

## Questions On Notice

### 1. What has been the change in the number of meets since 1999?

Number of meetings – 1999/2000	
Metropolitan	104
TAB	530
Non-TAB	903
Total	1,537

Number of meetings – 2012/2013	
Metropolitan	105
TAB	764
Non-TAB	429
Total	1,298

### 2. Who chooses how many meets, where they are and what the prize money is?

The Board of Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW).

### 3. Is there a balance between having less races with higher prize money and more races to get more TAB revenue?

Yes.

#### Is there an economic assessment to get that balance?

Yes.

### 4. We understand that greyhounds registered under the Greyhound Racing Act (GRA) 2009 are exempted from the micro-chipping requirements of the Companion Animal Act (CAA) by clause 16 (g) of the Companion Animal Regulation.

#### a) Are all animals who are registered under the GRA micro-chipped?

All greyhounds whelped on or after 1 January 2011 are required to be micro-chipped, ear branded and their distinguishing features recorded. Breeding dogs are also required to be DNA identified.

#### b) Is this done at the same time they are registered?

Yes.

#### c) At what age does this occur?

Between 12-16 weeks. Greyhound pups are not permitted to be separated from the litter until this occurs.

**d) How is the requirement for registration, ear marking and micro-chipping policed?**

These requirements are set out in the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules. The power to make rules is set out in Part 3 Division 2 of the Greyhound Racing Act 2009. GRNSW refers the Committee to Section 4 of GRNSW's submission to the parliamentary inquiry for an overview of the industry's regulatory framework.

Under the rules, every service (or mating) is required to be notified within 14 days. A whelping notice also has to be lodged within 14 days of the whelping date highlighting the sire/dam and the number of pups in the litter. Once identified, greyhound pups are required to be vaccinated and the litter is registered. The identification is conducted by a GRNSW Integrity Officer at the property where the pups are located. This work is undertaken by eight Integrity Officers located across NSW.

**e) Is the register of registered greyhounds under the GRA accessible to other organisations? If so, which ones and does that include:**

- i. The Animal Welfare League NSW**
- ii. The RSPCA**
- iii. The NSW Police**
- iv. The NSW Department of Primary Industries**
- v. The NSW Department of Local Government**
- vi. Local governments?**

GRNSW confirms the identification of greyhounds as and when requested by relevant authorities, which in addition to the above, has included the Australian Taxation Office, Child Support Agency, Australian Securities and Investments Commission, NSW Crimes Commission and the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

When such requests are made, GRNSW also determines exactly who the owner of the greyhound is, and if applicable, the trainer who may be in custody of the greyhound.

GRNSW follows up on any request for identification in relation to breaches of the Greyhound Racing Rules.

**f) When an authorised officer under the CAA encounters a greyhound registered under the GRA but not under the CAA, how can that officer know if the animal is registered?**

They contact GRNSW, as is currently the case. GRNSW has established strong working relationships with the NSW Department of Local Government, councils and RSPCA NSW.

In 2010, GRNSW and RSPCA NSW entered into an operational Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which provides a foundation to improve the welfare of greyhounds throughout NSW. The key objectives of the MOU are to:

- Adopt a proactive approach to greyhound welfare in NSW;
- Develop the relationships and communications between the organisations;
- Ensure enforceable welfare policies are in place;

- Develop policy and education in the area of greyhound welfare;
- Encourage responsible breeding within the industry in order to reduce numbers of greyhounds unsuitable to race;
- Co-ordinate training and education between the staff of each organisation and any associated officials or other persons;
- Co-operate with intelligence on suspected breaches of greyhound welfare;
- Develop the Greyhound As Pets program and increase the number of greyhounds rehomed under this program;
- Pursue laws and projects which promote the welfare of greyhounds in the industry; and
- Ensure adherence to relevant legislation and privacy provisions.

The MOU also has a range of agreed principles that relate to the care, welfare and training methods of racing greyhounds as well as the regulation of race meetings that ensure the safety and well-being of greyhounds.

Under the responsibilities of the MOU, GRNSW and RSPCA NSW assist and accompany each other in connection with inspections or investigations of greyhound kennels, breeders and trainers, as well as any animal welfare issues relating to the greyhound racing industry.

#### **5. Are greyhound breeders regularly or randomly inspected by officers of GRNSW?**

Yes.

**If so:**

##### **a) Against which codes or other instruments are the breeders inspected?**

All greyhound breeders in NSW are required to comply with the NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats.

Breeders operating a business are also required to comply with council local environment plan requirements, which include inspections from council officers.

