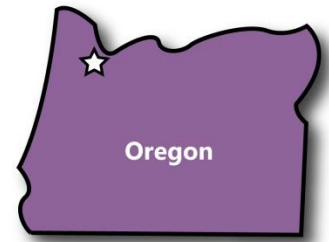




HISTORY OF GREYHOUND RACING IN OREGON

Overview



Greyhound racing in Oregon began in 1933, when the Legislature passed a bill to permit pari-mutuel wagering in the state. A group of principals from the Belmont Greyhound Track in California formed the Multnomah Kennel Club and opened their first racing season in May 1933 at Multnomah Stadium, now known locally as Civic Stadium.

In 1952 a voter referendum to abolish pari-mutuel wagering was rejected by a 2-1 margin. Seasonal racing at the stadium continued until 1956, when the greyhounds were moved to the Portland Meadows horse track. The following year they were moved again to the Murray Kemp Greyhound Park, newly constructed on a 124-acre site in the eastern suburbs of Portland, in a section of Fairview that would later become Wood Village. Greyhound races continued to be held every summer at the track, which was renamed Multnomah Greyhound Park in 1991.

In that year, with an eye to increasing revenues from the existing state lottery, the Legislature passed a bill authorizing state-run video poker and keno machines to be installed at restaurants, bars and taverns. Racetracks were excluded, except for bars and taverns located at the tracks. The new law also opened the door for Indian casinos, five of which opened in the 1990s.

In 1991-92, R.D. Hubbard, owner of Hollywood Park in California, Churchill Downs in Kentucky and other racetracks, purchased a controlling interest in Multnomah Greyhound Park. In 1998 Hubbard sold operating rights of Multnomah Greyhound Park to Arthur McFadden, owner of a Portland off-track betting parlor and former general manager of the Portland Meadows horse track. In 2001 McFadden sold the rights to the Magna Entertainment Group, owned by Canadian auto-parts billionaire Frank Stronach. McFadden retained ownership of the land. Magna also bought operating rights to the Portland Meadows horse track, bringing both racing enterprises under the same management.

Historically, horse-racing and dog-racing interests in Oregon were often bitter rivals. Greyhounds raced in the summer months, horses from fall through spring. (Summer horse-racing is also held at the Oregon State Fair.) Since the exact length of the season for each track was determined annually by the Oregon Racing Commission, and since a few weeks more or less could mean many thousands of dollars, competition between the "dogmen" and the "horsemen" was keen. In 2003, in a rare example of cooperation, the tracks and their allies in the Legislature introduced a bill that would have allowed the seasons of Multnomah Greyhound Park and Portland Meadows to overlap. If the bill had passed as originally written, greyhound races could have continued throughout the year. Through the efforts of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds, GREY2K USA and other concerned organizations, the bill was amended to limit greyhound racing to no more than seven months per year. It was passed in that form.

In 1997 the state legislature approved a law that made Oregon the "HUB" of an electronically linked betting system, allowing bettors across the country to wager on live races via telephone or the

Internet. This has helped to artificially prolong the life of an industry that was otherwise in sharp decline, while giving Oregon a pivotal role in interstate gambling.

Except for R.D. Hubbard Enterprises, the main headquarters of all of the owners of Multnomah Greyhound Park were located outside the state of Oregon, and the greater part of the income from the track flowed out of the state. This did not prevent lawmakers, however, from giving the track multiple tax cuts, subsidies, and other forms of legislative assistance. Between 1991 and 2002, the effective pari-mutuel tax rate on greyhound racing was reduced from 5.45 percent to 1.08 percent. Other than a state license fee of \$100 per racing day, Multnomah was exempt from all fees and taxes. In addition, greyhound breeders and trainers received tax breaks from having their facilities classified as "farm use zones."

Throughout the 1990s attendance and wagering at Multnomah continued to decline. Finally, in December 2004, the officers of Magna Entertainment announced that they were closing the track in order to focus their attention on the Portland Meadows horse- racing track.

Greyhound racing in Oregon is over.

