

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

Morning Session 3b

AN UPDATE ON GREYHOUND RACING WORLDWIDE

Moderator:

Eric Wilson, Corporate Compliance Director, Gulf Greyhound Partners, LTD

Speakers:

Sean Collins, Secretary General, World Greyhound Racing Federation

Jerry Desmond, President, World Greyhound Racing Federation

Brad Fenwick, DVM, PhD., Vice President for Research; Virginia Tech

Rory Goree, President, Greyhound Pets of America

MS. WENDY DAVIS: All right. I think we're just about ready to begin.

And luckily our moderator for this panel also has been the director of simulcasting, corporate compliance, a number of things and now he is also with his title Head of Technology for this panel session. So we've just given him a new title.

MR. ERIC WILSON: So watch out.

MS. DAVIS: So if you read through the bio, add another line, please. But seriously, thank you for being here at this session. I think it's going to be a wonderful presentation.

I do have a couple of announcements before we get started. I want to remind everybody that we do have something called the Idea Forum this afternoon, and it is in this very room. It is from 2:00 to 3:30 and this is a session in which there are presentations, and basically poster presentations where you can look at work that's been done by different companies, different organizations and a lot of our students.

This is where they show off their semester projects and some of them are very, very good, so I encourage you to come in and talk to the students, talk to some of these other organizations that are here about their projects and their work.

I also need to thank AmTote, I need to also thank Oak Tree Racing, Smart Button, Suffolk Downs and International Sound for their sponsorship of this morning's panel session.

And probably most important to this group, the last group said, AGTOA, do we go to AGTOA, some of those horse guys, but the AGTOA meeting has changed location, not time, it is still one o'clock but because of the quick turn — 1:30, I'm sorry, geez, they gave me the wrong information — it's still the same time but you are down in Kiva B which is by the tennis courts. You do have to go outside and walk down, but it's a great room and I think it will be just fine for you all.

So at this point I would like to introduce the moderator for today's panel session, and it is Eric Wilson. Eric is currently with Gulf Greyhound Partners, but he has been with a number of greyhound tracks in the past few years and presently he is the president of the American Greyhound Track Operators Association, that's why we always call it AGTOA because I always get tongue-twisted and, also, everybody, be on your best behavior because he has also been with the FBI, so no funny business in this room.

Eric, thanks so much for agreeing to be the moderator and the technological expert for this panel, and I'm turning it over to you because if there's anybody who should stay away from technology, that's me. Ask my students.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Wendy. Luckily, I have Dennis the Menace close at hand if I screw up my small assignment here for Mr. Sean Collins, who is going to give us a little bit of presentation. I'm happy to be here and I appreciate everybody in the audience being here. I think we've got a good panel that will educate us on some of the things that are happening throughout the world and also some of the things that are happening here in the United States.

We in the industry have looked for ways to broaden our appeal to wider markets both at home and abroad. The advent of simulcasting along with Internet and phone wagering has helped to offset the loss of our live customers.

Unlike our friends in the horse industry, however, greyhound racing has a limited jurisdictional base that confines our products to those states that allow wagering on greyhound racing. Phone Internet wagering has broadened our customer base but at the same time its affect on simulcasting is not completely understood.

Emerging markets throughout the world provide a possible solution to our limited jurisdictional base. Two of our panelists will address these emerging markets. Besides the need to provide our product to a wider market, our industry also faces attacks from forces that question our commitment to the welfare of the racing greyhound.

Our last two panelists will discuss efforts backed by the industry to answer these duties.

Our first presenter is Jerry Desmond. Jerry is president of World Greyhound Racing Federation. He has been chief executive of the Irish Coursing Club since 1986. He's also Keeper of the Irish Greyhound Stud Book; has responsibility for the administration of greyhound racing in Northern Ireland and is currently president of the World Greyhound Racing Federation.

Jerry is also deeply involved in thoroughbred horse racing being manager of Clonmel Racecourse and current chairman of the Association of Irish Racecourses.

Please welcome Jerry Desmond to the podium.

(Applause)

MR. JERRY DESMOND: Thank you, Eric. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I'm about to give you an update on the state of the greyhound industry in Ireland at the present day.

No doubt those of you who are very deeply involved in the greyhound industry in this country and from abroad are well aware that the greyhound industry in Ireland is enjoying quite a purple patch at the moment. We are confident that that position will continue into the future.

But before I get into the current situation too much I would like to give you a brief history of the industry in Ireland from its commencement. And the first greyhound racing meeting in Ireland took place in Belfast in 1923. That was followed quite quickly by a meeting, the opening of Shelbourne Park in Dublin.

Very quickly the new sport of greyhound racing became very popular across the country and tracks were opened in the various towns and cities in Cork and Limerick, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Longford.

And at the start, of course, greyhound racing was unregulated and the promoters themselves, and the owners of the tracks very quickly saw the need for regulation. The only greyhound regulatory body in Ireland at the time was the Irish Coursing Club which had been set up in 1916 to regulate the sport of coursing which prior to that had been regulated from England.

With the consent of the promoters and track owners the Irish Coursing Club agreed to become the regulatory body for greyhound racing in the entire island of Ireland. That position continued until the government decided to set up a state board in southern Ireland in the Republic, and in 1958 a Board was established by the act of government in the Irish parliament, so the control of greyhound racing in the south of Southern Ireland in the Republic passed into the hands of the Board, the Irish Greyhound Board, and the control of greyhound racing in Northern Ireland continues to remain with the Irish Coursing Club.

The early days of greyhound racing under the control of the Board were very prosperous years, attendances were very, quite large, very large, in fact, and the board was self-financing through its revenues from betting, from bookmaker betting and from tote betting.

Because of a downturn in the economy in the late seventies and early eighties, attendances declined with a consequence, dilatoriness effect on betting, betting levies. The monies going into the development of tracks just simply wasn't there so therefore stadiums got into a state of disrepair and became quite unattractive places for the general public who were not committed greyhound owners, greyhound race-goers to attend.

So it was a real chicken and egg situation. The attendances declined, betting declined. The condition of the different greyhound stadia declined and became very, very unattractive for the general public.

