

April 25, 2011

Honorable Lawmakers,

As the largest non-profit greyhound protection organizations in the United States, we strongly support HB 1145/SB 1594, which will decouple dog racing from other forms of gambling. We have joined together as the **Greyhounds First Coalition**, and look forward to helping find homes for any and all greyhounds that become available with the passage of this humane legislation.

Currently, an estimated 8,000 dogs race at Florida tracks. In the usual course of events, these dogs would leave Florida tracks in a year or two, be replaced by 8,000 more dogs, who would then be replaced by 8,000 more. The suspension of dog racing would bring a final end to this cruel cycle.

Thankfully, the states of Oregon, Connecticut, Colorado, Wisconsin, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island have already closed down their live racing operations. In fact, many of us were among the scores of adoption groups that quickly mobilized and found homes for the greyhounds at that time. We now stand ready to do the same in Florida.

As you know, the winding down of live racing will not occur abruptly. Some tracks are seasonal and will simply not re-open for live racing at season's end. Some tracks that normally offer live racing throughout the year may take the option to stop racing right away – but some may not. However and whenever tracks choose to release the greyhounds, we will be available to help.

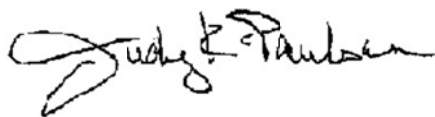
We look forward to the challenges and rewards ahead. Please feel free to contact Marilyn Varnberg of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida at 352-671-5333 with any questions you may have.



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Christine Dorchak, President
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