COAKLEY-RIVERA**  
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Chairwoman  
Committee on Labor and Workforce  
Development

September 9, 2009

Representative Brian S. Dempsey  
Chairman  
Joint Committee on Economic Development  
and Emerging Technologies  
State House, Room 42  
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Karen Spilka  
Chairwoman  
Joint Committee on Economic Development  
and Emerging Technologies  
State House, Room 511-C  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Dempsey and Chairwoman Spilka:

I understand that Senate 2041, An Act Relative to Greyhound Racing, is scheduled to be heard by your Committee tomorrow, September 10<sup>th</sup>. I write to express my opposition to this legislation.

As both a dog owner and as a person who actively campaigned for the passage of the Greyhound Protection Act, I strongly oppose Senate 2041, which seeks a two-year postponement of the January 1, 2010 deadline that bans dog racing. The question as to whether or not our Commonwealth should support dog racing has been emphatically decided by the people of nearly 290 cities and towns who voted in support of Question 3 to phase out dog racing by January 1, 2010. We must stop trying to delay the enactment of this ban and move on to the next stage – working together toward a responsible transition.

I strongly urge you not to pass Senate 2041 and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Representative Cheryl Coakley-Rivera

Chairwoman  
Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development

Horsemen's Tack Inc  
P O Box 391  
(2 Barberry Lane)  
Haverhill, Ma 01831  
Telephone (978-372-0652)  
Facsimile (978-372-6511)

Massachusetts Legislature  
Rep. Brian Dempsey

Dear Representative Dempsey:

We have been in business for 50 years and since 1986 we have been servicing the greyhound industry. Since the greyhound industry makes up a very significant portion of our business the shutting down of greyhound tracks in Massachusetts will affect our sales tremendously and in fact it may well cause our business to shut down permanently. As we are a small family run business all living in Massachusetts this will take away our livelihood. Not only will this effect our family but it will also effect all those people currently working at racetracks throughout Massachusetts. This action will cause the unemployment rate to rise. We would appreciate your reconsidering this action and hope you will allow greyhound racing to continue.

Thank you,

Dana Mindes (President) Franklin, Ma  
Darren Stratton (Vice-President) Haverhill, Ma

My name is Jack McGlynn. I am Legislative Counsel for the Wonderland Greyhound Owners' Association, as well as the Association for the Protection of Working Animals and Handlers, Inc. I am here today to support Senator Mark Pacheco, Senator Tom Kennedy and Representative Jim Fagan's Bill to extend greyhound racing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

My main purpose here today is to encourage each one of you to preserve the economic status of each one of the approximately 1,300 people who receive income from the greyhound racing industry, especially during this drastic economic time.

As you are all aware, Massachusetts, as well as the rest of the country, is suffering through the greatest recession since the Great Depression. Unemployment has skyrocketed in the last two (2) years, as can be seen by the chart I have brought with me today. One Hundred Fifty-three Thousand (153,000) people have lost their jobs since September of 2007 – two (2) short years ago.

Our state has been devastated, job wise, even in the face of "Economic Stimulus" and yet we sit here today with the possibility of another 1,300 suffering the loss of income because of a referendum that was passed by the discrimination of misleading information. On January 1, 2010, who is going to support those 1,300 people and their families (and that is only the direct loss – ancillary economic loss could result to thousands more). The answer is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts taxpayers who will have to pay for unemployment, welfare,

health care and untold psychological damage, which will result from this travesty.

I ask today that you save these people's dignity and allow them to keep working in a job they love and in an industry they support.

Each and every economic forecaster states that this recession will continue for at least the next eighteen (18) months to two (2) years. It would be extremely beneficial to the Commonwealth, the employees and the families employed in this industry if the Legislative and the Governor extended the jobs of these people while the state recovers from its economic problems.

Although I will let the industry people testify as to the misleading tactics used in this campaign, I would like you to know one aspect of the referendum process itself which basically allows promoters of a referendum to mislead the public and the state inadvertently condones such tactics. The following is stated on the ballot itself right next to the referendum question: "The Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not endorse these arguments, and **'DOES NOT CERTIFY THE TRUTH OR ACCURACY OF ANY STATEMENT MADE IN THESE**

**ARGUMENTS.'** The names of the individuals and organizations who wrote each argument, and any written comments by others about each argument, are on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth."

There were allegations of inhumane treatment of greyhounds used in the campaign.

This is absolutely untrue. There were allegations of abuse to the greyhounds.

Once again, totally untrue. We have the most highly regulated greyhound industry

in the country. There has never been a complaint for abuse against a racing greyhound in Massachusetts.

Further these animals are treated with the greatest of care and do not "endure lives of inhumane confinement," as alleged. If the proponents thought it was so inhumane to race then why did they allow racing to continue for fourteen (14) months after the passage of the question?

