

GREYHOUND NETWORK NEWS

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Seven Greyhounds Die at Southland Greyhound Park

Extreme heat, poor oversight blamed for deaths

West Memphis, Arkansas: The deaths of seven greyhounds on August 9, 2007 in the kennel compound at the West Memphis greyhound track prompted Arkansas racing officials to call for a review of the rules for handling racing dogs. The deaths were first disclosed November 6, 2007 during a public meeting of the Arkansas Racing Commission (ARC).

Shane Bolender, Southland's racing director, told the ARC that a fight broke out during 100-degree-plus temperatures that afternoon when the dogs were in a turnout pen. "A fight erupted in the male pen, and it was two males going at it. There was a lot of extracurricular activity and excitement generated in the pen with the other dogs," Bolender told the commission. "It didn't take long for the dogs to overheat."

Bolender said the track discontinued its contract with the kennel operator that oversaw the pen where the fight erupted. In a statement issued after the commission meeting, Southland said it would not renew its contract with the Washburn-Oregon Trail Kennel for the 2008 season. "We have a zero

tolerance for any mistreatment of animals in any kennel that races at Southland Park."

Lisa Robinson, a racing commission veterinarian assigned to the dog track, said one dog was dead when she arrived at the track and she had to euthanize two others. The other four dogs were euthanized by a local veterinarian, she said. "We had been at 102, 103 or sometimes higher... and basically we needed the proper amount of help there," Robinson said. "It was just a combination of things that just kind of came together."

Commission members asked Robinson to meet with track officials and members of the Arkansas Greyhound Association to discuss ways to prevent future incidents and possible new rules for the supervision and operation of turnout pens at the race-track. "I don't know if anyone anticipated something like this happening," said Byron Freeland, the commission's attorney. "If this could be a problem in the future, we may need a rule requiring proper supervision."

Sources: *Commercial Appeal* (Memphis, Tennessee); *Associated Press*, Andrew Demillo

Three Racing Dogs Found Dead at Daytona Kennel Compound

Daytona Beach, Florida: On August 21, 2007, state investigators discovered the bodies of three racing greyhounds in a freezer at the Daytona Beach Kennel Club's off-site kennel compound. "It is not known at this time precisely what the dogs died from," said Greyhound Protection League President Susan Netboy. The bodies were transferred to the University of Florida's animal laboratory to determine the cause of death.

"It's certainly a bizarre situation," said Volusia County spokesman Dave Byron. "It does make you wonder why the dogs were there dead for a period," he added. Byron said Volusia County Animal Control is investigating how the greyhounds died, and said if the deaths stemmed from abuse or

neglect, then criminal charges are possible.

Investigators made the grim discovery while at the compound to inform trainer Nelson Ulrich that his state license was being suspended. According to state documents, routine urine tests taken from three of Ulrich's dogs in July tested positive for traces of cocaine. Ulrich's contract with the kennel club has been cancelled. According to the track's general manager, Daniel Francati, the dead dogs were owned by someone other than Ulrich.

Update: As of late January 2008, the Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering has not released the identities or the cause of death of the three greyhounds.

Sources: *Daytona Beach News-Journal*: Mary Moewe; *Orlando Sentinel*: April Hunt

Struggling Texas Track Closes

Corpus Christi: Citing mounting financial losses and the refusal of the Texas Racing Commission (TRC) to approve a shorter racing schedule, the Corpus Christi Greyhound Track closed December 31, 2007. Scott Savin, the chief operating officer of the holding company that owns the track, said the track could resume live racing in 2009. According to financial statements filed with the TRC, the track lost \$3.5 million in 2006 and owes its investors \$35.5 million.

Savin said the track wanted to trim the racing season to create a circuit system with the growing Valley Race Park in Harlingen. Dog owners, however, objected to the plan for several reasons, including the potential for smaller payouts.

There are approximately 300 greyhounds at the facility. According to a National Greyhound Association press release, the Texas Greyhound Association (TGA) is working with greyhound owners, track officials, and adoption groups and is working on a plan to manage the placement of 100 to 150 greyhounds. TGA spokeswoman Diane Whiteley said her organization has been working on a transition plan since March, when news of the possible track closing first surfaced.

Greyhound Protection League President Susan Netboy said that with so many tracks closing across the country, options for dogs to be transferred to other facilities are limited. "The official version is that dogs get adopted, go to other tracks or back to the farms to breed," Netboy said. "But there's no accountability."

[The Greyhound Adoption League of Texas (GALT) has taken in dozens of Corpus Christi's greyhounds since the track closed. *GNN* readers in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who would like to help may contact GALT by phone at 972-503-4258. Donations can be made through their website www.galtx.com.—Ed].

