

From the time I was little I can remember driving by the greyhound farm that was just down the road. I saw the dogs and the facility, but didn't understand the industry or the people behind it. Little did I know that years later, my family would come to understand and have a part in the industry through KB Farms and the Texas Greyhound Association.

My dad took a job with KB's Greyhound Farm for three years. During this time, he worked directly alongside Kenneth Biehle. One of his main roles was artificially breeding dogs for the farm and for other customers. This provided our family with jobs and a roof over our heads, but also friendships and can even go as far as saying a new family. My dad loved the job and the people he worked with but was offered a management position at a feed and landscaping company that ultimately he accepted for our family.

I myself worked at KB's Greyhound Farm during the summer of 2019 doing various jobs across the place including mowing and weed eating the practice race track, dogs pens, and kennels, as well as feeding and watering the greyhounds. The farm itself provided me with my first work experience, other than for my dad, where I really started to become an adult and realize what it means to have a job.

Working on the farm taught me how to be prompt as some mornings consisted of being there at 5am and some at 8am depending on the day and the things that needed to be completed. Also how to be observant to the things around you and making sure you do a thorough job. For example if a dog knocks their water over and no one pays attention to it, then that dog could go without water for a length of time and put itself in an unhealthy state, especially with the summer heat. Being unfamiliar with several aspects of the work I was doing, it was important for me to be willing to learn and take the advice I was given Instead of trying to figure it out on my own. It's a huge benefit to have someone with experience to learn from.

In addition to the work experience at KB's, my family came together and bred and raised two litters of puppies. The puppies were sold to other greyhound owners who raised them as racing dogs. All money profited was put into a college account for my sister and myself. The summer job and raising puppies taught me much about responsibility as you are caring for high dollar animals that's survival and health is dependent on you. Raising puppies and seeing them develop into racing dogs is a learning experience that few people get to experience.

The Greyhound industry as a whole has provided my family with jobs, life experiences, new family and friends, as well as an investment in our future. I realize the changes happening in this industry and I am thankful we had the opportunity to be a part of it while it was available.