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Dog racing may be gone forever

By TOM FAHEY
State House Bureau Chief
Monday, Jun. 29, 2009

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John Harrigan, Stacey Cole, Dick Pinney

- SPECIAL REPORTS
The Briggs murder

New Hampshire's two remaining greyhound racing tracks won permission Monday to drop all racing dates. They will continue to operate as simulcast betting centers.

- The Lodge at Belmont, Seabrook Greyhound Park

YOUR COMMENTS

This is good news! I am glad the dog race

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Politics

Court rejects Hildreth request to delay removal proceedings

CONCORD - Updated, 12:31 p.m. Merrimack County Superior Court Justice Larry Smukler today denied Hildreth's request for a delay in hearings set to start 8 a.m. Monday. He said any injunction against the hearings would be "an extraordinary remedy."

Panel spreads blame in FRM scandal

Reader comments: 16
CONCORD - A joint House-Senate committee investigating the massive FRM investment scandal wrapped up its report Tuesday, calling for changes in banking, securities and consumer protection laws.

POLITICO

Politico: Pentagon calls insurgents 'resilient', reports progress

Reader comments: 3
Insurgents remain "resilient" in Afghanistan, but the nine-year war shows signs of progress, according to a new Pentagon report released Tuesday.

Bostonherald.com: Sarah Palin has a mountain to climb in New Hampshire

With midterm elections wrapped up, all eyes are beginning to turn toward the Granite State where GOP powerhouse Sarah Palin is lagging far behind despite her popularity.

Bostonherald.com: Candidates can eat and run at New Hampshire diner cars

The New Hampshire diner car has become something of a dual-purpose fixture among the constituency: homestyle food haven and political meeting house.

Lynch meets with youth center staffers

Reader comments: 39
Gov. John H. Lynch met face to face with several dozen front-line employees at the Sununu Youth Center Monday to learn their concerns firsthand. "Mostly it was a question of staffing. People were concerned that there had been lots of layoffs, which puts them in a position of being understaffed in a lot of areas, particularly with regard to the residential units," the governor said.
Lawyer: Detention center a powder keg (27)
Youth Center: 4 out of 10 workers don't show (54)

More Politics >>>
Merrimack residents: Release us from toll

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tracks are closed. Hopefully the dog tracks will close soon in Illinois - where I live - too!  
- **Niki, Chicago, IL**

Report!

hail and farewell to greyhound racing in NH. after years of hard work toward this end, we feel vindicated and delighted that the suffering will finally end in new hampshire. now on to the other tracks in this country. we will persevere!  
scotti devens

Report!

founder,director of SAVE THE GREYHOUND DOGS1  
- **scotti devens, essex vermont and new hampshire**

After having been involved with greyhound rescue and adoption for nearly 20 years, I have seen the best and the worst that dog tracks have to offer. I can tell you through my extensive experience, which continues to this day, that the worst always outweighs the best every time. Greyhounds love to run, but not under the conditions they are routinely kept in.

Report!

- **Allison Smith-Truelsen, Ithaca, NY**

I will not respond as to why there should or should not be Greyhound racing (we know better, I don't have to explain it), I will say that after 30 years of rescuing Greyhounds and being as active in GREY2K as I could, owning three precious Greyhounds (who loved their cats), working in adoption kennels, filthy racing kennels, and the pleasure of working with and knowing my dear friend, Chris MakePeace, for many, many years - all I can say with tears in my eyes, that I am so happy on this very day. Bless you all - Janet Gillman

Report!

- **Janet Gillman, Hampton, NH**

Lotta Chein,  
Do you seriously believe the breed will become extinct? Sadly greyhound track racing isn't banned so the overly populous breed can continue to run on the unnatural oval that they "love". Greyhounds love running free, not chasing some little stuffed creature on a mechanical arm while wearing a muzzle and a blanket. If you want to see a dog doing something that it loves go watch a lure course or a sleddog race.

Report!

- **Heinz57, Merrimack**

How horribly sad that there will never be greyhounds doing what they love to do in this state again.

Report!

