

By Senator Fasano

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution recognizing October 2004 as
"Greyhound Adoption Month."

WHEREAS, the Greyhound dog is one of the oldest
currently existing breeds, and

WHEREAS, the Greyhound's origin is deeply rooted in
ancient history, with dogs looking similar to today's
Greyhound depicted more than 4,000 years ago on the walls of
ancient Egyptian tombs, and

WHEREAS, the Arabs so admired the physical attributes
and speed of the Greyhound that it was the only animal
permitted to share their tents and ride atop their camels, and

WHEREAS, the Greyhound arrived in Europe 3,500 years
ago, and in 1014 A.D., King Canute of England enacted the
Forest Laws, which stated that only noblemen could own and
hunt with Greyhounds, and

WHEREAS, Queen Elizabeth I abolished the Forest Laws in
the 1500s and later initiated the first formal rules of
"Greyhound coursing," the pursuit of hares, and

WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, farmers imported Greyhounds
to the United States to help control jackrabbit populations
and, because of their speed and natural instincts, Greyhounds
soon became the focus of popular neighborhood competitions -
the first organized Greyhound racing events, and

WHEREAS, Greyhound racing as we know it today began in
1912 with Owen Patrick Smith's invention of a mechanical lure
that could circle a track, with the first track opening in
1919 in Emeryville, California, and

1 WHEREAS, Greyhounds have an average life expectancy of
2 12 to 14 years but are retired from racing at between 2 and 5
3 years of age with many good years left to live, and

4 WHEREAS, there are numerous available Greyhounds
5 waiting each year to be adopted when they are retired from
6 racing, and

7 WHEREAS, the Greyhound's devotion to people is
8 legendary, and retired Greyhounds seem especially loyal to
9 their owners, thriving with the constant love and attention of
10 a family of their own, NOW, THEREFORE,

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12 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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14 That the Florida Senate recognizes October 2004 as
15 "Greyhound Adoption Month."
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