

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dan Johnson at 3:30 p.m. on March 14, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Kay Scarlett, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Kevin Neuman, Overland Park, Kansas  
Gary Guccione, Executive Director, National Greyhound Association  
Craig Randle, Inspector for the National Greyhound Association  
Steve Ward, Kansas Greyhound Association  
John Watson, Director, Trade Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce

Others attending:

See attached list.

Minutes of the March 2, 7, and 9 meetings were distributed. Members were asked to notify the committee secretary of any corrections or additions prior to Wednesday, March 16, or the minutes will be considered approved as presented.

Chairman Johnson stated that unless there was objection from the committee, he planned to concur with Senate amendments to **HCR 5005** urging the USDA to reconsider the United States rule on cattle imports from Canada. The Senate Committee of the Whole amended the resolution to:

- Add as another reason for the resolution the fact that Japan has failed to abide by the October 23, 2004, agreement and meet its trade obligation under the agreement;
- Change the word “apply” to “impose” with relation to economic sanctions which may be necessary in further opening all world markets; and
- Add the United States Trade Representative as one of the recipients of the resolution.

There was no committee objection to concurring with the Senate amendments to **HCR 5005**.

**Hearing on HB 2508 - Application of Kansas Pet Animal Act to greyhounds**

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **HB 2508**. Raney Gilliland explained that **HB 2508** would make a change in the definition section of the Kansas Pet Animal Act. The bill would remove the exclusion of greyhounds from the definition of “dog” on page 2, lines 7 and 8; thereby, making greyhounds subject to the Kansas Pet Animal Act.

Kevin Neuman, Overland Park, Kansas, a greyhound owner and advocate, appeared in support of **HB 2508** to recognize a greyhound as a dog. He provided a brief history of the greyhound breed and its exclusion from being considered a canine in Kansas. He noted that no other state excludes a greyhound from the definition of a dog. As attendance at greyhound racing tracks around the United States decreases, he believes it is even more important that the State of Kansas recognize a greyhound as a dog to be protected by the Kansas Pet Animal Act. (Attachment 1)

Gary Guccione, Executive Director, National Greyhound Association, testified in opposition to **HB 2508**. He provided background information about the greyhound industry, stating that Dickinson County, with Abilene as its county seat, is the largest greyhound-producing county in the United States; that Abilene is not only the home of the National Greyhound Association, but also the home of the Greyhound Hall of Fame. He emphasized that NGA-registered greyhounds are bred and raised exclusively for the purpose of racing—just

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Agriculture Committee at 3:30 p.m. on March 14, 2005, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

as race horses, that are also exempt from the Kansas Pet Animal Act. He noted that greyhounds that are retired from the sport or that do not make the grade at the racetrack are either retired back to the farm for breeding purposes or placed in homes as pets. These pet greyhounds are spayed and neutered before placement, thus cannot be used for commercial breeding purposes. He stated that greyhounds are not bred to be wholesaled, either in Kansas or out-of-state, again the greyhound breeding industry closely parallels the horse-race industry. He reported that all greyhound farms in Kansas are subject to regular inspection, not only by NGA, but also by the Kansas Greyhound Registry. A copy of a letter from Gerald Rodman, KGA's full-time inspector, is included with his testimony. He stated that because of the unique nature of the industry and the strict requirements and tough penalty provisions, the current system of regulation is working. (Attachment 2)

Craig Randle, Inspector for the National Greyhound Association, appeared in opposition to **HB 2508**. He reported that he has 60 part-time inspectors throughout the country that support him in his responsibilities. He explained that their inspections are unannounced, and while the condition of the greyhounds is paramount, inspectors also consider the condition and cleanliness of the facilities. Greyhound farms are inspected annually, with follow-up inspections if conditions warrant. He included a copy of the NGA Inspection Report Form and NGA Inspection Guidelines with his testimony. (Attachment 3)

Steve Ward, Kansas Greyhound Association, testified in opposition to **HB 2508**, stating that the language in question only applies to greyhounds which are registered with the National Greyhound Registry, not all dogs of the greyhound breed. He said the language stricken on page two of the bill would add an additional layer of inspection and supervision to an industry which is already subject to multiple layers of regulation and inspection. He also included a copy of the statement by Gerald Rodman, official inspector for the Kansas Greyhound Registry, noting that the Registry operates under the supervision of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission. He explained that before a greyhound owner can have an animal race in Kansas, he or she must apply for a racing license with the state racing and gaming commission and must submit fingerprints to the KBI and FBI for background checks. (Attachment 4)

There being no other conferees, the hearing on **HB 2508** was closed.

### **Hearing on HCR 5016 - Concurrent Resolution supporting a Taiwan-United States trade agreement**

Chairman Johnson opened the hearing on **HCR 5016**. Raney Gilliland explained the resolution in support of a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement.

John Watson, Director, Trade Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce, appeared in support of **HCR 5016** and a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement. He stated that exports are vital to the health of the Kansas economy and building strong trading partners among the countries of the world is good public policy for Kansas. He reported that Taiwan is an excellent customer for Kansas wheat, beef and manufactured goods, with total exports placing Taiwan as the 16<sup>th</sup> largest partner of Kansas. He said that adoption of the resolution will send a strong signal to our customers that Taiwan is a valued partner and customer of Kansas. He reported that in recognition of the importance of the Taiwan market, the department reopened a Taiwan office in May of 2004.

Mr. Watson reported that Kansas is home of an industry leader with strong Taiwan ties. The Garmin Corporation of Olathe, a world-class manufacturer of global positioning systems for both recreational and aerospace application, is a good example of how Taiwan entrepreneurs have flourished by establishing a base of operations in Kansas. This means more employment opportunities in the future for Kansans. The Kansas Department of Commerce supports this resolution. (Attachment 5)

Mr. Joseph Chang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office was in attendance. It was noted that this resolution was introduced at the request of the Taiwan delegation.

As there were no other conferees, the hearing on **HCR 5016** was closed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2005.

# HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: March 14, 2005

NAME	REPRESENTING
Gary Guccione	National Greyhound Assn.
Tim Horan	" " "
Craig Randle	" " "
Duane Simpson	KGFA - KARA
Sherry Neuman	Kansas Citizen
Kevin Neuman	Kansas Citizen
Susan Parson	Ks Greyhound Assn
Ed Kaden	KFD
John Ratz	Ks Department of Commerce
April Chiang	"
Tom Bruno	Ks Pet Industry
<b>BRAD HARRELSON</b>	<b>KFB</b>
Joseph Chang	Taipei Economic and Cultural Office
Mary Ann Stanekowicz	KARA
Steve Ward	Ks Greyhound Assoc.
Tracy Wilder	WGA
Glenn Thompson	Stand Up For Ks.
Carole Jordan	KDA

**Testimony to the Kansas House Agriculture Committee**  
**House Bill 2508**  
Presented by Kevin Neuman  
(913) 681-2228

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**► Introduction:**

Good morning Chairman Johnson and other members of this committee. I am Kevin Neuman, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today as a Kansas private citizen. I live and work in Overland Park and also volunteer for several not-for-profit organizations but receive no financial compensation of any kind. I am not a lobbyist and my testimony is not influenced in any way by a desire to benefit economically.

