



Statement By

Jo-Anne Basile, Executive Director

Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security

In Support of HB 5174

February 22, 2022

To Co-Chairs Senator Catherine Osten and Representative Maria Horn, Vice Chair Representative Alphonse Paolillo, Ranking Senator Dan Champagne and Ranking House Representative Greg Howard, Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security.

CT Votes for Animals (CVA) strongly urges the Committee to pass HB 5174, An Act Prohibiting Greyhound Racing in the State. CVA is a grass roots animal advocacy organization representing over 5,500 supporters in almost every legislative district in the State.

Greyhound racing, and its attendant live lure baiting techniques, is a cruel and grossly inhumane form of gambling. CT was late getting started in racing dogs and after a relatively short period, the financial decline of the business forced CT to close its last track in 2005. According to Grey2K USA, *Greyhound racing is illegal in 41 States and is ending without legislation in others*. Overall, the industry suffered huge financial losses and continues to decline. The decline of dog racing reflects the public's clear disdain for the abusive tactics associated with racing.

CT residents expressed a collective sigh of relief when the State closed its racing tracks. I believe I speak for many who would be shocked to learn a technical loophole exists in which live greyhound racing could resume without scrutiny.

HB 5174 is an opportunity to do the right thing. For CT residents, live greyhound racing ended in 2005. Passage of HB 5174 will formally close the statutory book on live greyhound racing and ensure the promise to CT people is kept.

On behalf of the over 5500 supporters of CT Votes for Animals, I urge the committee favorably pass HB 5174.

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CT Votes for Animals

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