GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

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Five Kennel Owners & Trainers at Tucson Greyhound Park Test Positive for Drugs

Two kennel workers fined; failed to care for greyhounds in pet kennels

Tucson, Arizona: During a two-week period in June, seven of 19 individuals from 12 kennels licensed by the Arizona Department of Racing (ADOR) as either kennel owners, trainers, assistant trainers or coolouts (kennel workers) at Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) were summarily suspended for 60 days by department stewards at TGP for numerous violations. Three kennel owners and/or trainers tested positive for drugs, two for cocaine, and one for marijuana. Two others refused to submit a urine sample, and one of those two reportedly threatened a racing official with bodily harm.

Kennel owner Dennis Rought, who refused to submit a urine sample was fined \$500; Reymundo Lopez, licensed as a trainer and cool-out, who refused a urine test and made threats to state track officials, was fined \$500; trainer Reynaldo Lopez, who tested positive for cocaine, was not fined; kennel owner James Shelton, who tested positive for cocaine, also was not fined.

Two cool-outs, Rebecca Minor and Jose Barrios, failed to perform their turn-out duties in the pet kennels. Both were fined \$500. Trainer Joel Hubka, who tested positive for marijuana, admitted to stewards at his June 13 hearing that he made a mistake; he was not fined. Hubka told KOLD-TV 13 news reporter J.D. Wallace, who was present at the hearing, "things were going on here, people turning out [the dogs] very late in the afternoon for the first time of the day." Hubka said, "That's sick, that's not taking care of your animals."

The summary suspensions were the result of a drug enforcement action initiated by the racing department. The suspensions also forced TGP to cancel two days of racing because of a lack of eligible greyhounds. According to Arizona's racing statutes, greyhounds owned or trained by a suspended licensee are disqualified from racing for the duration of the licensee's suspension.

Tom Taylor, TGP's CEO and general manager, said he supports drug testing and keeping the industry honest, but said that the Department of Racing wants "to go way beyond the finish line" with more drug testing. Taylor said he hopes that new regulatory enforcement efforts are not excessive and expensive.

Racing Department director Geoffrey Gonsher said, "The industry should start supporting the regulation." He said that he wants the state's racing industry to pick up the tab, and bring the system up to national standards.

During an interview with KOLD Channel 13 news, Taylor suggested that now is the perfect time "to settle back and let the industry regulate itself a little bit." Gonsher replied, "That would be nice if they did, but historically they never have."

The stewards referred the seven cases to Gonsher for further action. Director's hearings were held for Shelton, Hubka, Rought and Reynaldo Lopez on July 19. According to Nan Mitchell, Administrative Services Coordinator for the department, most rulings are finalized within 20-30 days of hearing, but a complex case may take longer. Director's hearings for Barrios, Minor and Reymundo Lopez were held on August 16.

Hauler Accident on Interstate 80 Kills Five Greyhounds

Iowa City, Iowa: A Chevy Silverado transporting nine greyhounds from Oklahoma to Dubuque on Interstate 80 crashed at 7:45 a.m. Saturday, July 21, after the driver fell asleep at the wheel. According to the Iowa County Sheriff's Office accident report, the greyhounds were traveling in the vehicle's rear cargo compartment.

The vehicle rolled over four to five times before coming to rest in a ditch. Three greyhounds died in the crash and a fourth dog was euthanized at the scene, according to Rinthea Satterlee, Director of Safe Haven of Iowa County, who arrived at the scene within minutes.

Satterlee transported two injured greyhounds to the Bright Eyes and Bushy Tails Emergency Animal Clinic in Iowa City, where one had to be euthanized. The other dog, named Tuesday, the only dog not ejected from the vehicle, is in stable condition.

Three muzzled greyhounds ran from the scene, triggering a search by numerous volunteers. On Sunday, searchers found two of the dogs near the crash site. Satterlee said the surviving dogs are doing well despite some cuts and bruises. Volunteers left food

and water for the third issing greyhound, Pebbles, in the area she was last seen, south of I-80 at the Little Amana exit. She was recovered at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, in Little Amana. "This was, by far, the most challenging and emotional rescue in our short existence," Satterlee said. "Catching not only one, but three greyhounds that had been traumatized is an overwhelming feeling of happiness." Pebbles was taken to the emergency animal clinic in Iowa City, where she was treated for minor injuries.

Satterlee said about 20 volunteers spent a collective 200 hours searching for the missing dogs. "The outcome for these dogs would have been grim if it were not for the many people searching for them," she said.

The driver, identified as Paula Papadopoulos, 44, and passenger Mark Junk, 43, both of Bellvue, Iowa, were injured in the single-vehicle crash. Junk was ejected from the vehicle. Both were taken to the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City with non-life threatening injuries. Papadopoulos was cited for failing to maintain control of the vehicle.

