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Undercover video raises questions about conditions at Tucson Greyhound Park

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TUCSON (KOLD) - Since 1944, Tucsonans have been watching greyhounds race at Tucson Greyhound Park. But what you won't see and have never seen are where the dogs live, until now.

Undercover video shot earlier this year by non-profit animal welfare organization Grey2k has launched a heated debate on both sides.

"It is just plain wrong what is happening to greyhounds at Tucson Greyhound Park," says Christine Dorchak, founder of Grey2k. She says after learning about how race dogs really live, she put herself through law school just so she could put together legislation to put and end to dog racing everywhere.

"This is no way to treat a dog."

In the video, trainers show who they think are visitors through the process.

"These dogs are kept in total darkness all day long. They are let out a couple of times a day to relieve themselves in groups and then get right back in their cages."

"They live in confined cages barely large enough for them to stand up or turn around. Our investigators noted the majority of the dogs were muzzled inside their cages."

We took the video directly to Tucson Greyhound Park's CEO and general manager Tom Taylor.

Taylor says, "They saw what they wanted to see."

Taylor says Tucson Greyhound Park is one of the best remaining racing facilities in the country. He calls the kennels an ideal place for dogs.

We asked, "Would you keep your dog like this?"

Taylor said, "If it was a racing dog yes, if it was a pet no."

We asked, "What is the difference?"

Taylor answered, "One has a job and does a job and one doesn't. One has to stay in shape the other doesn't."

Some would argue, why not keep the dogs outside. Taylor answers, "They don't want to be outside."

But since voters passed a proposition in 2008 to protect the treatment of greyhounds at TGP, by law they must be outside for at least 6 hours a day. Taylor says that is the only part that isn't ideal at Tucson Greyhound Park and that even the dogs oppose it.

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