Sources: *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*: Dan Kelley; *Houston Chronicle*; Fox TV4 Dallas-Fort Worth

STATE-BY-STATE NEWS: September 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008

ALABAMA

Birmingham: Milton McGregor, who a year ago was forced to remove casino-like gambling machines from his Birmingham dog track, is moving forward with plans to bring electronic bingo machines to the facility. According to the Birmingham Racing Commission (BRC), McGregor has agreed to a joint venture with Greenetrack, a Eutaw dog track located about 75 miles southwest of Tuscaloosa. Greenetrack, which has hundreds of video bingo machines, ceased live racing in 1995.

Under current law, the machines are allowed only at Greenetrack and the VictoryLand dog track in Shorter, according to Kip Keefer, executive director of the BRC. Details of the agreement have not been released, but McGregor told the commission at an October meeting that the two dog tracks agreed "after extensive discussions and negotiations" to create a new joint company.

The plan to add bingo machines to the Birmingham track would require the passage of a constitutional amendment in a statewide referendum.

Sources: *The Birmingham News*: Stan Diel; *The Associated Press*

Mobile: Thirteen individuals arrested in October 2006 in a race-fixing scheme at Mobile Greyhound Park were indicted in late August 2007 by a grand jury in Mobile County. Three of the 13, who were employees of the track, were additionally indicted on charges of tampering with racing animals.

The fastest dogs were fed drugs a few hours before a race that increased their heart rates to the point of exhaustion, thus assuring that the slower dogs would win. Those involved in the scheme placed bets on the slower dogs, netting thousands of dollars on fixed races.

No trial date has been set. The offenses carry a punishment of up to ten years in prison.

Source: *The Mobile Press-Register*: Gary McElroy

ARKANSAS

Little Rock: The Arkansas Supreme Court September 27, 2007 upheld a state law allowing electronic games of skill at Southland Greyhound Park in West Memphis (Crittenden County) and Oaklawn Park, a horse track in Hot Springs (Garland County). The Legislature in 2005 approved

Act 1511, a measure that allowed voters in West Memphis and Hot Springs to decide whether to allow electronic games of skill at the tracks.

The Family Action Council Committee filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of the votes, arguing that county residents outside of city limits were unfairly denied the right to vote. Circuit judges in both Crittenden and Garland Counties had ruled earlier in favor of the tracks, finding the new law constitutional. The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case on September 13. Justice Paul E. Danielson wrote that opponents did not meet their burden in proving the act unconstitutional.

Source: *Arkansas Legal Newsline*: Ron Luke

COLORADO

Loveland: At 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 3, the Cloverleaf Kennel Club announced it was closing its doors effective immediately. Keli Murray, who managed the clubhouse bar for eight years, said the board of directors came in and met with general manager John Manning at 3:30 p.m., who then sent office personnel to tell ten employees to cash out and be ready to leave in 30 minutes.

Cloverleaf ceased live racing in 2006, but remained open for simulcast wagering. Daily operations had already been reduced to a single room where bettors monitored races from other tracks. Declining interest in dog racing and competition from the casinos in Blackhawk and Central City finally forced the track's closure.

The racetrack sits on 42 acres of prime real estate just north of the booming Interstate 25 and U.S. 34 interchange, approximately 50 miles north of Denver. Loveland-based McWhinney Enterprises, developers of the 3,000-acre Centerra project that encircles the track, has an option to buy it in 2012. Now that the track is closed, McWhinney is likely to exercise its option four years earlier than expected.

Cloverleaf operated for 52 years.

Source: *The Coloradoan*: Pat Ferrier

FLORIDA

After more than three hours of debate on September 4, 2007, the Orange Park City Council voted 3-2 to allow the Orange Park Kennel Club in Clay County to operate a poker room. Months earlier, the Clay County

Commission denied the track's request for a poker room. However, changes in state pari-mutuel laws that went into effect July 1 gave local municipalities the authority to authorize cards rooms at racetrack operations.

Source: *The Florida Times-Union*: Anne Marie Apollo

St. Petersburg: David Tiano, Chief Operating Officer of the Derby Lane dog track, announced December 31 that the third annual Million Dollar Race has been cancelled. "We did not have enough entries to move forward with the race that was scheduled for March 1, 2008," Tiano said. The race was open to any greyhound in the world that was registered with the National Greyhound Association. Derby Lane's President Vey Weaver said, "Like the American interest, the international list of names grew smaller as the months went by."

Source: Derby Lane Press Release

KANSAS

Topeka: State Attorney General Paul Morrison has filed seven felony charges against James Gartland, former general manager of The Woodlands dual dog and horse track in Kansas City. The charges, which were made public Wednesday, August 22, 2007, stemmed from an investigation by the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission that began in 2006. Gartland, who has been charged with three counts of making false statements and four counts of computer crimes, was believed to be out of the country when the charges were announced.

Morrison alleges that Gartland caused the computers at The Woodlands to make false financial recordings to conceal his actions. Gartland paid a \$300 fine to the racing commission after pleading no contest to having a gambler place wagers equaling \$300 to \$400 to help cover shortfalls in a wagering pool. The track covered the wagers from funds designated for "customer relations," according to the state complaint.

