

## **Importance of the Greyhound Industry**

For many decades the greyhound dog business was a booming business and economic mainstay in Abilene and Dickinson county. Twice a year breeders, owners, and racers converge on the area to buy dogs and to run the business of the National Headquarters of the Greyhound Association. These two weeks by themselves made a huge economic impact on the area by filling hotels, restaurants, and shops. It is also an important time for the National Greyhound Museum located in Abilene.

At the peak of the industry, some 50 greyhound farms were located throughout Dickinson County directly employing some 400 people. The supplemental economic impact is even greater. These were and still are family owned and operated businesses passed down one generation to another.

Dickinson County has over the decades developed an excellent reputation as being the source for high quality and high value dogs. Many national champions were bred on these Kansas dog farms. At the semi-annual auctions it is not uncommon for dogs to be sold at prices nearing \$100,000.

Recently, with the advent of several state and privately owned casinos, dog racing has been negatively impacted in Kansas. Consequently, Kansas is on the verge of losing this industry. Without support to allow gaming at Kansas dog tracks, this industry will move to Texas, Florida, or some other state with more favorable regulations.

I urge you to allow gaming at Kansas Dog Tracks and keep this important industry in Kansas.

Thank you,

Bruce Dale  
Abilene City Commissioner