I am here to urge the state of Kansas to recognize a greyhound as a dog, which is the intent of House Bill 2508.

**► When and why a greyhound was excluded from being a canine in Kansas.**

My research of Kansas statute 47-1701, which in 1996 became the Kansas Pet Animal Act, indicates its origin was in 1972 and amended in 1974 and 1980 before the significant amendment in 1988 that also specifically excluded a greyhound registered with the National Greyhound Association from being a dog. I was unable to uncover any records that explained this exclusion but since Kansas voters passed in 1986 the amendment to the Kansas Constitution to allow pari-mutuel racing, a logical conclusion would be that the greyhound breeding, training and racing industries lobbied for the exclusion. At that time, the economic expectations of those industries were very optimistic and what better way to enhance profits than to be the fox that guards the hen house and exclude greyhounds from the protection the state of Kansas provided to all other dogs.

**► Important to consider other greyhound history than a Kansas statute.**

Well before Kansas said it was not a dog in 1988, the greyhound has a history unmatched by any other breed of dog. In early Arabian culture, the birth of a greyhound was cause for great celebrations and second only in importance to the birth of a son. Persians believed that the greyhound was permitted in the next world to give information and evidence about mankind. During the 15th century, English commoners were beheaded if caught with a greyhound in their possession, thereby strongly encouraging greyhound ownership remaining an elite activity shared only by nobility. Also, the destruction of a greyhound was an extremely serious crime. Some famous greyhound fanciers were Queen Elizabeth I, George Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, General George Custer and Cleopatra – legend has it that she created her striking eye makeup patterned from the beautiful eyes of a greyhound. Greyhounds were also the only dog mentioned by name in the King James Version of the Bible<sup>1</sup>.

**► In no other state, even the few that still allow greyhound racing, is a greyhound not a dog.**

I have used every resource available to me and can find no other state that excludes a greyhound as a dog. Although only fourteen (14) other states<sup>2</sup> allow greyhound racing, none of them exclude a greyhound from being a dog and therefore from the protection of the state. Even Florida, with the most tracks of any state, does not exclude a greyhound from being a dog. Of course, none of the 35 states that do not allow greyhound racing define a greyhound as not being a dog. Therefore, the Kansas government is the only one in the United States, and perhaps in the entire world, that says a greyhound is not a dog.

► **Now, more than ever, a greyhound needs to be a dog in Kansas.**

As informed citizens continue to reduce the attendance at greyhound racing tracks around the United States, the optimism of the 1980s in the greyhound breeding, training and racing industries declines<sup>3</sup> as well, and is replaced by an urgency to make money on a product the public no longer wants<sup>4</sup>. This provides an environment in which more greyhounds will be bred to find the fastest one for that chance to obtain a share of the diminishing race revenue. It is important that the state of Kansas recognizes a greyhound as a dog and be protected by the Kansas Pet Animal Act. The state of Kansas, already with what could be considered a controversial past regarding animal protection, should not continue to stand alone in its exclusion of a greyhound from being a dog.

► **Conclusion.**

There are thousands of Kansans, and millions of people around the world, who know a greyhound is one of the most intelligent, sensitive, calm and loving creatures on the planet. During our over ten (10) years of greyhound advocacy, my wife and I have found our best friends, greyhounds. Mans' best friend, a dog. Please let our best friends be dogs in Kansas.



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<sup>1</sup> King James version, Proverbs 30:29-31

<sup>2</sup> See attached list of tracks open in states that allow racing as of January, 2005. Oregon is a racing state but see footnote 4.

<sup>3</sup> Documentation attached.

<sup>4</sup> One of the oldest tracks in the country, Magna Entertainment announced on December 24, 2004 that it would not renew its lease on the Multnomah Greyhound Park in Portland, Oregon, effectively ending 70 years of greyhound racing in Oregon.

# Greyhound Racetracks Operating in the United States as of January 1, 2005

State/Track	City/Town	Opened	Operation	State/Track	City/Town	Opened	Operation
<b>ALABAMA</b>				<b>RHODE ISLAND</b>			
Birmingham RC	Birmingham	1992	Year-round	Lincoln GP (2)	Lincoln	1977	Year-round
Mobile GP	Theodore	1973	Year-round	<b>TEXAS</b>			
VictoryLand	Shorter	1984	Year-round	Corpus Christi GT	Corpus Christi	1990	Year-round
<b>ARIZONA</b>				Gulf GP	La Marque	1992	Year-round
Phoenix GP	Phoenix	1954	Year-round	Valley Race Park (3)	Harlingen	2000	Seasonal
Tucson GP	Tucson	1944	Year-round	<b>WEST VIRGINIA</b>			
<b>ARKANSAS</b>				Tri-State (2)	Cross Lanes	1985	Year-round
Southland GP	West Memphis	1956	Year-round	Wheeling Downs (2)	Wheeling	1976	Year-round
<b>COLORADO</b>				<b>WISCONSIN</b>			
Cloverleaf GP	Loveland	1955	Seasonal	Dairyland GP	Kenosha	1990	Year-round
Wembley Park (1)	Commerce City	1949	Seasonal	Geneva Lakes KC	Delavan	1990	Year-round
<b>CONNECTICUT</b>				(1) Formerly Mile High Greyhound Park			
Plainfield GP	Plainfield	1975	Year-round	(2) Offers casino gambling; known as a "racino"			
Shoreline Star	Bridgeport	1995	Seasonal	(3) Valley Race Park opened in 1990 and closed in 1995. Seasonal live racing resumed in December 2000 under new ownership.			
<b>FLORIDA</b>				As of January 2005, the 42 dog tracks listed above are conducting live racing in 14 states. The following 20 tracks have either closed completely, been destroyed, or ceased live racing since 1991:			
Ebro GT	Washington Co.	1995	Seasonal	Key West	Florida	1963-1991	(2)
Daytona Beach KC	Daytona Beach	1948	Year-round	Interstate	Colorado	1971-1991	
Flagler GT	Miami	1932	Seasonal	Green Mountain	Vermont	1976-1992	
Hollywood GT	Hallandale	1934	Seasonal	Black Hills	South Dakota	1949-1992	(2)
Jacksonville KC	Jacksonville	1935	Seasonal	Yuma	Arizona	1965-1993	
Jefferson County	Monticello	1959	Year-round	Fox Valley	Wisconsin	1990-1993	(2)
Melbourne GP	Melbourne	1991	Year-round	Sodrac	South Dakota	1955-1994	(2)
Naples-Ft. Myers	Bonita Springs	1957	Year-round	Coeur d'Alene	Idaho	1988-1995	
Orange Park KC	Orange Park	1946	Seasonal	Biscayne	Florida	1926-1995	(2)
Palm Beach KC	W. Palm Beach	1932	Year-round	Greenetrack	Alabama	1977-1996	(1)
Pensacola GT	Pensacola	1946	Year-round	Wisconsin Dells	Wisconsin	1990-1996	
St. Petersburg KC	St. Petersburg	1925	Seasonal	Waterloo	Iowa	1986-1996	
Sanford-Orlando	Longwood	1935	Year-round	Camptown GP	Kansas	1995-2000	
Sarasota KC	Sarasota	1944	Seasonal	St. Johns GP	Florida	1977-2000	(1)
Tampa GP	Tampa	1933	Seasonal	Seminole GP	Florida	1981-2001	(2)
<b>IOWA</b>				St. Croix Meadows	Wisconsin	1991-2001	
Bluffs Run (2)	Council Bluffs	1986	Year-round	Pueblo GP	Colorado	1949-2002	(1)
Dubuque GP (2)	Dubuque	1985	Seasonal	Post Time (Rocky Mountain)	Colorado	1948-2003	(1)
<b>KANSAS</b>				Apache GP	Arizona	1965-2004	(1)
Wichita GP	Wichita	1989	Year-round	Multnomah GP	Oregon	1933-2004	
Woodlands	Kansas City	1989	Year-round	(1) Remains open for simulcasting (2) Demolished or destroyed			
<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>				<b>Between 1993-2004, the following eight states enacted legislation banning greyhound racing: Maine, Virginia, Vermont, Idaho, Washington, Nevada, North Carolina and Pennsylvania.</b>			
Raynham/Taunton	Raynham	1940	Year-round				
Wonderland	Revere (Boston)	1935	Year-round				
<b>NEW HAMPSHIRE</b>							
Hinsdale GP	Hinsdale	1973	Year-round				
Lakes Region GP	Belmont	1975	Seasonal				
Seabrook GP	Seabrook	1973	Year-round				