##### **b) How many breeders were inspected in 2012?**

1,180 inspections of greyhound litters were conducted.

##### **c) How many officers conducted these inspections?**

Eight, there were also external inspections as required with other agencies.

##### **d) Are the inspections random?**

There are two types of inspections carried out: random inspections and identification inspections.

**e) Do the breeders receive any advance warning of an inspection?**

Not for random inspections.

Breeders do receive advance warning for identification inspections because they need to be in attendance during the inspection.

**f) How many breeders are currently registered with GRNSW?**

Breeders are currently registered as owners. There are approximately 600 breeders active, with many breeding greyhounds infrequently. A breeder is currently any owner who breeds a litter.

**6. Are greyhound trainers regularly or randomly inspected by officers of GRNSW?**

Yes.

**If so:**

**a) Against which codes or other instruments are the trainers inspected?**

Trainers are inspected under the GRNSW Code of Practice for the Keeping of Greyhounds in Training. A detailed overview of the Code is provided in Section 11.6 of GRNSW's submission to the parliamentary inquiry.

Commercial operators are also required to comply with the Local Environment Plan invoked by local councils. This includes inspections. Commercial operators also have to comply with NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice No 5 - Dogs and Cats in Animal Boarding Establishments, but not enforceable under the Greyhound Racing Act.

During this period GRNSW received no notification of non compliance from external agencies.

**b) How many trainers were inspected in 2012?**

226.

**c) How many officers conducted these inspections?**

Eight.

**d) Are the inspections random?**

There are both random and scheduled inspections.

**e) Do the trainers receive any advance warning of an inspection?**

Trainers do not receive any advance warning for random inspections. Trainers do receive advance warning for scheduled inspections.

**f) How many trainers are currently registered with GRNSW?**

1,432 as of September 2013.

**7. Is the register of greyhound breeders available for use by other agencies? If so, which ones and do they include:**

- i. The Animal Welfare League NSW**
- ii. The RSPCA**
- iii. The NSW Police**
- iv. The NSW Department of Primary Industries**
- v. The NSW Department of Local Government**
- vi. Local governments?**

GRNSW confirms the identification of greyhound breeders as and when requested by relevant authorities, in accordance with federal privacy legislation.

**8. Is the register of greyhound trainers available for use by other agencies? If so, which ones and do they include:**

- i. The Animal Welfare League NSW**
- ii. The RSPCA**
- iii. The NSW Police**
- iv. The NSW Department of Primary Industries**
- v. The NSW Department of Local Government**
- vi. Local governments?**

GRNSW confirms the identification of greyhound trainers as and when requested by relevant authorities, in accordance with federal privacy legislation.

**9. Is there any independent oversight of the GRNSW Code of Practice for Keeping of Greyhounds in Training?**

GRNSW is the independent body charge with this responsibility. GRNSW regularly jointly inspects properties with the RSPCA as required.

**10. For each racetrack in NSW, does GRNSW specify the number of veterinarians required to be present during a race meet?**

Yes, a veterinarian registered by the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board is required to be present at all greyhound race meetings in NSW.

**If so,**

**a) please provide a list for those tracks where veterinarians are required and the number required**

<b>Track</b>	<b>Number required</b>
Armidale	1
Bathurst	1
Broken Hill	1
Bulli	1
Casino	1
Coonabarabran	1
Coonamble	1
Cowra	1
Dapto	1
Dubbo	1
Gosford	1
Goulburn	1
Grafton	1
Gunnedah	1
Kempsey	1
Lismore	1
Lithgow	1
Maitland	1
Moree	1
Mudgee	1
Muswellbrook	1
Nowra	1
Potts Park	1
Richmond	1
Tamworth	1
Taree	1
Temora	1
The Gardens	1
Tweed Heads	1
Wagga Wagga	1
Wauchope	1
Wentworth Park	1
Young	1

**b) Please describe the basis on which GRNSW feels that these numbers are adequate to the task.**

The national standard for all greyhound racing jurisdictions, as well as thoroughbred and harness jurisdictions, is for one veterinarian to be present at each race meeting. GRNSW's approach is consistent with all other racing jurisdictions in Australia.

**11. What is GRNSW's annual budget for race day vets? How many vet-days per year does this provide?**

GRNSW's annual wage budget for vets is \$589,650. This does not include a number of operating expenses in the TAB sector such as travel, accommodation and vet supplies which are paid for out of GRNSW's operating costs budget.

The annual wage budget alone allows for one vet to be present at all greyhound race meetings held in NSW for every day of the year.

