

Greyhound racing critics demand more accountability from track in South Tucson

*Posted: Mar 11, 2014 11:40 PM EDT
Updated: Mar 11, 2014 11:40 PM EDT*

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TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) -

Colorado's governor signed a ban on dog racing in that state Tuesday, the Grey2K greyhound activist group said that Colorado is the 39th state to outlaw it.

But it remains legal in Arizona.

Track stewards watch what happens at Tucson Greyhound Park and fill reports on any incidents during the races. But Tucson City Council member Steve Kozachik said that the stewards' records and what is reported to the state don't match.

On Friday, during a race at Tucson Greyhound Park, one of the dogs bumped the electrified inside rail and died. The track manager Dale Popp has called that an unfortunate incident. But Kozachik said that records from last June through January show about nineteen dogs that "pulled up" during the race, or fell, and were not reported injured. These records do not list any specific injury to those dogs, unlike other reports of broken toes and other injuries. But Kozachik said that these incidents should not be left out of reports to the state, since those dogs never raced again, he said.

"Every one of these injuries was substantial enough so that the dog never raced again. That's the bottom line. So, if these were the last races for these dogs and the stewards noted them in their own reports, they were significant enough that the stewards took note and that the owners either adopted them out or just got rid of them," said Ward 6 Tucson City Council member Steve Kozachik.

Popp the manager was not at the track late Tuesday afternoon. South Tucson city manager Luis Gonzales said that while regulating the dogs is up to the state racing commission, he is drafting a request that when the investigation is complete, the commission will tell South Tucson the results. The city will then decide what if any actions are appropriate, and a building inspection because of that electrified inner rail could be possible.