Capsule History, 1987-2004

- **November 1987**

At age 54, Multnomah Kennel Club enjoys its best season ever. The track has a record attendance of 611,430 and a record handle (total amount wagered) of \$55.67 million. Per-capita betting was \$91, an increase of 3 percent over 1986. "We're the No. 1 spectator sport in the state," crows MKC president and CEO George Dewey.¹

- **May 1988**

The Multnomah track has installed major improvements, including an inside lure, a new track surface and layout, new lighting, a newly-paved concourse with 300 additional seats, new non-smoking areas and new kennels. Wednesday matinees have been added to the schedule. Patrons will be able to wager by simulcast on horse-racing's Triple Crown.²

- **August 1988**

Euphoria continues as Multnomah Kennel Club vice president Mike Dorough predicts that this season's handle and attendance figures will break last year's record.³

¹ *Oregonian*, November 5, 1987

² *Oregonian*, May 5, 1988

³ *Oregonian*, August 2, 1988

- **February 1989**

The Oregon Racing Commission approves an extended racing season for both Multnomah Kennel Club and the Portland Meadows horse track. Greyhounds will race 134 days, up from 122 last year. The horse-racing season at the State Fair is shortened.⁴

- **May 1989**

Expanding off-track betting (OTB) outside metropolitan Portland, the owners of Multnomah install OTB sites at several in-state and Nevada locations. The new sites are a success: in the first week of racing the total handle is higher than for the first week of 1988, but wagering on live races actually falls slightly.⁵

- **September 1989**

The Oregon Racing Commission approves an expanded racing schedule for Portland Meadows plus hundreds of additional hours of horse-racing simulcasts. Multnomah Kennel Club president

George Dewey complains that the added simulcasting will adversely affect greyhound racing and dilute pari-mutuel betting in the state.⁶

- **September 1990**

In a hard-hitting series, the Oregonian exposes the incompetence, inexperience and possible corruption of the principals of Oregon Racing, Inc., who received a license to run the troubled Portland Meadows horse track in 1989. The track has suffered through a disastrous racing season, during which it was closed briefly because Oregon Racing had not posted its required bond.

The series discloses that when Oregon Racing, Inc., applied for a license in 1989, the background check on the principal investors was conducted solely by Steven W. Barham, the executive director of the Oregon Racing Commission. Barham made only sketchy notes of his findings, on the basis of which he orally recommended acceptance of the application. He did not submit a written report. Among the relevant facts undisclosed to the commissioners were a significant past record of debt for two of the principals, an ongoing investigation by a federal agency, and a close connection to a known Mafia associate.

The series also reveals that while Portland Meadows was run by Oregon Racing, Inc., Barham made it a practice to personally travel back and forth to the track in order to examine its financial and business records in situ. This allowed Oregon Racing to avoid filing those records with the Racing Commission, where they would have been subject to the public records law.

Note: In 1993 Barham withdrew his name from consideration as head of the Arizona Racing Commission when his evasion of the law in Oregon became known. Asked about this practice in an interview, Barham replied that he was "not sure the public needs to know everything." The Arizona Republic took a different view: "What Arizona did not need was an individual who willfully would seek to come up with creative means to cut off public access absent legal justification."

⁴ Oregonian, February 15, 1989

⁵ Oregonian, May 3 and 8, 1989

⁶ Oregonian, September 29, 1989

The Attorney General's office has issued an opinion that the practice of evading the public records law by failing to file with the Racing Commission is not illegal. Nevertheless, it is obviously useful to those who have something to hide. In this connection, see April 2004, under Humane Issues, below.⁷

- **September 1990**

The average amount wagered at the Multnomah track falls by about \$22,000 per performance as compared to the 1989 season. Betting is down at the horse track, the state lottery and MKC's off-track sites as well.⁸

- **May 1991**

Hoping to boost its declining handle and attendance, Multnomah substitutes Sunday matinees for Wednesday matinees and expands the number of off-track betting sites to twelve, the maximum allowed by law.⁹

- **Summer-Fall 1991**

The Legislature passes a law allowing the state lottery to add video poker and keno to its gambling options. Up to five video gambling terminals apiece are allowed at restaurants and taverns statewide. Racetracks are excluded, except for bars and taverns on the premises.¹⁰

- **July 1991**

R.D. Hubbard, who owns a controlling interest in The Woodlands greyhound track in Kansas and is CEO of the Hollywood Park horse track in Los Angeles, agrees to buy 59.3 percent of the voting stock in Multnomah Kennel Club.¹¹

- **November 1991**

When the Portland Meadows horse track begins simulcasting greyhound races from Phoenix (Arizona) Greyhound Park, Multnomah Kennel Club officials and greyhound breeders complain, saying the new competition will hurt wagering at home. The dogmen ask compensation of 2.5 to 3 percent of the wagering on simulcast races, the same amount horsemen received from betting on simulcasts from Santa Anita horse track.

