



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

March 21, 2013

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Testimony of Midge Grinstead

State Director – The Humane Society of the United States

RE: HB 2168

Chairman Siegfried and Members of the Committee:

I am the state director for The Humane Society of the United States, a not-for profit animal welfare organization. While I have only been with The Humane Society of the United States for two years, I have worked in the animal welfare field in Kansas for the past 17 years. As a past director of a large northeast Kansas humane society, I came in contact with racing greyhounds on several occasions and throughout the 1990's almost weekly.

I am opposed to parimutuel racetrack facilities and I am opposed to HB 2168.

The discarded animals from the racing community not only cause issues for shelters, and rescues across the state but contribute to animal suffering. Thousands of thoroughbreds and quarter horses, no longer performing adequately on the track, are sold off to killer buyers and shipped in cattle trucks to Canada and Mexico. Greyhounds, because of industry standards that are set to maximize profits are no better off than the horses. Small enclosures, the use of steroids and the use of raw meat from downed animals are not considered to be "good animal practices". While there are several rescues dedicated to re-homing them, there simply are not enough homes out there.

Shelters and rescues spend millions of dollars per year cleaning up societies issues with companion animals and equines. They are supported by their communities in the hope that these non-profit organizations can make a difference in animal welfare. Groups like The Humane Society of the United States, the ASPCA and GREY2KUSA are also dedicated to stopping the abuse of animals.

I ask that you oppose House Bill 2168 and support the welfare of animals in our state. Kansas should set the bar for animal welfare and be a model state. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions. Thank you.

Midge Grinstead

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Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