Sources: Iowa City Press-Citizen, Lee Hermiston; Cedar Rapids Gazette, Rick Smith, Steve Gravelle

Greyhounds at Risk

Rory Goree, president of Greyhound Pets of America, told the *Arizona Daily Star* June 22 that there were 100 greyhounds in the tracks' two pet kennels, but there may be as many as 200 that need to find homes. Goree has set up a Tucson chapter of GPA,

(continued on back cover)

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS UPDATE: May 1 through August 31, 2007

ALABAMA

Montgomery: Milton McGregor, owner and operator of the Birmingham Race Course, lost his final appeal June 18 when the U.S. Supreme Court let stand an Alabama Supreme Court decision shutting down electronic sweepstakes games at the racetrack. The nation's highest court declined without comment to review McGregor's appeal. "It's the end of the case," said Mark White, McGregor's attorney.

Last December, Alabama's high court ruled 8-0 that the electronic sweepstakes machines at the Birmingham Race Course were illegal and no different from slot machines. McGregor then sought review by the U. S. Supreme Court, arguing that state Supreme Court justices who had campaigned against gambling should not have participated in the ruling.

McGregor also owns the VictoryLand dog track in Shorter (Macon County) and has begun a \$100 million expansion project to turn VictoryLand into a major tourism destination. McGregor plans to build a luxury hotel, at least three restaurants, and a top-flight entertainment complex to accommodate 1,500 people. The project is expected to be completed in June 2009.

Sources: *The Decatur Daily*: Phillip Rawls, Associated Press; *The Birmingham News*; *Montgomery Advertiser*: Rick Harmon

ARKANSAS

Little Rock: Gov. Mike Beebe on June 25 named Little Rock attorney Jim Jackson as a special justice of the state Supreme Court to consider a case challenging the constitutionality of local elections that legalized expanded gambling at Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis, Crittenden County, and the Oakland Park horse track in Hot Spings, Garland County. Jackson replaces Justice Robert Brown, who recused himself from the case.

The Legislature in 2005 approved a measure that allowed voters in West Memphis and Hot Springs to decide whether to allow electronic games of skill at the tracks. Voters in West Memphis and Hot Springs approved the measure.

The Family Action Council Committee, affiliated with the conservative group Arkansas Family Council, challenged the legality of the votes, arguing that because the elections were citywide, county residents were unfairly denied the right to

vote. Circuit judges in both cases ruled in favor of the tracks, finding the new law was constitutional.

Despite the legal challenge, Southland went forward with a \$40 million renovation project that included a 110,000-square-foot addition with a gaming room for 1,000 video slots, nightclub and bar, and a 280-seat buffet. The video slots have been in operation since November 2006. The thoroughbred track has 130 machines and is planning an expansion project, but will not proceed with it until after the high court issues a ruling. The state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on September 13. Source: *The Morning News:* Rob Moritz

FLORIDA

Longwood: Penn National Gaming, Inc. announced July 5 that it has signed a deal to purchase the Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club from Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club, Inc. and Collins & Collins. The deal is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2007. The purchase price was not disclosed. In connection with the purchase agreement, Penn National also has secured a right of first refusal for a majority stake in the Sarasota Kennel Club in Sarasota from Jack G. Collins, Sr.

Source: Orlando Business Journal: Anjaki Fluker

Melbourne: Live greyhound racing was suspended abruptly on Sunday, July 1 at Melbourne Greyhound Park (MGP), leaving the future of 500 greyhounds in question. Track management ended live racing in response to changes in state legislation affecting poker rooms, which went into effect July 1. Under the changes, tracks no longer have to provide live racing on days when their poker rooms are open. [See Senate Bill 732 in Florida legislative update on page 5. — **Ed.**]

MGP president Patrick Biddix said, "We'll know within a few weeks how many greyhounds will go to other tracks and then we'll know how many need to be adopted." He said summer dog racing drew weak crowds, noting that on some days there were only about 30 people in the stands.

Biddix said about 100 or more greyhounds will remain at the track. Dennis Tyler, president of Greyhound Pets of America–Melbourne Chapter, expects the number of dogs needing adoption placement will be about 300 to 400. Although his organization has never had to find homes for so many dogs on such short notice, Tyler said, "Every one of these dogs will find a suitable home." Last year his group found homes for 450 Melbourne greyhounds.

The track will return to the winter-only schedule it had before opening its poker room, Club 52, in December 2005. MGP, which had been scheduled to run 364 live performances from July 1 through June 30, 2008, will resume live racing Dec. 26 for a three-month season.

State Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering statistics show that in 2006, MGP took in \$3.8 million in card room receipts and \$900,000 in dog racing receipts. From January through May of this year, \$60,000 came from greyhound racing and \$3.7 million from the card room.

Sources: Florida Today: Linda Jump; Channel 13 News (Central Florida)

IOWA

Waterloo: An attorney for the National Cattle Congress (NCC), the nonprofit entity that operated the long-closed Waterloo Greyhound Park for ten years, filed a notice in March to appeal a lower court's ruling to the Iowa Supreme Court. In January, Black Hawk County District Judge Stephen Clarke upheld an October 2005 decision by the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission to deny state gambling licenses to the NCC.