Darrell Lee, the new Portland Meadows president, responds only that "many issues, including this one, need to be discussed and analyzed."¹²

- **January 1992**

The Multnomah Kennel Club board of judges punishes the track's racing secretary, Neal Harrington, with a one-year suspension for concealing his part-ownership in two greyhounds that raced at Multnomah in 1990. Harrington, who has been racing secretary since 1988, plans to appeal.¹³

⁷ *Oregonian*, Series "Racing Against the Odds," Sept. 9-13, 1990; *Arizona Republic*, June 26, 1993

⁸ *Oregonian*, September 13, 1990 and July 7, 1991

⁹ *Oregonian*, May 1, 1991

¹⁰ *Oregonian*, June 27, 1991

¹¹ *Oregonian*, July 7, 1991

¹² *Oregonian*, November 15, 1991

- **February 1992**

The Oregon Racing Commission extends the racing season at the greyhound track, now renamed Multnomah Greyhound Park, into mid-October, allowing sixty extra races this year. The schedule results from an understanding reached between the kennel club and Lone Oak Racing, operators of horse-racing at the Oregon State Fair. Left out of the agreement is the Portland Meadows horse track, whose schedule remains unchanged. Yearly rivalry between Portland Meadows and Multnomah is increasingly acrimonious as the two compete for racing dates and income from simulcasting. To avert future wrangling, racing commissioners order representatives of the two tracks and Lone Oak Racing to meet with them and agree on a three-year schedule.¹⁴

- **October 1992**

Mediating another squabble between horsemen and dogmen, the Oregon Racing Commission forces a compromise between Portland Meadows and greyhound breeders over compensation for simulcast greyhound races at the horse track. Portland Meadows will pay greyhound breeders a percentage of the income from simulcast dog-racing, but not as much as the Multnomah Kennel Club must pay horse owners for simulcast horse-racing.¹⁵

- **May 1993**

Temporarily setting aside their rivalry, owners of Multnomah Greyhound Park and Portland Meadows sponsor a bill to allow as many as 300 video poker machines at each track. The track owners claim that competition from state-run video gambling machines has sharply decreased gambling at racetracks. The bill is defeated.¹⁶

- **November 1993**

According to the *Oregonian*, the success of the state's 6,000 video poker machines "has stunned the experts and exceeded the expectations of industry analysts." In 1989-91, before the law allowing video poker was passed, the state lottery yielded \$84.2 million in revenue. In 1993-95, the combined yield is expected to reach \$346 million, of which \$206 million will come from video poker. In 1993 Oregonians led the country in state-run gambling, wagering a staggering \$1.5 billion on video poker alone.¹⁷

- **Summer 1995**

The racing industry's friends in the Legislature introduce a bill that would allow Portland Meadows and Multnomah Greyhound Park each to install 300 video poker machines. The City Council and mayor of Troutdale, bordering Wood Village, refuse to support the measure. So does Senate president Gordon Smith, who says, "I don't know how you set up 300 terminals in a darkened room and say it is not a casino."

After negotiation with the tracks, the number of video poker machines is reduced to 75 per track and the bill is passed.

¹³ *Oregonian*, January 14, 1992

¹⁴ *Oregonian*, February 20, 1992

¹⁵ *Oregonian*, October 23, 1992

¹⁶ *Oregonian*, May 8, 1993

¹⁷ *Oregonian*, November 28, 1993

In July Attorney General Ted Kulongoski issues an opinion that the bill violates the constitutional prohibition against (non-tribal) casino gambling. Governor John Kitzhaber vetoes the bill.¹⁸

- **1996-1997**

Multnomah Greyhound Park, which lost \$1 million in the 1995 season, increases the field of dogs in some races, adds Sunday matinees and moves weekday post time to 7:00 pm in an effort to increase revenue.

Owner R.D. Hubbard requests a zoning change from the Wood Village City Council to allow the construction of a multi-use development on 80-plus acres of unused parking lot. After a lengthy appeal by the neighboring cities of Gresham and Fairview, a compromise agreement is signed in 1997, reducing the number of "big box" stores from three to two and establishing a formula for allocation of retail and residential space.¹⁹

- **1997**

Net revenue at Multnomah Greyhound Park has plummeted 31 percent since 1990. In response to complaints from the industry that the racing industry is being killed by the state lottery and Indian casinos, the Legislature passes a measure providing a \$4.8 million subsidy, including \$1 million each to the two main tracks. Strongly opposed by animal-rights groups and public library supporters (who are asking for \$15 million in aid to offset property tax losses), the subsidy bill is vetoed by Governor Kitzhaber.