Abbreviations: RC—Race Course GP—Greyhound Park KC—Kennel Club GT—Greyhound Track

## Wagering Handles Decline: Statistical Profile of 10 Racetracks Around the Country

[Reprinted with permission from Greyhound Network News. Information collected and compiled by the Greyhound Protection League.]

The following is a look at the decline in the live wagering handle at 10 racetracks across the country. Please note that approximately 80 percent of the handle, which is the total amount of money wagered, is returned to the public in winning bets. The remaining 20 percent, known as the takeout, is withheld by the track to pay state taxes, purses, operating expenses, salaries, etc.

- In Alabama, the handle at the Birmingham Race Course dropped from \$116 million in 1993 to \$42 million in 1998, a decline of 64 percent; attendance for the same period fell 36 percent, from 1.02 million to 650,000.
- In Arizona, the handle at Phoenix Greyhound Park dropped from \$88 million in fiscal year 1991-92 to \$30.7 million in fiscal year 1998-99, a decline of 65 percent; attendance for the same period fell 65 percent, from 599,792 to 207,870.
- The handle at Tucson Greyhound Park dropped from \$34.4 million in Fiscal year 1991-92 to \$9.9 million in fiscal year 1998-99, a decline of 71 percent.
- In Connecticut, the handle at Plainfield Greyhound Park dropped from \$96.4 million in 1990 to \$22.8 million in 1999, a decline of 76 percent; attendance for the same period fell 67 percent from 633,390 to 206,190.
- **In Kansas, the combined live and simulcast handle at The Woodlands dropped from \$197 million in 1990 to \$65.4 million in 1999, a decline of 67 percent; attendance for the same period fell 82 percent from 1.7 million to 305,489.**
- In Massachusetts, the handle at Raynham/Taunton Greyhound Park dropped from \$215.1 million in 1990 to \$64.7 million in 1998, a decline of 70 percent; attendance for the same period fell 61 percent from 1.8 million to 696,323. The handle at Wonderland Greyhound Park dropped from \$195.4 million in 1990 to \$31.3 million in 1998, a decline of 84 percent; attendance for the same period fell 69 percent from 1.3 million to 406,828.
- In Texas, the handle at Corpus Christi Greyhound Track dropped from \$33.9 million in 1995 to \$25.2 million in 1998, a decline of 26 percent; attendance for the same period fell 37 percent from 363,741 to 228,385.
- The handle at Gulf Greyhound Park dropped from \$149.6 million in 1995 to \$117.4 million in 1998, a decline of 22 percent; attendance for the same period fell 65 percent from 2,285,318 in 1995 to 794,761 in 1998.
- In Wisconsin, the handle at St. Croix Meadows dropped from \$37.5 million in 1993 to \$20.8 million in 1998, a decline of 45 percent. The average daily attendance for the same period fell 60 percent from approximately 1,000 to 400.

# N National G Greyhound A Association

Phone (785) 263-4660 • P.O. Box 543 • Abilene, Kansas 67410

Mar. 14, 2005

Report to the Kansas House of Rep. Agriculture Committee  
Submitted by Gary Guccione, representing National Greyhound Assn.

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Dear Members of the Committee:

By way of introduction, the National Greyhound Association (NGA) is the official registry for the racing Greyhound breed in North America. It is in its 99th year of existence, and has proudly been headquartered in Abilene, Ks., for 60 years.

I personally have been in the Greyhound industry my entire life, and have served as the NGA's secretary-treasurer and executive director for the past 23 years. It was also my privilege to serve on the first Kansas Racing Commission's Advisory Committee from 1987 through 1989, when the initial rules of racing in this state were established.

Today, I wish to provide you some background information about the Greyhound industry, particularly in Kansas, with respect to House Bill No. 2508.

The Kansas Legislature has reviewed this issue from time to time over the years, and each time, in its wisdom, has chosen to exempt Greyhounds from the pet animal act. Being on the Racing Commission's advisory committee in the late 1980s, I know that we as a committee, as well as the commission, reviewed the issue at that time and concluded that Greyhounds were a unique breed in this regard. There were a number of reasons why that path was followed—reasons that are still relevant today. They include:

- Greyhounds are not bred for pets, neither in Kansas nor anywhere else in the US.;
- Greyhound breeding farms are already under sufficient regulation in Kansas;
- Because of the unique nature of the industry, the current system of regulation is working.

First, the fact that Greyhounds are not bred for pets. By definition in Kansas law (as given in K.S.A. 74-8802) a Greyhound is: "...(A)ny greyhound breed of dog properly registered with the national greyhound association of Abilene, Kansas." The history of the Greyhounds traces back to antiquity for this unique canine breed, which has basically



*Established in 1906*

House Agriculture Committee  
March 14, 2005  
Attachment 2



been a purebred dog for more than 4,000 years. The modern-day pedigrees of our Greyhounds go back well into the 1800s, maintained by the four major Greyhound registries of the world: those in England, Ireland, Australia and the United States. No new bloodlines or pedigrees have been permitted to interject themselves into those registries' Stud Books for more than two centuries. Obviously, the racing Greyhound is a member of the canis (or dog) family but, historically and from a commercial-use standpoint, that is where the similarity with other canine breeds ends—both in Kansas and elsewhere in the United States. It cannot be over-emphasized: NGA-registered Greyhounds are bred and raised exclusively for the purpose of racing—just as race horses, who are also exempt from the Kansas pet animal act, are bred for exactly that same purpose.

