



FACT SHEET

THE USE OF “4-D MEAT” IN THE GREYHOUND RACING INDUSTRY

OVERVIEW

At commercial greyhound racetracks across the country, dogs are fed a diet based on “4-D meat.”ⁱ This is meat derived from dying, diseased, disabled and dead livestock that has been deemed unfit for human consumption.ⁱⁱ The United States Department of Agriculture requires that denatured charcoal be added to this meat to discourage human use.ⁱⁱⁱ

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF “4-D MEAT”

As a result of eating 4-D meat, dogs can be exposed to serious pathogens such as *Salmonella*.^{iv} In addition, the use of 4-D meat can lead to false drug positives due to drug residues that dogs ingest and pass into the urine.^v

Even the mink industry has discouraged the use of meat from downer cow carcasses, due to outbreaks of Transmissible Mink Encephalopathy, a neurological disease that causes gray matter in the brain to become riddled with holes.^{vi}



Photo by Wonderland Greyhound Park, 2005^{vii}

“4-D MEAT” IS FED TO GREYHOUNDS RAW

The dog racing industry defends the use of 4-D meat by claiming that it is also used by commercial pet food companies. While it is true that 4-D meat is often used to make commercial pet foods, the use of 4-D meat at commercial dog tracks is distinctive because it is fed to dogs raw.^{viii} Cooking meat destroys bacteria, but greyhound trainers are reluctant to do so for fear of negatively impacting racing performance.^{ix}

“4-D MEAT” IS USED BY THE RACING INDUSTRY AS A WAY TO CUT COSTS

According to an industry handbook, 4-D meat is used at commercial dog tracks because “it is the most economically feasible for the Greyhound industry at this time.”^x

Last Updated on October 21, 2009

i See generally <http://www.wonderlandgreyhound.com> (last visited Aug. 15, 2007) (on file with author).

ii 21 USC §644.

iii Linda L. Blythe, James R. Gannon, A. Morrie Craig & Desmond P. Fegan, *Care of the Racing and Retired Greyhound* 151, American Greyhound Council (2007).

iv Id.

v Blythe, Gannon, Craig & Fegan, *supra* note 3.

vi Tawnie K. Bailey & John R. Gorham, Transmissible Mink Encephalopathy, *Fur Rancher Magazine*, Volume 84, Issue No. 3, 2003, at 4. (on file with author).

vii Learning to be a kennel helper at Wonderland 2005 <http://www.wonderlandgreyhound.com> (last visited Aug. 15, 2007) (on file with author).

viii Letter from Gary Guccione, Executive Director, National Greyhound Association, to the Food and Drug Administration (Feb. 7, 2003) (on file with author).

ix Blythe, Gannon, Craig & Fegan, *supra* note 3.

x Id.