

# The NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners & Trainers' Association



ACN 000 043 756  
ABN 68 000 043 756

Registered Office:  
Suite 3, Level 2  
Wentworth Park Sporting Complex  
Wentworth Park Road,  
Glebe 2037

All Correspondence to:  
PO BOX 485  
Glebe 2037

Telephone: (02) 9649 7166  
Facsimile: (02) 9649 7440  
Email: [gbota@gbota.com.au](mailto:gbota@gbota.com.au)

Thursday, January 27, 2022

The Hon. Robert Borsak MLC  
Chair  
Select Committee on the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission

Via Email: [GWIC@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:GWIC@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Borsak,

## Question on Notice – Hearing December 6, 2021

Question on notice asked by the Select Committee:

*Given that at the moment GWIC has no oversight of dogs that are outside of the industry, would you support a legislative fix that would give GWIC oversight of greyhounds that have been moved to the Companion Animals register?*

GBOTA Response:

The Association is committed to the 'cradle to crutch' approach to tracking of our beloved racers, and in particular in ensuring that our greyhounds find good homes once they have retired from racing.

The Association is comfortable that the current GWIC regulatory framework afforded to retired racers rehomed by participants, and the legislative and enforcement framework protecting greyhounds rehomed outside of industry under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* ('POCTA Act') is sufficient at the current time.

Currently retired racers which are retained by industry participants stay on the GWIC register and are subject to the standards of care under the Greyhound Welfare Code of Practice and are regulated by GWIC. Retired racers which are rehomed to those outside of the industry are registered under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and are not subject to the Code of Practice, and GWIC has no authority to inspect or regulate them.

However, the Association believes that there is adequate regulatory oversight and protections afforded to those greyhounds who are rehomed outside of the industry under the *POCTA Act* and the associated enforcement agencies of RSPCA, Animal Welfare League and the NSW Police Force who have the powers to investigate animal welfare concerns and enforce the provisions of the *POCTA Act*. The Association understands GWIC has capacity to provide information and support to enforcement agencies if needed where an investigation or breach involves a retired racing greyhound.

In considering the idea of a legislative fix that would enable GWIC regulatory control of retired greyhounds rehomed to private citizens outside the industry, the Association would be concerned of the cost and resource impacts on the NSW Government and the industry.

Additionally, the Association would be concerned regarding the impacts on rehoming numbers should such a change occur, as many private citizens may be unwilling to adopt a retired racer with the knowledge, they would be subject to inspections and enhanced regulation that they would not have to endure should they adopt a different breed of dog.

It is really important for the sustainability of the greyhound racing industry that we maintain high rehoming rates and continue to improve our capacity for rehoming, while at the same time ensuring that our greyhounds have strong welfare and regulation.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Noyce  
**General Manager**  
**NSW GBOTA**