

**Submission  
No 345**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Lesley Southwell

**Date received:** 5/11/2013

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RECEIVED

To: Legislative Council Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW

05 NOV 2013

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2013

SELECT COMMITTEE

Submission Heading - Viability of Greyhound racing in NSW and the associated affects on the welfare of racing greyhounds.

Relevant Terms of reference - (a) & (k)

My Submission/Comments:

I am a 20+ year participant in the Greyhound industry, mainly because my husband has been an active participant over this period. Originally, I would not have considered being involved in Greyhound racing except for my husband's interest. However, I now consider it a very worthwhile use of my limited leisure time.

The Greyhound is a beautiful dog with a gentle nature. They love to run but they also love to be petted, stroked and to relax. I have never been bitten or threatened by a greyhound unlike what has happened to me on several occasions from domestic dogs whilst out walking.

Additionally almost all the people I have met via the greyhound industry are honest decent people who love their dogs and really care for them.

It seems to me that the industry allows for these lovely animals to continue to be bred and to enjoy running. If the decline of funding, which is apparent to even the most casual observer, continues then the industry and therefore the greyhound will all but disappear.

I don't have a lot of the answers but the NSW State Government appears to take more from this industry than from most others for example it does not have a tax on Coles and Woolworths turnover but it does on bookmakers and the Tab who still have to pay income and other taxes to the federal government as well. I guess we could go back to full control and funding by the NSW Government and they can take the industry share of Tab distribution like they did before the tab was privatised.

In respect of animal welfare every single greyhound I have met (and that's a very large number) has been vaccinated, fed well (not on canned rubbish), regularly exercised and cared for. I know from the apartment block where I live that this is not the case with many family pets. It is just a pity that more people don't look after their pet dogs and cats by properly feeding them instead of relying on tins of processed mush.

As I type this I can think of more than two dozen people of my direct knowledge and acquaintance who have retired greyhounds in their care and those are not just the big winners. So assumptions about large numbers animals being put down because they no longer win, etc. are just not realistic in my opinion.

Yours Sincerely

Lesley K. Southwell