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VIA FACSIMILE, REGULAR MAIL AND E-MAIL

April 18, 2013

Thomas E. Bowersox III, Director of Racing
5400 Bradenton Rd.
Sarasota, FL 34234

Dear Director Bowersox,

We recently received an investigative report from the Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering which indicates that a greyhound named Raiders Uncle Mo died after being electrocuted at Sarasota Kennel Club (SKC) on February 9. According to a database maintained by gamblers, Raiders Uncle Mo suffered this catastrophic injury in the third official race of his career, and the black dog was 23 months old when he died.

We initially submitted a Request for Investigation to the state regarding this case on February 11, after receiving a confidential tip. Our informant also claimed that a second greyhound died at SKC under similar circumstances several weeks earlier. It now appears that this may have been Se's Yukon Joe, who died at SKC on January 17 with the cause of death listed as "unknown; consider electrocution, cardiac arrest, brain hemorrhage, etc."

Further, we are aware of a previous case in which four greyhounds suffered broken legs on the same day at SKC in March 2010. The state Investigative Report for that case indicates that at least fourteen greyhounds died at SKC between November 2009 and April 2010.

As you know, there now remain 13 operational greyhound racetracks in only seven states. Of these, a majority do in fact report greyhound injuries to the public. Those include dog tracks in Arkansas, Texas, West Virginia and Iowa.

We have successfully passed greyhound injury reporting measures in several states. In these states, there were significant reductions in the number of greyhounds euthanized due to injury after these laws were approved. For example, in Massachusetts the number of greyhounds euthanized declined by 43% in the first year after passage of a greyhound injury reporting law in 2001. By the sixth year, the number of greyhounds euthanized had declined by 88%.

To us, this is a basic issue of accountability that will increase transparency. It will also dispel false information about the greyhound racing industry, and allow the public to have accurate information about dog racing in the state.

In response to the death of Raiders Uncle Mo, along with the other greyhound deaths that have been documented at SKC, I urge you to voluntarily release greyhound injury data to the public. This would demonstrate true leadership, and prove that SKC is a leader in the state when it comes to humane issues. It would also turn the sad death of Raiders Uncle Mo into a positive change for greyhounds.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this humane request.

Sincerely,

Carey M. Theil
Executive Director

PROTECTING GREYHOUNDS

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