The Greyhound industry is very proud of the fact that now, more than 90 percent of the Greyhounds that retire from the sport or that do not make the grade at the racetrack are either retired back to the farm for breeding purposes or are now being placed into loving homes as pets. Nearly 300 adoption agencies that deal exclusively with Greyhounds are now placing upwards of 20,000 retired Greyhounds or Greyhounds that could not make the racing Greyhound, into homes throughout the US each year. It should be clarified that these retired Greyhounds are spayed and neutered before pet placement, thus cannot be used for commercial breeding purposes.

The Greyhound adoption program is a positive by-product of the Greyhound industry; however, please understand that Greyhounds bred and raised in Kansas are NOT bred and raised for pet purposes. (Nor are they bred and raised for that purpose anywhere else in the United States.) They are NOT bred to be wholesaled, either in Kansas or out-of-state. Once again, the Greyhound breeding industry closely parallels the horse-race industry in that regard.

Our second point: Greyhound breeding farms in Kansas are already under sufficient regulation. This issue was studied at great length during the enactment of the establishment of pari-mutuel racing in Kansas in the late 1980s—by the legislature, by the Kansas Racing Commission, and by its Advisory Committee. It was concluded (again, wisely so) that no additional state regulation was necessary, in light of the close supervision of the industry by national and state breed and racing authorities.

All of the Greyhound farms in Kansas are subject to regular inspection, not only by the National Greyhound Association, but also by the Kansas Greyhound Registry (see attached letter from KGR's fulltime inspector, Gerald Rodman). They are also subject to local animal-welfare laws, and the owners are licensed and under the authority of the Kansas Racing Commission.

The NGA's comprehensive inspections program is headed by a fulltime inspector and by more than 60 parttime inspectors located throughout the country. Thus every farm in the country can be visited with very short notice if there is reason to believe a problem exists. Accompanying me today is Craig Randle, the NGA's fulltime inspector, who has conducted tens of thousands of inspections for NGA, who'll present to you a brief overview of his responsibilities.

Which brings us to our third point—that because of the unique nature of the industry, the current system is working. At almost all inspections, our inspectors find that a facility is in full compliance. This is largely due to the fact that we're dealing in a performance sport and with a performance animal. Breeders who do less than a superlative job in caring for and raising their pups cannot compete with those who give

the very best of feed, care and attention to their Greyhounds. This is another important distinction about Greyhounds and the Greyhound industry, separating them from the rest of the canine world.

On the rare occasion when a problem is discovered at a farm, the NGA requires immediate correction by the breeder or farm. Follow-up is made, and if it is not corrected, or if a more serious problem exists upon initial inspection, hearings are conducted by the NGA Board of Directors. In the most severe of cases, irresponsible or negligent individuals are banned from the sport for life. Moreover, other NGA members are not permitted to ever conduct any type of Greyhound business with that individual again. The penalty is severe, but it's essential in order to maximize the excellent care for Greyhounds that's demanded by our industry.

How good is the current system working? Because of the emphasis on performance—requiring owners to provide excellent care in order to maximize their Greyhounds' performance—and because of the strict requirements and tough penalty schedule, the industry can be extremely proud of the quality of the Greyhound farms and the care administered thereon throughout the country. This is especially true in Kansas, since the enactment of the pari-mutuel law in the late 1980s. In the last 18 years, only two cases Kansas have arisen that were serious enough where individuals needed to be expelled from participating in the sport. These were in 1993 and 1998.

For all these reasons, we urge this Committee to oppose any effort to change the current system. (The old axiom "if-it-ain't-broke-don't fix it" certainly holds true in this case.)

In conclusion, Kansas has reason to take pride in its Greyhound industry. Dickinson County, with Abilene as its county seat, is still the largest Greyhound-producing county in the US. Abilene is not only the home of the NGA, but also the home of the Greyhound Hall Of Fame, one of the state's more popular museums. Little wonder that Abilene is still known as the "Greyhound Capital of the World."

We invite you to visit the Hall Of Fame in Abilene at any time to learn more about the colorful history and the beauty and splendor of this wonderful, unique breed. You are also more than welcome to visit our registry headquarters in Abilene, or any of a number of the beautiful farms in the Abilene area.

Thank you for your consideration.



Gary Guccione  
Exec. Dir., NGA  
PO Box 543  
Abilene, KS



# KANSAS GREYHOUND REGISTRY

711 OLD HWY 40

ABILENE, KS 67410-6664

(785) 263-4759

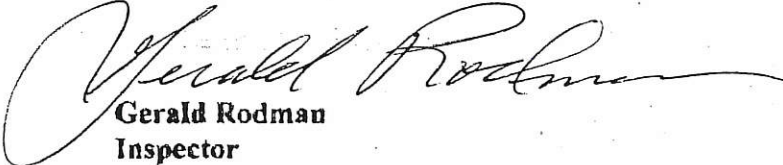
February 25, 2005

I, Gerald Rodman, am the inspector for the Kansas Greyhound Registry. I officially make unannounced inspections to Kansas farms, verifying Kansas whelped pups.

In 2004, I personally inspected 487 litters on various farms. While inspecting, if I see suspicious activity or animals being treated poorly, I report it to the National Greyhound Association's inspector, Craig Randle.

In my opinion, the inspection process of the Kansas greyhound industry is first rate and I would do nothing to change the procedure.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald Rodman  
Inspector



2-25-05

PLEASE PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS COPY IS BEING SENT  
IF YOU ARE THE OWNER OF THE DOG, PLEASE PRINT THE DOG'S NAME AND BREED

PLEASE PRINT THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THIS COPY IS BEING SENT  
IF YOU ARE THE OWNER OF THE DOG, PLEASE PRINT THE DOG'S NAME AND BREED

# National Greyhound Hall of Fame

Each year millions of Americans visit racing tracks across the nation to watch the greyhound do what his lean, graceful frame can do best—that is to run. And run the greyhound does, sometimes at speeds of more than 40 miles an hour.

On April 29th a national Greyhound Hall of Fame building will be dedicated in Abilene, across from the Eisenhower Center, in honor of the sport's highest achievers. It will be a permanent monumental shrine where people can view exhibits that depict the breeding, coursing and track racing aspects of the sport. Care Display, Inc., a new Herington industry, designed and built the displays.

With the aid of the latest in push-button electronics, the museum will be considerably more than a picture gallery. It will feature a simulated race track, a coursing park, breeding farms and training facilities, all in miniature.

The Hall of Fame is being built jointly by the National Greyhound Association (formerly National Coursing Association) and Greyhound Track Operators. Abilene, long known as the Greyhound Capital of the United States, is the NGA headquarters which maintains official registry files on more than 400,000 greyhounds.