A group of investors who are seeking to re-establish dog racing at the defunct track also has appealed the ruling, claiming there were errors in Clarke's interpretation of the law. The Supreme Court has the option of hearing the matter or passing it to the Iowa Court of Appeals.

In other news, the tropical-themed Isle of Capri Casino and Hotel, built at a cost of \$175 million, opened in Waterloo on June 30. The nine-story facility includes 195 hotel rooms, numerous resaurants and a 5,000-square-foot meeting room. The gaming floor has 1,100 slot machines and 35 gaming tables for blackjack, roulette, poker and craps.

In 2004, three competing casino proposals were under consideration for the Waterloo-Cedar Valley area—the Isle of Capri, the Cedar Landing Hotel and Casino, and a combined casino and dog-racing facility at

the defunct Waterloo track. The Iowa Gaming and Racing Commission selected the Isle of Capri project in May 2005.

Sources: Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier: Pat Kinney, Associated Press; Des Moines Register: William Petroski

KANSAS

Abilene: The National Greyhound Association revoked the membership and registry privileges of Rick Favreau of Calhan, Colorado, at its April 21 board meeting. The revocation was reported in the June issue of *The Greyhound Review*.

According to the NGA, "the ruling was reciprocal to action taken by the Arizona Department of Racing in December 2006, in which Favreau's state racing license was revoked and a fine of \$140,000 was imposed for the disappearance of 140 greyhounds.

"The greyhounds had reportedly been hauled by Favreau from Tucson Greyhound Park in 2005 and 2006 with the intention that they be placed in adoption programs in other states. Only a handful of greyhounds could be accounted for."

[Editor's note: Favreau removed 185 greyhounds from the Tucson track. Eight dogs have been accounted for and 177 are presumed dead. Read the complete story in the Fall 2006/Winter 2007 edition of GNN at: www.greyhoundnetworknews.org]
Source: The Greyhound Review

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston: Residents of Middleboro voted July 28 to allow the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to build the state's first casino. The tribe, which won official recognition from the federal government in May, has reached a deal with the town to build a \$1 billion destination casino and resort. The agreement provides the town with \$7 million a year in cash payments plus revenues from 4 percent of the tribe's proposed 1,500-room hotel, which is estimated to be \$4 million the first year.

Tribal chairman Glenn Marshall said the tribe will enter discussions with Gov. Deval Patrick on a Class III gaming compact. Patrick has said he will declare his position on Class III gaming (coin-drop slot machines) by early September. The tribe previously announced that its casino plans are backed by Mohegan Sun developers Sol Kerzner, a South African-born international gaming magnate, and Len Wolman—two of the three partners who also own Rhode

Island's Twin River casino, formerly Lincoln Greyhound Park.

State Treasurer Tim Cahill, a close ally of Patrick, has endorsed the idea of two or three full-scale casinos in the state. "The Wampanoag issue has changed the dynamic," Cahill said. Cahill is also opposed to allowing the state's two horse tracks and the Wonderland and Raynham dog tracks to have slot machines. "If it involves plopping 2,000 slots in a warehouse or a racetrack, I would not be in favor of it," he said.

Before the Mashpee Wampanoag casino plan can move forward, the tribe and state must agree to a compact and the Legislature must legalize casino-style gambling. The Legislature has defeated all attempts to legalize casino gambling for the last 15 years. This is the first time, however, that the state has a governor who is perceived as "casino friendly."

In other news, the Committee to Protect Dogs, a coalition of state and national animal rights groups, delivered a petition to the State Attorney General's Office on August 1, seeking to ban greyhound racing by 2010. Petition proposals must be certified by Attorney General Martha Coakley and then filed with the secretary of state's office before the signature drive can begin. A similar measure failed in 2000 by a narrow margin and a second attempt failed in 2006 after the state Supreme Court ruled the question was not worded correctly.

Sources: Boston Herald: Scott Van Voorhis, Phil Primack; Indian Country Today: Gale Courey Toensing; The Providence Journal: Paul Grimaldi; Metro Daily News: Peter Reuell

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Hinsdale: In late July, Hinsdale Greyhound Park announced plans to end yearround, live greyhound racing on September 3. According to spokesman David Calef, the track will move to seasonal racing and will focus on simulcast racing through the rest of the year. "It's the trend nationwide," Calef said. "There is less interest in greyhound racing than there used to be."

While live greyhound racing is no longer profitable, the track's simulcast operation has made this year one of the most profitable in recent years. The Hinsdale track is one of the last tracks in New England to hold races year round. The state's other two dog tracks in Belmont and Seabrook run races only in the summer.

"We're seeing quite a bit of this lately with tracks cutting back on dates," said Gary Guccione, executive director of the National Greyhound Association. "I'm kind of concerned about what will happen down the road with all the tracks in New Hampshire and most in New England going seasonal."

