



To: Chairman John Barker
Vice Chair Ron Highland
Members, House Federal & State Affairs Committee

From: Robyn Stone, President KCREGAP

Re: HB 2545: Oppose Greyhound Racing in Kansas

Date: February 13, 2018

Dear Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

My name is Robyn Stone, and I am the current President of KCREGAP. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

My husband and I adopted our first greyhound in 2006, and have adopted four more of these amazing dogs since that time. We have also fostered more than 20 dogs in that time. One of our current dogs came to KCREGAP in 2008. When she arrived on a dog hauler in the middle of the night, after riding for at least 6-8 hours, it was discovered that she had a massive, open wound on her side, which had been sprayed with a topical antiseptic, but she had received no other treatment or medication, including pain medication, and there was no explanation as to how or when this happened. KCREGAP provided the needed treatment and follow up care to heal this wound, but she still has a huge scar on her side.

In the time that I've been volunteering for KCREGAP, our group has taken in numerous dogs with fractured limbs, some of them fractured severely enough that surgery was warranted, with four of those dogs coming to KCREGAP in just the last two years. Several years ago, we were contacted by a farm in Abilene to see if KCREGAP could take a young female greyhound with a broken leg, only to find out that the care that she had received thus far was for the leg to be splinted with a pool cue.

In every one of these cases, KCREGAP was contacted to see if we would take the dogs because their owners at the greyhound farms in Abilene would not pay for their treatment since they would never be able to race, thus giving them a death sentence if groups like ours didn't help out. Nearly every dog that has come to us in the last year has had some type of intestinal parasite, or fleas and/or ticks, and are typically underweight. The

individuals who support the return of racing purport to love these dogs, though this is the condition they are in when they arrive at our group. Regardless of how much they care about their dogs, I find it difficult to reconcile that with the fact that they are putting these dogs in mortal danger each time they send them onto a track to race. Greyhound racing is literally a dying industry, I am pleading with you to not bring this industry back to Kansas.

My story is why I urge you to remove greyhound racing from HB 2545. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely,

Robyn Stone
President KCREGAP