The Board has spent many, many years and a lot of effort in lobbying government for the assistance from the exchequer, and the trickle started in the late '80s and early '90s when grants of the princely system of 25,000 pounds was given to the Board for special development.

Fortunately, the Finance Minister at the time, Albert Reynolds, saw the merits of the argument which had been put forward for serious funding and in one of his own early budgets, about in 1991, he granted the racing industries, horseracing and greyhound racing, greyhound racing I think commenced with something like a half a million pounds, went up to a million per annum and now the annual funding to the greyhound industry from the exchequer is in the region of 40,000,000 Euro.

The grant proved to be a very wise investment by the government and by successive governments in that money was used very wisely, very judiciously and stadia were refurbished, upgraded. The Board added to the state funding that was coming into the industry through the sweating of its own assets. Part of the land attached to some of the tracks was not really required by the tracks, so that land was sold and the money was reinvested into the industry and now right across the country starting with Shelbourne Park in Dublin, Harold's Cross in Dublin, Curraheen Park in Cork, which is an absolutely state of the art stadium built on a green field site. Waterford and Enniscorthy, Mullingar, Youghal and Galway.

All those tracks have all been refurbished, rebuilt. The latest and possibly the most exciting is the rebuilding of the track at Dundalk which is quite close to the Northern Ireland border, and that track will now also include a horse racetrack. So the one venue will be greyhound racing and horseracing.

The development in Lifford Track, which is quite close to the Northern Ireland border as well was a very high profile development and it transforms the image of greyhound racing in the northwestern part of Ireland.

The emphasis by the Board and by the developers of the tracks was on quality. The tracks themselves, the track surfaces were, and still are, highly maintained, the highest levels. The restaurants, the quality of service and quality of food is five star.

The result of all this investment, all the refurbishment, the rebuilding has made a dramatic upsurge in attendances with consequent improvement in betting returns, betting levies from the tote and from the bookmakers.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the resources and attendances has been the large number of young people, young adults, young singles who attend greyhound racing now as a night out, a night of very, very top class entertainment. Quite a number of the tracks follow greyhound racing with disco at the track, and that keeps the young people coming, and it's recognized now as a very good night out for young people as well as for more mature people, like myself.

Unfortunately, in Northern Ireland the picture is not quite as good as that. It's a long way behind in fact. There are three tracks in Northern Ireland, Ballyskeagh which is near Belfast, Derry Track and Dungannon. Dungannon Track hasn't raced for nearly two years now.

The problem with the tracks in Northern Ireland is that while they are still operating on a weekly basis, the two ones that are operating, Derry and Ballyskeagh, the prize money structure is very, very low in comparison with the prize money that's available in the tracks in the south because unfortunately in Northern Ireland there's no Exchequer assistance to the industry in Northern Ireland, so therefore the finances available to the promoters there is very, very sparse, very, very limited.

Because Ireland and the UK are members of the European union, the promoter of one of the tracks in Northern Ireland felt that the state funding which has been given to the greyhound tracks in the south of Ireland, he decided that he would take an action in the European court and through the European Commission on the grounds that there was unfair trading involved and that as such he claimed that it's not correct that one member state would have a financial advantage over another member state created by the government of one of those states.

The European Commission are currently considering that action and a decision is expected very, very shortly. We hope that the decision will not have a detrimental effect on the current regime of exchequer funding that is available to the racing industries in the Republic in southern Ireland.

We would feel and we have been promoting through the Irish Coursing Club and through the Board of Greyhound Racing Federation that Ireland in its entirety, not themselves, should be treated as one greyhound racing entity and that support should come to the greyhound racing industry from both governments, from the Irish government and from the U.K. government.

And that joint funding should take place on an all-Ireland basis. We believe that that would be the fairest way to create a level playing pitch and give the tracks in Northern Ireland an opportunity to redevelop, to upgrade their prize money and to be in a better position to compete fairly with the tracks in the south.

One of the major issues that has surfaced in here in the United States and throughout the conference I have heard quite a lot at the other presentations which were made over the last few days is the question of animal welfare, and I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the Board has taken steps to look after retired greyhounds when they are finished with racing, finding homes for them and that situation is in the early stages now but is developing gradually as year follows year.

I heard a comment passed last night and I would like to conclude with it in that we come to a symposium such as the excellent symposium that's being held here over the last few days and we get lots of information about technology and legislation and other matters, very important matters such as that, and I think we tend to forget the animal itself, the animal who was the reason why greyhound racing was started in the first place, why horseracing was started in the first place, and I would urge all concerned that everybody in positions of authority and in administration not to forget that the animal is there, the animal has to be looked after, the greyhound, the horse, and we should not lose sight of that fact.

We should not get too technologically minded and end up forgetting that, the reason why all of us are here in the first place.

Thank you very much each of you.

(Applause)

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Jerry. Our next speaker is Sean Collins who is secretary general of the World Greyhound Racing Federation. Sean joined the Irish Greyhound Racing Board as marketing and public relations director on its formation in 1988.

He served as chief executive of that organization for a nine-year period before his retirement in 1997. He has been involved in every facet of the administration of the Irish greyhound industry from day to day operation of the group's 10 racetracks, pari-mutuel operation of all the country stadia, the regulation of racing, the development of the breeding industry and the industry's marketing and capital development programs.

Sean is going to inform us of what's going on outside of Ireland and the U.K. and the rest of the world and how the greyhound racing area is expanding throughout the world.

Please welcome Sean Collins.

(Applause)

MR. SEAN COLLINS: Thank you, Eric, and good morning ladies and gentlemen, panel members. At the outset let me tell you that we're going to take a rather extensive trip, not in time, but an extensive trip to centers where greyhound racing is operated in different parts of the world and as a consequence we will not have the time at your disposal or mine to deal with individual countries in depth.

