

Fact Sheet: Amendment 13



Amendment 13 is on the ballot this November, and will phase out greyhound racing by 2020.

- Thousands of greyhounds endure **lives of confinement** at Florida racetracks. They are kept in warehouse style kennel compounds, in rows of stacked metal cages, for 20 to 23 hours each day. The cages are barely large enough for dogs to stand up or turn around, and carpet remnants or shredded paper is used as bedding.
- According to state records, a racing greyhound **dies at a Florida dog track every three days**. Nearly 500 deaths have been reported since the state began tracking greyhound deaths in 2013. Florida is one of only two states that does not publicly report greyhound injuries. One county (Seminole) began tracking injuries in May of 2017. Since then **87 greyhound injuries** have been reported, including 64 greyhounds that suffered broken bones and five dogs that died.
- Over the past decade there have been at least 424 greyhound drug positives at Florida tracks, including **73 greyhound cocaine positives**, and positive results for novocaine, lidocaine, and opiates oxycodone and oxymorphone. Female greyhounds are given an **anabolic steroid** to prevent a loss of race days, a cruel practice that harms animal welfare and raises integrity concerns.
- Greyhound racing is a dying industry and is illegal in 40 states. 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%**. 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.
- Amendment 13 is **supported by key opinion leaders**, including the Humane Society of the United States, greyhound protection group GREY2K USA, Doris Day Animal League, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Congressman Matt Gaetz, the Sun-Sentinel, Naples Daily News, Ft. Myers News Press, League of Women Voters of Florida, Florida Federation of Republican Women, Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando, Humane Society of Broward County, Greyhound Adoptions of Florida, Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions of Tampa Bay, and Elite Greyhound Adoptions.



A confined greyhound at Sanford Orlando Kennel Club, 2017