

To: Chairman John Barker

Vice Chair Ron Highland

Members, House Federal & State Affairs Committee

From: Charlene Osborn

Re: HB 2545: Oppose Greyhound Racing in Kansas

Date: February 13, 2018

Dear Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

My name is Charlene Osborn, and I am contacting you regarding the above referenced bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

There are many misconceptions about Greyhounds. I never imagined how gentle and sweet Greyhounds are. I knew I wanted to rescue so I began researching. The plight of greyhounds broke my heart.

Our greyhounds came to us underweight, one is missing part of its tail, and has nerve damage (from what we don't know, but he arrived this way). Quoting from a former Kansas trainer and kennel owner "over 15 years I probably killed 1,500 dogs. I usually shot them in the head, it's cheaper." That comment is one of many that convinced me that greyhound lives mean nothing to the people that race them. Run or die.

Our two greyhound, brother and sister, will live as God intended, born to run but not to race. As you consider this bill, please be aware of these statistics:

- In the last six months of operation at The Woodlands, 80 dogs were injured. The majority of injuries were broken legs, but there were also sprains, torn muscles and a spinal injury. Nineteen dogs were euthanized or *died while racing*.
- It takes 500 to 1,000 greyhounds to keep a year-round track open and running. Under HB 2545, racetracks will run a combined total of 185 live greyhound races each calendar week. The numbers of injured and dead greyhounds will likely skyrocket.

My story as well as these statistics is why I urge you to remove greyhound racing from HB 2545. Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns with you today.

Sincerely,

Charlene Osborn
Overland Park, Kansas