However, a significant boost to the racing industry is allowed to become law. Under a contract with ODS Technologies of Colorado, Oregon agrees to become the "HUB" of an instant-wagering system. Viewers will be able to watch live races from tracks across the country at home on cable TV and place wagers via telephone or the Internet. The tracks and the Racing Commission will receive a cut for every wager made. Oregon will be the nerve-center or "HUB" of this system, which will eventually reach bettors across the country.²⁰

- **March 1998**

R.D. Hubbard sells operating rights of Multnomah Greyhound Park to Arthur McFadden for a reported \$8.4 million. McFadden's plans for the property include new parking lots on three sides of the track, while Hubbard, who retains ownership of over eighty acres of the adjoining land, plans to build a mixed-use development by 2000.²¹

- **October 1998**

More than sixty people hold a demonstration against greyhound racing at Multnomah on October 10, the last day of the racing season. Organizer Connie Theil, of People for Animal Rights, is joined by representatives from In Defense of Animals, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Greyhound Rescue of Idaho, Coalition Against Greyhound Exploitation, and Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.²²

¹⁸ *Oregonian*, May 12, June 2 and 11, July 14, 1995

¹⁹ *Oregonian*, October 21 and 23, 1996; February 19, 1998; *Greyhound Network News*, Summer 1996

²⁰ *Oregonian*, July 13 and August 19, 1997; Interview, Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds

²¹ *Oregonian*, March 12 and April 30, 1998; *Greyhound Network News*, Winter 1998-99

²² *Greyhound Network News*, Winter 1998-99

- **Spring 1999**

State Representative Jo Ann Bowman introduces House Bill 3175, which would require the Oregon Racing Commission to adopt rules governing the breeding of racing greyhounds and to inspect each greyhound farm once a year and file a report. The bill is defeated.²³

- **February 1999**

Senate Bill 228, introduced at the behest the Oregon Racing Commission, would have allowed greyhound racing at the Oregon State Fair. It dies in committee after testimony from animal rights advocates.²⁴

- **April 30, 1999**

Multnomah Greyhound Park begins its 66th racing season. Opening night attendance is down 15.9 percent from the previous year. On May 1, forty animal rights protesters picket the track.²⁵

- **Summer 1999**

SB 229, a bill that would remove the statutory limit on off-track betting sites, is narrowly passed in both houses. After a vigorous letter-writing and telephone campaign organized by animal rights groups, Governor Kitzhaber vetoes the bill on July 19.²⁶

- **October 1999**

Multnomah closes its 67th season. Although betting on simulcast horse races increased this year over last year, wagering on live greyhound races fell by 11.6 percent.

On October 15, sixty protesters hold a rally at the gates.²⁷

- **May 5, 2000**

On opening night at the Multnomah track, thirty demonstrators hold a candlelight vigil in memory of the six greyhounds who died of heat exhaustion in Ronald Floyd's rental truck and trailer.²⁸ (See Humane Issues, below)

- **2001**

Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds and their allies introduce a bill in the House to ban greyhound racing, but Rep. Jeff Kropf, chairman of the House Agriculture and Forestry Committee, refuses to allow it a hearing. He claims that debating the bill would adversely affect ongoing negotiations on the sale of Multnomah Greyhound Park. "The ultimate goal of that purchase," he claims, "is to develop that land and do away with dog racing." Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds says, "We hear that story year after year. Meanwhile, dogs are dying."

²³ 70th Oregon Legislative Assembly, online record, <http://www.leg.state.or.us/99reg/measures/hb3100.dir/hb3175.int.html>; GREY2K USA

²⁴ Interview, Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds

²⁵ *Greyhound Network News*, Summer 1999

²⁶ *Greyhound Network News*, Spring and Fall 1999; Interview, Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds

²⁷ *Greyhound Network News*, Winter 1999-2000; People for Animal Rights Newsletter, Fall/Winter 1998-99

²⁸ *Greyhound Network News*, Summer 2000; Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds Newsletter, August 27, 2001

