

GREYHOUNDS

Florida votes to end racing, concerned about exodus

MACAU will soon no longer be the only jurisdiction to grapple with a greyhound retirement problem. Last week, Florida voters had the backing of a two-thirds majority on a state-wide measure to ban greyhound racing by the end of 2020.

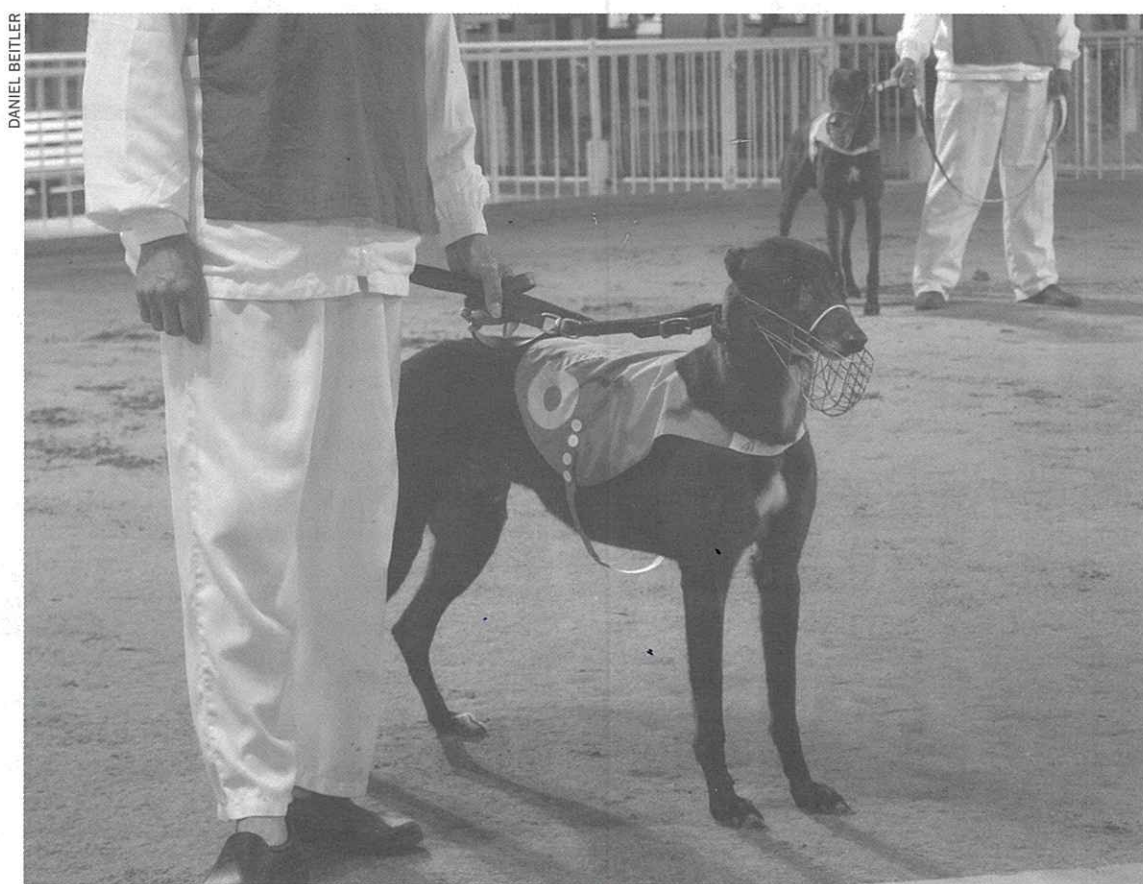
Amendment 13 will see as many as 11 tracks close in the next few years and thousands of greyhounds will either be retired or moved to other racing facilities.

It passed with 69 percent of the vote – more than the 60 percent needed to pass – representing an overwhelming call for an end to greyhound racing. The vote was in line with decisions the world over, like those recently in Macau and in Australia, to clamp down on the so-called ‘deadly’ sport.

Like in Macau, Florida activists have long criticized the alleged mistreatment of greyhounds in the dog racing industry.

According to a report from the New York Times, the activists objected to what they saw as harsh living conditions and the dogs’ propensity to sustain injuries, such as broken bones.

