

By Ms. Jehlen of Somerville, petition of Patricia D. Jehlen that the Commissioner of the State Racing Commission be directed to promulgate rules and regulations for the protection of greyhounds in the Commonwealth. Government Regulations.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and One.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO GREYHOUND WELFARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the
2 contrary the commissioner of the state racing commission is
3 hereby authorized and directed to promulgate rules and regula-
4 tions for the purpose of promoting greyhound health and well-
5 being. Said regulations shall include but not be limited to the
6 following:—

7 1) increasing cage size to allow greyhounds more room to
8 stand, turn and lie comfortably;

9 2) authorizing the Massachusetts Society to Prevent Cruelty to
10 Animals and other animal welfare organizations to inspect grey-
11 hound racing facilities without notice or receipt of complaint;

12 3) providing for the cancellation of racing meets when the
13 ambient temperature rises to 90 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, or
14 when the temperature falls below 40 degrees Fahrenheit, or when
15 the humidity and temperature index is greater than 140;

16 4) allowing public access to records on greyhounds, which
17 include: name, date of birth, place of origin, medical history, pre-
18 race test results, identification number, name of owner or trainer,
19 track at which the greyhound raced, and destination or disposi-
20 tion;

- 21 5) requiring appropriate housing for greyhounds, which
22 include: installation of sprinkler systems, low fire hazard bedding,
23 and the elimination of “warehousing” of animals;
24 6) requiring adequate daily exercise; and
25 7) requiring sanitary preparation of meat that is USDA certified
26 fit for consumption for greyhound feeding.

1 SECTION 2. The Massachusetts Racing Commission shall con-
2 vene a working group which shall meet monthly, to include mem-
3 bers of the Massachusetts Society to Prevent Cruelty to Animals,
4 Tufts Veterinary School, and other animal welfare groups for the
5 purposes of devising recommendations to further the health and
6 well-being of racing greyhounds. The working group shall file an
7 annual report of the summary of its recommendations with the
8 joint legislative committee on government regulations and the
9 joint committee on counties.