In July operating rights to the track for five years are sold to Ontario-based Magna Entertainment, which has also leased operating rights to Portland Meadows horse track. Greyhound racing at Multnomah continues as usual. Thirty demonstrators picket the gate on opening day.²⁹

- **2002**

From 1995 to 2002, betting on live racing at Multnomah Greyhound Park has fallen from more than \$25 million to just under \$11 million.³⁰

- **Spring 2003**

Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds, GREY2K USA and their allies file a bill that would require the Racing Commission to maintain injury records and document the ultimate fate of racing greyhounds in the state. Similar bills were passed in Massachusetts in 2001 and New Hampshire in 2004. The racing industry lobbies vigorously against the bill, and it is shelved.³¹

- **Spring 2003**

The Legislature passes a law to expand the number of video poker machines at each location from five to six, except for ten machines at each bar or tavern located at a racetrack.³²

- **April 2003**

The Oregon Racing Commission grants Multnomah Greyhound Park permission to install "instant racing" terminals. "Instant racing" allows a bettor, using a limited amount of information, to place a wager on a previously-run horse race and then watch a video clip of the race. Since the action is very brief, the temptation to play repeatedly is high. "You can bet on a race every two minutes, every minute," says a regular bettor. The risk of addiction worries Jeff Marotta, who oversees the treatment of problem gambling at the Oregon Department of Human Services. "My suspicion," he says, "is they're pushing the envelope on what a parimutuel game is."³³

- **July-December 2003**

The industry's supporters introduce a bill that would allow overlapping seasons at Multnomah and Portland Meadows, in effect opening the door to year-round greyhound racing. Vigorously opposed by Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds, GREY2K USA, the ASPCA and other groups, the bill is amended to limit greyhound racing to seven months per year and is passed in that form.³⁴

- **November 2003**

Magna Entertainment removes "instant racing" machines from their racetracks. Installed at Multnomah in May, the machines were moved to Portland Meadows after the greyhound- racing season ended. Oregon Racing Commission records show that less than \$130,000 was wagered on the machines at the greyhound track – a disappointing return for Magna, whose corporate officials have no comment.³⁵

²⁹ *Oregonian*, April 24 and July 6, 2001; *Greyhound Network News*, Summer 2001

³⁰ *Oregonian*, May 8, 2003

³¹ *Oregonian*, May 8 and 9, 2003; *Greyhound Network News*, Spring 2003

³² GREY2K USA

³³ *Oregonian*, April 24 and May 8, 2003

³⁴ *Oregonian*, July 21, 2003; Interview, Connie Theil of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds

³⁵ *Oregonian*, November 25, 2003

- **February 2004**

Magna Entertainment Corp. announces a write-down (a downward adjustment in the accounting of an asset) of about \$82 million for the fourth quarter of 2003. The write-down applies to seven of Magna's eleven thoroughbred tracks, including Portland Meadows, as well as to Multnomah Greyhound Park. Both Oregon facilities suffered operating losses in the last quarter.³⁶

- **December 2004**

The presiding state judge of the Oregon Racing Commission has fined Jeff Grady, general manager of Multnomah Greyhound Park and Portland Meadows, and operations manager Patrick Kerrison \$1,000 each for asking a Multnomah employee to place bets at the track under a false name. The employee, Kevin Ciula, was fined \$1,100 and suspended for six months. The Racing Commission later reduced his suspension to three weeks and placed him on six months' probation. The fine was unchanged.

Ciula placed bets at a high-rollers' club where members must wager \$8,000-\$10,000 a month. He bet on 41 greyhound races during the season, sometimes enlisting other employees to bet for him. On one day alone – July 7 – he won \$21,649 in his wife's name.

In a separate incident, track announcer Eric Anderson was suspended and fined \$500 for betting while on duty.

Ciula said that Multnomah's hub wagering supervisor, Steve Roden, was aware of his illegal wagers. Roden resigned early in December and subsequently was unavailable for comment. Grady left his position on October 1 and moved to Pennsylvania. Kerrison is now director of publicity at Portland Meadows. Both men denied committing any impropriety; Kerrison claimed that encouraging employees to bet under false names was common practice in Pennsylvania, where he had previously worked.³⁷

- **December 2004**

Citing increased competition from the lottery, Indian casinos and online betting, officials at Magna Entertainment say they may not renew their lease to operate the track when it expires at the end of this month. The Oregon Greyhound Breeders Association has advised its members to cut back on breeding until Magna makes its decision.³⁸

- **December 2004**

Racing advocate Roger Newell has asked the governor and attorney general to appoint a task force to investigate the regulation and enforcement of the new Oregon account-wagering HUB system. In particular, Newell points out that the Portland-based account wagering firm AmericaTab recently pooled hundreds of wagers and placed them on two horse races to win a total of \$412,777.80. The bets were placed in the name of one individual, a company official.

