

**To:** Representative Barker & House Federal & State Committee

**From:** Southeast Kansas Humane Society

**Re:** Testimony regarding HB 2671

**Date:** March 10th, 2020

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jasmine Kyle, the Business & Promotions Manager of the Southeast Kansas Humane Society. Today, I am speaking on behalf of our organization and a coalition of animal welfare supporters in southeast Kansas who oppose greyhound racing.

The truth about dog racing has been revealed in many other states through, financial reports and testimony from dog track workers themselves. Confinement, injuries, drugging and death characterize the existence of racing Greyhounds. They are kept in warehouse-style kennels, in rows of stacked metal cages for around 20 hours a day. When let out of their cages to race several times a month, they face the risk of serious injury. Broken legs, crushed skulls, snapped necks, paralysis and heat strokes are common due to these harsh living environments.

Cheating is another hallmark of this industry. Before Florida banned greyhound racing in 2019, there had been 419 Greyhound drug positive tests in Florida, including 68 that were positive for cocaine. Greyhounds have also been found with pain killers and opiates such as Novocain and oxycodone in their systems. Females are routinely given anabolic steroids to build muscle and prevent loss of race days during their heat cycles, a practice which triggers both animal-welfare and race-fixing concerns.

When operating a non-profit no-kill animal shelter, we are usually at full capacity with almost 100 animals at a time. We always have a waiting list as well for animals that are trying to be rehomed. Greyhound racing would put an extra load of animals on the state of Kansas's humane society's & animal rescues due to the overpopulation brought in by this sport. The racing industry exacerbates an overproduction of these dogs, which simply displaces other homeless animals and diverts resources needed to address these challenges.

Most rescues in Kansas are donor based and have extremely limited funding, this situation would be a disaster for our shelters to operate for the public.

Thankfully, dog racing is banned in 41 states and we would love to see that the state of Kansas follows suit with the majority. We shouldn't allow these animals to suffer. It has been proven by other states that this is not a profitable sport and that a vast majority of citizens are mobilizing in opposition against greyhound racing.

In closing, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 2671 to guarantee sports wagering does not include greyhound racing in the state of Kansas. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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