These parties promoted a cause, used information which had no relationship to the greyhound racing industry in Massachusetts, sought donations to support themselves and their cause by playing on people's emotional heart strings and will move on to spin their story in another locale. As one member of a supporting group stated "It's just a business." The true fact is the people promoting this question just wanted to put a notch in their belt so they could move on to another state and continue to attempt to devastate this industry.

When you analyze this ballot question it is very possible that this ballot question did not ban greyhound racing. The only act that appears to have been banned was betting on the greyhounds within the confines of the two (2) Massachusetts race tracks. The law doesn't stop the greyhounds from living in the kennels here in Massachusetts (the so called inhumane living conditions) and being shipped to other states to race, it only stops betting on the greyhounds at Wonderland and Raynham. This ballot question does nothing to prevent what they allege to prevent and refer to as cruel and inhumane treatment.

It would probably be enlightening for all of you to know that many of the people who supported this referendum sat on a committee which rewrote Chapter 205 of the Code of the Massachusetts Regulations Section 12:00 which is entitled "THE HUMANE HANDLING, CARE, TREATMENT and TRANSPORTATION OF RACING GREYHOUNDS." This Code is presently in effect and supervised by not only by The State Racing Commission but many other law enforcement agencies within the Commonwealth. Yet many of these same people are supporters of the referendum which the promoters referred to as "cruel and inhumane treatment of greyhounds."

I have included attached to my statement many financial and economic facts which were obtained from the Massachusetts State Racing Commission and both Wonderland and Raynham/Taunton Greyhound Tracks. The numbers are significant. According to the information received, money generated by the industry is in excess of Thirty Million (\$30,000,000.00) Dollars.

When I look at this Bill, I think who is prejudice by extending the greyhound racing for an additional two (2) years? Where is the common good in throwing these people to the curb and taking Thirty Million and 00/100 (\$30,000,000.00) Dollars out of circulation in this depressed economy? The argument most heard in opposition to the extension is that it is the will of the people. My question to you is what type of dilemma are we faced with when the will of the people does more harm than good. By not extending these dates there will certainly be an enormous

amount of harm generated but in effect no common good for the people of Massachusetts.

In recent years, the legislature has voted to effectively change the will of the people on at least four (4) separate ballot questions voted into law by the "will of the people." These ballot questions were overturned for what the legislature perceived as "a common good." Once in 1998, twice in 2000, and again in 2002 the legislature reversed the will of the people.

Additionally, in a recent poll conducted by Tom Kiley Associates, sixty-one (61%) percent of the people polled stated that they would not have voted for Question Three if they had any idea that the economy would be in such dire straits. Who could have anticipated that we all would be in the situation we now find ourselves. The common good would lead us to the conclusion that these dates should be extended.

Although John O'Donnell will address a number of issues, including the injury claim, I would just like to indicate the fact that injuries are a part of this sport, as they are in every sport. In this sport, the injuries ratio is less than one (1%) percent and many of these injuries are minor. Greyhound racing is a sport, the greyhounds are athletes and enjoy their life and live for racing. These so-called injuries pale in comparison to other professional sports. Yearly, professional football teams are decimated by injuries. Nobody is looking to do away with the NFL; and if we look at our World Championship Basketball Team when the "big three" were injured

last year, which comprised twenty-five (25%) percent of the team being injured, nobody was looking to close them down.

There are a number of legal issues which surround this ballot question and these will be addressed by Tom Kiley today and handled in a different forum at a later time but for now I ask you to give S 2041 a favorable vote so that these people can continue to work, continue to be self-supportive and so the implementation of this ballot question does not further the economic crisis that already exists in the Commonwealth.

Finally, I would like to leave you with one last thought. The supporters of this ballot question have been promoting the fact that there is plenty of money available to retrain the workers who loose their jobs. When asked who has the money, they say the legislature. As far as we've been able to find out, there is no money appropriated anywhere for retraining and if there were what jobs would be available!!!

Thank you.



## Statement to the Massachusetts Legislative Committee Members

I apologize for not being here in person today and for my previous silence regarding the racing greyhound issue. My name is Debbie Gehrke. I have been a veterinarian for almost twenty years. In 1992, I accepted part-time employment covering the Wonderland Greyhound Track. My initial concerns about adequate care and safety of these magnificent dogs were quickly resolved when witnessing the treatment provided by their trainers and track staff. Consequently I have continued to work at both Massachusetts tracks, averaging 1-2 shifts per week, and during this time I have never witnessed any type of abuse or cruelty. If I had, I would not have remained for 17 years, and would have voiced my observations and opinions quite loudly. The only health issue I have ever needed to address with a trainer and the racing commission, was a flea problem in one kennel, several years ago.