Hinsdale will hold its last race this year on Labor Day, and after that it will work to find homes for approximately 300 dogs currently in its kennels. Guccione expressed concerns about the large number of displaced dogs. "It does create a problem because they can't disperse them and deal with them all at the same time," he said. "It puts quite a load on the adoption people."

Calef said, "We're going to keep our kennels open and work with our kennel operators as long as necessary to make sure none of our greyhounds get euthanized."

Since 2000, the percentage of total money bet at Hinsdale on live greyhound racing has dropped from 35 percent to 8.8 percent in 2007. In the same period, simulcast thoroughbred racing has jumped from 39.8 percent of the handle to 71.5 percent.

Calef said he does not know when the track will re-open in 2008, but it must run at least 50 performances per year in order to participate in simulcasting, according to state racing regulations. The track ran 228 performances in 2006. Next year, the number will be closer to 50, Calef said. Sources: *Brattleboro Reformer:* Paul H. Heintz; *The*

WEST VIRGINIA

Boston Globe; The Keene Sentinel

Wheeling: Earlier this year, the West Virginia Legislature authorized special elections to determine whether table games should be allowed at the state's two dog tracks and two horse tracks in four counties. On June 9, Ohio County voters overwhelmingly approved a local ballot measure allowing the Wheeling Island Greyhound Racetrack and Gaming Center to offer casinostyle table games, such as poker, craps, blackjack and roulette to their existing video slot machines. On the same day, a similar measure to allow table games at Charles Town Races & Slots, a horse track in Jefferson County, failed.

Hancock County voters June 30 approved table games for Mountaineer Race Track, a horse track in the state's northernmost county. Kanawha County voters go to the polls on August 11 to decide whether the games should be allowed at the state's other dog track, Tri-State Racetrack and Gaming

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Dear Readers

The sudden closure of the Melbourne and Tampa tracks in Florida has left approximately 1,100 greyhounds at risk. Many of the Florida adoption programs are full and the dogs will be sent to adoption programs further north on the East Coast. The closing of the Hinsdale track in New Hampshire on September 3 and the Wichita track in Kansas on October 6. will double the number of greyhounds at risk. If you can foster or adopt a greyhound, please visit the website of The Greyhound Project at: www.adopt-a-greyhound.org for adoption groups in every state.

My thanks to all the readers whose contributions made possible the printing and mailing of this 55th issue. Please check GNN's website frequently for breaking news between issues of the newsletter.

For the love of greyhounds, Joan Eidinger, Editor August 31, 2007

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS®

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The newsletter, in print for more than a decade, continues to be the primary source of information about the worldwide dog racing industry. This newsletter is dedicated to all the racing greyhounds who have suffered and died in service to this industry.

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GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

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Letters to the Editor

The enclosed donation is made in memory of our beloved Brandy, whom we lost on May 9, 2007 to congestive heart failure. Brandy would have been 11 years old on July 7. We were blessed to have her in our lives for almost nine years.

We would also like to thank Joan Newton, Greyhounds of Distinction, for choosing us to be Brandy's parents.

You do wonderful work keeping the world informed of the atrocities of grey-hound racing.

Deb and Jim Boyce North Carolina

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Bob Varnberg. "You were the best of the best. The greyhounds, and your friends, will always remember you with love and appreciation."

> June White Florida

Please accept this contribution in memory of Freya, the lovely and loved companion of Joan Golden. With Joan's care, Freya lived for fourteen wonderful years and is deeply missed.

> Renata Golden New Mexico

Please accept this donation in memory of our sweet Kacy, who crossed the Bridge on March 14, 2007 due to bone cancer. Kacy was one of the most handsome, docile and loving brindle males we had ever seen. On July 1, he would have turned 11 years old.

Kacy was also the first greyhound we had that made it past 10 years old. He was our third greyhound to succumb to bone cancer as well.

Keep up the excellent work that you do on the newsletter. It is so important that you continue to inform folks on events and news regarding our beloved hounds. Greyhound racing must come to an end, and soon!

> Sharon and Arthur Stefanski Indiana

Please keep up your wonderful work. *April Harvey New Hampshire*

Enclosed is a donation in memory of my greyhound, Prince, who went to the Rainbow Bridge on April 4, 2005. Prince was a wonderful hound who I adopted on September 1, 1996.

I would also like to receive your newsletter. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of greyhounds everywhere.

> Dawn M. Wile Connecticut

A friend of mine in Tucson sent me two back issues of *Greyhound Network News*. I would appreciate it if you would place my name on your mailing list. It is tragic that the greyhound is subjected to abuse and neglect. They are such gentle souls. I look forward to reading the next newsletter.

Eva Clikeman Arizona

In Memoriam

This issue of *Greyhound Network News* is dedicated to the memory of John William (Bill) Oliver, of Kansas City REGAP, who died of liver disease on May 27 at the age of 59. Bill, together with his wife, Cher, have spent the last 14 years dedicated to rescuing and finding homes for more than 3,000 greyhounds.

