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From Lord Taylor of Holbeach  
Parliamentary Under Secretary

*Dear Elizabeth*

Thank you for your email of 1 November to Jim Paice enclosing a copy of one received from a number of your constituents about the welfare of retired racing greyhounds. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Defra is aware of concerns about the welfare of greyhounds both during and after their racing life. In addition to the general protection already provided to captive animals under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, legislation relating specifically to the protection of the welfare of racing greyhounds came into force on 6 April 2010 to address the welfare conditions at racing tracks and the traceability of greyhounds used in the sport. Made under the 2006 Act, the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010 require racing greyhounds to be microchipped before they can be raced on tracks in this country. The Regulations regulate the welfare standards at greyhound racing tracks, as well as improving the traceability of greyhounds after they have left the sport.

*D. H. Best wishes.*

LORD TAYLOR OF HOLBEACH