A 2015 joint report from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Grey2K tallied some 11,000 greyhound injuries across the U.S. and more than 900 deaths between 2008 and 2015. The report said that some of the animals had died in their cages, while others had sustained serious injuries while racing.



DANIEL BEITLER

In Florida, legislation approved in 2010 made it mandatory for track operators to report greyhound deaths. Since it came into effect in 2013, reports have shown that one greyhound dies from track-related problems on average every three days. To date, nearly 500 racing greyhounds have died at such facilities within the state.

But greyhound owners and racers dispute these allegations, saying that the dogs are well cared for and are not made to race if they are unhealthy.

With the sites forced to close

by the end of 2020, Florida faces an exodus of former racing greyhounds.

As of October, there were about 3,700 greyhounds in Florida, according to animal activist organizations Humane Society of the United States and Grey2K USA Worldwide. Not all of these will be up for adoption, as half are expected to be transferred to other tracks to live out the rest of their racing lifetimes.

Those involved in the rehoming of greyhounds that have been put up for adoption are worried about the potential exodus if too many tracks close

at the same time.

“There is no way to know when the tracks will close or how many dogs are coming into the market, so we are sitting on pins and needles, but also quietly working to try to find new foster homes, calling vets about care packages and looking for people willing to drive vans to Florida to pick the dogs up,” Carol Becker, president of God’s Greys, told the New York Times.

“We are trying to avoid a crisis if too many tracks close around the same time and there are not enough homes lined up.”

Population reaches 663,400 at end of September

THE total population of Macau was 663,400 at the end of September 2018, an increase of 4,500 quarter-to-quarter, with the female population accounting for 53.1 percent of the total, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed.

The latest report from DSEC indicated that a total of 1,552 live births were delivered in the third quarter, an increase of 111 quarter-to-quarter. Male babies totaled 839 and the sex ratio at birth stood at 117.7 male against 100 female.

There were 4,407 live births recorded in the first three quarters of 2018, down by 440 year-on-year, the report added. Mortality was 512 in the third quarter, up by 36 quarter-to-quarter. The top three underlying causes of death were neoplasms (211), diseases of the circulatory system (122) and diseases of the respiratory system (40). In the first three quarters, mortality dropped by 64 year-on-year to 1,510.

In the third quarter of 2018, Chinese immigrants (738) and individuals granted right of abode (263) decreased by 36 and 52 respectively quarter-to-quarter. Meanwhile, non-resident workers (186,332) increased by 4,833 at the end of the period.

A total of 716 marriage registrations were recorded in the third quarter, down by 282 quarter-to-quarter. There were 2,851 in the first three quarters, up by 11 year-on-year.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

SIX PROVEN CANINE DRY EYE REMEDIES

IN Macau we deal with a lot of dry eye cases and I thought of spending a bit more time on this topic. The official name for canine dry eye syndrome is keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS). A dog with this condition will have trouble producing tears, which can result in drying and inflammation of the cornea. This is very painful and can cause a lot of secondary problems for the eye. If your dog has a case of dry eyes, he’ll need prompt treatment from a qualified vet.

Eyes can dry out due to medications
Finding what’s causing your dog’s eyes to

dry out will take a fair amount of investigation. For instance, some medications can cause this condition. If your dog is taking any sulpha drugs, stop administering them immediately.

Six dry eye remedies for your canine

If drugs are not the problem, help your dog to produce more tears. The following remedies can help relieve your dog from his dry eyes:

Apply a tear replacement product to keep your dog’s cornea moist.

Wet the cornea with lubricating ointments

and artificial tears.

Use a tacrolimus or cyclosporin ointment to increase your dog’s tear production and reduce inflammation on the cornea.

Clean your dog’s eyes before applying medication. Be sure and remove any discharge he may have in the eye area. This might be difficult in the beginning as most dogs eyes are painful during this stage.

Along with the above treatments, some dogs might need a round of antibiotics or pain treatments. Administering drugs is typical when a secondary bacterial infection appears such as an ulcer on the cornea. We

do not use steroids when ulcers are present. Lastly, if no other remedy works, your dog may need to have surgery. A qualified veterinary ophthalmologist will perform a delicate procedure known as a parotid duct transposition.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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