"As we move forward with expanded gaming in Kansas, it is critical that we ensure the law is followed and enforced, and that we quash any hint of corruption immediately," Morrison said in a statement. Morrison asked for the public's help in tracking Gartland down.

Gartland contacted the attorney general's office the following day, advising them he would surrender on his return to the

United States. He was arrested late the following night by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at Miami International Airport as he returned from St. Kitts in the Caribbean.

Sources: *Bonner Springs Chieftain*: Scott Rothschild; KCTV-Channel 5

Wichita: After 18 years of operation, Wichita Greyhound Park closed its doors as scheduled on October 6, 2007. Track owner Phil Ruffin decided to close the track after Sedgwick County voters narrowly rejected a ballot measure in August 2007, which would have allowed the track to operate coin-drop slot machines. [See the Summer 2007 edition of *GNN* for details. — *Ed.*] The closure cost 250 employees their jobs. Ruffin said he had offered them jobs at his Camptown Greyhound Park in Frontenac, but many did not want to move to the small town on the Missouri border. “We hate to lose those people,” Ruffin said. “But we can’t keep losing \$2.5 million a year.”

County spokeswoman Amanda Matthews said the Wichita track will continue to pay an annual leasing fee of \$80,500 to the county until the lease expires in September 2009. The county owns the land underneath the racetrack; Ruffin owns the track and clubhouse. Matthews said Ruffin has the option to renew the lease.

The Camptown track, located in Crawford County, is undergoing extensive renovations to accommodate slot machines approved by county voters earlier in 2007. The track, closed for seven years, was expected to reopen as a racino in the spring of 2008. Under state law, the Kansas Lottery owns the electronic gaming machines and the tracks manage them.

Update: Camptown ceased construction at the facility on January 2, 2008. Kevin Allis, the track’s general manager, said that the estimated \$30 million construction process was stopped because of a management dispute with the Kansas Lottery.

Allis said that track officials submitted a contract proposal in June that allowed the track to keep 25 percent of the net profits for facility management and another 15 percent for operational expenses. The Lottery sent a counter-proposal in November that took away the 15 percent for expenses. “We submitted an opening date of June 2, 2008 and that date is no longer an option,” Allis said.

Sources: *The Wichita Eagle*: Fred Mann, Tim Potter; KSN-TV News; *The Morning Sun*: Matthew Clark

RHODE ISLAND

Providence: In late December, Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch approved the operation of “virtual blackjack” machines for the Twin River Casino and Racetrack (formerly Lincoln Greyhound Park). The decision was reached after his office determined the new machines were video lottery terminals, similar to the 4,750 video slot machines in operation at the track. As such, virtual blackjack does not constitute a new type of gaming, which would have required voter or legislative approval. The blackjack machines simulate a live blackjack game, with five players sitting at a table signaling their moves electronically. No live dealer and no real cards are used.

Source: *The Providence Journal*: Katherine Gregg

WEST VIRGINIA

Kanawha County: Two greyhound breeders whose licenses were suspended during an investigation of greyhound health certificates are suing the West Virginia Racing Commission and its chairman, saying there was no evidence of any wrongdoing. Dean Miner of Wheeling, operator of Flying Eagles/Miner Kennel, and Smith Greyhounds Inc. of Oklahoma, say the commission denied them due process when it suspended their operating licenses. They also allege that commission chairman George Sidiropolis ordered the suspensions because of personal animosity toward them.

In a lawsuit filed August 22 in Kanawha County Circuit Court, Miner maintains that the Racing Commission’s panel of judges had no evidence that his dogs were racing under falsified health certificates when they suspended his operating license. Smith Greyhounds is also a plaintiff in the suit, which names Sidiropolis and commissioners Dr. Bryan F. Mitchell and Fred C. Peddicord as defendants.

In March 2007, the commission suspended 35 dogs belonging to breeder Paul Carbonneau amid allegations that he had submitted altered health certificates for his dogs racing at the Tri-State dog track. Less than a week later, the commission suspended the licenses of seven additional breeders, including Miner and Smith Greyhounds, pending an investigation of their greyhounds’ health certificates. All of the seven suspended breeders had valid health certificates for their greyhounds. Carbonneau was found in violation by the commission’s three-judge panel and was fined \$17,500 for sub-

mitting fraudulent health certificates.

The suit says Sidiropolis ordered the judges to issue the suspension notices despite the absence of any facts or circumstances.

During the suspension, the plaintiff’s dogs were not allowed to race, the suit maintains, and their health and racing abilities suffered. The suit seeks unspecified compensatory damages, plus punitive damages against Sidiropolis for his allegedly malicious conduct in ordering the suspensions.