Besides keeping records, the Association is host to two coursing meets each year. Dates for the 1973 spring meet are April 29 through May 6. The annual meets, held in the spring and again in the fall, usually attract from 500 to 600 greyhounds, with the most entries from Texas. Other states which are always well represented include Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, Nebraska, Florida, California, Montana, Iowa, Missouri, Massachusetts, Tennessee and many more. The quarter-mile coursing track was built on a 55-acre plot as the first permanent facility at the Association's park located just west of Abilene.

While speed is the only test in track racing, it is only one factor in open-field coursing. In the latter, in addition to speed, the dogs are judged on "brains" in the chase, turning and trying to catch an elusive lure. Many of the best coursing greyhounds also have become top performers on the tracks.

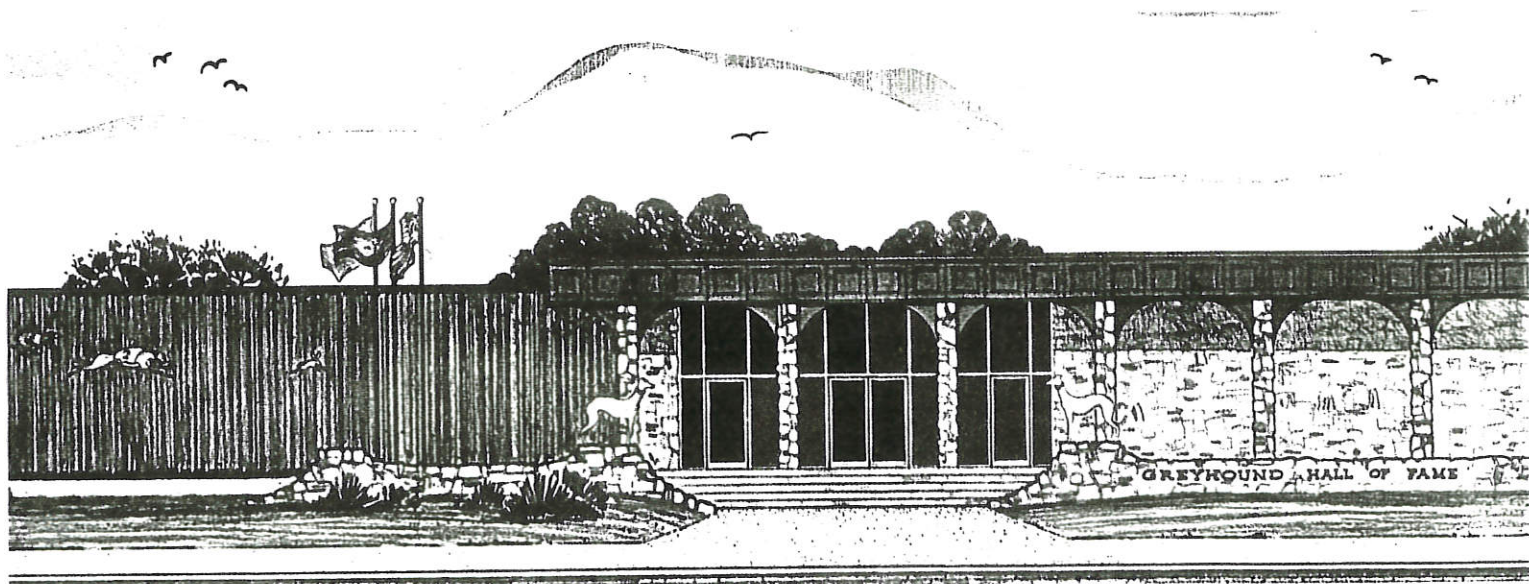
Greyhounds, chase a target only by sight, not by smell, first were imported into Kansas by homesteading farmers to thin down the destructive jack-rabbit population. Today, 190 NGA members reside in Kansas and there

are about that many farms. One of the Kansas members, Keith Dillon, of Olathe, is president of the National Greyhound Association.

Completion of the Hall of Fame building this year will be the culmination of a project that began early in the 1960s. Since 1963 a total of 18 greyhounds have been inducted into the Hall of Fame, which up to now has been located in NGA headquarters building.

To earn a place in the Hall of Fame, a greyhound must excel as a racer, producer or coursing competitor. Any nominations must be deceased for at least five years, and a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees is necessary for induction. (The Board of Trustees includes four members from the NGA and four from participating tracks.)

Those already having Hall of Fame status (listed in order of induction) are Rural Rube, Flashy Sir, Real Huntsman, Traffic Officer, Lucky Pilot, Indy Ann, Gangster, My Laddie, Lucky Roll, Golden Sahara, Fern Nature, Upsidedown, Kitty Dunn, Beachcomber, Sunny Concern, Never Roll, Mixed Harmony and Rocker Mac.



*Greyhound Hall of Fame will be across from the Eisenhower Center.*

## The Greyhound Hall of Fame

The Greyhound Hall of Fame, opened in 1973, is located in Abilene, Kansas. It is situated across the street from the Eisenhower Presidential Library. Registered as a non-profit educational facility, the Hall was established through donations from within the industry. Since its inception in 1963, 54 Greyhounds, including 9 Greyhounds imported from Europe, and 33 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame as honored members.

The Hall of Fame also takes great pride in its' museum. Over the years we have collected an impressive number of artifacts that assist in preserving the history of our unique sports heritage. These artifacts show us the progress that has occurred in our sport. Without them, it would be very difficult to visualize the technical achievements and the changes in the industry and the sport of Greyhound racing.

Displays within the Hall of Fame and Museum are regularly rotated in order to tell the continuing story of Greyhound racing and the people who have contributed to this fascinating sport.

The Greyhound Hall of Fame also maintains a library and archives including oral histories and video stake races for future use and enjoyment of bothe industry and the public. The Hall of Fame is also the repository of The World Greyhound Federation and the American Greyhound Track Operators Association records.

The Cowperthwaite Art Gallery displays many different forms of art depicting the Greyhound in all its' glory of royalty, grace and beauty.

The members of The Greyhound Hall of Fame board are deeply grateful to the many people who have entrusted their personal articles to our care. Many artifacts of historic value have been contributed by the general public and such gifts are warmly welcomed.

# ABILENE ---

## Tourist Capital Of Midwest

Which is why the Greyhound Hall Of Fame is so ideally located

BY GREG CECIL  
Executive Vice-President  
Chamber Of Commerce

(Reprinted by permission from  
*Abilene Reflector-Chronicle*)

Abilene is truly the midwest tourist capital. Where else in the midwest can you see so many attractions in one square block? No where. That is why Abilene, Kansas is so unique.

Abilene is very fortunate to have so many fine attractions, all sharing a piece of history.

The Lebold-Vahsholtz home that was built on the site of the Hersey home, the first home site in Abilene. The home is restored to the Eighteenth Century elegance that the Lebold family enjoyed.

Old Abilene Town is a reconstruction of the wild western town known for its saloons, gamblers, cowboys and wild women. The gamblers, cowboys and wild women are gone now but you can still get a feel of what it was like to walk into the Alamo Saloon and order a saspirilla or if you prefer something stronger, a cold beer.

Be sure and visit the whole town including the western museum or take a real stagecoach ride, around the old town. If you get hungry stop at the RancHouse Restaurant. They always have good grub.

