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(520) 909.2775

SOUTH TUCSON BALLOT MEASURE ADDRESSES CRUELTY TO DOGS

Tucson Dog Protection, a new grassroots animal welfare group, filed its intention to place a measure on the November 2008 ballot designed to protect dogs from abuse in the city of South Tucson.

The Tucson Dog Protection Act would apply to all dogs in South Tucson, including the hundreds of greyhounds that endure terrible conditions at Tucson Greyhound Park. Retired Assistant U.S. Attorney and campaign chair Susan Via, JD, said, "It is wrong to cage dogs for more than 18 hours a day, feed them diseased food, and routinely dose them with dangerous steroids. Dogs deserve better."

The Tucson Dog Protection Act contains three provisions:

- 1) No person shall knowingly feed a dog uncooked or raw meat from diseased, dying, or disabled animals or animals dead upon arrival at slaughterhouses.
- 2) No person shall give or administer anabolic steroids as defined in the United States Code and relevant sections of the code of federal regulations to any dog to artificially enhance performance or suppress estrus.
- 3) No person shall confine a dog to a crate or cage smaller than 35 inches high by 45 inches long by 35 inches wide for more than a total of 18 hours in any 24 hour period unless such confinement is deemed medically necessary by a veterinarian licensed by the state of Arizona.

"Using anabolic steroids to prevent dogs from going into heat is dangerous to them and should no longer be allowed," stated Janet Forrer, DVM.

"Uncooked meat from animals known to be diseased, dying, disabled or already dead upon arrival at the slaughterhouse is not something any responsible veterinarian would recommend, explained Dr. Phil Comer, Tucson veterinarian. "It frequently causes severe gastrointestinal distress in dogs and can spread dangerous bacteria such as salmonella and E.coli to humans."

The citizens of South Tucson have shown their support for modest changes to ensure that these gentle greyhounds receive the humane treatment all dogs deserve. Petitioning continues.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Via, 488-0071;

Dr. Janet Forrer, 909-2775;

Dr. Phil Comer, 886-1279

www.tucsondogprotection.com

Tucson Dog Protection

PO Box 30357

Tucson, AZ 85751

(520) 909-2775