Sources: *The Charleston Gazette*: Andrew Clevenger; *Charleston Daily Mail*: Associated Press; *The West Virginia Record*: Cara Bailey

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee: The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs rejected 11 applications for off-reservation casinos on January 8, 2008, the same day the agency announced new, stricter guidelines for approving off-reservation casinos. The new guidelines dictate that the farther a casino is from the reservation, the greater the weight that should be given to state and local concerns, such as the impact of taking land off the tax rolls.

However, the agency took no action on two other major applications, including a proposed Menominee \$808 million casino at the Dairyland track, which would also continue greyhound racing. Evan Zeppos, a spokesman for the Menominee’s Kenosha project, said the proposal was solid even though it would be about 200 miles away from the tribe’s reservation. “We believe we have a very strong and unique application,” Zeppos said. The tribe recently opened an office at Dairyland, which will serve as the local headquarters for the project.

According to an audit released by the independent firm Virchow Krause & Company in March 2007, Dairyland experienced business losses of nearly \$2.8 million in 2006. The track is now carrying \$20 million in debt and is seeking tax relief from the Wisconsin Legislature.

In other news, the Potawatomi Bingo Casino plans to expand its gambling menu of 1,800 video slots to include pari-mutuel betting on horse and dog races, a move that will likely have a negative impact on financially struggling Dairyland Greyhound Park located in Kenosha. Seventy percent of Dairyland’s wagering handle comes from simulcasting.

Sources: *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*: Cary Spivak; *Wisconsin Wire*; *Kenosha News*: Joe Potente

Dear Readers

■ The publication of this issue of *GNN*, which covers news from September 1, 2007 through January 31, 2008, was unavoidably delayed. As a result, there will be an overlap of news in the next issue that will include news from the months covered in this issue.

■ The closure of four greyhound tracks in 2007, combined with drastic declines in attendance and wagering handles at most of the surviving 34 tracks in 13 states, clearly indicates that the industry is in steep decline. Tracks with video or coin drop slots are likely to remain open indefinitely, even though few people are watching or wagering on live races.

■ I extend my deepest gratitude to all the readers whose generous contributions make each issue possible. Regrettably, without a staff, I am no longer able to personally acknowledge all of your mailed contributions.

Joan Eiding, Editor
February 8, 2008

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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Letters to the Editor

Let me first thank you for your newsletter. I read it from front to back, no line missed or skipped over. Sometimes, I have to stop to wipe the tears from my eyes and then take a deep breath and say out loud, "how could they do that to such a gentle, sweet creature."

Secondly, please accept this donation in memory of my beloved greyhound, Loomis. My gentle giant suddenly passed over the Rainbow Bridge in his sleep on August 11, 2007. Loomis made it to the wonderful age of 12 years and 10 months.

I miss him terribly, but his memory will live on. Please keep up the good work.

Marlene Vulpi
Michigan

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Frankie and Ramses, the two dogs of my friend Joan Baron. They were two sweet boys and she loved them so much.

Diane Shull
Massachusetts

Enclosed is a donation in memory of Greyhound Goddess FiFi L'Amour, a sweet, beautiful girl who is playing with her rubber chicken at the Rainbow Bridge while she waits for her special people, Rev. Michelle Lagueux and Bill Burgess.

Lauren Emery
Maine

Please accept this donation as a contribution toward the cost of mailing your newsletter. Your work is very important to keep us all informed about progress and more importantly just how much more work needs to be done to realize a better life for these beautiful and graceful dogs.

Barbara Smith
New Jersey

Enclosed is a donation with thanks for all you do.

Kay Redding
North Carolina

In Memorium

Brody, beloved 10-and-a-half-year-old black male greyhound of Laura and Mike Silvester of Queen Creek, Arizona, was put to sleep on October 17, 2007. Brody stopped eating the day before and went downhill very quickly. The attending veterinarian suspected lung cancer. "He was our big and loud boy," Laura wrote. "He is our first greyhound loss."

Fi Fi L'Amour, beloved 10-year-old fawn greyhound of Rev. Michelle Lagueux and Bill Burgess of Richmond, Maine, was put to sleep on November 2, after the sudden onset of a debilitating illness. "She took her playful joy, sweet nature and laughing heart with her and we are diminished without her," Michelle wrote. "We will always be grateful for the time we had together, but it feels much too short."

Bagel, beloved whippet of Nancy Nenad of Phoenix, Arizona, died in her sleep in the early morning hours of November 26. Bagel, who was nearly 15 years old, was rescued from the streets of Phoenix in 1994. Through the years, she held court over a household filled with rescued animals, including four greyhounds. Bagel, who was part of *GNN's* extended family, will be missed by all who knew her bright spirit.

Rosie, beloved Baxter Heeler of Jeff and Susan Hoffman of Phoenix, Arizona, died in her sleep in the early hours of January 3, 2008, after a long illness. Rosie, who was almost 17 years old, was devoted to Jeff and Susan and they are devastated by her passing. Rosie was also part of *GNN's* extended family of canine friends. She will be remembered by the many people who knew and loved her.

