



Advocacy groups fed up after dogs fall ill, get injured at Tucson Greyhound Park

Published: Thursday, February 25th 2016, 10:04 pm EST

Updated: Thursday, April 21st 2016, 10:24 pm EST

TUCSON, AZ (Tucson News Now) - It's been a busy 24 hours at the Tucson Greyhound Park with at least two dogs falling ill and one suffering from a broken leg.

All the incidents took place during the races on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

According to the latest Facebook post on the page of the rescue group Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption:

"It was another busy night for SA GREYS. We received a call about 7:30 p.m. that two hounds from different kennels at the track were in respiratory distress and needed immediate veterinary care. As we were unloading the boys at Briarcrest Veterinary Care Center, a third kennel called with a badly broken hock.

"It was a long night for everyone, but our patients are hanging in there and undergoing additional treatment today. Send your positive thoughts to Flash, Bolt and 'Duchess.' (Duchess will be given a new pet name soon.)

"SA GREYS won't turn away sick or injured hounds, so we said 'yes' even though the current balance of Jackie's Fund isn't enough to pay the veterinary care for one of these hounds.

"If you can donate to Jackie's Fund, please do. Every little bit helps."

To donate, click here: <http://tucsonne.ws/1oDMnqw>

This incident led to an emergency situation, with track officials now saying no dogs are being allowed to leave or enter the park.

General Manager Dale Popp declined to go on camera, but did speak to *Tucson News Now* by phone.

Popp said they are checking to see if there is a bigger problem in the kennels, after two dogs showed flu-like symptoms.

They want to make sure this is not the beginning of a kennel cough outbreak.

Popp said they will not allow dogs to enter or leave the park for about a week, until they can determine if these are just isolated incidents.

Advocacy groups are also very disturbed to see video replays from Wednesday night's race showing three Greyhounds colliding into each other and collapsing while making the first turn.

One of the dogs suffered a broken leg.

"It's like a car crash with four legs instead of four wheels. This is essentially a canine stampede," said Gary Vella, an activist with the advocacy group SPEAK Tucson.

Karyn Zoldan, who has adopted several former Greyhounds with broken legs, said it was very hard for her to watch the video.

"Enough already, it's animal cruelty, and I hate it. There's too many injuries, too many broken legs, too many dogs coming out with strange blood disorders, kidney failures and respiratory diseases. This needs to be investigated under a microscope by the FBI or somebody," Zoldan said.

Popp said the Greyhound races will go on as scheduled on Friday night, but if they see any dog coughing, they will immediately be pulled from the race.

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