Relative to the major concerns by anti-racing proponents (which are socialization, crate size, scheduled time out of crate, diet, and injuries) I have observed several similarities and dissimilarities of the racing greyhound compared to my average household canine patient:

Both the racing dog and household dog can vary in personality when at the track or vet clinic setting, but primarily most are friendly and readily interact with others. In general I would say that the racing dogs appear more eager to interact with strangers than the average household pet. Many of my clients state that the only time their dog leaves the house or yard is to go to the groomer every 2-4 months and the annual or bi-annual vet visit.

Required minimum cage dimensions for the greyhounds is more spacious than the usual crate size used for household dogs that need crating to curb destructive habits or prefer the crate to nap.

The required out-of-cage schedule for racing greyhounds (which is five times per 24 hours) would be the envy of most of my canine patients. My dog would love that schedule. I would love that schedule!

The racing greyhounds are fit, the average household dog is NOT!!! Sadly, it is a rarity these days, in clinical practice, to see a dog over the age of three that is considered normally proportioned.

Regarding the diet, I personally have not witnessed the actual ingredients used or their respective ratios but based on the racing greyhounds remarkable physique and performance, it seems ridiculous to me to question the overall nutritional value of the food and supplements. I know from my Animal Science Classes that discussed the inspection and grading of meat, that the 4-D grade does not mean that the entire carcass is diseased or contaminated. It means that the carcass has a problem, usually an isolated problem, and that portions, usually major portions of the carcass, are still considered edible for other animals. And it just makes sense to me that if an owner or trainer thought

that feeding their dogs a higher grade of meat would help shave valuable seconds off of racing times that they would have voluntarily switched years ago.

And lastly, regarding injuries, unfortunately, they do happen According to the Massachusetts Racing Commission; the percentage of injured racing dogs was 0.15% for the years 2000-2007. The primary injury in my experience has been to the right hind leg, but reported numbers can include torn toenails to minor lacerations to the very rare sudden death. (I personally have only witnessed one sudden death at the track and have had to euthanize two dogs due to severe front leg fractures sustained while racing. FYI- Greyhound specialists have concurred that many of these severe fractures occur due to a pre-existing unsuspected cancer lesion of the bone). All other dogs that I have witnessed sustaining an injury while racing have been attended to immediately and many have eventually been able to return to the track.

Comparatively, according to American Sports Data, the percentage of children and teens injured while playing typical sports such as basketball and baseball was a whopping 10%. And one of the highest death rates was in baseball, with an expected 3-4 fatalities per year! Statistics for injuries to the average household dog are not available due to lack of required reporting, but in my own practice, certainly well over 0.15% of these overweight couch potatoes rupture ligaments, break legs, and on rare occasion, also die of sudden death when chasing whatever moves in the yard or across the street.

In summary, these athletic dogs are more visible to the general public and professional veterinary community than most household dogs will ever be. The rules and guidelines for their care are outlined with great specificity and from what I understand, most of these rules were drawn up by the very groups that now cry out that the cages are too small or the time period out of the cages is not sufficient. When children get injured in typical sports, we modify the playing conditions or require improved safety equipment, but we do not ban the sport altogether. So, IF deemed necessary, let us modify the dog racing conditions to improve on the 0.15% injury rate, but do not ban the sport altogether plus put hundreds of people out of work in the process.

I invite any of you that are interested in observing dog racing from the veterinarian perspective, to contact me through the dog owner and track representatives here today.

Sincerely,

Deb Gehrke DVM

P.S. I worked on this statement while covering the track at Raynham this past weekend. On the record there were 3 shifts worked, 38 races watched, 301 dogs competed, and zero injuries sustained. Off the record, my checking account may have suffered an injury or two during some between-race internet shopping. Please don't tell my husband!

Thomas J. Murtha, III, DVM  
190 VFW Parkway  
Revere, MA 02151

September 6, 2009

Massachusetts State Legislature

Dear Sirs:

*My name is Dr. Thomas J. Murtha. I am the track veterinarian at Wonderland Greyhound Park. Like many of the people who have come here today, the Massachusetts Racing Industry has provided work for me and those who work for me for over two decades.*

*I am one of thousands who make their living through the Massachusetts Racing Industry. As the Massachusetts legislature well knows, the proliferation of other forms of gambling in nearly every state that borders Massachusetts, and beyond – as well as the growing popularity of off-shore and internet gambling – have substantially eroded the ability of the Massachusetts Racing Industry to compete for gaming dollars which flow out of state every year.*

*Each year the Massachusetts Racing Industry loses patrons. The State of Massachusetts loses untold millions in tax revenues. And the taxpayers of this Commonwealth ultimately lose, because hundreds of millions of dollars in gaming tax revenue leaves this state. Instead of being used to assist and improve the cities and towns of this state, these monies are used to improve the schools, police and fire departments, and lower other taxes for the residents of Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, and so on.*

*I have heard it reported that in spite of no assistance from our own state government and the lack of a level playing field with other states, the Massachusetts racing industry and its employees still generate over \$50 million dollars in total tax revenues each year for the commonwealth. With the state in a dire financial crisis, it is beyond me how the legislature would or could even consider NOT extending the rights and livelihoods of those citizens in this state who have participated in greyhound racing for most of the last century. Where else is all that money going to come from??*

*My primary reason for writing to you today is to try to dispel some of the propaganda and hysteria generated in recent years by extremist groups like Grey 2K. These "activists" have systematically and intentionally cultivated distorted perceptions of our industry in our local press and would have you believe that we in the Massachusetts racing industry*

are inhumane, negligent, and abusive in our treatment of the animals who grace us with our livelihoods.