I hope everyone who adopted a hound realizes they will never get one again to add to their lives. Another win for animal rights, another loss for animal lovers and the greyhound breed is one step closer to extinction in the US.

- **Lotta Chien, Keene**

We own Missy a retired racer from a N.H. track. She will turn 11 tomorrow. She at times will race and cry in her sleep.

Report!

Good that the N.H. tracks are closing. What a birthday present for Missy and other dogs like her.

- **Robert Jones, Clarksville, TN**

Great news and well done to this group. I've volunteered for many years with several Greyhound rescue groups. These are wonderful dogs and make excellent companions, once adapted.

Report!

In all of the 18 years I lived in NH, not once did I meet anyone who attended the dog tracks.

I agree with Freddy D of Goffstown and Richard Townhouse, Somersworth. Re-purposing this area seems to be a perfect fit for casinos and would surely increase job opportunities. It didn't kill Connecticut, as threatened by the screaming puritans!

- **Annah, Austin, TX. Formerly Londonderry NH**

For all you idiots who claim this isn't good news because now the dogs will be euthanized, stop pretending you care. They'd be euthanized anyway, only after a few more years, when they've suffered a lot more abuse and neglect at the tracks. At least now a lot more 'new' dogs won't be brought into New Hampshire's system to suffer the same fate. And hopefully, most of these dogs can be saved. I have 5, but I'll open my house and my heart to save another one and I know so many other wonderful greyhound owners who will do the same. We'll rally for these dogs. I could not care less about these disgusting people who've watched the abuse, only to collect a paycheck, who are out of work. What comes around goes around.

Report!

- **Lisa, New Jersey, Brick**

There are several Greyhound shelters in NH that are "no kill"...the owners of these kennels will keep the dogs their entire lives if no one adopts them -they rely on donations to feed them, etc, but thats about it.

Report!

- **Chris, Londonderry**

Sure the tracks closed down due to financial reasons but their losess can be directly linked to lower attendance due, in large part, to an increased public awareness of the inherent

Report!

slavery (61)

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Events Calendar > Political

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animal cruelty in the racing industry. Credit this increased awareness to GREY2KUSA. This is a victory for the racing greyhound and GREY2KUSA.

- **Kathy Pelton, Cooper City, Florida**

The dog tracks have been fighting for years to stop live racing they say their is no money in it... They make more from simulcasting. And they really want to turn into casino type gambling. bigger bucks in it for them.

- **Pete, deerfield**

Hooray! Organized dog torture has left NH!

Adam, you need to reread Robert's statement.

Aaron, you need to reread FreddyD's statement.

- **Jeff, Manchester**

Victory for greyhounds! Jobs lost? Darn, looks like you will have to find some honest work like the rest of us.

- **Jo, Houston, TX**

Unfortunately, with the closing of these tracks, there's another 300-500 dogs that wont ever find homes. So really, cheering this legislation is a good idea, because they are going to euthanize the dogs. The adoption kennels are already brimming with dogs from Hinsdale that closed 7 months ago, add 2 more tracks to it... nope!

- **Margaret, Salem**

The Lawmakers don't care they just keep passing laws that will lose job after job. No gambling in NH well.. only lottery tickets, Bingo, Texas Hold em, poker, simulcast racing and live racing.. but no video slots that would ruin the NH way of life!

- **Bob, Goffstown**

Good to be rid of this stain on our fine state. Let the slobs who go to gamble on dogs leave the state as well (not that they could afford to).

- **Jake, Manchester**

Most of the dogs will still race, they just won't race at tracks in NH. As far as grey2kusa is concerned, I think that groups such as this are dangerous because they tend to say anything to get what they want. Groups like this will not stop at greyhound racing, before you know it they will be lobbying to outlaw killing animals for meat. Just like PETA made a big deal about Obama killing the fly on TV, this is what you are dealing with when it comes to groups like PETA and grey2kusa.

- **Joe, Seabrook,NH**

The legislation simply allows the tracks to stop live racing of their own determination. Most likely the dogs will still race at another venue.

