



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE BILL WOULD PROHIBIT PUBLIC COURSING

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today introduced a bill calling for the prohibition of public coursing in the United States.

Coursing is an activity in which greyhounds chase down and kill live wild rabbits.

"Those involved in public coursing say that the practice helps them train their dogs for legitimate greyhound racing," Dole said in a floor statement. "In reality, coursing is an outdated and inhumane event in which thousands of rabbits are brutally killed."

The bill would prohibit interstate and intrastate trafficking of live rabbits for use in public coursing, as well as the transport of dogs for participation in the events.

Following is the text of Sen. Dole's floor statement:

Mr. Dole. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to prohibit public coursing in the United States.

Coursing is a so-called sport in which greyhounds chase down and kill live rabbits. Those involved in public coursing say that the practice helps them train their dogs for legitimate greyhound racing.

In reality, coursing is an outdated and inhumane event in which thousands of rabbits are brutally killed.

Mr. President, today in the United States there is a thriving business in the Southwest and Midwest in the sale of wild rabbits for use in coursing.

In addition, there have been reports that sometimes live kittens, puppies or other animals are utilized for this purpose.

My bill would stop such practices.

Today I have also written letters to the secretary of agriculture and the attorney general of the United States requesting a legal opinion as to the applicability of the existing Animal Welfare act to public coursing. -30-