I grew up on a small farm in central Massachusetts. There, I learned from my father, also a veterinarian, that animals could be used in humane ways for agricultural purposes. I've worked in research at Harvard Medical School. There, I learned that animals could be used – with great discretion – in research to expand the boundaries of our knowledge in science and achieve truly wondrous things that benefit not only mankind, but all the species inhabiting our planet. And I've spent the last twenty two years of my life seeing to it that there was no abuse or neglect of racing greyhounds – not on my watch. I am also a surgeon in private clinical practice in the Boston area. I can honestly say that, although I have never seen abuse or neglect of a racing greyhound, I do regularly see abuse and neglect of pets in my clinical practice.

I took the position as Veterinary Department Head at Wonderland Greyhound Park as an independent contractor specifically so that I did not have to answer to anybody. From the very beginning I chose not to be an employee of Wonderland Greyhound Park for one reason only – so that no one could tell me what to do or how to do it, and so that nobody could tell me what to say. I have never been one to be told what to do. In truth and in fact, I actually took the position with the intent to “uncover” and “clean-up” any neglect or abuse of racing greyhounds at Wonderland.

Well, I'm writing to you today to tell you what I have come to know to be the truth in over two decades on the job. There simply isn't any neglect or abuse of racing greyhounds at Wonderland. Quite the opposite. It has been my experience that racing greyhounds in the state of Massachusetts are, in fact, very well cared for. But if there were any neglect or abuse going on, I would personally put a stop to it and I would have absolutely zero hesitation or problem reporting it to the proper authorities. If there were ever abuse or neglect of animals and I was unable stop it, I would quit in a heartbeat. I wouldn't be a part of it .....not for a moment..... and then I'd be the biggest whistle-blower this state has ever seen.

As you may recall, in 2005 these anti-racing activists, using their usual deceptive tactics, attempted to cultivate public fear and concern through well-placed newspaper articles that unnecessarily, unreasonably and even irresponsibly raised the question about whether a respiratory virus affecting greyhounds at that time might “jump” to pets .....and even humans. These articles quoted public health experts as saying, “we just don't know enough at this time to say.....that it couldn't be possible”. Well, four years later we're all still here – none of us or our pets have died from the “infamous Grey 2K canine flu virus”

To these extremists and their political agenda, the truth is irrelevant: Their political goal justifies their means to achieve it.

I have to admit to being somewhat of a skeptic. Part of me believes that in today's world, maybe the truth really doesn't matter. Maybe we're all wasting our time here. Maybe a

decision has already been made in some back room of this building about the fate of the racing industry in the State of Massachusetts.

And then there's a small part of me that wants to believe that the truth really does matter. That this legislative process really does work. And that our government truly is a government for all the people and by all the people – not just for those who have organized to achieve their own political agenda.

On almost any given day you can turn the pages of nearly any newspaper in this state and read about the neglect and abuse of HUMAN BEINGS. Children being abused in daycare ..... the elderly being abused in nursing homes..... priests abusing children in churches.

Why then, are there no referendums or movements to ban daycare centers, or nursing homes, or organized religion? Because reason prevails. People are intelligent enough to realize that you simply can't hold an entire industry or all religions accountable for the misdeeds or irresponsible acts of a select few individuals.

Rather, these problems are addressed – as they should be – through enacting new laws and regulations or creating new regulatory agencies to oversee these industries and ensure that these acts of abuse do not occur in the future.

Don't buy into the hype and propaganda. Be the voice of reason and don't allow your vote to be influenced by all the misinformation that's been "put out there" for the sole purpose of persuading you that you're "doing the right thing" – regardless of the actual truth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Murtha, DVM



**Chairpersons**

Paula Blanchard  
Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.  
GREY2K USA  
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Massachusetts Society for the  
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Taunton Animal Shelter  
Worcester Animal Rescue League

Testimony by: Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.  
President, GREY2K USA  
Co-Chairperson, Committee to Protect Dogs

In reference to: Greyhound Protection Act delay, S. 2041

Presented to: Joint Committee on Economic Development &  
Emerging Technologies

Date: September 10, 2009

\*\*\*\*\*

My name is Christine Dorchak and I was the author of Question 3. The Greyhound Protection Act was approved in 12 of 14 counties, and in nearly 300 of 351 cities and towns. It passed in 114 House Districts and 28 Senate Districts. By any measure, the voters of Massachusetts overwhelmingly supported the end of pari-mutuel dog racing.

