

**To:** Chair Barker and Members of the Committee

**From:** Southeast Kansas Humane Society

**Re:** Testimony regarding HB 2199

**Date:** February 18th, 2021

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

Our organization does not have any position on sports wagering until such legislation permits wagering on greyhound racing, an incredibly inhumane sport. In order for racetrack gaming facilities ("racinos") to open and offer sports wagering, *they must run a minimum number of live greyhound races*. This means that the bill makes sports wagering at racetrack gaming facilities reliant on live greyhound racing and provides a financial incentive for the return of this cruel activity. This bill must be amended to **remove racinos** in order to stop the return of greyhound racing in Kansas. If this loophole is left in this legislation, it could mean the suffering and deaths of hundreds of animals in our state.

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

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

The current definition of a "*sporting event*" in HB 2199 **only** prohibits sports bettings on greyhound racing *if it occurs in Kansas and is regulated by the Kansas Parimutuel Racing Act (KPRRA)*. This sports wagering bill must be amended so that it prohibits betting on **all** greyhound races - anywhere.

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

**With so many animal shelters holding on by threads due to COVID-19, this situation would be disastrous for our state.**

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

In closing, we respectfully request that you oppose HB 2199 to guarantee sports wagering does not include greyhound racing in the state of Kansas. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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