But some, just to give you an idea about what I would like to do, time permitting, was to chase around from South Africa to Morocco to Hungary, Finland, Sweden, China, Russia and places like that because — and let's get the more difficult one first and that is South Africa because it was one in which I was very personally involved in that in the early '90s with the apartheid situation in South Africa having been resolved, the then-government set up a commission to look at whether they would legalize casino betting, national lottery and greyhound racing. I was invited as wearing my then hat as chief executive, Greyhound Racing Board, to make a submission to that commission in Pretoria.

I did so on two occasions, and in 1994-'95 the Commission published their report and by a single board majority they ruled against the legalization of greyhound racing; but just to show you some of the arguments that were advanced by a very imminent lotteries and gambling board group and report, you see there that some of the reasons why they agreed and decided not to legalize greyhound racing.

I think one of the more interesting ones was that dogs compete in races against their will. Another reason was that they took the view that greyhound racing should not be legalized in South Africa until they did a proper cleanup job on the pari-mutuel sport in that territory. I think the other one was it was in contravention of the good book, the Bible.

Anyway, by a single majority greyhound racing people in South Africa to this date believe that board, that lottery and gambling board was packed against greyhound racing and I have no reason to doubt that that was so.

Greyhound racing has existed in South Africa for quite a while illegally, and the group that — the groups that are interested in developing greyhound racing there do have the capital, do have the financial wherewithal to progress the sport. They have detailed roots of racing, system of control and administration and at the moment they are pleading their case in the higher courts of South Africa. We wish them luck and hopefully they will succeed.

Now, one of the crazy things about that that particular gambling and lottery commission was that of the many hundred submissions, circled and resubmissions made to the commission, they never once tested the veracity of any of those submissions and, boy, were some of those submissions absolutely outrageous.

I know that at the time full-page advertisements appeared in the local media in Johannesburg, Durban, Keotona, wherever, indicating that that's something like what they published.

Anyway, I think that's — we don't need to dwell too much on some of the allegations made other than to say the whole thing was financed and the whole animal rights campaign was financed by funds from both within and outside of Africa, so, okay, let's, if we can move on to what the next one is.

Morocco. The racetrack in Morocco, a very fine racetrack. It's the only track that members of the international racing community has seen 12-dog racing. It's run by a very fine Spanish gentleman. It's run in the inside of a cycling stadium and there you will see part of the reception they had for Edward Keelan and members of the board of the Greyhound Federation when they visited there, Casablanca or not — yes, Casablanca some while back.

Just one aside on Morocco. I think they have a very novel way of dealing with fighting greyhounds in that jurisdiction and when at a conference the proprietor/owner was asked as part of a roundtable discussion and treatment of how people dealt with fighters, he was asked, Well, what do you do in Morocco in respect to the fighting greyhounds. He said, "No problem. We have fighter races." The misbehaving greyhounds are all booked to the same race. And as a consequence, the best greyhound wins the route.

Can we move on from there. Hungary has a track. Hungary is a member of the Board of the Greyhound Federation. They run a very fine operation in Budapest.

Mexico. I'm sure quite a number of you are acquainted with the situation in Caliente where you have a dual purpose track. Unfortunately, we have not been able to make contact in recent years with the providers of the Caliente track even though Mexico was a founding member of the Board of the Greyhound Federation.

Finland. Another country which promotes greyhound racing. Due to climatic situation they can only run from late spring to early fall. They have four greyhound tracks there, they have a very enthusiastic Finnish Greyhound Owners Federation. They had all operators on a voluntary basis. They had very ambitious plans to proceed with a new track in Helsinki but, alas, for some reasons that I don't want to go into that project has not materialized to date.

That's another one on the Finland scene. It's controlled, the racing in Finland is controlled by Greyhound Racing Lotto. They have a tie-up whereby they can put some of their stake races out on off-track betting system which they have there.

Not too easy to train greyhounds in that part of the world at that time of the year in the snow scene. In fact, that's a Swedish picture.

Here is one that has baffled quite a few people in greyhound racing worldwide because initially when we — those people in Ireland addressed a query to the Chinese embassy in Dublin where in China do you have greyhound racing, and in particular do you have greyhound racing in Shenzhen, which is a very up market, commercial, industrial, new city not too far from Macau, and they had no

knowledge whatever of the operation of racing in China or Shenzhen or anywhere else.

We also checked with the Irish ambassador to China. He knew nothing of it, either, but they say seeing is believing and that is the operation in China in Shenzhen. Most of the — in fact, all of the racing stock comes from Australia, and I'm sure that many of you with greyhound racing in the United States would like to have just a fraction of that attendance that you see there.

That's the program, the front of the program in Shenzhen.

Vietnam. I had the pleasure of being invited to Vietnam to perform the official opening of the new track south of Saigon, or as is now known Ho Chi Minh City, and I think subject, if my memory is not playing tricks on me, in the year 2000. The development was a joint one as between the local Vung Tau tourist organization and private capital mostly Vietnamese, mostly Vietnamese and Australian, but an absolutely magnificent development that does credit to international greyhound racing in that from day one the management took the Board to, as a project manager and all that as a result of the facility, Philip Bell, who had at one time been a very prominent and active chief executive officer for the New South Wales Greyhound Racing Authority, with another very imminent Australian, Dr. John Newell, who took charge of the entire racing compilation in that particular development, they made an outstanding success of it.

I think the next slide will show us the attendance on opening night, which was highly successful. They have tote betting in there. Again, the greyhounds all Australian, but one of the more fascinating aspects of that development is the kennel complex which they have about 10 kilometers from the stadium.

I think that just to say that the 15-acre site is enclosed with cut granite stone walls. The kitchen cooking facilities would do — stainless steel cooking kitchen facilities would do justice to this hotel.

The kennels absolutely quality and the, at that particular track, they have introduced — they have all the greyhound population in the Vung Tau Track have been microchipped by a system introduced by Dr. Newell, and he is firmly of the view and so expressed that opinion at the border conference in Cork last year that it should be only a matter of time until microchipping should be implemented and become a fact of life in the industry worldwide. I'm sure you'll hear more on that one.

Sweden. Recently the governing counsel of the Board of the Greyhound Federation had an opportunity of visiting Sweden where a very exiting new development has taken place. For years Swedish greyhound racing struggled. They ran from late spring to early autumn and then for climatic reasons they had to shut down.