Here with me today are Kara Holmquist, Director of Advocacy for the MSPCA and Carey Theil, Executive Director of GREY2K USA. Each of us will provide you with testimony concerning a particular aspect of our campaign.

It is my role today to explain to you the thought that went into the writing of the ballot question.

1. The Greyhound Protection Act was written as a 14-month phase-out of dog racing.
  - a. To provide time for workers to transition out
  - b. To allow humane groups to absorb greyhounds as they are surrendered.
  - c. Although we knew dogs would pay a price in terms of continuing to suffer injuries, we believed, and still believe that this was the fair approach.
  
2. The Committee to Protect Dogs has worked with the Governor's office and in the legislature to prompt job retraining and financial assistance for racetrack workers.
  - a. Rapid Response, a federal program, was made available the morning after the November 4 election. The program manager is Ken Messina and he may be reached at 617-626-5703. The latest information we have is that few workers have applied for funding.
  - b. HB 1856 was filed at the request of Question 3 proponents to provide further worker support. The bill transfers state funds now made available to the dog track owners and puts them in the hands of transitioning workers.

**VOTE FOR THE DOGS – YES ON 3**

PO Box 442176 ♦ Somerville, MA 02144 ♦ 617-666-3526 ♦ 617-666-3568 (fax)  
www.ProtectDogs.org ♦ info@protectdogs.org

Thank you for your attention to my testimony. Let me finish by adding that it is our belief and respectful request that the legislature honor the will of the people. The initiative process was created in 1918 to allow citizens to have a direct voice in the laws which govern them. As many of us learned, obtaining a place on the ballot is an arduous task, involving not only the gathering of over one hundred fifty thousand signatures, but the sorting and delivery of these signatures first to town clerks, then to the Secretary of State, in a dual certification process. And all of this is preceded by a rigorous legal examination of the question by the Attorney General.

To conclude, the thousand of people who volunteered for this campaign earned their place on the ballot, fought hard to educate voters with the facts about dog racing, and gave their hearts and hands to reach November's victory. I ask that you honor their work, and uphold the strong vote of people statewide, and reject Senate 2041.



### Directors

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as Pets*

Charmaine Settle  
*Galgo Rescue International  
Network*

Carey M. Theil  
Executive Director

*Organizational Listing is for  
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# GREY2K USA

## MEMORANDUM

On Election Day, voters overwhelmingly approved an end to dog racing by a margin of 56-44%. Nearly 300 of 351 cities and towns "voted for the dogs." Now is the time to focus on providing assistance to any effected workers.

### WHAT DOES HB 1856, THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ACT DO?

The Economic Opportunities Act establishes a fund to benefit employees of Raynham and Wonderland Greyhound Parks with retraining and financial assistance as dog racing is phased out this year.

### WHY IS HB 1856 NECESSARY?

Under Question 3, dog racing becomes illegal in Massachusetts as of January 1, 2010. According to the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce development, several hundred people were employed at dog tracks last year.

Since both commercial dog tracks sit on valuable property, they can now be redeveloped as shopping centers, supermarkets or office parks, but workers will be in need of more immediate assistance.

### WHO SUPPORTS THE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES ACT?

Representative Carl Sciortino is the chief sponsor of this measure, as requested by the Committee to Protect Dogs, whose members include GREY2K USA, the MSPCA-Angell and the Humane Society of the United States.

### HOW WILL WORKERS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE?

There will be no new cost to the state. Under the language of this measure, state monies now distributed to track owners under the statutory Greyhound Promotional Trust Fund and the Greyhound Capital Improvements Trust Fund will be redirected to a new **Greyhound Workers' Re-training and Support Fund**. The new Fund will be administered by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

## PROTECTING GREYHOUNDS NATIONWIDE

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# GREY2K USA

September 10, 2009

Testimony Before the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies on S. 2041

By Carey Theil, Executive Director, GREY2K USA

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as Pets*

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*Galgo Rescue International  
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Carey M. Theil  
Executive Director

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## Part One – A Summary of Our Case in Favor of the Greyhound Protection Act