³⁶ *Oregonian*, February 5, 2004

³⁷ *Oregonian*, December 9, 2004; *Portland Tribune*, December 10, 2004

³⁸ *Oregonian*, December 16, 2004

The state's account wagering laws define an account holder as an individual 18 years or older; corporations, partnerships and other groups are specifically excluded. But Jodi Hanson, executive director of the Oregon Racing Commission, sees nothing illegal in AmericaTab's actions. "Oregon is a friendly state," she comments. "...We're open-minded and not looking at things in a little box. We're not over-regulated."

Newell disagrees. "There are no gray areas," he says. "For an account wagering company to be conducting a players' pool is pure havoc."³⁹

- **December 2004**

Citing increased competition from other forms of wagering, Magna Entertainment, which has run Multnomah Greyhound Park since 2001, announces that it will allow its lease to expire on December 31. Oregon thus becomes the 36th state in the Union to be free of live greyhound racing.

The track's general manager says that the adoption kennel at the track will remain open until all the greyhounds are placed.⁴⁰

Humane Issues

Racing Injuries

Anyone who thinks that racing is not painful because "dogs love to run" should consider the following numbers, obtained by Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds under a public records request:

During the 27-week season at Multnomah Greyhound Park in 2001, 80 injuries were reported to the Oregon Racing Commission, including some multiple injuries to the same dog. Of these, 27 were confirmed broken bones, including 17 fractures of the right rear hock – the joint that bears the most stress at the turn. Other injuries included 1 "possible" fracture, 2 "reinjured" fractures, 19 pulled muscles, 16 torn or sprained ligaments, 7 lacerations, punctures, bruises or abrasions, 1 dislocated toe, 1 paralysis, and 1 ruptured blood vessel.⁴¹

Incidents of Neglect and Abuse

Greyhound-racing industry officials like to boast that Oregon owners and trainers take good care of their dogs. The following are some examples that belie that claim:

- **October 1999**

On October 10 trainer Ronald M. Floyd leaves Multnomah Greyhound Park in a rental truck towing a trailer. Truck and trailer are loaded with sixty-one greyhounds, bound for the Sanford- Orlando Kennel Club in Orlando, Florida. Floyd is accompanied by a friend to help with the driving. The friend has no

³⁹ *Oregonian*, December 23, 2004

⁴⁰ Press Release, Magna Entertainment Corporation, December 23, 2004

⁴¹ Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds Newsletter, April 22, 2002

"hands on" experience with racing greyhounds. The dogs are closely confined, two or three dogs per hole, in crates and compartments.

The trip takes three days, including a one-hour stopover in Oklahoma, where Floyd drops off four dogs and picks up six. The dogs in the vehicles are given mixed milk and water during the stopover but are not fed or turned out. No other water will be offered during the trip.

After reaching Florida the vehicles become stuck in traffic in 95-degree heat. Reaching Orlando at about 11:00 am, the men begin to unload. One dog is found dying. Floyd and his friend try to revive him by immersion in cold water, but the dog swiftly dies. Turning their attention again to the vehicles, they find another dog dead and four more in severe distress. They die within minutes. No veterinarian is available.

Following an investigation by the Oregon Racing Commission, Floyd's kennel owner and training license are suspended for two years. He is also fined \$500 for each of the dead greyhounds and is forbidden to enter off-track betting sites or restricted areas at Multnomah Greyhound Park. He retains his license to own a greyhound farm, however, and is allowed access to the training track at Multnomah. He is also allowed to continue transporting greyhounds, for which no license is required.

Stephen Walters, chairman of the Oregon Racing Commission, terms the deaths "a freak accident" and says Floyd is "not a bad guy." But to Connie Theil, director of Oregon Defenders of Greyhounds, "This is just the tip of the iceberg. We believe that this was gross negligence, and there is nothing to stop dog trainers from doing this again."⁴²

- **August 2001**

A relief veterinarian at Multnomah Greyhound Park voluntarily resigns after a dog collapses during a race. The veterinarian, who is required to be present during races, had left the track to go to the grocery store.⁴³

- **April 2002**

Ronald Floyd, whose training license was revoked two years ago after six greyhounds died in his care (See October 1999, above) loses his license to operate a greyhound farm for one year after a dead rabbit is found on his premises on February 12. A veterinarian determined that the rabbit had been killed by a canine, probably while being used as a live lure. Training with live lures is prohibited by law.