But the government of Sweden created a Board of Management Consultancy who looked at the scene and took a decision that greyhound racing would and should be

marketed through a marketing group with I think about 3,000 off-course outlets throughout Sweden. It has proved to be an outstanding success, A, in that for the first time in that part of Europe, a European government has endorsed and given, agreed and decided to give financial aid and assistance to greyhound racing and it has also permitted the substantial upgrade of a number of Swedish tracks so now they have a situation where three of tracks, one in Karlskrona, one in Stockholm and the third further north operate full-time and there is off-course betting on their races daily or whenever they run their race meeting, but to see the enthusiasm of the Swedish greyhound owners and their dedication to the sport.

Jerry Desmond and myself and I had meetings with some Swedish greyhound owners who traveled round trips of 1,600 miles nearly up the arctic circle, down south to Stockholm to race and went back again the following day. They are not too sure that there are many other greyhound owners in many other parts of the world that would show that interest and that dedication.

And again, their Swedish greyhound racing, operational side of it, is in very capable hands of the Swedish Greyhound Owners Federation headed up by its president Lars Wicander who is vice-president of the Board of the Greyhound Federation and by Mikel Lenter who is also very prominently, very prominent with that organization, but what it does do that it has opened up a new chapter and has become an example to the other European countries that have greyhound racing but that are suffering from positive active support from their government, and one of those countries is France.

France has I think about 16 to 18 tracks, they are graded, some of them excellent tracks, they do not have bookmakers, they have a tote system and plus the government tax levied on their tote pari-mutuel operation is punitive, but I think that the younger generation of French administrators are not prepared to take that lying down and they are actively contesting the rate of taxation levied by the government with government authorities.

That's just a typical Swedish racing track scene, trackside.

Czech Republic. Extremely interesting one in that plans have been prepared, we have seen them, we know that very substantial sum of money is readily available for investment in greyhound racing in Prague because Prague has become the in-place for tourism in that part of Europe, and it's a magnificent city.

It has a horse track which I think would not stand comparison even with your glorious of country fair meetings that you might have in this part of the world.

They have to obtain planning permission to proceed with the erection of the track on a greenfield site about 10 kilometers from Prague, which has a population of 1,000,000 people, and I think they are having second thoughts. They have also taken a lease of a city site which was a former sports stadium within Prague proper and therefore getting down that way.

Unfortunately there are two branches of greyhound owners organizations in Prague, Czech Republic, at the moment who do not see eye to eye with each other and our policy in the World Greyhound Federation is that we would give, and have, and we've continued to give every assistance to the Czech people to progress the development of greyhound racing in their country that the final analysis, the resolution of their internal differences, and in some cases personality differences, is a matter for them.

There is one track about 70 kilometers from Prague, country operation, it's run by one of the two greyhound owner groups that's very — run again with volunteer, they have volunteer, enthusiastic labor and they run quite a program of stake races.

The current president of that group that runs that track came to the World Conference in Cork with his entire board of directors and were very keen to further their project that they have now.

Macau. Another member of the World Greyhound Federation, has had its ups and downs. It's — Macau is — you say how do you get to Macau? You get there by — to get to Hong Kong and you catch a fast ferry that takes you across in about 40, 45 minutes to this small formerly controlled Portuguese island, and it's the fun racing, gambling, entertainment area in that part of the world.

There you see the Macau as it was when it was initially launched. That is Macau today. It's an extremely well-operated track, very substantial off-course betting. Betting particularly coming from Macau itself and from nearby Hong Kong.

Greyhounds entirely Australian. At one time entirely Irish but for reasons you wouldn't quite understand they are now Australian in total. They operate by importing greyhounds from Australia. They are raced and then the greyhounds are put up for public auction and I must say the competition for each and every girl that is so important is quite intense.

Excellent quality racing, eight dog racing, and particularly since the island has now come under the control of mainland China, the Chinese people are being bussed down there by 15, 20 bus loads of people per meeting, and they, once the racing is finished, they go on for the other entertainment outfits in Macau.

Spain. I'm sure some of you need no introduction to the Spanish scene because Spain has been the whipping boy of the animal rights movement right across the northern hemisphere for quite a while. Now one would think that with the way Spain has been pilloried, particularly greyhound racing in Barcelona, that one would, if one did not know better one would feel that Spain was at fault.

Barcelona is a very fine city, one of the finest cities in the world, and again, an operation that they seek — they run every day of the year except on Christmas day. All the greyhounds are imported from Ireland. The greyhounds that they buy are imported — are exported by land to Barcelona but yet the animal rights people

continue to criticize the operation of racing in Spain and in the Meridiana Track in Barcelona, despite the fact that on three separate occasions the Board of the Greyhound Racing Federation have carried out extensive on-site investigation of racing in that jurisdiction and found it to be acceptable and have made recommendations to the Spanish operators as to how they might improve it.

And the sad part about it is that those within greyhound racing who continue to cast snide remarks at the operation of greyhound racing in Barcelona are damaging the industry because they are making genuine efforts, in — particularly in latter times — they are making very determined efforts to upgrade their facility for kennel operation and they are certainly conscious of the need and they are implementing a policy of animal welfare which I think one would have to be honest and say that one approves of.

United Arab Emirates. If you have been to Dubai, it's the Miami Beach of that part of the world. Five-star, six-star and seven-star hotels are mushrooming there because they have come from a rags to riches situation within three decades and there are more up-market hotels there than you would have in, certainly in Miami, or any other like holiday resort, but greyhound racing there is operated in a place called Al Ain which is in the desert, a beautiful city about 150 kilometers from Dubai, totally funded by the State of Abu Dhabi.

It's run as part of a massive zoo set-up in Al Ain and those are a part of the kennel, previously I charge a part of the kennel operation.

