

Dear Mr. Gonsher,

I'm writing on behalf of those who fear the worst for the greyhounds at Tucson Greyhound Park. The "free greyhound" program TGP has implemented is a recipe for disaster and could set a dangerous precedent for other tracks as well.

Even if all the dogs are sterilized prior to adoption, it appears there are few safeguards to ensure the homes these dogs go to are well qualified. Over the years, it has become abundantly clear to anyone who's involved in greyhound adoption that these dogs are not your common canine that sits at an animal shelter waiting for a home.

As I'm sure you are aware, racing greyhounds are exposed to training and schedules like no other dog. The unique environment in which they are raced and trained produces dogs of a highly specialized nature. Most people who adopt these dogs cannot begin to grasp the actions and reactions these dogs possess as a result of their lives in the racing/training environment. Educating these adopters is paramount to the success of greyhound adoption.

Please consider the numerous consequences of sending greyhounds off to a new life by giving them away. The novelty of sharing one's home with a retired racer can wear off quickly when it's discovered these dogs can require weeks, months or even years of patience and training in order to integrate successfully into an adoptive home.

Other tracks who hear of the TGP project to rid themselves of excess greyhounds may attempt to employ similar programs, only to find this was not well thought out. Rather than benefiting the track, it may ultimately contribute to their demise as word gets out that retired racers are showing up in animal shelters across the nation – to a larger degree than they already are.

Thank you, in advance for any efforts you may utilize to discourage TGP from setting this dangerous precedent.

For the Greyhounds,

Judy Paulsen
Greyhound Companions of New Mexico

Kelly R. Faircloth & Carol L. Chilton
Greyhound Rescue & Adoptions of Tampa Bay, Inc.

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