



To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Carla Lewis, President, Kansas Animal Control Association (KACA)

Date: March 23, 2017

RE: Oppose HB 2173

Chair Waymaster and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 2173. My name is Carla Lewis, I am an animal control officer in Leawood and the president of the Ks. Animal Control Association. I am here today to express strong opposition for HB 2173.

Greyhound racing is an inhumane activity that has been rejected by Kansas residents and the majority of the American public. Racing events lead to an unacceptable level of animal exploitation and suffering solely for profit. The industry promotes and tolerates the overproduction of dogs resulting in an annual surplus numbering in the *thousands*, many of whom end up being destroyed.

Across the country greyhound racing is prohibited in 40 states. There are no tracks in another 5, leaving tracks in only 5 states. Florida has 12 tracks and has been working to de-couple greyhounds from their statute for the last couple of years and continues to lose 3.3 million dollars annually. Miami loses 5 million per year and has mandatory races similar to what is in this bill.

The last greyhound track in Kansas closed their doors in 2008, leaving behind hundreds of unwanted dogs that had to be helped by the rescues and shelters of our state. The burden of the greyhound racing industry cannot be shouldered by the shelter and rescue communities. I urge the committee to vote NO on HB 2173.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Carla Lewis
Board President
Ks Animal Control Association