"He truly believed what happened to these dogs was just so unacceptable," Cher said. "Every time he'd see the neglect and abuse and the sheer numbers being destroyed, it would fuel that passion. He couldn't ignore this." Family and friends gathered on Saturday, June 10, to celebrate Bill's life. Ed Roberts, a friend and former member of REGAP, said, "It was simply a love of the dogs for Bill. No one's ever had more passion for these dogs than Bill. They're a unique breed, and they seem to attract a very special person. Bill was one of those people."

Bill is survived by his wife, Cher, numerous relatives, and eight loving greyhounds who were his "children." Memorial contributions can be sent to The Bill Oliver Memorial Fund at: www.billolivermemorialfund.com

Excerpted from The Kansas City Star: Bill Reiter

Florida Legislative Update: Multiple State and Federal Issues

Tallahassee: Senate Bill 752, a measure to increase betting at racetrack poker rooms, became law on April 13 without Gov. Charlie Crist's signature. The law, which went into effect on July 1, expands the hours of card room operation; raises the individual poker bet from \$2 to \$5; allows a no-limit version of the popular Texas Hold-em version of poker; and allows racetracks to increase the maximum buy-in of their tournament games from \$45 to \$800. The bill also removes a requirement that greyhound tracks with poker rooms must offer live racing when their poker rooms are open.

A companion bill that allows the four pari-mutuels in Broward County, including the Mardi Gras dog track, formerly Hollywood Greyhound Park, to increase the number of slot machines from 1,500 to 2,000, have ATM machines on site and expand the hours of operation, also became law without the governor's signature. Las Vegas-style Class III gaming was approved by Broward County voters in 2005. Broward is the only Florida county that has legalized Class III gaming, but that is likely to change.

Analysts Downgrade Projections

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported June 24 that gaming industry analysts have reversed their earlier forecasts that Las Vegas-style slot machines would be an instant hit at Broward County pari-mutuel facilities. After eight months of operation, business at the four fledgling casinos at the dog and horse tracks and fronton has been lackluster, falling well short of Wall Street's expectation.

The Seminole Tribe continues to dominate South Florida's gambling market, while the pari-mutuels wrestle with the state's tax rate on slots, industry analysts said. The racetrack and fronton casinos keep less than 40 cents of every slot's dollar after the state, county, cities and horse and dog owners take their cuts.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino near Hollywood, with its 500-room hotel and entertainment/shopping district, has become a destination spot, less vulnerable to seasonal fluctuations, said one gaming analyst. "We believe the Florida racetracks will continue to be challenged in head-to-head competition against the Seminole tribe," another analyst said.

Dan Atkins, chief gaming executive of the Mardi Gras Racetrack & Gaming Center

in Hallandale Beach, said the pari-mutuels are struggling to establish themselves, but the Seminoles have been "marketing us to death." He said, "Every time I run a promotion, the Seminoles run three. If I buy a billboard, they buy six."

The Mardi Gras track will be facing stronger competition when Gulfstream Park completes a \$1 billion mixed-use project on 60 acres of the horse track property. City commissioners in May approved a site plan for the project's first phase, which calls for 430,800 square feet of retail and office space, scheduled for completion in October 2008. The first phase is a small piece of the 2.5 million square-foot Village at Gulfstream Park project, which includes 70 stores, 1,500 condos, a 500-room hotel, a 2,500-seat theater and dining facilities. The Mardi Gras greyhound track and casino is located one mile north of Gulfstream Park.

Governor Must Negotiate with Tribe

Gov. Crist was notified June 22 by the U.S. Department of the Interior that he has 60 days to reach a deal with the Seminole Indian tribe that will allow for the expansion of gambling at the tribe's six casinos around the state. According to the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said he would rather see the two sides reach an agreement than have the federal government enforce rules that would allow the Seminoles to offer Class III Las Vegas-style gaming.

The tribe, which operates Class II bingostyle slots, argued that because Las Vegasstyle slot machines are allowed at Broward County's four pari-mutuels, they are entitled to install any form of Class III gaming. Barry Richard, an attorney representing the tribe, said if Florida does not make a deal with the tribe and the federal government is forced to propose rules allowing expanded gambling at the tribe's casinos, the state will not receive any money.

"The tribe wants a good working relationship with state government and the tribe thinks it's appropriate for them to contribute a portion of the income to the state treasury," Richard said. The tribe pays no revenue to the state from the Class II machines it operates at six sites throughout Florida.

Sources: *Miami Herald*: Erika Bolstad, Matthew I. Pinzur, Charles Rabin; *Naples Daily News*: Matt Clark; *Herald Tribune*: Associated Press; *Palm Beach Post*: Dara Kam; *Sun-Sentinel*: Jon Burstein

Tampa Track Abruptly Suspends Live Racing

Tampa, Florida: In a press release dated Thursday, August 9, Tampa Greyhound Track management announced it would end live racing August 18. The track, in its 75th season, was only 49 days into its first year-round meet. Tampa's general manager Mike Hater said, "Since opening our card room on July 1, it has become clear that poker is where we need to focus our efforts. Low attendance for greyhound racing and the popularity and growth of poker made this an obvious business decision due to recent legislative changes." The future of live racing at the Tampa track beyond December remains unclear.