1. Overview: The case was based on provable evidence specific to Massachusetts.
  - All data is local, and specific to Raynham and Wonderland Greyhound Parks.
  - All information is recent.
  - All information is thoroughly documented. Sources include state records, industry statements, and/or reports by mainstream media organizations. For example, all photographs were taken by the Massachusetts dog tracks themselves.
2. Primary Issue #1: Greyhounds Endure Lives of Confinement
  - Both commercial dog tracks in Massachusetts require a large number of dogs in order to function. For example, according to the Massachusetts State Racing Commission, over 2,600 greyhounds competed in 2006. Because racetracks require such a large number of dogs, greyhounds are confined in individual, stacked cages perpetually with only two exceptions:
    - a. A few times per month dogs are taken from the kennel compound to the racetrack where they compete.
    - b. Four times per day, for forty-five minutes, dogs are removed from their kennels and allowed to relieve themselves. For the remaining 20 or more hours per day, greyhounds are confined in individual cages!
  - Regarding our sources for this information, the turn-out frequency is based on a letter authored by representatives of the Massachusetts Greyhound Kennel Operators and Owners that was published in various newspapers in August 2007. Regarding the length of each turnout, our source is a video clip that is posted on Wonderland Greyhound Park's website.
  - According to the State Racing Commission, the minimum dimensions for these cages are 32 inches wide by 42 inches deep and 34 inches high. According to the American Greyhound Council large greyhounds stand 30 inches tall at the shoulder. Large greyhounds cannot stand fully erect in these cages. This is supported by photographs taken by Wonderland Greyhound Park.

## PROTECTING GREYHOUNDS NATIONWIDE

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- To put these cage sizes in perspective, the runs used for similarly sized dogs at the MSPCA in Boston are roughly five times larger than the cages at Massachusetts dog tracks.

### 3. Primary Issue #2: Greyhounds Suffer Serious Injuries

- Nearly 900 greyhounds have been injured in our state since 2002.
- This is according to state injury reports that are completed by racetrack veterinarians and signed under the pains and penalties of perjury.
- Nearly 80% of these injuries involved broken legs. Other reported injuries include paralysis and death from cardiac arrest.
- Most reported injuries were serious. For example, 60% of reports indicated an estimated recovery time. The average recovery time for these reports was 31 weeks. An additional 22% either indicated that the injury was career-ending or fatal. Using a categorization system created by the industry itself, through the American Greyhound Council, 57% of Massachusetts injuries were "serious," while only 3% were minor.
- These injuries tell the stories of individual dogs. For example:
  - (i) On December 5, 2008, a three-year old black greyhound named Lazy K Jarvis died after running into a wall during a race at Raynham Park and suffering paralysis.
  - (ii) On January 19, 2009 a three-year old white and black greyhound named Talsta died after suffering cardiac arrest during a race at Raynham Park.

### 4. Secondary Issue #1: Dogs Die From Mystery Illness

- In the Spring of 2005 19 greyhounds died from a mysterious illness that was later proven to be a form of horse flu that had never before jumped species. This illness caused dogs to die suddenly, including some apparently healthy dogs that died in as little as four hours.
- This new dog flu has now spread beyond the racing industry to other dogs.

### 5. Secondary Issue #2: Greyhounds are Fed the Cheapest Meat Available to Reduce Costs

- At commercial dog tracks in Massachusetts, greyhound are fed a diet based on so-called "4-D meat" from dying, diseased, disabled and dead livestock. This meat has been deemed unfit for human consumption.
- Our source for this information is Wonderland Greyhound Park's website.
- While it is true that this meat is also used to make pet foods, in that setting it is cooked to remove pathogens. The greyhound industry uses raw 4-D meat because trainers believe cooking the meat will negatively impact racing performance.
- According to an industry handbook, Care of the Racing Greyhound, 4-D meat is used because it is the "most economically feasible for the Greyhound industry at this time."

### 6. Secondary Issue #3: Dog Tests Positive for Cocaine at Wonderland

- In late 2003 and early 2004, a dog racing at Wonderland tested positive twice for cocaine.

## Part Two: Response to Opposition Arguments

Since Question 3 passed, several arguments have been in an effort to undermine the will of the voters.

1. Citizens did not understand the impact of their vote on Question 3.
  - Greyhound racing has been debated in our state for over a decade. Few issues have been debated more thoroughly.
  - In the 2008 campaign, dog track supporters spent \$650,000 in advertising against Question 3. Their television ads featured track workers asking voters to oppose the Greyhound Protection Act. This television campaign was supplemented by radio and newspaper advertising.
2. Question 3 did not really help any dogs because they will now be sent to other states.
  - Right now, the greyhounds that race in our state are bred and trained elsewhere. They then come here for a short period of time before being sent to other states.
  - If that is a bad thing, it is a bad thing that has been occurring for decades and will now end.
3. Question 3 supporters used photographs from other states and countries.
  - This is simply not true. All photographs were taken by the Massachusetts racetracks themselves. Our entire case was based on data that is specific to Massachusetts, thoroughly documented, and recent.
4. It was not fair for voters statewide to vote on the Greyhound Protection Act.
  - According to the SJC, dog racing is a matter of statewide concern. It was approved at the state level generations ago, and only could have been prohibited at the state level.

Finally, let me say that I personally worked very hard for the Greyhound Protection Act, and am proud to have been a part of this effort. We have a proud tradition in Massachusetts of passing humane laws, and this policy continues that tradition. As a resident, a voter, and someone who lives with a retired greyhound, I urge you to uphold the will of the voters on Question 3 and defeat S. 2041.