The Greyhound Hall of Fame takes its place in history. The Abilene area was the birthplace of greyhound racing. Greyhounds were brought into the area to reduce the large numbers of jackrabbits that were taking their toll on the farmers' crops.

At any rate, one thing led to another. Challenges were made as to who had the fastest dog. Coursing was born. Coursing is not enjoyed as a sport here now, but races are held here every fall and spring that bring in

hundreds of greyhound breeders, owners and track operators from all over the United States. The Greyhound Hall of Fame offers something for everyone.

The Museum of Independent Telephony (not telephon-ee) takes its place alongside the other attractions. A local youth, Cleyson L. Brown built and created a telephone exchange in Abilene in 1898. I'm sure you've heard of his company, the United Telephone Company. They maintained executive offices here until 1966 when they were moved to Shawnee Mission, Kan.

Brown developed Brown Memorial Park, so the local people could benefit from his immense wealth also.

Probably the best known tourist attraction in Abilene is the Eisenhower Center. The center features the library, museum, home and the Memorial Chapel which is the final resting place of Ike and Mamie and a young son.

The Eisenhower Library, dedicated in 1962, was established to preserve papers, books and other materials. The center was constructed with funds that were made available through the contributions of many friends. The facilities are now the property of the United States government and maintained by the National Archives and Records Center.

The museum houses many fine exhibitions and is probably the finest presidential library in the U.S. today. Exhibits in separate wings of the museum depict different periods of Ike's life from boyhood to West Point, to Supreme Commander of the European Theatre in World War II, to President of the United States.

A motion picture is shown at the visitors center that illustrates exhibits at the center as well as provides a background on Ike and the work of the center. The library research area

is open only to qualified scholars and researchers. The rest of the library is open to tourists and contains various exhibits.

This is definitely one place you will not want to pass up in Abilene.

If you are a fan of World War II you will not want to miss out on the Hall of Generals. True to life wax figures of the wars outstanding generals are on display. You can hear General Eisenhower deliver his D-Day address, also.

The Dickinson County Historical Society provides an excellent insight into Abilene, the people and the outstanding men that have been produced by this community. View the exhibits and imagine yourself as a farmer, a trader, a trapper, a cowboy or a craftsman during the 1800's. The heritage of Abilene has been well preserved by the Historical Society.

One more item during the Bicentennial. A group of local people laid out a self-guided tour in the community of historical places. Many interesting places in the community are marked. Some of my favorite places are A Street, the area which was once the wild Texas Street that was "action center" of old Abilene, the Eisenhower Stadium, where Ike delivered his speech to tell the world he was going to be a candidate for the office of the President of the United States. The Duckwall-Alco office, which is a very signification in its own as far as community development goes, where the old stockyards used to be located. This is the site where the longhorns were kept until they were shipped off to the east.

Now you know why Abilene, Kansas is the tourist capital of the midwest. Abilene has it all and something for everyone from young to old. Take time to visit what has made Abilene famous all over the world. It will definitely be worth your while.

# N National G Greyhound A Association

Phone (785) 263-4660 • P.O. Box 543 • Abilene, Kansas 67410

Mar. 14, 2005

Testimony of Craig Randle, Inspector for the National Greyhound Assn.  
Presented to members of the House Agriculture Committee

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Dear Committee Members:

My name is Craig Randle and I reside in Abilene, Ks. I have been in the Greyhound industry my entire life, a third-generation member of a family that helped pioneer the sport back in the 1910s and 1920s—the Boyd Randle family of Morganville, KS, just north of Clay Center. I'm currently the fulltime inspector for the National Greyhound Association, and have served in that capacity for the last 13 years. More than 60 parttime inspectors from throughout the country support me in my responsibilities, and are especially helpful when a situation needing the NGA's attention arises in a distant state that I'm not immediately able to address.

Most of our inspections are unannounced. While the condition of the Greyhounds is most paramount in any inspection, inspectors will also consider the condition and cleanliness of the facilities. Are they safe? Are they sanitary? Is the shelter adequate? Is there sufficient room? Is there enough human oversight to prevent Greyhounds from being in an at-risk situation?

The NGA uses a specific set of guidelines addressing all these issues, and others, while conducting inspections, which I am attaching to this report. The primary guide for Greyhound care is addressed in the industry's textbook, "Care of the Racing Greyhound," written by three internationally renowned Greyhound veterinarians and published by the American Greyhound Council.

The inspections program is a major function of the NGA, and, on average, more than \$100 a year per farm is expended by the Association, for farm-inspection purposes, not



*Established in 1906*

House Agriculture Committee  
March 14, 2005  
Attachment 3

only in Kansas, but throughout the United States. Farms generally are inspected as a matter of routine on an annual basis. Any reports the NGA receives, whether from within or outside of the industry, are taken seriously—even if anonymously given—and are followed-up by the NGA and its inspections team.

The vast majority of breeders whose facilities we visit are doing a great job. They understand that excellent care is essential if they are going to succeed in the sport.

Occasionally, though, we will come across a farm that requires some constructive counsel. We offer that direction and follow-up with a letter from NGA headquarters to remind them of the situation, advising that we'll be following-up with a second inspection. If a second follow-up is required, it's done at their expense, and they might subsequently be called in for a hearing before the Board of Directors.

Serious problems arise infrequently—but when they do, we act swiftly. Our primary concern is the welfare of any Greyhounds that might be endangered. Once that's resolved, we direct our attention to those responsible for the situation. The NGA Board of Directors is not tolerant of those individuals who place Greyhounds at-risk. It's been my experience over the years, having testified at a number of NGA hearings for such cases, that those who are expelled for serious infractions are never given a second chance to show they've changed their ways. The penalties are harsh, but our members understand that and conduct themselves accordingly.

I'm especially proud of the farms here in Kansas. Year after year, we see very few problems (and those are usually minor ones). Many of the Kansas Greyhound farms are showcase facilities and are among the best in the country or the world. Kansas farms have earned this wonderful reputation, partly because of the long history of the sport in the state and the fact that so many of the farms have been successful operations for decades. Passage of the Kansas Pari-mutuel Act, which established a Kansas-bred program (thus further oversight by the Kansas Greyhound Registry), has also contributed to the excellent situation we have in this state.

I believe the current inspections programs have proven to be very effective in maintaining the welfare of the Greyhound breed in Kansas.

Thank you for this opportunity to address you.



Craig Randle  
c/o NGA  
PO Box 543  
Abilene, KS 67410



# NGA INSPECTION REPORT FORM

NAME OF PERSON, FARM OR KENNEL BEING INSPECTED \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF FACILITY \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF INSPECTION \_\_\_\_\_

INSPECTORS \_\_\_\_\_

## Rating Code

1 = EXCELLENT.

2 = GOOD.