Operators of Tampa's 12 contracted kennels were notified of the impending closure at a meeting the same day. MJP Greyhounds trainer Larry Ruip said there are more than 700 greyhounds at Tampa's kennel compound in Thonotosassa. Operators will seek bookings at other tracks, but few openings exist, he said.

Individual dogs could be sent to the Derby Lane track in St. Petersburg. Derby Lane spokeswoman Vera Filipelli said, "We've agreed to assist Tampa (with dates) through this calendar year ending Dec. 31."

Ron Williams, a trainer for Shamshad kennel, said dogs will be allowed to stay at the compound until suitable housing is obtained. Track officials said they will work with Greyhound Pets of America to make sure that the greyhounds get adopted, but kennel owners are not convinced that will happen for all the dogs. "The adoption agencies are suffering, they can't give them away fast enough," said kennel operator Charles Newcome.

Newcome said, "We all came here with the promise of year-round racing and a better place to be and we all gave up something, and most of us now have nothing to go back to. A lot of us are just totally ruined. Some people are not going to be able to pick up the pieces after this."

Sources: St. Petersburg Times: Don Jensen; Fox TV Channel 13

INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

EUROPE

Staffordshire, England: A local dog warden discovered a severely emaciated and dehydrated racing greyhound wandering around in Kidsgrove on May 9. The black and white male greyhound weighed only 16.55 kilograms [36 pounds], half the weight of an average adult male greyhound. The dog, who is believed to be six years old, was immediately taken to a veterinary clinic and is recovering.

The dog's condition prompted the RSPCA to launch an animal cruelty investigation, which is being led by inspector Dawn Burrell. "What is clear from his poor condition is that he has not been fed for some time and I am anxious to hear from anyone who may know where he came from," Burrell said. "On the bright side, he is now in the best possible place for recovery, receiving the care and attention he has obviously lacked in the past."

Source: K9 Magazine

Sunderland, England: Greyhound trainer George Tighe was banned from every major dog track in the United Kingdom after giving potentially fatal drugs to greyhounds so he could race them while they were injured. Tighe was found guilty July 20 at a National Greyhound Racing Club inquiry of administering the drug methylprednisolone to Givehimahammer before a race in March. The drug, which is used to reduce inflammation, can mask injuries. Tighe also was found guilty of failing to seek veterinary care for the dog when he first went lame.

A second trainer, Brian Stirling, of Newcastle, also was found guilty of administering the same drug to Hellfire Utah before a race in February. Stephen Duncan, one of Stirling's kennel hands, was found guilty of hindering the investigation. All three men were fined an undisclosed amount.

Tony Peters, UK co-founder of the international greyhound protection group Greyhound Action, said, "Sadly, these cases are just the tip of the iceberg, as methylprednisolone is widely used within the industry to keep injured dogs racing. It is yet another example of the callous attitude of many of those involved in greyhound racing, who regard the dogs purely as money-making machines, with no consideration for their welfare."

Source: Sunderland Echo: Lisa Hodge

Irish Greyhound Shot after Losing Race at Scottish Stadium

Ayr, Scotland: Hours after Jamiedan Flyer lost a race at Ayr Greyhound Stadium on July 8, he was shot in the head with an air rifle and left for dead in a ditch near Dalrymple, Ayrshire. The howls of the 4-year-old fawn greyhound were heard by a local couple who found him lying against a tree in a pool of blood. The couple called veterinarian Lorna Lazenby for help, but Jamiedan was so badly injured he had to be euthanized. "When I got there, the dog was in real distress," Lazenby said. "There was nothing I could do to help him. I was just glad I was able to ease his suffering and put him down."

An unidentified insider at the Ayr stadium told the *Scottish Daily Mail*, "There had been heavy betting on the dog and a lot of money was lost. There were rumours this was going to happen and everyone at the track was disgusted when we found out what had happened."

The greyhound's ear tattoos identified his owner as Alan Shaw of Dalrymple, who has been banned from racing at Ayr. Shaw said he recently sold the greyhound, but refused to disclose the name of the new owner. A spokesman at the track confirmed that all of Shaw's dogs had been banned from future race cards pending further inquiry.

Several days later, volunteers with Greyhound Rescue Scotland returned to the site and found the remains of a second greyhound lying just a few hundred yards away at the bottom of the same ditch. Rescue volunteer Carol Scott, said, "It looks like this dog had also been taken to this ditch to be killed and that it died the same way. It was found further down and close to a stream, as if it had been crawling to get a drink of water."

A spokesman for the Scottish SPCA said it could not take any action because Jamiedan's body was disposed of before a post mortem examination could be carried out. "Unfortunately, the police advised the vet to dispose of the body and there was nothing further we could do," he said.

Jamiedan Flyer was born in Ireland on March 15, 2003.