With that, I will close and take your questions.

Kevin Farnsworth  
Animal Control Officer  
Inspector of Animals



Room 102  
City Hall 01901  
(781) 477-7080

**Parking Department  
City of Lynn, Massachusetts**

September 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

As the City of Lynn Animal Control Officer for the past 23 years, I am writing to inform you that the City of Lynn implemented a Kennel Ordinance January 26, 1993, which I, along with representatives from the MSPCA and the Animal Rescue League of Boston had input in creating. Since then, other improvements have been implemented in the kennels such as sprinkler systems and smoke detectors; they also have a fire watch.

My department, along with the health department and fire department, inspect the kennels yearly before permits are approved. The health department and I also do spot checks throughout the year. In addition, the MSPCA and the Animal Rescue League of Boston have also inspected the kennels with us. I feel we had full cooperation in the past from the Wonderland Track and the kennel managers in Lynn to fully and immediately correct any problem that surfaced.

If I can assist you further please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Farnsworth*  
Kevin Farnsworth  
Animal Control Officer

msw



MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties  
From: Kiley & Company  
Re: A Survey of Voter Attitudes  
Toward the Ban on Dog Racing  
Date: May 21, 2009

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*This memorandum summarizes key findings from a recent survey of a representative sample of 400 Massachusetts voters. Interviews were conducted by telephone during the evening hours of April 22 and 23, 2009.*

**In the current economic climate, preserving jobs is the public's number-one priority.**

The public is in a somber frame of mind: 56% of Massachusetts voters say that the Commonwealth is off on the wrong track, while just 31% think the state is moving in the right direction.

This pessimistic mood is driven by deep concern about the length and breadth of the ongoing recession. Most Bay State voters expect the current downturn to last for at least another year: fully 57% think the economy won't turn around at least until the end of 2010.

In a striking indication of how widespread job losses have become, fully half (49%) of all voters say that they have a close friend or relative who has lost a job because of the recession. Among those under the age of 40, a startling 61% know someone who has been thrown out of work recently.

Given these high levels of economic anxiety, *jobs* have emerged as the number-one priority for Massachusetts voters. When asked to choose among three possible priorities for state leaders, a clear majority (54%) say the state needs to focus on *protecting jobs and avoiding job losses* – more than twice the number of voters who say the state's top priority should be *avoiding tax increases* (24%), and three times the number who say the state should concentrate on *preserving public services* (17%).

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## **Voters support a proposal to delay the ban on dog racing as a way to preserve jobs.**

We asked voters the following question about the idea of delaying the implementation of the ban for three years:

*Some people say the ban on dog racing comes at a bad time for Massachusetts. They say that forcing the state's two dog tracks to shut down will mean the loss of 650 jobs, just when we should be doing everything we can to preserve jobs. It will also cost the state millions a year in tax revenue. They say we should delay the ban and allow the dog tracks to remain open for another three years – until January 1, 2013 – to preserve jobs until the recession is over, and give those workers a better chance of finding new jobs when the economy is stronger.*

In response, fully three-of-five (61%) voters say they would favor such a delay in implementing the ban, while 34% say they are opposed.

Support for a delay is widespread: majorities among *Republicans* (66%), *Independents* (62%), and *Democrats* (57%) all support this idea. Clear majorities in every region of the state, and every age bracket, also favor a delay.

On this issue we find majority-level support for a delay among both *men* (66%) and *women* (56%), as well as *non-college voters* (66%) and *college graduates* (55%).

### **Voters would not hold it against legislators who vote for a delay.**

About one-of-five (18%) voters say they would be *less inclined* to support the reelection of a legislator who votes in favor of delaying the ban on dog racing. Just as many voters (17%) say they would be *more inclined* to support such a legislator, while the large majority – fully 63% – say that this issue would have *no impact* on their voting decisions.

## **Conclusion**

Our results clearly indicate that – in the current economic climate – Massachusetts voters support a delay in implementing the voter-approved ban on live dog racing. With the public so deeply concerned about the need to preserve existing jobs, such a delay makes sense to a substantial majority of Bay State voters.

Nor are voters inclined to punish state legislators who might vote in favor of such a delay. The large majority say that a pro-delay vote would have no impact on whether they would support their legislator for reelection.

SNAP SHOT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GREYHOUND INDUSTRY :

TWO TRACKS AND KENNEL OPERATORS  
FINANCIAL IMPACT.

