

Raynham greyhound track workers to rally at Statehouse for delay on racing ban

By Jessica Scarpati

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

Posted May 21, 2009 @ 02:30 AM

Last update May 21, 2009 @ 02:34 AM

RAYNHAM — Dozens of track workers are expected to rally at the Statehouse today to convince lawmakers to delay a ban on greyhound racing.

Employees at Raynham Park were scheduled to load onto buses this morning to rally on Beacon Hill at 10:30 and meet with legislators later in the day, said Doug Pizzi, a spokesman for the Protection of Working Animals and Handlers, a pro-industry nonprofit group.

The rally is the most recent move in a local effort to postpone the November passage of ballot Question 3, which would make dog racing illegal Jan. 1.

Track supporters and Raynham selectmen have forwarded a home-rule petition to the state Legislature to delay that deadline until 2012.

Grey2K USA, the Somerville-based nonprofit group that led the fight to ban racing, issued a statement Monday condemning the town's efforts.

"Voters knew what they were asked to decide, and they passed the Greyhound Protection Act with an existing delay in implementation that takes effect more than a year after passage," the group stated.

"There is no compelling argument for reversing or delaying Question 3, and we are confident that lawmakers will uphold the will of the voters," the statement continued.

A survey funded by the National Greyhound Association, the racing industry group, reported 61 percent of voters would favor a delay in implementing the ban until 2013.

The language of the survey, asked to 400 random registered voters across the state, opens the question by alleging "some people say the ban on dog racing comes at a bad time" and warns of losses in tax revenue and jobs. No counter argument was represented.

Jessica Scarpati can be reached at jscarpati@enterprisenews.com.

Copyright © 2009 GateHouse Media, Inc. Some Rights Reserved.

Original content available for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons](#) license, *except where noted.*