In this case gambling proceeds would most likely not transfer from one venue to another... video slots would most likely under cut the lotteries scratch tickets and local C-stores that sell them. Hence the need to determine appropriate standards... rather than support the corporatism that so many advocate. Government decreed monopolies are never a positive and should be avoided whenever plausible.

As for the expansion of the R&M to campsites... it was a matter of complaining from hospitality businesses as to an uneven playing field. So its not likely to ever be removed... regardless of how many other revenue sources are developed.

My congratulations to the Legislature... now if we could only fix it so that any venue could hold simulcast OTB legally.

- **John Edward Mercier, Belmont**

How many greyhounds will be put to sleep or abandoned as a result of this legislation?

- **Michael Evans, Franklin, NH**

As a greyhound owner, I'm thrilled...Maybe the legislature didn't ban racing, but its as good as gone now!

- **Chris, Londonderry**

So if I read this article correctly, this agency should just be called the Charitable Gaming Commission and if I know state government their is more than one person that sits on this Commission. Why don't they lay those people off and combine this agency with Lottery and maybe the savings of one agency instead of two will elimtate the 9% tax my family has to pay when they go camping. Also something tells me if the dogs made money for the tracks they would still be racing. No disrespect GREY2K

- **kenny, Seabrook**

This is no loss. Dog racing is cruel.

- **LJC, Manchester**

Thank Goodness! Thanks to GREY2KUSA for their outstanding work! Countless Greyhounds will now be spared from being used, used up, and thrown away. Dogs are NOT commodities.

- **Valarie Wolf, Tustin, California**

Yeah, Robert. No jobs have been lost - YET. Let's wait until the "Live Action" fans stop showing up. Welcome to Blue State Hell, where fetuses are vulnerable but dog racing is banned because of "cruelty".

- **Bob Pickett, New Castle**

This is an incredible victory for everyone who cares about animals, and ends a sad chapter in New Hampshire history. Since 2005 alone, nearly 1,200 greyhounds have been injured while racing in that state, and since dog racing was legalized a generation ago tens of thousands of dogs have endured lives of endless confinement at local tracks. Also, countless dogs have died because they were injured or no longer fast enough to be profitable.

To learn more, go to [www.GREY2KUSA.org](http://www.GREY2KUSA.org)

- **Christine Dorchak, Somerville, Massachusetts**

Great work, its time people stopped using and abusing these majestic animals for profit and entertainment. They deserve a lot more care and attention that what the industry offers.

[Report!!](#)

And FreddyD, you might have to find another pastime that exists only by abusing animals. Suck eggs mate.

- **Aaron Cross, Wellington NZ**

No jobs where lost? Yes, jobs are lost with closing of live racing!

[Report!!](#)

Handlers  
ID'ers  
Racing Supervisors  
A/V Crews  
Track Vet  
Maintenance personel

No jobs lost? think again!

- **Adam, Salem NH**

Someone at the Union Leader ought to check on Newmans drunk driving record. I suspect he has spent way too much time at the tracks bars.

[Report!!](#)

- **Shawn, Concord**

I'm happy to see this progression to rid the state of dog racing. Hopefully, over time, this will ease the burden on the greyhound rescue organizations that work to clean-up the aftermath of the unavoidable exploitation that comes with the 'sport'.

[Report!!](#)

- **CJ, North Conway**

I'm so happy that NH won't be racing dogs because it is so inhumane. Maybe someday all animal racing will all be banned. <http://www.grey2kusa.org/racing/cruel.html>

[Report!!](#)

- **Robyn, Concord**

Sounds like two great places for casinos!

[Report!!](#)

- **Richard Townhouse, Somersworth, NH**

I am very happy to see this as a win-win! No jobs were lost as a result of banning dog racing, only as a result of the business decisions made by the track owners. This is how Gov't should work! Allowing a common sense approach fix a problem, rather than Gov't metting!

[Report!!](#)

- **Robert, Dover, NH**

No slots but simulcast wagering is ok? Why not simulcast slots? Black Jack? Give the people of NH what they want. Not what the "leaders" think we should have.

[Report!!](#)

- **FreddyD, Goffstown**

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