Source: Scottish Daily Mail

No Charges Filed in the Mutilation of Irish Racing Greyhound

Waterford, Ireland: The Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) decided on April 14 that it could not take action in the case of the mutilated racing greyhound found in Tramore last year. The dog's ears had been cut off to prevent identification of the owner. The IGB, using a DNA sample from the dog, identified the Munster-based trainer, but gardai [police] in Tramore said there was not enough evidence to bring criminal proceedings for animal cruelty.

Andrew Quinn of the Waterford SPCA, who helped rescue the dog, now named Aoife, said he was "disgusted" by the board's decision. "I am utterly frustrated and angered by this," Quinn said. "Cutting off Aoife's ears is one of the worst acts of barbarity I've ever seen." He said he does not blame the gardai because he believes the IGB did not give them enough information.

The trainer told the IGB he had sold Aoife to another trainer. That trainer, in turn, told the board and gardai that he sold the dog to an unidentified Traveller he "met on the road." [Travellers, once known as tinkers, are a nomadic ethnic minority of Irish origin. An estimated 25,000 Travellers live in Ireland today. — *Ed.*] Guinn said, "Blaming Travellers is ridiculous. I deal with Travellers all the time and none of them would do this to a dog."

Aoife's story made national headlines, prompting readers to donate more than •2,500 to the Waterford SPCA toward her care. The money has paid for three operations on her ears, which has restored 70 percent of her hearing. She is now in the care of a greyhound guardian.

Quinn said he plans to take Aoife to every racetrack in Munster to demonstrate the board's "lack of willpower" to punish those responsible for mutilating Aoife. "I want Aoife to be an embarrassment for the IGB and to show what some trainers will do to a dog who isn't considered good enough to race," he said. [See *GNN*'s Summer 2006 edition for more information on Aoife's story. — *Ed.*]

Source: The Sunday Times: Mark Tighe

State-by-State News Update

(continued from page 3)

Center in Cross Lanes.

The Wheeling and Mountaineer tracks had hoped to offer some of the table games on or before Labor Day, but state Lottery Director John Musgrave announced in late July that the tracks will not be able to offer the table games until November at the earliest. Musgrave said the delay is necessary to hire and train at least 30 new employees to oversee accounting, security and regulatory procedures. The commission also must perform extensive background checks on the new employees.

The impending competition from Pennsylvania casinos had been the driving force behind West Virginia's effort to legalize table games. Bob Marshall, Wheeling's general manager, said last year that he expected to lose about 60 percent of his track's business to The Meadows. "It's all about jobs for the state," Marshall said. "That's what we based our campaign on." The Wheeling track plans to employ 500 people, including 350 dealers. The track also plans to invest more than \$40 million in expansion upgrades.

On June 11, The Meadows Racetrack & Casino in Washington County, Pennsylvania, opened the doors to its new casino with more than 1,700 slot machines. The machines are housed in a temporary structure until a new \$52 million casino is completed in 2009 with a total of 3,000 slots. The Meadows, which generated nearly \$5 million in its first week of operation, is a 40-minute drive from Wheeling Island..

Update on Tri-State: On August 11, Kanawha County voters narrowly approved a local ballot measure allowing Tri-State Racetrack and Gaming Center to offer table games. In the days that followed, however, poll workers discovered that 67 ballots in one precinct had been counted twice; 200 ballots were found that were never included in the election night tally; an additional 200 uncounted ballots were discovered in various boxes and bags; and 500 votes were challenged. A recount was conducted on August 17, and the narrow 33-vote advantage for table games widened to 343. The final tally was 23,192 in favor of the measure and 22,849 against.

Sources: Charleston Daily Mail: Jake Stump; The Wheeling News-Register: Casey Junkins, Joselyn King; Philadelphia Daily News: Vicki Smith, The Associated Press; Sunday Gazette-Mail

<u>Wichita Track to Close October 6</u> Sedgwick County Voters Reject Track Slots and Casinos

Wichita, Kansas: Wichita Greyhound Park will close within three months after Sedgwick County voters on Tuesday, August 7, narrowly defeated a ballot measure allowing slot machines at the struggling greyhound racetrack. The measure lost by a razor-thin margin of 1 percent. A second ballot measure that would have allowed a Las Vegas-style, state-owned resort casino in the county failed decisively by more than 12.500 votes.

Wichita track owner Phil Ruffin, who spent \$800,000 on his pro-slots campaign, conceded the election late Tuesday night, and told the *Wichita Eagle* he would close the track within 90 days. At the time, Ruffin said he would not ask for a recount, but changed his mind several days later. The votes were recounted twice on August 16. The measure failed by just 244 votes. Gambling proponents may yet challenge the results in district court.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed legislation earlier this year legalizing casino gambling and authorizing four state-owned, privately managed hotel-and-casino complexes to be constructed in four of the following six counties: Wyandotte, Ford, Cherokee, Crawford, Sedgwick and Sumner. Sedgwick County was the sixth and last county to vote on the gambling question

and the only one to reject it.

