

Submitter: Jordan Jordan

On Behalf Of:

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Dogs, like other mammals, are individuals. That means that in order to have well-being, each dog needs a lifestyle based on that particular dog's individual needs, preferences, enjoyments, etc. It's true for breeds as well. While some argue that as a breed, greyhounds love racing, there's error in equating "racing" with playful running around. Not all greyhounds like or need the same things -- that includes the "work" of running in ovals with long stints of caged captivity. To enjoy a thing, like running around, assumes a desire to do it, in the particular context it's offered. How many greyhound puppies who end up as "racers" would actually have chosen the life of a racing dog over other common options, just for the occasional chance to run around in a circle, hoping not to be injured after shooting out of the racing box they were shoved into? How many would choose living in a cage, only allowed out for an occasional race and elimination breaks, over living in a comfortable home with soft beds, couches, toys, yards to play and sniff in, their preferred dog friends to cuddle with, hikes to go on, etc. As a canine behavior professional I have seen how devastating having little to no choice is for a dog--any dog--and how living a life of caged confinement often turns hopeful, joyful puppies and confident, happy dogs to terrified, defensive, sometimes even reactive, mishandled, and unwanted innocents. Living a life bereft of options is unhealthy at best, and too often is ruinous. Oregon is a dog-loving state. Do the right thing and confirm your love and respect for dogs by OUTLAWING gambling related to greyhounds and other dogs. By doing this, you can help make sure that greyhounds' lives are not contingent upon 'what have you done for me lately,' and you further affirm that ours is a culture of dogs as family members, not as ATMs that get destroyed when they stop spitting out money on demand. Thank you.