



## *TEXAS GREYHOUND ASSOCIATION*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Million Dollar Pup**

This Saturday night, a young Texas greyhound starts a run for the history books. Derby Lane, the nation's oldest operating greyhound racetrack located in St. Petersburg, is hosting the inaugural Derby Million. The event has attracted 64 of the top greyhounds in the world, including Irish and Australian, to compete over the 550 yard course to claim the \$500,000 top prize. Bob's Skeet, a red brindle boy from Texas, aims to bring it home.

The first of 5 qualifying rounds begins Saturday night; semi-finals are February 25. The top 8 qualifiers will run for the Million on March 4.

Robert and Arlene Stokes, longtime Texas greyhound breeders, knew they had something special when Skeet made his racing debut at Gulf Greyhound Park in La Marque. No strangers to raising champion greyhounds, Skeet surpassed even their hopes. After a short impressive career at Gulf, the Stokes decided to enter the 27 month old pup in the Million.

"He was actually our second-stringer" said Arlene. But when their first choice sustained a slight injury, Skeet proved himself plenty capable by winning Gulf's Sheldon Levine Memorial in December. In his first official start after moving to Derby Lane in January, Skeet set a new track record of 29.84 seconds.

Tommy LaRosa, trainer and co-owner of Stokes/LaRosa kennel at Gulf says "Skeet is fast, young and physically sound. Not only that, he is very smart. He can set the pace, come from behind and run around, under and between if he needs to. He has all the attributes you want in a stakes quality greyhound. But racing luck certainly plays a part."

Keeping it all in the family, Skeet is handled at Derby Lane by Tommy's father, Tom LaRosa, whose racing kennel is based in Florida.

Showing depth and quality, three other Texas greyhounds are also competing: CTW Atom Smasher, owned by David and Janele Peck of Stephenville; Verde Mountain, owned by Bubba Kennel of San Antonio; and Gable Cuidedo, owned by Harlyn and Janna Goebel of Three Rivers.

*Representing the Greyhound Breeding and Racing Industry in Texas*

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