



For Immediate Release

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Animal groups oppose Punjab dog racing

GREY2K USA, Dogs Trust (UK), BWC (India), CAPE-India, FIAPO (India) appeals to the Chief Minister of Punjab to prevent dog racing

Ludhiana/Chandigarh – The Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an umbrella body of animal welfare groups in India, has appealed to the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Parkash Singh Badal, to prohibit greyhound racing in the state. It has been reported that a greyhound racing track is coming up in Mattewara near Ludhiana.

Greyhound racing is recognized in many parts of the world as a cruel “sport.” The gamblers will stop at almost nothing to make money from the fastest dogs, no matter what this costs the dogs. Greyhounds are trained using live bait such as rabbits and kittens. They are kept hungry so as to motivate them to chase, catch and tear apart small animals. When they are not in training, dogs are forced to spend up to 20 hours a day in small crates barely allowing them to move.

In addition, Greyhounds, brought in from the United States, Canada and Europe are not able to adjust to the tropical climatic conditions of India.

Other than the cruelty inflicted on the dogs, this kind of sport will encourage gambling leading to several other vices in society. The National Gambling Impact Study, the first federally funded and most comprehensive analysis of gambling ever commissioned in the United States, reported that **one in five pathological gamblers attempts suicide**, a rate higher than for any other addictive disorder.

Christine A. Dorchak Esq., President of GREY2K USA, which works to pass laws to prohibit dog racing, says that while greyhound gambling is now illegal in the majority of US states as well as the US Territory of Guam, India should follow the trend of countries like Jamaica and South Africa and refuse to introduce it in the first place.

“Greyhound racing has caused much unrest in the UK and Ireland, leading to specific legislative regulations to cover this particular breed”, says Clarissa Baldwin OBE, Chief Executive, Dogs Trust, a UK based organization that annually cares for 16,000 dogs in their 17 centres.

In January 2011, Beauty Without Cruelty - India launched a petition to Stop Greyhound Racing which received an excellent response from the public, 4,269,772 signatures, which was submitted to the Chief Minister of Punjab by CAPE-India. “Despite such overwhelming support, we were very disappointed to learn via a news item that plans were afoot to set up a dog racing track on the outskirts of Ludhiana” says Diana Ratnagar, Chairperson, BWC – India.

Arpan Sharma of FIAPO says , “it is distressing to see the land of the Gurus, who taught compassion for all, introduce something that is harmful for society and for animals. Greyhound racing is against all the principles taught by the great Sikh gurus”.

Copies of correspondence from these organisations are available upon request.

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