



February 11, 2018

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE HB 2545, a bill to bring back greyhound racing. Wichita Animal Action League (WAAL) is a non-profit animal rescue in Sedgwick County, home of one of the three Kansas dog tracks.

WAAL strongly opposes allowing greyhound racing to return to Sedgwick County. The racing industry encourages excessive breeding of dogs – many of which are not profitable racers – who then are abandoned or dumped into animal shelters. Our local shelters are already burdened with ever-increasing populations; an influx of greyhounds will result in even more pets having to be destroyed because of a lack of room, despite the best efforts of shelters and animal rescues. Family pets and greyhounds alike will be put down sooner because of space constraints, rather than held to be reunited with their former owners or find new owners to take them.

Greyhound racing is a dangerous activity for the dogs involved. In the final six months before The Woodlands closed, eighty dogs were serious injured, the overwhelming majority broken legs. Nineteen dogs were killed or destroyed, more than an average of three dogs per month at this one facility. Increased dog racing will create increased animal suffering and increased number of dogs being destroyed. Kansans have rejected greyhound racing with their pocketbooks. Greyhound racing has died a natural death – HB 2545 tries to pump new life into a failed industry at a financial cost to our state as well as a cost of an increase in mistreated, injured, and destroyed dogs.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2545.

Rescue on,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Coffman'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name.

Sarah Coffman
Founder/Executive Director
Wichita Animal Action League
www.WAALrescue.org