



July 24, 2006

Geoffrey Gonsher, Director
Arizona Department of Racing
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VIA E-MAIL and FAX
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602.364.1703

Dear Mr. Gonsher,

I am writing to request a formal investigation into a very serious situation related to the welfare of Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP) greyhounds. A Colorado greyhound breeder by the name of Rick Favreau has made multiple hauls out of the TGP track compound since December 2005. The hauls are paid for by TGP and occur approximately once a month or in some cases more frequently.

Both the track and Mr. Favreau claim that dogs are hauled to his dog farm in Calhan, Colorado, and that they are then adopted out by Colorado adoption organizations. However, there is no evidence that the dogs ever reach his farm or the adoption agencies. Over the last six months more than 200 TGP greyhounds seem to have disappeared after they were loaded into Mr. Favreau's greyhound hauling vehicles.

I have the name of one former TGP kennel operator who signed a statement that greyhounds from her kennel were loaded into Favreau's vehicle in January 2006 and subsequently disappeared. Neither track officials nor Favreau would give her answers about where the dogs were. She contacted many Colorado adoption groups; none had any of those dogs or any greyhounds from Favreau. I understand that this woman is willing to come forward. If you would be interested in speaking with her, I will supply her contact information.

On February 23, 2006, I filed a written request with the Colorado Division of Racing for information on what may have happened to TGP greyhounds that had been hauled by Mr. Favreau. The investigator assigned to the case was, in my judgement, competent and very motivated to find out where the dogs were. He did as much as he could, but concluded that he needed the cooperation of the Arizona Department of Racing in order to pursue a multi-jurisdictional case. He contacted people in your department; none seemed willing or able to assist. As a result, the case is now in limbo.

Since that time, Favreau has made many hauls out of Arizona with Tucson race dogs. On June 30th, Favreau and an associate came into the compound with two hauling vehicles and left with nearly 60 greyhounds. One load may have gone to a dog owner. However, greyhound advocates were unable to find any credible evidence that greyhounds in the Favreau vehicle ever made their way to a safe haven. Additional Favreau hauls may have occurred in the month of July.

The Internet has been awash with rumors about greyhounds disappearing from Tucson for months. Speculation ranges from theories about kill farms, coyote hunting, research facilities and even worse scenarios. Combined with a year's worth of documented, highly publicized scandals involving Tucson Greyhound Park, the State of Arizona is being cited as the worst racing state in the country. People do not comprehend how a rouge track is allowed to operate in a state-regulated industry without accountability or even a passing concern for greyhound welfare. Many openly attribute the problems to ineptitude, corrupt racing officials, cover-ups and a Racing Commission that is in the pocket of the dog tracks.

Considering the nationwide chatter and the seriousness of the allegations, it would be in the best interest of the greyhounds AND the State of Arizona for you to use every resource available to resolve these concerns - including the offices of the Governor and State Attorney General. In addition, I urge you to contact the Colorado Division of Racing, so that an investigation can get underway immediately to find out the whereabouts of the 200 plus TGP greyhounds that have disappeared over the last six months.

As the Director of the Arizona Department of Racing, you have the authority to demand answers from TGP management regarding the disposition of alleged missing greyhounds - irrespective of existing regulations. If however, you suspect that your investigation could be compromised or undermined by forces beyond your control, it should be handed over to the Attorney General's office for an in-depth, unfettered inquiry.

Please contact me as soon as possible so that I can provide additional details that will be helpful to your pursuit of this very urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Susan Netboy, President
Greyhound Protection League
530.432.1391

cc: Governor Janet Napolitano
cc: Attorney General Terry Goddard
cc: Colorado Division of Racing