The law also allowed slot machines at the state's three greyhound tracks — The Woodlands in Kansas City, Camptown Greyhound Park in Frontenac and the Wichita track. Ruffin, who also owns Camptown, is planning a \$25 million renovation and expansion of the facility. Six hundred slot machines were allocated to the Camptown track, but that number may increase. Camptown has been closed since 2000.

Ruffin said he anticipates an economic boost for Crawford County. In addition to the \$25 million investment, more than 300 new jobs will be generated as part of the construction and staffing of the remodeled track. He said that "a grand opening, with all the bells and whistles" was planned for the second quarter of 2008.

The driving force behind the defeat of the casino and slot machine measures for Wichita was No Casinos in Sedgwick County. Mark Kahrs, the group's chairman, said, "Ireally believe the general population was educated on the pros and cons and decided that it may be a good idea in other communities, but not in Wichita." No Casinos launched its campaign June 12, less than two months before the election.

Sources: *The Wichita Eagle*: Deb Gruver, Hurst Laviana, Dion Lefler, Dan Voorhis; *Wichita Business Journal*: Chris Moon; The Associated Press

Jacksonville Kennel Club Ends Live Greyhound Racing

Jacksonville, Florida: The Jacksonville Kennel Club, which opened in 1935, ended more than 70 years of live grey-hound on May 31. "Road construction in and around the area of the track is causing us to move to Orange Park," said track spokesman Michael Munz of the Dalton Agency, to whom track officials referred for comment. "It's the best option for our patrons."

Traditionally, the Jacksonville grey-hound racing circuit shifted from the Orange Park Kennel Club to the Jacksonville track after the Memorial Day weekend. This year, Jacksonville Greyhound Racing, which owns both racetracks, has elected to keep live racing at the Orange Park track on a year-round basis. The Jacksonville track will remain open for simulcast wagering.

The track is located on McDuff Avenue, which the city is widening from two lanes to three, constructing new sidewalks and up-

grading nine signalized interchanges on the avenue. The \$11 million project is expected to take two years to complete.

During the 2005-2006 racing season, Orange Park had 198 performances, compared to 109 at Jacksonville. According to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the total wagering handle declined at both tracks last year, but significantly more at Jacksonville (down 16 percent) than at Orange Park (down 2 percent).

Track spokesman Munz said racing officials recognize the track's tradition. "We've got a lot of long-time patrons who come out to McDuff," Munz said. "They have a long history there." Munz said live racing might return to the Jacksonville Kennel Club when the construction project is finished. "That's an issue that will be revisited," he said.

Source: The Florida Times-Union: Chet Fussman

Five Kennel Owners & Trainers at Tucson Greyhound Park Test Positive for Drugs

(continued from page one)

and has since arranged two hauls to move some of the dogs out of the kennel compound. Of the 17 dogs on the first haul, seven were moved to Phoenix-area adoption groups and 10 went to a California adoption group. On July 4, a second haul transported 28 greyhounds to the racing kennel of Mary and Curtis Washburn in Eagle Creek, Oregon. Curtis Washburn has two racing kennels at the Tucson track and three of the dogs on the haul were his. The Washburns are being paid by TGP to care for the 25 dogs until they can be placed with adoption groups in the Northwest.

In related racing news, the state's Auditor General released its Performance Audit of the Arizona Department of Racing on May 30. The report concluded, in part, that the department should improve wagering oversight and explore expanding its financial analyses. The audit report can be read online at: www.azauditor.gov.

In response to the findings, Gonsher said extensive tax breaks given to dog and horse track owners have left his agency without sufficient funds to properly regulate the racing industry. During the final hours of the 1994 legislative session, lawmakers passed hardship tax credits for the state's failing racetracks and eliminated the tax on the simulcast handle.

In the last six years, the tax credits and exemptions have totaled \$44 million. As a result, only one of Arizona's six racetracks — Turf Paradise in North Phoenix — pays any pari-mutuel taxes to the state. Gonsher said track owners claim that paying taxes would put them out of business. "The financial records reveal otherwise," he said. "Track owners are earning millions of dollars a year in profits, at least in part because more than two-thirds of the wagering that



Photo by Mamta Popat, Arizona Daily Star

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Graded-off greyhounds in one of TGP's two pet kennels waiting for transport to Phoenix-area and out-of-state adoption groups. Many of the dogs have been in the pet kennels for months.

takes place off-track is not taxed." Jack LaSoto, who lobbies on behalf of TGP, said his client "would love to be finally well-off enough" to provide tax money to the state, but said the track is "barely scraping by."

[*Editor's Note:* TGP's owners have grossed more than \$54 million since the tax credits and exemptions went into effect in 1995.] Sources: *Arizona Daily Star:* Josh Brodesky; *Capital Media Services:* Howard Fischer; *Tucson Weekly:* Saxon Burns, Jim Nintzel; KOLD TV Channel 13; Arizona Department of Racing Stewards Rulings

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