Legislative Briefs

FLORIDA: Voters in Miami-Dade County will decide during the January 29, 2008 presidential primary election whether to authorize Las Vegas-style slots at the pari-mutuels in their county. Calder Race Course president Ken Dunn and officials of Miami's Flagler Greyhound Track believe their chances of winning are better than in March 2005, when Miami-Dade voters rejected a slots ballot measure.

Update: Miami-Dade County voters approved the slot machine referendum.

Source: *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*: Mike Clary; *Blood Horse Magazine*: James Freer

KANSAS: Attorney General Paul Morrison filed a "friendly" lawsuit on August 23, 2007, challenging the constitutionality of a law passed by the Legislature in March that legalized casino gambling. The law, which went into effect in April, authorizes one casino in each of four counties, and a limited number of slot machines at the dog and horse tracks. The four casinos would be owned by the state, specifically the Kansas Lottery, which would oversee the new gambling operations. Day-to-day management of the casinos would be left to private developers who would be contracted by the state.

As requested by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Morrison challenged the law to create a legal controversy for the court to settle. Sebelius, who believes the law is constitutional, is seeking a definitive answer from the Supreme Court. She said developers would be reluctant to invest in multimillion-dollar projects unless the law was upheld. The high court referred the suit to Shawnee County District Court in September. On December 4, Judge Charles Andrews heard oral arguments and ruled on February 1, 2008 that the law permitting four state-owned casinos passed by the Legislature is constitutional. Newly appointed Kansas Attorney General Stephen Six said he will immediately appeal the ruling and ask the Supreme Court to expedite the appeal.

Sources: *Associated Press*: Carl Manning, John Hanna; *The Kansas City Star*: David Klepper; *Kansas Business Journal*

MASSACHUSETTS: Sponsors of a ballot initiative to ban greyhound racing, a coalition of state and national animal protection groups, turned in more than 100,000 signatures on November 20, 2007. Two previous ballot initiatives in 2000 and 2006 failed.

(continued on page 7)

Florida Governor Signs Gaming Compact with Seminoles

Tallahassee: Gov. Charlie Crist and Mitchell Cypress, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, signed a 25-year gaming compact allowing the tribe to operate high-stakes Class III Las Vegas-style slot machines and banked card games such as blackjack and baccarat at its seven existing casinos. In return, the tribe agreed to pay the state \$375 million in the first three years, and to share 10 to 25 percent of its revenues after that as long as the state does not allow racetracks or other non-tribal gambling operations to expand into table games.

"This is a very historic day for the state of Florida and the Seminole Nation," Crist said as Cypress stood at his side. The compact, signed November 14, 2007, ends 16 years of negotiations and decades of litigation over the tribe's gambling rights.

Eight days earlier, the U.S. Department of the Interior, which regulates tribal gaming, told Crist that it will allow the Seminole Tribe of Florida to expand casino gambling if the state and tribe did not reach an agreement by November 15. If the state had not agreed to a compact, the Interior Department would have sanctioned the new gaming options, but Florida would not have received any share of the Seminoles' estimated \$1.4 billion in annual gambling revenues.

The Florida House of Representatives filed a lawsuit against Crist November 19, claiming he illegally signed a gambling agreement with the Seminole Tribe. "The governor has encroached on the powers of the Legislature," the 27-page lawsuit filed at the state Supreme Court concluded. House Speaker Marco Rubio, R-West Miami, said the lawsuit was necessary to protect the Legislature's constitutional authority to set policy in the state.

The dispute over the compact moved to the federal level December 20, when Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington. In a statement issued the same day, McCollum said he was seeking an injunction against the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior to prevent him from giving final approval for the compact.

Updates: The U.S. Department of the Interior approved the gambling compact between Crist and the Seminole Tribe on December 31. On January 4, 2008 Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum lost his bid

to block federal approval of the compact. U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman ruled that the state would not be harmed by letting the deal go into effect. "If the Supreme Court says it's void, it's void," Friedman said. "While there may be a theoretical problem, it's unlikely to be a real problem."

On January 7, the compact became final with the publication of a notice in the Federal Register. Upon federal authorization, the Seminoles immediately transferred \$50 million to Florida.

The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood began operating 1,000 Class III Las Vegas-style slot machines on January 28. The tribe ordered the machines after the compact was finalized January 7. Seminole officials had said earlier it would take several months before the machines could be delivered and installed. "They were surprised the new slots were available so quickly," said Gary Bitner, a spokesman for the Seminoles. Bitner also said operating card games is still months away. "There is no existing pool of blackjack and baccarat dealers in Florida."

The tribe operates six other casinos in southern Florida, including one in Tampa. "Tampa is a priority but I can't pinpoint which casino will be the next one [to receive the machines]," Bitner said. He said the remaining six casinos will receive the new slot machines as fast as the manufacturer can deliver them. The tribe will eventually operate 15,000 slot machines.