\$ 10.9 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PAYROLL AT BOTH TRACKS

\$ 6.1 MILLION DOLLARS PAID IN PURSES TO KENNELS

\$ 6 MILLION DOLLARS INVESTED IN GREYHOUNDS AT BOTH  
TRACKS

( AVERAGE COST TO RAISE \$3,000. X APP. 2000 GREYHOUNDS )

\$ 2.1 MILLION DOLLARS APP. PAID IN COOMISSION BY KENNELS

\$ 1 MILLION DOLLARS PLUS IN PAYROLL FOR KENNELS

\$ 3.1 MILLION DOLLARS IN RACING TAXES PAID BY THE  
TRACKS TO PAY FOR MASS.STATE RACING.COM.  
GREYHOUND RACING PAYS FOR OVER 95 % OF  
RACING COMMISSION 'S BUDGET

APP. \$ 300,000.00 PAID FOR HEALTH INSURANCE BY KENNELS

\$ 500,000.00 SPENT FOR MEAT AND DRY FEED

\$ 100,000.00 SPENT ON 24 /7 SECURITY AT LYNN KENNELS

\$ 100,000.00 SPENT ON HEALTH CERTIFICATES/EXAMS  
( \$50.00 PER EXAM X 2000 GREYHOUNDS )

\$ 350,000.00 APP. SPENT ON KENNEL RENTS, TRASH DISPOSAL  
AND UTILITIES AT COMPOUNDS.

\$ 200,000.00 SPENT ON TRANSPORTATION OF GREYHOUNDS  
( \$ 100.00 PER GREYHOUND X 2000 GREYHOUNDS )

THAT'S EQUALS \$ 30.7 MILLION DOLLARS OF BUSINESS

GENERATED BY THIS INDUSRTY.

WITHOUT FACTORING IN FOOD AND DRINK SALES AND COSTS AT THE TRACKS.

WITHOUT FACTORING IN LOCAL TAXES PAID IN BY THE TWO TRACKS AND COMPOUNDS.

WITHOUT FACTORING IN SATELLITE CONTRACTS

WITHOUT FACTORING IN SIMULCAST REVENUE GENERATED IN STATE AND OUT OF STATE

WITHOUT FACTORING LOTTERY SALES IN WHICH THESE TRACKS HAVE BEEN LEADING SALES AGENTS SINCE THE LOTTERY STARTED. RAYNHAM STILL IS.

WITHOUT FACTORING IN HOW MUCH THESE 1300 PEOPLE WHO ARE DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THIS INDUSRTY EFFECT OUR ECONOMY WITH THEIR PURCHASES, AND GENERAL LIVING EXPENSES, THAT NOT ONLY HELP THEIR RESPECTIVE CITIES, BUT ALSO OUR STATE.

OUR INDUSRTY , PRESENTLY MADE UP OF 1300 HUNDRED PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONTRIBUTING TO OUR STATES ECONOMY SINCE 1935. IT IS STILL A VIABLE BUSINESS, ESPECIALLY IN THIS ECONOMY WHERE EVERY JOB MATTERS.



## 2007 WONDERLAND AND RAYNHAM TRACKS ECONOMIC FACTS

|                                                  | Wonderland:   | Raynham:      |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Salaries Paid:                                   | \$4.2 Million | \$6.7 Million |
| Mass. Inc. Tax With. :                           | \$122,000     | \$280,000     |
| Sales Tax:                                       | \$25,000      | \$153,000     |
| Racing Tax:<br>(Pays Racing Commission's Budget) | \$883,000     | \$2.3 Million |
| Total Wagered:                                   | \$32 Million  | \$60 Million  |
| Purses Paid:                                     | \$1.6 Million | \$4.5 Million |
| Employees:                                       | 197           | 504           |
| Contract Labor:                                  |               | 329           |

**NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:**

|                                             |     |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| WONDERLAND: 2007.                           | 197 |
| RAYNHAM 2007                                | 504 |
| RAYNHAM CONTRACT LABOR                      | 329 |
| KENNEL OPERATORS                            | 50  |
| MASS STATE RACING COM.                      | 43  |
| OWNERS                                      | 166 |
| COMPOUND GUARDS , LYNN                      | 6   |
| COMPOUND MAINTENANCE<br>AND SERVICES , LYNN | 4   |

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**TOTAL** 1299

**ALL OWNERS RECEIVE W-2'S AND PAY TAXES IN THIS STATE,  
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY THEIR GREYHOUNDS ARE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR BOTH GENERATING REVENUE THROUGH  
LIVE AND SIMULCASTED WAGERING AND GENERATING  
SPENDING FOR THEIR UPKEEP AND NECESSITIES .**

## Massachusetts State Racing Commission Facts

For Raynham and Wonderland

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Licenses: Asst. Trainers: | 34  |
| Trainers:                 | 20  |
| Owners:                   | 166 |
| Kennels:                  | 38  |
| Lead-outs:                | 30  |
| Pari-Mutual:              | 30  |
| Racing Official:          | 7   |

Total Licenses 325

Massachusetts Racing Commission Budget is \$2.5 Million.

The Greyhound Tracks' Racing Taxes Are Responsible For Paying Over 95% Of This Budget. The Horse Tracks Pay less then 5%

Racing Commission : 29 Full time employees  
10 contract employees  
4 State Police Inspectors

Total Employees 43