

MASSACHUSETTS LAWYERS WEEKLY

www.masslawyersweekly.com

Volume 36
Issue No. 2
\$8.00 per copy
September 3, 2007

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COMPANY

Cruelty to greyhounds perpetuated by casino proposals

To the editor:

Lost in the debate over casino-style gambling is its terrible impact on greyhound dogs (Editorial: "Casinos? Let's see all the cards first," Aug. 13).

Since 2002, the year that Wonderland and Raynham-Taunton greyhound parks were first required to keep and publish injury records, over 700

Letter to the editor

dogs have been hurt while racing, some fatally. Injuries reported included broken bones, cardiac arrest, seizures and paralysis. While not racing, dogs are kept confined in small cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around, for long hours each day. This is certainly no way to treat a dog.

Forty-nine percent of Massachusetts citizens voted to end the cruelty of greyhound racing in 2000.

Over the past seven years, racetrack revenues have only declined, and there is even

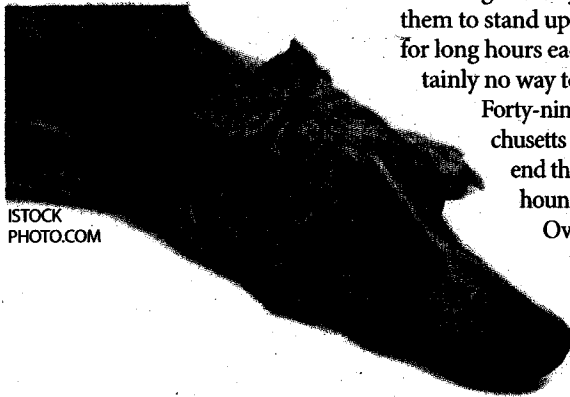
less public appetite for giving wealthy dog track owners yet another helping hand — in the form of new tax breaks, slot machine profits or anything else.

One thing is certainly true: Perpetuating cruelty to animals while introducing widespread, easy-access gambling to our communities is a dangerous and unwarranted step at this time. Only the track owners, with their phalanx of paid lobbyists, might disagree.

A new ballot question to phase out dog racing has been introduced by the Committee to Protect Dogs. The Greyhound Protection Act of 2008 should bring a rightful end to this cruel business.

Christine A. Dorchak
Somerville

The writer is co-chairwoman of the Committee to Protect Dogs and president of GREY2K USA.



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