Floyd had applied to have his training license reinstated but neglected to enclose the fee. The dead rabbit was found on the driveway by the person sent to collect the check. A few hours later the Oregon Racing Commission sent an investigator to inspect the farm, but Floyd refused to allow him access to some areas.

⁴² Oregon Racing Commission, Ruling #MG2000001, Dec. 9, 1999; *Oregonian*, April 10, 2000; *Greyhound Network News*, Winter 1999-2000

⁴³ *Oregonian*, August 17, 2001

One month after the Racing Commission revoked his farm license, a greyhound in Floyd's care was found dead of massive trauma, consistent with an attack by a large dog. Floyd keeps two large dogs loose on his property. The dead greyhound was a female due to deliver puppies in two weeks.

An investigator documented the scene of the death with still photos and the greyhound's injuries with a video camera, but the images were subsequently destroyed by the Oregon Racing Commission. GREY2K USA filed a petition with the Oregon Attorney General asking him to investigate the destruction of evidence by the Racing Commission. "In destroying documentation of this abuse, the Oregon Racing Commission is serving to protect the very industry it's charged to regulate," said GREY2K USA president Carey Theil. In defense of the commission's action, the vice chairman said, "We didn't need any pictures. The complaint was filed by Theil because we've prevented him from posting salacious (sic) pictures of dead dogs on his web site."

After this third incident of egregious abuse in as many years, the state finally revokes Floyd's license to race, train and board greyhounds. He is also barred from all restricted areas of Oregon racetracks and from all off-track betting sites.⁴⁴

- **January 2003**

Even after his license is revoked, Ronald Floyd is allowed to continue to operate his farm. Eighteen greyhounds shipped from Floyd's farm to an Arizona track in November 2002 come down with distemper and three die. The Arizona Racing Commission orders all 4,000 greyhounds in the state to be vaccinated.

At least two greyhounds raised on Floyd's farm died of the disease in Florida in 2002.⁴⁵

- **August 2003 – February 2004**

On August 11, 2003 kennel owner Harry Marshall Rae leaves the Multnomah track pulling a trailer containing forty greyhounds. The trailer is not air-conditioned. Rae drives to Cheyenne, Wyoming and then to Nebraska, dropping off a few dogs at each stop. He continues to his final destination at Carter, Oklahoma.

The trip takes thirty-eight hours, including two stationary hours at Carter waiting for help to unload. The dogs have been caged without relief since leaving Oregon.

When Rae finally opens the trailer, he finds one greyhound dead. He tries to save a second by immersion in a water tank, but the dog dies before the tank is filled.

Both dogs are buried on the Oklahoma farm. An investigator from the Oregon Racing Commission travels to Oklahoma and digs up the bodies, but says he is unable to determine the cause of death. According to state records, the investigator "found nothing that points to negligence on the part of Mr. Rae." The commission fines Rae a total of \$250 and requires him to keep a log on future trips. His license is not suspended.

⁴⁴ *Oregonian*, May 29, June 27 and July 18, 2002; *Greyhound Network News*, Summer 2002

⁴⁵ *Oregonian*, January 12, 2003

Note: In 1994 the Iowa Racing Commission fined Harry Rae \$500 and suspended his license to race for ninety days after he failed to provide adequate medical treatment to an injured greyhound.⁴⁶

- **April 2004**

The Oregon Racing Commission adopts a rule requiring haulers transporting greyhounds in and out of the state to keep a trip log. However, the logs need not be turned in directly to the Racing Commission. Instead they are given to the Oregon Greyhound Association, an industry group. This means that they are not public records: they are in private hands. That maneuver closely resembles the evasive tactics practiced in 1990 by then Oregon Racing Commission executive director Steve Barham.

GREY2K USA president Carey Theil comments, "There is a disturbing pattern here. The (ORC) thinks they are above public record laws. This agency has a history of requiring records to be kept in other locations, which thwarts the law."⁴⁷ (See the first item under September 1990, in Capsule Chronology, above.)

⁴⁶ *Oregonian*, February 3, 2004

⁴⁷ *Oregonian*, June 2, 2004