The Florida Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case on January 30, 2008. Jon Mills, an attorney representing the House of Representatives, told the court, "This compact, as it stands before you, is unconstitutional. It exceeds the governor's power." Christopher Kise, a lawyer representing the governor, said Crist was under a federal order to negotiate with the tribe.

"If the compact between the state and the tribe is invalidated by the court, the U. S. Department of the Interior will give the tribe permission to move forward with the Vegas-style slots," said Barry Richard, an attorney for the tribe said.

Sources: *Miami Herald*: Mary Ellen Klas; *The Ledger*: Bill Kaczor; *Herald Tribune*: Joe Pollick; *The News-Press*: Bill Cotterell; *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*: Michael Turnbull, Jon Burstein, John Holland; *Forbes*: *Associated Press*, Brendan Farrington; David Fischer; *Jacksonville Business Journal*; *The Tampa Tribune*: Ted Jackovics

INTERNATIONAL NEWS UPDATE

ASIA

Macau, China: As many as 400 racing greyhounds imported from Australia to supply the Yet Yuen Canidrome will be euthanized due to injury or old age at the end of the year, according to a report in the *South China Morning Post*. Yet Yuen Canidrome operations manager Chris Kuong Wing-hung said, "Most of the racing dogs are between one and three years old. It is done by lethal injection by qualified vets." Kuong said it costs about \$200 a month to kennel, feed and exercise each greyhound.

Members of the Hong Kong-based Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals criticized the cull, saying the practice is inhumane. The group has asked the Macau government to review the rules governing greyhound ownership to allow an adoption plan for retired dogs. Current regulations limit ownership of greyhounds to the track operator.

Although the canidrome has diversified into slot machines, it is struggling to survive in the face of the island's explosive gambling boom. Four high-rise hotel casinos built by U.S. gambling conglomerates have recently opened in Macau, which is being touted as the next Las Vegas.

[Macau, formerly a Portuguese enclave at the mouth of the Canton River, was returned to Chinese rule December 20, 1999 and is now a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. — *Ed.*]
Sources: *South China Morning Post*; *International Herald Tribune*; *Herald Sun* (Australia)

AUSTRALIA

Hobart, Tasmania: A prominent Tasmanian greyhound trainer has been banned from the sport for eight years after it was discovered that he had shot 11 of his retired greyhounds to death and falsified documents claiming the dogs had been destroyed by a registered veterinary surgeon.

Ted Medhurst pleaded guilty at a steward's inquiry November 16, 2007 to eight different violations of greyhound racing rules, which require that retired dogs must be euthanized by a veterinarian. Stewards found that Medhurst falsified two documents filed with Racing Services on April 13 and July 31. He was also found guilty of fraudulently removing blank documents with a letterhead from a veterinary

surgery, creating and falsifying business documents, and presenting false documents as evidence to the stewards.

Medhurst has been disqualified from the sport until midnight on November 16, 2015. The eight-year disqualification is one of the stiffest penalties ever handed down by Tasmanian racing officials. Hobart Greyhound Racing Club member Greg Fahey said the industry was shocked by the severity of the penalty. "Ted has been the dominant force in greyhound racing in Tasmania for 15 years. His whole life is greyhound racing, so it is very sad."

Medhurst has filed an appeal with the Chairman of Racing Stewards.

Sources: *The Mercury*; Sean Stevenson; ABC News

EUROPE

Limerick, Ireland: The first investigation report prepared by the Control Committee of the Irish Greyhound Board (IGB) was released to the media October 9, 2007. The committee imposed fines ranging from •200 to •2,000 (US\$280 to US\$2,800) on eight greyhound owners, who were found guilty of feeding their dogs a range of performance-enhancing drugs, including cocaine and amphetamines.

Some of the owners also were ordered to surrender their prize money for particular races to the owners of the second-place finishers. All received warnings they could be banned from the sport if they were caught again. The majority of those identified reside in Northern Ireland. The independent Control Committee was established in the wake of a doping scandal that rocked the sport in 2006.

IGB Chief Executive Adrian Neilan said he welcomed the punishments, saying it might serve as a deterrent to other owners. Neilan said his board "will provide all necessary assistance to ensure the highest level of integrity in the Irish greyhound industry."

An unidentified greyhound owner who has been in the racing business for 50 years, accused the IGB of ignoring the real culprits behind the doping scandal. "They need to look higher up the food chain," he said. "The big guns in the business are getting away with murder."

Sources: BBC News; Johnny Caldwell; *Associated Press*; *The Independent*; *Strabane Chronicle*; Connor Sharkey

Industry "Seriously Flawed"

London, England: The welfare of racing greyhounds has once again been called into question by a new report commissioned by the British greyhound industry following the shocking discovery of "redundant" greyhounds being killed on demand in County Durham in 2006.