**12. In 2012, or the latest available annual reporting period for which data is available, how many greyhounds in NSW were**

**a) Injured on racetracks**

In 2012/13, there were 1,580 or 2.3% of greyhound starters at TAB meetings injured. Of the 1,580 injuries, 91% were considered minor in nature, requiring a mandatory stand down period of less than 28 days.

**b) Euthanised as a result of injuries sustained on the racetrack**

In 2012/13, 82 or 0.21% of greyhound starters at TAB meetings were euthanised.

**c) Died on the racetrack**

No greyhounds died on the racetrack.

**13. In 2012, or the latest available annual reporting period for which data is available, and for each racetrack in NSW, how many greyhounds in NSW were**

This data is categorised into meeting category.

**a) Injured on racetracks**

The following figures are for 2012/13

Meeting Category	Starters	Minor Injuries	Major Injuries
Metropolitan	8,095	0.6%	0.3%
TAB	48,452	2%	0.2%
TAB C	19,712	2%	0.2%

**b) Euthanised as a result of injuries sustained on the racetrack**

<b>Meeting Category</b>	<b>Euthanised</b>
Metropolitan	0.1%
TAB	0.1%
TAB C	0.2%

**c) Died on the racetrack**

No greyhounds died on the racetrack.

**14. Victoria has implemented a responsible breeding program for racing greyhounds.**

**a) Does GRNSW recognise the need to reduce the number of puppies born who are subsequently euthanised because they are unsuitable for racing?**

Yes.

**b) What steps has GRNSW taken to reduce the number of puppies born who are subsequently euthanised because they are unsuitable for racing?**

GRNSW provides multiple entry levels of racing for greyhounds of all abilities from the age of 16 months, to country racing in the Non-TAB sector to Metropolitan racing in Sydney.

**c) Is GRNSW aware of the Victorian program? If so,**

No, GRNSW does not believe that GRV has a robust responsible breeding program in place. However, GRV currently has the following initiatives in place:

- Annual Breeders Efficiency Review;
- Monitoring of the breeding of new bitches; and
- Mandatory Breeder's Competency Requirement

**i. Does GRNSW consider it to be effective?**

See above.

**ii. Has consideration been given to implementing a similar program in NSW?**

GRNSW is currently exploring animal welfare issues in detail, including breeding, as part of the strategic planning process. This includes consultation with the industry's participants and stakeholder groups, as well as our interstate colleagues. This is appropriate because the greyhound racing industry is a national industry and, to be effective, a considered, national response is required.



**15. If additional funds were available what steps would GRNSW take to reduce the incidence of greyhounds being killed by owners, breeders or trainers rather than qualified professionals?**

This is a hypothetical question. GRNSW can only make policy and operational decisions within its current funding framework and limitations.

**a) If so, what action had GRNSW taken in respect of this situation?**

See above.

**16. Is GRNSW aware of the allegation that a veterinary practice in Casino has been so appalled by the number of animals killed by their owners that it is offering a "\$20 Thursday – Euthanize Your Greyhound Day" after greyhounds had been found shot by their owners or trainers, with their ears cut off to remove identification?**

GRNSW is not aware of this allegation. GRNSW requests that the person making this claim immediately provides the contact details of the veterinary practice involved and any other related evidence to GRNSW, so that authorities can fully investigate the matter.

**a) If so, what action had GRNSW taken in respect of this situation?**

See above.

**17. What steps has GRNSW taken to avoid dogs being killed by owners, breeders or trainers rather than qualified professionals?**

As outlined in GRNSW's submission to the parliamentary inquiry (Section 11.7), National Rule 106 requires registered persons who are responsible for a greyhound to notify GRNSW if there has been a change to a greyhound's status, i.e. if a greyhound has transferred ownership; been retired as a pet or a breeding greyhound; been transferred to an adoption program; exported; surrendered to another agency; or, been humanely euthanised by a veterinary surgeon or is deceased. This information must be lodged with GRNSW using the prescribed form that represents the greyhound's status. The rule states:

*R106 (3)*

*At any time after the registration of a litter, the last registered owner or person responsible for the greyhound at the relevant time, shall, within ten working days, notify the Controlling Body by lodging of the prescribed form, if that greyhound has transferred ownership, been retired as a pet or a breeding greyhound, been transferred to an adoption program, exported, surrendered to another agency, been humanely euthanised by a veterinary surgeon or deceased.*

In addition to the above notification requirements, R106 (4) sets out the following:

*R106 (4)*

*It shall be a requirement to include a veterinary certificate of euthanasia when lodging the appropriate form for any greyhound that has been euthanised by that veterinary surgeon.*

**a) Does GRNSW have any data or estimates on how widespread this practice is?**

No.

