

# Gambling on the future of greyhound racing

New report: In 7 months, 75 dogs died in Florida

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Efforts to end dog racing in Florida heat up after a new report details just how many dogs are dying on Florida tracks.

Contact 5 Investigator Katie LaGrone has been tracking the dog track debate.

Right now, Florida leads the country in the number of dog tracks, now a new 80 page report features the stories of dogs who have fallen, broken bones and ultimately had to be euthanized after running for money.

The future of greyhound racing in Florida is a gamble, a group of lawmakers are determined to win.

"This is not just a practice that is mean to animals it's a practice that erodes our collective humanity," said Representative Mike Gaetz (R) of Okaloosa County.

His words at the State Capitol on Thursday are part of the latest push to end dog racing in Florida, taking more greyhounds, like 5-year-old Ginger off the track for good.

"When we first got her, she was very skittish and had a lot to learn from the life she had before," said Lisa Umana who adopted the greyhound about a year ago.

This week, Grey2K USA and The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, issued a first-of-its kind national report.

The report dubbed, "High Stakes" details the thousands of injuries and hundreds of deaths that occur in the racing industry.

According to the report, in a 7-month period last year, 75 racing greyhounds died in Florida alone.

"At the end of the day, the greyhounds are running for their lives every time they get on the track," said Florida Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D) of Broward County.

Moskowitz is once again, pushing a law to stop the state requirement that dog tracks must offer dog racing if they want to cash in on slot machines and card tables.

Opponents fear the costs.

"If passed it will end greyhound racing in the state and cost 3,000 families their jobs and create 13 casinos without voter approval," said David Bishop of the Florida Greyhound Association.

It's a highly charged debate that will ultimately determine the future of dogs just like Ginger.

"She was not accustomed to homes, swimming pools, and children but she's turned into a fantastic family dog," said Umana.

If efforts to end greyhound racing don't pass, Moskowitz would, at least, like to see injury reporting become mandatory in Florida.

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