The report, which was prepared by Lord Donoghue of Ashton, head of the policy unit at Downing Street, was released November 27, 2007. The report states that the greyhound industry's "current structures are seriously flawed" and also highlights the lack of information about the numbers and life careers of greyhounds." Among Donoghue's recommendations was the creation of a new independent regulatory body to replace the sport's two current regulatory bodies, the British Greyhound Racing Board and the National Greyhound Racing Club. Donoghue suggested a six-month transition period during which a new system to oversee dog racing would be prepared. The new regulatory body would be known as the Greyhound Board of Great Britain.

The report also states that the public, through Parliament, has made clear its expectation that the industry establish a policy to track the status and whereabouts of all racing greyhounds, preferably from "cradle to grave," or from birth to retirement. "There are systemic welfare failures in the racing greyhound industry and the public are increasingly uneasy about what amounts to negligence," said Becky Blackmore, RSPCA greyhound expert.

This latest report follows another damning report published in May by an independent parliamentary body, the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW), which raised grave concerns about the true scale of unwanted dogs within the greyhound industry that are killed or "go missing" each year. APGAW's report cited the following numbers: At least 4,728 racing greyhounds in England are unaccounted for each year; these dogs are presumed to be killed by the age of three or four. At least 13,500 greyhounds bred for racing are considered "surplus" to the industry in England and Wales each year. APGAW believes the number of surplus dogs are likely to be a gross underestimate. Sources: BBC News; *UK Pet Business World News*

Legislative Briefs

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After the signatures were certified by city and town clerks statewide, they were sent to the office of Secretary of State William F. Galvin. If Galvin determines that the initiative has the requisite number of signatures, the Legislature has until the first Wednesday in May 2008 to make the proposal law. If lawmakers do not act, proponents must gather another 11,099 signatures by June 18, 2008. If the measure is passed by voters in November 2008, the ban would go into effect in 2010.

Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), said, "It's time to stop this cruelty to dogs." HSUS, which is part of the coalition, contributed \$100,000 to the campaign.

In other news, Gov. Deval Patrick announced a proposal on September 17, 2007 to allow three resort-style casinos in Massachusetts. The revenues, he said, would help the commonwealth pay for road and bridge repair, transportation expenses and provide property tax relief to homeowners. If the Legislature approves the plan, the casinos would be built in the metropolitan Boston region and in western and southeastern Massachusetts. Under Patrick's plan, three 10-year licenses would be put up for bid, a process that could generate at least \$600 million in revenue. Patrick faces a long, uphill battle in the House, which has failed to approve any legislation to expand gambling for the past ten years.

Sources: *Boston Herald*; Associated Press; *Boston Globe*; April Simpson, Lisa Wangsness

TEXAS: Texans for Economic Development, the umbrella group for track owners, breeders and other segments of the racing industry, is planning a \$3 million campaign and lobbying effort to bring video lottery terminals to the state's dog and horse tracks. In the last few years, all legislation introduced in the House has failed under strong opposition to the expansion of gambling in the state.

Group president Tony Azopardi said \$1 million will be targeted on about a dozen races in the state House of Representatives in the 2008 legislative elections. Another \$2 million will be used for a lobbying effort to convince lawmakers that the tracks need the machines to survive. The Legislature reconvenes its regular session in January 2009.

Source: *Austin American-Statesman*; Laylan Copelin

Greyhound Adopter Charged with Felony Animal Cruelty

Watertown, Massachusetts: Kevin Schneider, who adopted two white and black greyhounds from Greyhound Friends in Hopkinton, has been charged with two counts of felony animal cruelty after allegedly starving and later abandoning the dogs. According to reports, Schneider pushed one greyhound named Talca from a moving vehicle on Route 6 in Connecticut, and one hour later left the other greyhound, Sari, under a bush near a Rhode Island hospital.

According to Louise Coleman, who founded Greyhound Friends in 1983, Talca was taken to a Connecticut Animal Control facility in Killingly, where she is recovering and steadily gaining weight. Sari died three days later from severe malnourishment.

Detective Joe Kelly of the Watertown Police Department worked closely with the MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) to expedite the case and accompanied an MSPCA officer to district court to obtain the warrant. Schneider was arrested at his home on November 17, 2007.

Schneider pleaded not guilty to the charges two days later in Waltham District Court. His attorney, Robert Menton, said that "records will show" that his client took care of his pets, noting that Schneider recently took both greyhounds to the veterinarian's office where they were prescribed antibiotics. "It's not like they were tied up," Menton said. "Schneider's position is that they had some sort of virus." The judge ordered that Schneider could not care for or have custody of animals as a condition of his release on personal recognizance. Schneider's pretrial hearing was scheduled for December 27.

During Schneider's arraignment, a group of distraught greyhound adopters and supporters stood outside the courthouse with their dogs, some carrying signs reading, "Justice for Sari." As Schneider and his attorney emerged from the courthouse, one woman called out, "Why didn't you just return them?"

