

HR 9021

2004

## House Resolution

A resolution designating October 2004 as "Florida  
Greyhound Adoption Month."

WHEREAS, its origins deeply rooted in antiquity, the Greyhound is one of the world's oldest currently existing dog breeds, with depictions of canines similar to today's Greyhound appearing more than 4,000 years ago on the walls of ancient Egyptian tombs; and so admired were they by the Arabs for their physical attributes and speed that the Greyhound 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 King Canute of England enacted the Forest Laws, mandating that only noblemen could own and hunt with Greyhounds, a prohibition that lasted until the laws were abolished in the 1500's by Queen Elizabeth I, who later initiated the first formal rules of Greyhound "coursing," or the pursuit of hares, and

WHEREAS, in the late 1800's, farmers imported Greyhounds to the United States to help control jackrabbit populations and, because of their speed and natural instincts, the animals soon became the focus of popular neighborhood competitions--the first organized Greyhound racing events--leading the way for the sport as we know it today, following Owen Patrick Smith's invention in 1912 of a mechanical lure that could circle a track and the opening of the first track in 1919 in Emeryville, California, and

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29 WHEREAS, with an average life expectancy of 12 to 14 years,  
 30 Greyhounds are retired from racing between 2 to 5 years of age  
 31 and, with many good years left to live and possessed of a  
 32 legendary devotion to humans, retired Greyhounds are superb  
 33 candidates for adoption, thriving on the attention and love of  
 34 family and responding with exceptional loyalty, returning the  
 35 love tenfold, NOW, THEREFORE,

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37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
 38 Florida:

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40 That the House of Representatives designates October 2004  
 41 as "Florida Greyhound Adoption Month" and urges Floridians to  
 42 take advantage of the availability of these magnificent animals  
 43 as ideal family pets.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
 45 presented to each Greyhound adoption organization in this state  
 46 as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.