

By Senator Saunders

25-703-01

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to racing greyhounds; providing
standards to ensure the welfare of racing
greyhounds; providing penalties; providing an
effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Racing
Greyhound Protection Act."

Section 2. Each owner or operator of a kennel for
racing greyhounds in this state must make arrangements for
each racing greyhound to be:

(1) Properly fed, watered, exercised, and examined for
lameness and general health in accordance with National
Greyhound Association Standards.

(2) Kept free of worms and parasites.

(3) Properly inoculated and certified.

(4) Safely transported at all times.

(5) Kept free of inadmissible drugs.

(6) Returned to its owner or when so instructed be
placed for adoption as a pet upon completion of its racing
career.

Section 3. Each permit holder authorized to conduct
greyhound racing pari-mutuel pools in this state must:

(1) Maintain a consistent racing surface through
proper daily maintenance of the race track from the beginning
to the conclusion of the approved race meet.

(2) Provide proper maintenance of the mechanical
equipment necessary to conduct a race, including, but not

1 limited to, starting boxes, racing lures, and regular
2 replacement of insulators to prevent lure stoppages.

3 (3) Provide properly trained lead-outs to handle
4 racers before each race, but there may be no more than one
5 lead-out per greyhound for each official race. Lead-outs must
6 be positioned around the track during each race in order to be
7 able to act quickly if an injury or accident occurs.

8 (4) Provide during all racing activities a qualified
9 and practicing veterinarian who has the necessary equipment
10 and medications to treat all injuries due to accidents or
11 illness during the racing program.

12 (5) Provide adequate crates for housing greyhounds.

13 (6) Provide in the compound area:

14 (a) Necessary security to protect greyhounds at all
15 times.

16 (b) Adequate air-conditioning and ventilation for the
17 well-being of greyhounds housed there and a working alarm
18 system to indicate a rise in temperatures within the kennels
19 when there is a power failure or air-conditioning malfunction.

20 (c) Space for housing racers that are being retired
21 and made available for adoption. Permitholders are not
22 responsible for adoptions.

23 Section 4. The Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering may
24 revoke or suspend the license or permit of any person who
25 violates this act or impose a fine against the violator in an
26 amount not exceeding \$5,000. Punishment under this section
27 does not prohibit a prosecution for cruelty to animals or any
28 other criminal act.

29 Section 5. This act shall take effect October 1, 2001.
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SENATE SUMMARY

Provides standards for kennel owners or operators and pari-mutuel permitholders for ensuring the welfare of racing greyhounds. Provides penalties.