

Vote YES on CRC Proposal 6012: Phase Out Greyhound Racing

- Sponsored by CRC Commissioners Tom Lee, Don Gaetz, and Brecht Heuchan, Proposal 6012 will phase out greyhound racing by December 31, 2020.
- Commercial greyhound racing is a dying industry and is illegal in 40 states. Twelve of the eighteen American operational dog tracks are in Florida. Since 1990, the amount wagered on greyhound racing in the Sunshine State has declined by **74%** and tax revenue from dog racing has dropped by **98%**.
- Approximately **8,000** greyhounds endure lives of confinement at Florida tracks, kept in warehouse-style kennels in rows of stacked metal cages that are barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. The dogs are given shredded paper or carpet remnants for bedding, and are normally confined for **20 to 23 hours per day**.
- Since the state began tracking greyhound deaths in 2013, 458 dogs have died at Florida tracks. On average, a **greyhound dies at a Florida racetrack every three days**. At least eight serious cases of greyhound neglect, some involving starving dogs and withholding medical care, have been documented in the Florida greyhound racing industry over the past decade.
- Florida is one of only two states that does not publicly report greyhound injuries. A single county, Seminole, began tracking greyhound injuries in May of 2017. Since then **54 greyhound injuries** have been reported, including 44 greyhounds that suffered broken bones and two dogs that died.
- Over the past decade there have been 419 greyhound drug positives at Florida tracks, including **68 greyhound cocaine positives**, and positive results for novocaine, lidocaine, industrial solvent DMSO, and opiates oxycodone and oxymorphone. Female greyhounds are routinely given an **anabolic steroid** to prevent a loss of race days, a cruel practice that harms animal welfare and raises integrity concerns.
- To reduce costs, greyhounds are fed raw “4-D” meat from downed animals that has been deemed **unfit for human consumption** and contains denatured charcoal. In January 2017 seventeen dogs fell ill and a dog died at Sanford Orlando Kennel Club due to the ingestion of 4-D meat.
- A state **dog racing mandate** forces racetracks to offer live racing as a “loss leader” for more viable forms of betting. This comes at a significant cost to taxpayers and the tracks themselves. In 2016 Florida dog tracks lost a combined \$34.8 million on racing. According to a study commissioned by the legislature, the **state is losing between \$1 million and \$3.3 million annually** because regulatory costs exceed revenues.
- The greyhound industry has proven itself incapable of change. In recent years it has **fought common sense proposals** to require greyhound injury reporting, outlaw the use of anabolic steroids, and eliminate the state dog racing mandate.
- According to a recent survey by McLaughlin and Associates, 65% of Florida voters support Proposal 6012. It is **supported by key opinion leaders**, including Congressman Matt Gaetz, the Florida Federation of Republican Women, the Sun-Sentinel, Naples Daily News, Ft. Myers News Press, the Humane Society of the United States, Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay, GREY2K USA, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations and the Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar.