**18. There have been a number of accusations in submissions to the inquiry that live animals are used as bait for training greyhounds.**

**a) What steps has GRNSW taken to investigate these claims?**

GRNSW, with the full cooperation of RSPCA NSW, investigates all reports of the illegal use of animals for training purposes.

All matters concerning live baiting are dealt with under the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation.

**b) If so, what were the results of those investigations?**

GRNSW has charged two licensed persons since it assumed responsibility for all animal welfare matters within the NSW greyhound racing industry in July 2009. Both convictions were overturned on appeal.

Other investigations found that the allegations were not substantiated.

**19. Please describe the process for collecting and analysing drug testing samples from dogs at racetracks, including:**

GRNSW invites Members of the Select Committee to attend a metropolitan greyhound meeting, at their convenience, to see how the swabbing process works in practice, from start to finish.

In addition, please refer to GRNSW's submission to the parliamentary inquiry (Section 9) for an outline of swabbing procedures and guidelines.

**a) What is the minimum number of people present during the collection and what is their designation (vet, steward etc.) and who pays them?**

Two is the minimum number of people present at all times, including the swabbing official and the trainer of the greyhound being swabbed. Vets are paid by GRNSW and swabbing officials are paid by the club, which are in turn funded by GRNSW.

**b) Is the procedure videotaped and if so who audits the tapes?**

Yes, the parts of the process that occur within the kennel block are captured on Closed Circuit TV.

**c) What steps are taken to secure the integrity of the sample during handling, storage and transport to protect it from tampering?**

Swabbing is undertaken by GRNSW in accordance with the independent Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory's Guidelines for Sample Collection (Canine).

**d) How is the independence of the testing laboratory maintained?**

The Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory is independent of GRNSW and is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia. Further questions regarding the independence of the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory and its certification, should be directed to the National Association of Testing Authorities Australia.

**e) Are A and B samples taken, and if so, what steps are taken to protect the integrity of the B sample?**

Swabbing is undertaken by GRNSW in accordance with the independent Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory's Guidelines for Sample Collection (Canine).

**20. Allegations have been made that the validity of B sample testing for doping has been in some cases compromised by the laboratory being informed of the results of the A sample.**

**a) Is GRNSW aware of these allegations and have steps been taken to investigate them?**

These are not allegations. It is the standard procedure for all accredited racing laboratories which outsource confirmatory testing to a second laboratory across all three codes of racing in Australia.

**b) What steps have been taken to ensure that the laboratory testing the B sample is not aware of the results of the A sample results?**

The only reason a B sample is tested is if an A sample is found to be positive.

The fact that a B sample is sent to another laboratory for testing automatically implies the A sample was positive and needs to be tested for a prohibited substance.

Providing details on the prohibited substance to be tested for in the B sample simply improves the efficiency and speed at which the B sample is processed. Given that screening of samples is an objective scientific process with set thresholds for each different type of prohibited substance, GRNSW does not believe that a laboratory, having knowledge of the results of the A sample, would affect the process in any way.

**21. Please describe the role of the integrity auditor and in particular,**

**a) Does the auditor have the powers to initiate inquiries?**

**b) Does the auditor audit**

**i. all decisions and actions of the stewards and other GRNSW officials, or**

**ii. a random sample of these decisions and actions, or**

**iii. none of the above**

**c) If the auditor audits a random sample of the decisions and actions of the stewards and other GRNSW officials, please provide**

**i. The number of decisions audited**

**ii. The results of these audits**

**d) Please provide the total number of matters dealt with by the auditor and the results of each matter.**

As outlined in GRNSW's submission (Section 7.1) the role of the Integrity Auditor is defined by the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009*.

Under Part 3 Division 3 Section 26 of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2009*, the Integrity Auditor of GRNSW has the following functions:

- The primary oversight of those aspects of the functions of GRNSW that relate to stewards, drug testing and control and registration;
- Providing advice to GRNSW on the matters referred to in paragraph (a) of the Act;
- Receiving and investigating complaints against racing officials in respect of the exercise of functions relating to greyhound racing; and
- Such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Integrity Auditor by or under this or any other Act.

The functions of the Integrity Auditor are to be exercised independently of GRNSW.

Since June 2012, the Integrity Auditor has received four complaints. No complaint has demonstrated that a racing official had engaged in any corrupt, improper or unethical conduct.