

Greyhound Essay

The greyhound industry has impacted my life and development in fundamental ways. As a child, reaching the top row of crates was the benchmark for my height, and the summers of work in my teenage years taught me the power of one's own two hands for achieving one's goals. Ultimately, my upbringing among greyhounds shaped the central tenets of my identity around the ethos of labor in the American Dream.

From my earliest memories, I've seen the family farm as a symbol of self determination. Watching my parents direct their own lives through hard work instilled a vision of freedom in me with a Natural Rights foundation I didn't yet understand. It taught me that freedom was not just a legal status but a condition to be achieved, attainable with one's labor and the gifts of nature. The greyhound industry thus symbolized the means by which generations of my family remained free from under another's authority. Accordingly, agency over my labor defined my vision of "the good life" rather than escape to leisure.

The agency to direct my labor and the act of doing so derive their value from the opportunities nature provides, and my teenage summers working with the dogs made that abstract notion concrete. Though the work could be strenuous at times (as the weather dictated), cultivating the talents that nature has given greyhounds made the exertion meaningful. I'll always fondly remember resting after a hard day's work because of this connection between exertion and cultivation. These summers taught me that the value of a dollar is denominated in time and measured in labor. I started work to save up for a powerful computer, and while the dollar price can tell me how expensive it is, only through the experience of working for it could I learn the value of such an expense.

My convictions about freedom and labor (being a consequence of my development alongside the greyhound industry) led me to study economics in college. I was drawn in by the allure of economic modelling, the pursuit of deriving rules for conduct from one's desires. Since working had taught me that money is only a numeraire for time spent laboring, I intuitively understood the relationships between real resources which the models stated in dollar terms. The farm also equipped me to better understand the surplus created by labor's cultivation of nature. With our rapidly changing technology, I'm grateful to the greyhound industry for connecting me with these timeless natural truths. It directed my life's goal to solving modern problems with careful thought, promoting and safeguarding the American Dream for generations to come.