3 = FAIR. (Room for improvement or situation may be in need of some attention, not necessarily immediate)

4 = POOR. (Situation bad and in need of immediate attention; formal follow-up required)

5 = EXTREMELY POOR. (Emergency situation; in need of immediate attention and direct industry involvement; possible cause for NGA hearing)

## 1. Registrations

A. List any pups that are of tattoo-age but are not tattooed: \_\_\_\_\_

List any irregularities with regard to tattooed pups (such as pups being long- or short-aged, pups registered in wrong litters, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

B. List any cases of non-NGA registered greyhounds that are not tattooed under a separate tattoo system: \_\_\_\_\_

C. List any cases of tattoos being obliterated, marred or altered: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. General Care of Greyhounds

### Rating

- |                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| A. Physically fit, well fed        | _____ |
| B. Water provided                  | _____ |
| C. Ticks & Fleas                   | _____ |
| D. Care of sick, diseased, injured | _____ |

## 3. Kennel Housing

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| A. Building in good repair                | _____ |
| B. Heating & cooling                      | _____ |
| C. Housing for pregnant dams & young pups | _____ |
| D. Ventilation                            | _____ |
| E. Maintained walls & floors              | _____ |
| F. Lighting                               | _____ |
| G. Turnout Pens                           | _____ |
| H. Fire Extinguisher (Rec.)               | _____ |

## 4. Runs & Run Housing

- |                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| A. Housing in good repair         | _____ |
| B. Shelter from heat, bad weather | _____ |
| C. Runs picked up, clean          | _____ |
| D. Fencing maintained             | _____ |

**5. Turnout Pens & Exercise Areas**

- A. Fencing maintained \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Lighting \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Turnout pens picked up, clean \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Supervision of pups in turnout \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Shelter from heat, bad weather \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Grounds of Kennel and/or Farm**

- A. Food and bedding supplies stored \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Washing facilities \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Means to remove waste materials \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Comfort, not overcrowded \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Females in heat away from males \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Chemicals away from feed & dogs \_\_\_\_\_
- G. No fire hazard (weeds, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Running & hot water \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Crates**

- A. Sound construction, good repair \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Made to keep dogs clean, dry  
Walls, floors impervious to moisture \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Large enough crates \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Ample turnouts \_\_\_\_\_
- E. One greyhound per crate \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Sanitation**

- A. Kennel cleaned on regular basis \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Runs, pens cleaned \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Water, food dishes clean \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Dropping buckets covered \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Personnel**

- A. Daily management oversight \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Sufficient number of personnel \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Inspection Information**

- A. Announced or unannounced (A or U) \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Cooperation in permitting inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Permission to inspect granted by: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Person present at inspection: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Attitude of person at inspection \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Inspector  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Inspector  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **NGA INSPECTION GUIDELINES**

*(Enacted by NGA Board Of Directors, October 1993, amended October 2000 and October 2001)*

The following information is intended as a guideline for NGA members and inspectors to determine the status of Greyhound farms or kennels.

### **1. Registrations**

A. All Greyhounds 3 months of age and older should be properly tattooed and registered in accordance with their true age and in the proper litter, as to sire and dam.

B. Persons who are boarding, maintaining or who otherwise have in their possession or who own greyhounds that are not registered or are unable to be registered with the NGA, and whose appearance is indiscernible from Greyhounds registered with the NGA, shall permanently identify such Greyhounds, upon the Greyhounds having reached 90 days of age, with ear tattoos identifiably different from the tattoos issued by the NGA's tattooing system.

C. Tattoos shall not be obliterated, marred or otherwise altered.

### **2. General Care of Greyhounds**

GENERAL STATEMENT: A person who knowingly subjects a Greyhound to grossly inhumane conditions or severe mistreatment is subject to action by the NGA Board Of Directors, including possible expulsion from the NGA and Greyhound racing.

"Grossly inhumane conditions" means conditions arising from a person's reckless indifference to the consequences of an act or omission if the person, without any actual intent to injure, is aware from his knowledge of existing circumstances and conditions that his conduct will inevitably or probably result in injury to a Greyhound.

"Severe mistreatment" means the infliction of physical pain, suffering or death on a Greyhound in a manner that is either wanton or with reckless indifference to pain or suffering.

\* \* \* \* \*

A. All Greyhounds shall be physically inspected and fed on a daily basis.

B. Greyhounds shall be provided with water in runs, exercise areas and turnout pens at all times.

C. Kennels, breeding farms and other operations shall be reasonably free of ticks and fleas.

D. Sick, diseased or injured Greyhounds shall be provided with proper care or disposed of by euthanasia.

### **3. Kennel Housing**

Kennel housing means any building where Greyhounds are housed indoors.

A. Buildings shall be constructed and maintained in good repair so as to ensure protection from

exposure or hazards that could endanger the greyhounds.

B. Adequate heat, insulation, bedding and cooling shall be provided. Where a central air conditioning unit is utilized, it is recommended that an alarm system be employed.

C. Indoor housing facilities shall be provided for greyhounds under the age of 8 weeks and for females within 2 weeks of whelping. The housing must be climate controlled, disinfected on a daily basis and separate from a race kennel (if applicable).

D. Indoor housing facilities shall at all times be provided with ventilation by means of doors, windows, vents, air conditioning or direct flow of fresh air.

E. Walls and floors shall be constructed so as to lend themselves to efficient cleaning and sanitizing. Such surfaces shall be maintained and in good repair.

F. Ample lighting shall be provided by natural or artificial means or both to allow efficient cleaning of the facilities, routine inspection of the facilities and the Greyhounds maintained therein.

G. Each kennel building shall have turnout pens.

H. A minimum of one functional fire extinguisher is recommended and should be mounted on the outside of each kennel building.

#### **4. Runs & Run Housing**

A. Buildings and structures in runs where Greyhounds are housed shall be constructed and maintained in good repair so as to ensure protection from exposure or hazards that could endanger the Greyhounds.

B. Shelter shall be provided to allow access to shade from direct sunlight and regress from exposure to inclement weather. Heat, insulation or bedding adequate to provide comfort shall be provided as needed.

C. The run area shall be kept free of debris, brush, feces or anything else that may be unsanitary or hazardous to the Greyhounds.

D. Fencing for the run shall be of a reasonable height and quality to secure greyhounds. Material for fencing shall be such that the health and safety of the Greyhounds are not endangered. Fences must be maintained in satisfactory repair.

#### **5. Turnout Pens & Exercise Areas**

A. Fencing for turnout pens and exercise areas must be of a reasonable height and quality to secure greyhounds. Material for fencing shall be such that the health and safety of the Greyhounds are not endangered. Fences must be maintained in satisfactory repair.

B. Ample lighting shall be provided by natural or artificial means or both to view the Greyhounds while

in the turnout pens and to allow efficient cleaning.

C. Turnout pens and exercise areas shall be free of debris, brush, feces or anything else that may be unsanitary or hazardous to the greyhounds.

D. Greyhounds shall be supervised at all times while in the turnout pens.

E. Shelter shall be provided in exercise areas to allow access to shade from direct sunlight and regress from exposure to inclement weather.

#### **6. Grounds of Kennel and/or Farm**

A. Food supplies and bedding materials shall be stored so as to protect them from contamination or infestation by vermin or other factors that would render the food or bedding unclean.