According to a press release posted on Greyhound Friends website, both dogs weighed close to 30 pounds, less than half of what they weighed at the time of adoption in May and June 2007. According to the press release, on the night of October 27, a man from Killingly, Connecticut was driving behind a black Chevrolet Suburban on Route 6

and saw the driver open the passenger door and push something out while the vehicle was in motion. "He was shocked to find a skeletal, white and black greyhound looking up at him," the press release stated. "As he reached for her, she wagged her tail, weakly."

The same vehicle allegedly was seen one hour later pulling into a dark corner of the parking lot at Miriam Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. After the vehicle sped off, a nurse discovered Sari under a bush. The dog was "so weak she couldn't move," the nurse reportedly said. Both dogs were transported to veterinary clinics, but only Talca survived.

In Massachusetts, a charge of cruelty to animals carries a maximum sentence of five years.

Tragic Twist of Fate

According to information available on www.greyhound-data.com, Talca, also known as Flashing Pixie, was born in Ireland on March 22, 2002, and Sari, also known as Sari Jul, was born in Ireland on September 29, 2001. Both greyhounds were subsequently sold to the Meridiana track in Barcelona, which closed abruptly in March 2006, leaving 700 greyhounds at risk.

Talca and Sari were among the 100 greyhounds taken to the Scooby Refuge in Medina del Campo, Spain. Coleman, who was in Spain at the time to help in the rescue effort, brought ten greyhounds back to Boston, including Talca and Sari.

"It does seem especially poignant that both girls made it through so many tough places and then were brutalized by an American," Coleman said.

Update: Thirty greyhound adopters and supporters of Greyhound Friends and six greyhounds gathered in front of the Waltham District Courthouse December 27 for Schneider's second court appearance. State Representative John Scibak, his wife Pat, and their greyhound Emmett, were also in attendance. Schneider appeared briefly; his case was continued until February 8, 2008. District Attorney Gerard T. Leone, Jr. has stated his intention to ensure that the law is enforced in this case. If convicted, Schneider could spend two years in jail. For additional information about the case, go to Greyhound Friends website at www.greyhound.org

Sources: *Watertown Daily News Tribune*; Jillian Fenimore; Boston Channel WCVB-TV 5

Tucson Greyhound Park Files Lawsuit Against Greyhound Welfare Advocates

Tucson, Arizona: Tucson Greyhound Park, Inc. (TGP) filed a defamation lawsuit in Pima County Superior Court on January 5, 2008 against Arizona and California greyhound welfare advocates. Several individuals were named in the lawsuit, but the primary targets are Tucson resident Karyn Zoldan, and Susan Netboy, President of the California-based Greyhound Protection League, the nation's foremost greyhound protection organization.

A preliminary hearing was held in Superior Court on January 18 before Judge John E. Davis for a ruling on TGP's request for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) seeking the immediate removal of statements about the racetrack, which appear on EndTucsonGreyhoundRacing.com, a website created by Zoldan.

Judge Davis disclosed that he had a personal friendship with one of the principals of Munger Chadwick, the law firm representing TGP, and offered to recuse himself. Netboy, through her Tucson attorney Chris Wencker of the Benavidez Law Group, accepted the offer telephonically. The case was re-

signed to Judge Charles Harrington, who denied the TRO later the same day.

The lawsuit is based primarily on allegations made by Tom Taylor, TGP's general manager and CEO, who is also president of the Tucson Chapter of Greyhound Pets of America. In his sworn affidavit, Taylor claims that the existence of the website may potentially cause the track to lose "its permit and right to do business." TGP's license renewal is currently under review by the director of the Arizona Department of Racing.

Taylor also claims the track bears no responsibility for numerous greyhound welfare incidents that have occurred in recent years. According to Wencker, Michael J. Meehan, one of the four Munger Chadwick attorneys representing TGP, told Judge Harrington that the incidents reported on Zoldan's website are "definitely false."

Those incidents include the Rick Favreau hauls of more than 140 greyhounds to Colorado in 2005-06 and the Jesse Burgess haul of 35 greyhounds to Juarez in June 2005. The hauls were arranged and paid for

by former TGP management, according to department of racing records. [See *GNN* Fall 2006/Winter 2007 and Summer/Fall 2005 online for the complete details. — *Ed.*]

"The lawsuit erroneously alleges that the Greyhound Protection League is the author of the website, except for allowing the inclusion of a GPL petition," Netboy said. She also pointed out that the right to petition the government is a protected form of expression and cited a U.S. Supreme Court ruling by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor: "We have recognized this right to petition as one of the most precious of the liberties safeguarded by the Bill of Rights."

Netboy said GPL intends to mount a vigorous defense on behalf of all parties. "We have no intention of standing by and letting the dog track trample any portion of the First Amendment," she said. "The lawsuit is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to intimidate and silence greyhound protection advocates and members of the public."

Source: Pima County Superior Court, Case Number C20080047

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