You may be able to recognize some of the people in that sitting, Europeans and Americans and British sitting in some of the VIP boxes at greyhound racing in Al Ain. Admission free. There are no betting except that all attendees, and it's a family operated — from night, all attendees get lottery tickets or numbered tickets on the way in and they receive substantial prizes if they are happy to have the winner of the individual races, whether they are greyhound races or saluki races, which is the — but down the way from — that's part of the VIP box.

Down the way from Al Ain, up in Dubai, they have — I'm sure you have had and know of the Dubai Classic which is run every March, the million-pound race, which is run in the Nad Al Sheeba Race Course in Dubai every March but where they can get 20, 25,000 people but because the comptroller of that particular emirate takes the view that betting contravenes the Koran, there is no betting at that particular Dubai million meeting, which is — but there's no legal betting.

I think an aside, and I would ask you not to quote me on this one, one time I was there I had a bet with a clergyman of a certain denomination who was representing one of the three of you cable maker chains, but, anyway, be that as it may, the people who operate the Nad Al Sheeba track have set aside massive funds to install modern tote pari-mutuel equipment if and when they get the go-ahead and they feel that the only thing that's stalling the development of introduction of the betting into the Emirates is the strong view held by the current ruler of the Emirate who is — and he's very, very — winter years but that is a country that will have I think

very substantial potential for greyhound racing in the future, and again, a quality track.

Guam. I've never been to Guam. I'm sure — I'm not too sure if any of you people have been, either, but it's an island in the western Pacific which runs a very fine operation. It runs five nights weekly. It runs — it's a tourist resort, has a GI base there and attendees are basic — to which admission is free, mostly American GIs and Asian and Australian and Japanese tourists come to the island.

Unfortunately a severe storm wrecked their operation just awhile back after they had expended, I think, \$5 million in upgrading their kennel complex but they are back on scene again and there is close contact as between the providers of the operators of the Guam track and the World Greyhound Federation, and they have indicated to us that they would like to be part of the world family of greyhound people who come together under the umbrella of the World Greyhound Federation.

I just show you that one because I would hope that — it's an honor to speak here representing the World Greyhound Federation because the World Greyhound Federation was in part the grandchild of the American Greyhound Track Operators Association who made their first visit overseas in, I think, in 1967 — '60s, so if you look there from — at the back there's a very tall good looking gentleman, Edward J. Keelan III. Beside him is Seamus Flanagan. Coming down the gentleman on Seamus' left I cannot tell you. I don't know except coming to the front and looking from left to right Desmond Hanrihan, a then marvelous chairman of the Board.

Jerry Collins of Orlando fame. Next to that, is Jerry's son-in-law. Was then president of the AGTOA. Next to that was the very eminent President of Ireland, and beside him Jimmy Knight of Biscayne.

When they came to Ireland in the sixties they, together with the Irish, the British and the Mexicans formed the World Greyhound Federation, so I thought you would like to just in recognition of the very fine work done by the American Greyhound industry, and in particular by Edward J. Keelan, I thought I would include that in the presentation.

Now this picture, that particular one, it's all in a day's work and what one has to do for in pursuit of the aims and objectives and the progression of greyhound racing, there's a chap on board that particular charger. Do you recognize him? He's not here. I'm sure he — Ron, Ron Sultemeier, were he here he would, it would bring back memories to him.

Ron is part of the recognition of greyhound racing in Morocco. Ron was obliged to mount that charger trackside, so, anyway, I could go on. My time is running against us but I hope I've given you a feel and sample of what's happening world-wise in different jurisdictions. One could go on and deal with the Australian scene, the British scene.

Anyway, thank you for your attention. It's been — I've enjoyed presenting it to you. I hope you took some pleasure out of viewing it and hearing it. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. WILSON: Our next presenter is Dr. Brad Fenwick. He's vice-president of research and interdisciplinary programs, professor of infectious disease at Virginia Tech.

Brad had received his B.S., D.V.M. and M.S. degrees from Kansas State. He completed a residency in diagnostic pathology and received a Ph.D. in comparative pathology from the University of California, Davis. He is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists and has served as the chair of the boards of directors.

His laboratory serves a national reference for several infectious diseases of pigs, cattle and dogs; as well as the national genetic registry for all greyhounds registered by the National Greyhound Association.

It's our pleasure to have Dr. Fenwick with us today.

DR. BRAD FENWICK: Quick correction. My lab contributed to helping found the registry for greyhounds. It's now been transferred to the NGA who is running it independently and doing an excellent job.

A couple things just in introduction. I'm going to keep my comments brief, essentially setting some topics out that we can discuss in the interactive portion of the presentation. Before I go on with that and present some things we might want to talk about, on a personal note I have had the great fortune in my profession, both in research and service as veterinarian as well as a university administrator to have many positive experiences.

However, as I look back over all of those, some of the most rewarding has occurred in this industry, which I somewhat stumbled into because of the opportunity for funding from the Kansas Racing Commission. Which is a theme that I think we need to talk about in terms of how we get support for research and additional knowledge into the industry.

I've also had the great fortune, and enjoy it very much, the opportunity to come to the meetings, interact with members of the community. It is always a great pleasure.

My observation is of all orientations I have been able to interact with, the industry is blessed by excellent people working with the very best of intentions in terms of the animals and industry, but those intentions are often confined by relatively large gaps in understanding, and so it's very difficult to determine what we're doing right and sometimes what we need to do better.

My topic will talk about infectious diseases today. But particularly some of those that have challenged us this past year. During the past year, as many years but particularly this last year, outbreaks of infectious respiratory disease in racing greyhounds have caused industry to become increasingly concerned about the public's perception of industry and the well-being of the animals that are involved in it as well as the cost and the consequences these outbreaks pose to the industry's financial health, and political health I would say as well.

Medicine has taken a turn, especially infectious diseases the past I would say five years from something that was a bit of a mystery to being something that is in the view of the public in general, in large part because of the news media and communications systems that are so robust now and the advent of a number of infectious diseases around the world to say nothing of the potential of a biological attack of some sort.

The turn has come both in veterinary medicine as well as in large part human medicine that when an infectious disease occurs, it necessarily is someone's fault. And I'm here to tell you that if it is someone's fault, it's the microbe's fault in most cases, not someone's fault.

