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# Group makes new pitch to end greyhound racing

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TALLAHASSEE — As legislators renew a push to slash dog racing requirements from state law, animal rights activists released a report today highlighting extreme cases of greyhound abuse.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals called for quick passage next session of a bill that failed earlier this year. The legislation would end a measure that requires cardroom licensees, like the Naples Fort Myers Greyhound Track and Poker, to offer a minimum number of live races each year.

Aside from animal welfare groups, the bill has the support of many track owners, who often lose money on racing.

"We think it's about time we're allowed to determine what we do and how we run our business," Isadore Havenick, owner of the Bonita Springs dog track, told the Daily News in April.

The ASPCA, and a greyhound advocacy affiliate, condemned Florida the dog racing industry in the Capitol today.

They said 8,000 dogs in kennels across the state often have no room to stand or turn around. Dogs have died from heart attacks, one was electrocuted, and between 2000 and 2003, 119 dogs tested positive for cocaine, including in Bonita Springs, the group reported.

"It is hard, I think, for anyone to look at this report and not come to the conclusion that dog racing is cruel and inhumane," said Carey Theil, executive director of GREY2K USA.

Tax revenue from dog tracks and paid attendance have declined since 2004, the report shows.

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