B. Washrooms, basins or sinks shall be provided within or be readily accessible to each housing facility, for maintaining cleanliness among animal caretakers and sanitizing of food and water utensils.

C. Equipment shall be available for removal and disposal of all waste materials from housing facilities to minimize vermin infestation, odors and disease hazards. Disposal of waste material shall be done on a regular basis.

D. Space shall be provided to prevent crowding and to allow freedom of movement and comfort to the Greyhounds.

E. Females in estrus shall not be housed with males, except for breeding purposes.

F. Cleaning supplies and pesticides shall be kept separate from food storage and Greyhounds.

G. The grounds shall be relatively free of weeds and other materials that may constitute a fire hazard or any other hazard to the greyhounds.

H. Running water shall be immediately available on the premises. Hot water shall be obtainable on the premises to properly disinfect dishes, utensils or other equipment.

#### **7. Crates**

A. Crates shall be of sound construction and maintained in good repair to protect the Greyhounds from injury.

B. Construction materials and maintenance shall allow the greyhounds to be kept clean and dry. Walls and floors shall be impervious to urine and other moisture.

C. The shape and size of the crate shall afford ample space for the Greyhounds to comfortably turn about, stand erect, sit or lie.

D. The Greyhounds shall be removed from their crates at least three times in each 24-hour period.

Steve Ward  
Kansas Greyhound Association  
711 Old 40 Hwy  
Abilene, KS 67410

Testimony before House Agriculture Committee  
March 14, 2005

The Kansas Greyhound Association opposes HB 2508. The language stricken on page two would add an additional layer of inspection and supervision to an industry which is already subject to multiple layers of regulation and inspection, and we believe the addition of another state inspection process will not improve or change the health and welfare of Greyhounds in our state.

Kansas' greyhound farmers are proud to be a part of Kansas' agriculture industry. Kansas is a leader in our industry with over 400 farms across 105 counties, making up more than \$350 million in agricultural investment.

The greyhounds we raise and race are not pets. They are highly trained and conditioned athletes. While at the racetrack, a greyhound's weight cannot vary by more than one pound up or down.

Regulations on the other side of our industry are just as strict. Before a greyhound owner can have an animal race in Kansas, he or she must apply for a racing license with the state racing and gaming commission. Along with the application for racing the applicant must submit two sets of fingerprints taken and verified by a law enforcement official. The racing and gaming commission submits one set of fingerprints to the KBI, and the other set to the FBI for a background check. Then and only then can the applicant get a license to race in Kansas.

Gary Guccione, Executive Director of the National Greyhound Association, will testify next about the national inspection and regulation process. The NGA, by the way, is based in Abilene Kansas.

I have attached to my testimony a statement of Gerald Rodman, official inspector for the Kansas Greyhound Registry. Beyond the NGA effort, the Kansas Registry has an extensive inspection program, which is dedicated to Kansas Greyhound operators. The Kansas Greyhound Registry operates under the supervision of the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission.

I understand that it may not seem common sense to have a sentence in law that specifies that a Greyhound is not a dog. Clearly the intent of that sentence was to exclude an already regulated industry from an additional regulatory and inspection process, which duplicates the existing procedures. The language in question only applies to greyhounds, which are registered with the National Greyhound Registry and not all dogs, which are of the greyhound breed.

House Agriculture Committee  
March 14, 2005  
Attachment 4



# KANSAS GREYHOUND REGISTRY

711 OLD HWY 40

ABILENE, KS 67410-6664

(785) 263-4759

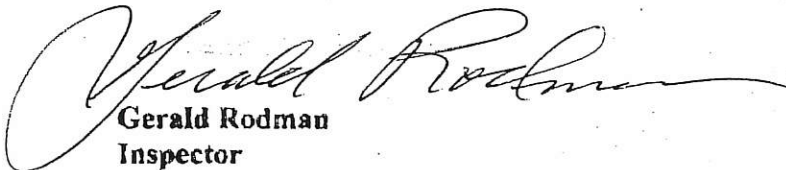
February 25, 2005

I, Gerald Rodman, am the inspector for the Kansas Greyhound Registry. I officially make unannounced inspections to Kansas farms, verifying Kansas whelped pups.

In 2004, I personally inspected 487 litters on various farms. While inspecting, if I see suspicious activity or animals being treated poorly, I report it to the National Greyhound Association's inspector, Craig Randle.

In my opinion, the inspection process of the Kansas greyhound industry is first rate and I would do nothing to change the procedure.

Sincerely,

  
Gerald Rodman  
Inspector



DATE:

STATE:

REGISTRY:

INSPECTOR:

OWNER:

## Testimony

### Kansas House of Representatives Agriculture Committee Hearing March 14, 2005

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By: John Watson  
Kansas Department of Commerce

The Kansas Department of Commerce is active in assisting Kansas companies and producers to export their products around the globe. Exports are vital to the health of the Kansas economy and building strong trading partners among the countries of the world is good public policy for Kansas. The agency encourages the adoption of the concurrent resolution before you supporting a Taiwan-United States free trade agreement.

Taiwan is a very good trading partner for Kansas. In trading patterns, the export statistics gathered by the U.S. Department of Commerce consistently show Taiwan as an excellent customer for Kansas wheat, beef and manufactured goods. In the latest reporting period of calendar year 2004, total Kansas exports to Taiwan were estimated at \$64.2 million. The 2004 export totals represent a 20% increase in export activity from 2003. Of the approximately 200 trading partners currently listed, the export totals place Taiwan as the 16th largest partner of Kansas.

Kansas is a good partner for Taiwan. For over twenty years, the state has hosted grain buying delegations from the Taiwan milling, baking and feedstuff industries. In their latest mission, the delegation from Taipei made significant commitments to the purchase of Kansas wheat. We are hopeful that a buying mission will return to Kansas in 2005. The adoption of the resolution before you will send a strong signal to our customers that Taiwan is a valued partner and customer of Kansas.

My department recognizes the importance of Taiwan market. In May of 2004, we retained the services of Ms. Irene Tsai of Taipei to run the Kansas Office in Taiwan. That same month, Lt. Governor John Moore led a Kansas delegation to Taiwan to witness the inauguration of President Chen and to host a banquet celebrating the good trading relations between Kansas and Taiwan. Our Kansas office in Taipei is assisting Kansas exporters to sell in the market. Irene Tsai is also cultivating excellent relations with business and government leaders in Taiwan.

We are fortunate in Kansas to be the home of an industry leader with strong Taiwan ties. The Garmin Corporation of Olathe is a world-class manufacturer of global positioning systems for both recreational and aerospace application. Dr. Min Kao who is Chairman and President of Garmin is a good example of how Taiwan entrepreneurs have flourished by establishing a base of operations in Kansas. Recognized as an industry leader, Garmin has substantially grown in Kansas and has recently completed an expansion at their headquarters in Olathe. This means more employment opportunities in the future for Kansans.

The Kansas Department of Commerce supports this resolution and hopes the Kansas Legislature will give the resolution favorable consideration. Thank you.