Examples of that, at least in the human medicine domain, are food-borne diseases where there were lawsuits and great consternation about it being someone's fault, if you will, that food gets contaminated in some sort. The consequences spending billions of dollars by the food industry to try to avert, relatively small occurrences of relatively minor food-borne illnesses.

More people die in escalator accidents every year than die of E. coli food poisoning. That's sort of the overreaction I wanted to tell you about.

In addition, right now as we all know, at least in this country, the absence of influenza vaccine and trying to find who was at fault from that has created a bit of a scare in terms of who is responsible if you get sick.

One of the things that I'll bring to your attention, and would emphasize it right now, is with all of the billions of dollars going into public health, NIH spends about \$28 billion in research a year, CDC spends \$5 billion in research and the military doubles that.

With all of that effort and all of those types of situations, somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 people will die this year of influenza. Are we failing in that as severely as what we hear about the failings of the greyhound industry? Well, I would argue that we're doing really pretty well in the industry. We could always do better.

My message to all of you is that there is no single solution to prevention of infectious diseases because this is not a one-dimensional problem as some people might think it is. That follows to say that no one of us is as smart as all of us in trying to do a little bit better in preventing the occurrence of infectious diseases.

I have five topics I thought I would present to you and briefly outline those, and then if they catch a cord with any of you, we can discuss those with the question and answer session.

The first one is the causes and consequences of infectious diseases in racing greyhounds. It is clear that there are many microbes that have the potential of causing some type of infectious diseases in greyhounds. Unfortunately, because of the lack of research, and in some part the lack of us doing our jobs, those organisms have not been adequately identified and/or we have the tools to recognize when they cause disease.

Of all of those when we talk about respiratory disease, only one has been able to be demonstrated that in fact has the ability to reproduce the diseases that we face, and that's bordetellosis bronchiseptica, the classic kennel cough. We have a number of other diseases that we believe might be associated with that. Because of the lack of research and the lack of diagnostic efforts, it is more supposition than it is medical fact.

The recent occurrence and belief that we have a new strain of influenza virus causing substantial problems last summer was a recognition that there are diseases we have not recognized before. It will be interesting in that situation whether it recurs. If it would follow the normal course in influenza viruses, or other viruses, hopefully it was a one-time event never to recur, which is the typical situation with most influenza viruses.

Good examples of that are the SARS virus in humans which occurred and caused lots of concern and killed several people but now has essentially retreated or disappeared, hopefully never to be seen again.

The interesting thing is it was no one's fault that SARS occurred and there really was no one who took any specific action to cause it to disappear. I think the same thing occurs in many of our diseases in greyhounds.

Next topic is the diagnostic and rational medical and public responses to disease outbreaks. One of our challenges is to be able to actually determine what is causing these diseases and then come up with a rational medical and public responses when they do occur. It's very difficult because we are not acting in a coordinated fashion to collectively learn from each other in terms of what are the current diseases and what's the best response.

And oftentimes we act as independent agents in those responses because of the pressures and time constraints and financial constraints. I would argue that in many cases something like that faces the industry, it is a collective response that actually makes the difference.

In terms of the next topic it is treatment and prevention. In most cases we have tried desperately to come up with rational and reliable means to prevent infectious

diseases in the dog. Vaccines are not the answer here. They are rarely the answer, at least with the current vaccines we have. Efforts by the industry have, both public and private, have created the foundation to at least create a new generation of kennel cough vaccines, at least the disease caused by bordetella, and there's good evidence that we will have some success there.

Will it be the Achilles heel and all infectious diseases of the respiratory system will disappear? The answer is no, but the hope is that they'll be substantially reduced. It's interesting, some of you may have been reading the news lately, is we as predicted are having a resurgence of whooping cough in the human population because those vaccines we use right now in humans are 20 to 25 years old and have not evolved at the same pace that the organism has.

If you see a child with whooping cough — many of you probably have not seen that — you can recognize how severe that is in comparison to the events in dogs. Whose fault is that? Is that the mother's fault? Is it somebody else's fault? The answer is no, it is just nature's fault.

The other topic that has come up in discussions is the use of quarantines to help as a first response to infectious diseases. In the absence of complete knowledge, there is a natural tendency to fall to locking things down and therefore hoping that things won't get any worse. That's a natural and understandable response.

However, I think if we can work collectively together, we can rationally use quarantines in a fashion that actually creates greater value and won't undermine their use because of them being used too frequently.

Efforts are underway to try to collectively come up with rational criteria on the use of quarantines in the industry by a collection of people that are vested in the well-being of the animals.

That brings me to my last topic, and that is emerging as a problem we have had this past year, I think is an opportunity to reinvent what we do and that is to have a coordinated national strategy to prevent the occurrence and oftentimes limit the impact of infectious diseases, particularly respiratory diseases in the greyhound. It's founded on the principal that we all can learn from each other and that experiences in one track or in one group of dogs helps inform what might occur in other groups of dogs.

In my 15 years experience in the industry, there are a lot of occurrences where we have not learned much from outbreaks because we have the outbreak, we take care of it, it resolves and we move on only to face the similar situation not very many months or years later, in a no better position than we were the first time.

I think because of the serious events that occurred this year and some of the false alarms that occurred, I think we're now in a fashion, my sense, more united than ever to work collectively to do what we can in preventing infectious diseases in greyhounds.

In terms of a last comment, and I'll just leave it open to ask questions, is that with the advent of infectious diseases and the visibility of those, my experience is that whenever we bring large numbers of any animal together, humans or any other species, there will be a normal baseline of infectious diseases. If we put a thousand of us together on a confined area, we will have infectious diseases go through our population.

Actuarial tables say that of a thousand of us, two or three of us will die every year. Is there a failing in that? I would argue there is not. But it doesn't mean that we should work to prevent that.

My message to all of you we need to take some pride in what we have done and are continuing to do as an industry with the understanding we can always do a little bit more.

