

Robert Gear LD 15 House

## HUMANE VOTERS OF ARIZONA

### FARM ANIMALS

Gestation crates for pregnant pigs and veal crates for calves are among the cruelest confinement techniques used on factory farms-both in terms of the intensity and duration of confinement. Keeping animals so restrictively crated that they cannot even turn around for nearly four months straight is patently inhumane. And, with the industrialization of pork production, gestation crates are becoming more and more prevalent in the United States, although they, like veal crates, have been banned throughout Europe for their inherent cruelty. Over 1100 Arizona volunteers gathered signatures for a citizens' initiative that will appear on the November ballot. Proposition 204 simply ensures that animals, such as pigs and calves that are raised for food, have enough room to turn around, lie down and extend their limbs in their pens.

#### **Do you support Proposition 204?**

Sounds good on the surface but study is needed for full understanding.

#### **Would you be willing to endorse this ballot measure?**

Depends on indepth study of the issue.

**If you do not support Proposition 204, please state your reason for opposition.**

### GREYHOUND RACING

Dog racing in Arizona has been subsidized by the state and the

taxpayers for the last ten years, since the passage of a mega-tax break bill for the failing dog tracks in 1994. Tucson Greyhound Park, the first track to benefit from the bill, has not paid any pari-mutuel taxes to the state since 1996. The Tucson track's out-of-state-owners have reaped nearly \$50 million in gross profits in the last ten years. Phoenix Greyhound Park, which paid \$5.8 million in pari-mutuel taxes in 1995, saw its tax reduced to zero by 2005. Because the tax credits are carried over from year to year, neither track will ever pay taxes again. The Phoenix track financially supports an on-site adoption program; the Tucson track does not provide financial support to any of Tucson's non-profit adoption organizations.

The greyhound racing industry has been in a steep decline since 1991 and is unlikely to recover; 24 tracks across the country have closed, and many of them have been demolished. Eight states have banned greyhound racing because of the inherent cruelty involved in dog racing. Currently the Arizona Department of Racing is investigating a Colorado dog handler for the disappearance of 185 retired greyhound racing dogs. Rick Favreau contracted with the Tucson Greyhound Park haul 192 retired greyhounds to Colorado for adoption. But only 7 of the dogs have been accounted for. The Board of Stewards for the Arizona Department of Racing concluded he was "unable to provide verifiable information about the whereabouts of approximately 192 greyhounds." The stewards suspended his license, fined him and recommended that he be banned from the greyhound business.

**Would you be willing to reinstate legislation requiring that dog tracks pay pari-mutuel taxes to the state?**

Need to study the issue. Inclination is to see that the industry is treated just like all other gambling activities.

**What steps would you take to ensure the welfare of racing dogs in Arizona?**

First define welfare.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### PET OVERPOPULATION

Every year, tens of thousands of cats and dogs are killed in shelters throughout Arizona. Taxpayers bear the cost of picking up, housing, and ultimately euthanizing these homeless or unwanted animals.

The pet overpopulation crisis is the direct result of irresponsible breeding and animals left unaltered in our communities. Consider that in a period of seven years, one cat and her young can produce 420,000 kittens. Only by implementing widespread spay neuter programs will we be able to stop pet overpopulation.

**Would you support better Animal Control laws to help alleviate the pet overpopulation problem?**

Yes!

**Would you support a revision of Arizona's Spay Neuter Ordinance (A.R.S. 11-1022 <<http://www.azleg.gov/ars/11/01022.htm>> ) to address the problem of unaltered animals?**

Yes!