If you look, the advent in veterinary medicine of shelter medicine is a good example of that. The occurrence of infectious diseases and deaths in humane shelters is actually somewhat greater than it is in the greyhound industry. Is there a failing of the shelter medicine? Are they blamed for that? My sense is they are not and I think we have done, industry has done exceptional in trying to do those things within the limits of the knowledge and capabilities we have.

I think we can make that better if in fact we take the next step and unite our forces and work collectively to ratchet the bar up one more notch.

With that, I'll turn the floor over and hope you will ask me some questions.

(Applause)

MR. WILSON: Our last presenter is Rory Goree, president of Greyhound Pets of America, and then when Rory finishes his presentation, we'll open it for questions.

Rory is president, as I mentioned, of GPA, the world's largest single breed adoption program. Rory is responsible for providing the leadership to meet the goals of GPA and insuring that the mission is maintained and followed by 50 chapters and more than 10,000 members.

GPA's vision and goal is a hundred percent adoption of retired racing greyhounds. GPA's mission is to acquaint the public about the availability and suitability of greyhounds as pets and to find loving homes for retired racing greyhounds.

Rory has been president of GPA for the past two years and prior to that was vice-president for two years.

Rory, it's a pleasure to have you on our panel.

(Applause)

MR. RORY GOREE: Thank you, Eric, and good morning. First of all, I want to just talk a little bit about Greyhound Pets of America.

As Eric mentioned, I'm the president, and it's quite a privilege for me to represent Greyhound Pets of America. I think our organization does a marvelous job with all the greyhounds that we bring into our program and finding homes for them.

At Greyhound Pets of America we do pride ourselves in the greyhound retirement specialist. We take our mission seriously, and as I mentioned earlier, we do the best we can for them.

In 2003 we adopted or assisted in the adoption of close to 5,000 greyhounds. It costs us just a little over a million dollars, and this is collectively, all of our chapters together, just a little over a million dollars to adopt out or assist in that adoption of those 5,000 greyhounds.

In fact, it was a million-nine thousand. For every dollar that we raise, it costs us a penny, and I think we do a really good job at that. For every dollar that we raise, 92.3 percent goes back into our programs, back into the dogs. For every dollar we raise, only 6.6 percent gets used for administrative costs.

Up until last week I was stating that we had 50 chapters and last week I was working on the Christmas cards for our 50 chapters and it wasn't until I was done with the 50 cards that I realized I had some chapters on my list that I hadn't crossed off. So I had to go back through and make sure I didn't screw up, and sure enough there was six chapters that I didn't have cards for, so we actually grew and I didn't even realize it.

Quite embarrassing but we right now have 56 chapters or subchapters across the country. Just a little over 10,000 members within all those 56 chapters.

Also, up until a couple weeks ago I was really excited about the upcoming holiday season but a recent event or should I say a recent episode of Real Sport has made it seem more like a Charlie Brown Christmas. We all know that HBO ran a show a couple weeks ago and I'm sure many of you in here got your blood boiling. I also was very upset with this show.

I'm going to venture to guess that many of you in here were upset because you didn't get a fair shake on all the accomplishments you have done in this past several years with the greyhounds.

Lucy of Peanuts cartoon fame is renowned for her critical spirit and her caustic comments. On one occasion she told Charlie Brown, "You're a foul ball in the line drive of life." In another strip, Linus has his security blanket in place and his thumb resting safely in his mouth but he was in trouble. Turning to Lucy who was sitting next to him, he asked her, "Why are you so anxious to criticize me?"

The response is typical Lucy, "I just think I have an accuracy in other people's fault."

Linus then asked Lucy about her own faults, and without hesitation Lucy explained, "I have a knack for overlooking them."

Lucy is not the only person who believes their knack or calling in life is to point out and correct the weaknesses of others. Unfortunately, these same people are customarily blind to their own shortcomings or the damage their own agendas may cause.

I know that we have made some tremendous strides in the past year for the greyhounds. We've done a wonderful job but, of course, there's going to be Lucys that will want to overlook it because they have another agenda.

I want to take a couple of minutes to share a couple of stories that I recently received from some folks out on the front lines of the adoption world. One is going to show that we still have some work to do. The other one shows that we are making a difference.

And here's the first one. The worst thing that has happened here lately in my opinion is the trainer who put down all those beautiful dogs after telling us he had no available dogs for adoption. The only way we managed to save one is, and I told you is also a wonderful pet, is because the vet's office knew that we could place a blue dog with no problem and they pulled this blue dog out of the group that was to be put down.

Thirteen other greyhounds died that day because they were not designer colors and were no longer young. It is shameful. More shameful is that this was a trainer who was well aware that blue dogs are very adoptable, and well aware that we're taking dogs, and he still chose to euthanize rather than work with us.

Just to give you a little history on this one, the day before he went to put these dogs down, the adoption program had gone to his kennel asking him if he had any dogs available, and he told them no.

This story reminds us that we still have some weaknesses in the system and old-timer thinking. This same thinking conspired to undermine the collaboration between volunteers and track personnel and overwhelm those who are trying to make a difference.

And I think if we can all acknowledge that it is sad and frustrating aspect in that we're still dealing with these every day and sometimes it makes us feel like Charlie Brown running to kick the football only to have Lucy pull it away.

The second story is from a volunteer and it starts off, Rory, thanks for getting back to me. We have a very good experience with our track the last couple of years. I believe this is mainly due to the kennel manager and the general manager.

The kennel manager has been on the farm side as well as the racing side and has been a breath of fresh air. She not only educated me in the many aspects of racing that I had not seen firsthand. She has also educated me on a lot of things I didn't know about the dogs, so why do I tell you this?

It has shown me that if management is willing to talk and work with folks at their facility as well as the adopting community, we can start to make strides to improve the situation at the tracks for the animals.

This story actually kind of shocked me because this is from a couple who were, even though they belonged to GPA, were what you would call anti-racing. And when I received that from them, hear from them how well they were doing and learning and working and how their views had changed from just working with the track management was just amazing, and this shows that if we do work, we can make a difference.

And he did also tell me that he would like for us to get him more information because the only information sometimes they have to go by is the stuff they see out there on the Internet, and we know there's a few groups that like to put some misinformation out there, or false numbers. So the more information we can get folks, the better job we can do.

And as we have seen on the HBO special, I heard from my adoption representatives, we still have some work to do but we've also made some tremendous strides. You remember the favorite saying of Charlie Brown, "Oh, good grief." I'm sure while watching the HBO special there were some of you who were saying oh something else, not, "Oh, good grief," but we won't say those words here today.

I'm sure many of you from watching that show that that has put some grief into your life recently. I'm going to challenge all of you here today to put the good in the grief and to work with your adoption program. We're making a difference and we can't stop now. We've done a great job over the last several years and we haven't finished it but we are on our way.

We will be there some day. Right now we just need to get Lucy off the team and put in a new placekicker or a new placeholder and allow Charlie Brown to kick a winning field goal. Thank you.

(Applause)

MR. WILSON: I want to personally thank Rory for what he and his organization do for our industry. It's a great thing to hear from.

We have a few minutes left for questions. I would like to start it off by addressing Jerry and Sean and just say how do you see the more established greyhound

nations assisting the emerging countries which you haven't dealt with in greyhound racing?

MR. DESMOND: We will continue to do what we have been doing, and what Sean has been doing in particular. Sean is secretary general of the World Greyhound Racing Federation and he stays in close contact with these emerging greyhound racing countries. He's visited with them in their countries and he's given them the benefit of his own advice and his long experience in the greyhound industry and administrator for something close to approximately a year, I think.

And he's built up a great rapport with them and very good connections with him. He's advised them in areas of tote betting, totalisator legislation, animal welfare, track layouts, all that sort of thing, and we believe that through the offices of the World Federation with the meetings we hold at the Governing Council, meetings that we hold, the general conventions that we hold every two years, we invite these emerging nations to these conferences and we have special meetings with them, and this is about problems they have and we find, we very quickly find that we all have many problems in common, but we do our best to solve them through our own experiences in the United States and in the U.K. and Ireland and Spain, wherever.

Interaction is very good, we believe and we will continue very strongly.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Jerry. I would like to address this question to Brad and Rory. How would you gauge your different approaches to the welfare of the racing greyhound as affecting the perception of the sport by the general public?

MR. GOREE: Well, right now I would say the adoption effort is making a change. Being one that myself, I do meet and greet while I'm out there on the frontline, and I can remember a few years ago everyone that would come up to see the greyhounds it was always, "Oh, those poor dogs, the abuse they get and blah, blah, blah."

Now it's, "Oh, what great pets they make," and you don't hear as much about the abuse type of thing. And I also know that we have a couple of groups that have basically taken on their track, they call their track their track and they have nights where they go down, Friday nights where they go down to the track and they have dinner and bet and all that, so two years ago you wouldn't have seen that. You're starting to see those type of things.

I'm sure you would like, the industry, would like to see it happen quicker, but it's going to take some time.

MR. WILSON: Thank you. Brad.

MR. FENWICK: Well, in contrast to an external contribution, what I see is the industry itself deciding it needs to help, be the solution for its own problems dealing with greyhound health, and I see a number of groups working independently to do

that and more into the future collaboratively to come up with solutions to some of the challenges we face.

I would say that we have a lot of good news and I'm afraid that in contrast to the adoption, we're not getting the word out as well as we could.

MR. WILSON: I would like — we have a few minutes left — I would like just to open it for any questions from the audience that you might have for any of our panelists. Ron.

MR. RON SULTEMEIER: I want to make one comment, we'll be discussing it further at the meeting but for those who aren't, the next World Greyhound Racing Federation meeting will be in Florida October 20th to 22nd next year and you might have seen a microcosm of things that we would be discussing in a forum like that, so we'll be getting out the word to everyone about those dates so they can put that on their calendar for next year.

MR. WILSON: Thank you, Ron. David.

MR. DAVID ROBERTS: This is for Rory. Rory, Dave Roberts of Florida. One, I want to congratulate you on the job that you do. It's tremendous resources that you provide.

I want to give you another example of the problem out there. State of Florida recently said that greyhound adoption booths at all facilities and majority of them already had facilities — and very loose legislation — the tracks have to have make sure that they are monitored and staffed on the weekend, things of that nature, involving some of the vets and inoculations and things likes that.

I got a call from a lady down in the south Florida area who said, "I'm worried about legislation. I'm part of the greyhound adoption group," and I said, "Well, why, I would think you would want this. Well, we don't want to be at the track."

I said, "Well, how can you adopt greyhounds."

"We get them from the kennel operators and whatever and we have a building away from the track."

I said, "How can anybody find you?"

"Well, they look up in the newspaper — I mean, in the telephone book."

I said, "But the legislation there is to be at the track so that you could promote the activity of greyhound adoption."

They are opposed to that. It's across your brain and get there for the well-being of the dog and she's like, "Are you going to punch me if I don't go."

I said, "Well, I don't have any regulatory authority over you, but for the well-being of what you're trying to do, maybe the track can do something."

And it's just an example there that while well meaning, some of the groups, they don't see the symbiotic relationship there, and as an example I want to applaud you.

MR. GOREE: I just wanted to mention, Phoenix Greyhound Park, they have their adoption program there, you actually, before you adopt, you get to go down and take a tour of the track, and not many people know that before I became really involved with GPA I was probably more leaning to the antiside myself. I used to spill the numbers 30,000, you know, I followed Susan Netboy religiously and then I started questioning, well, where are these things coming from and so I started really investigating and started discovering, you know, they had no facts to back those things up.

And then I moved to Phoenix and Cheryl Lawless who was running the program there had invited me to come down and actually see the track and take a tour and, of course, here I was always saying these things about the industry but I never stepped foot on a track.

I went and took that tour and that changed a lot of my thought process, and I would encourage if you do have a track to start looking at things like that. You can change a lot of thought processes by just letting the people see how these dogs are really treated.

MR. WILSON: Thank you. Our time is up. I appreciate everybody coming and participating in this. I think it was well meaning and well worth the seminar. Thanks to our panel again.

(Applause)

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