

Submission  
No 514

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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

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Partially Confidential

"All greyhounds in Australasia are protected and promoted by the adoption and development of sound animal welfare standards and practices".

- Greyhound Racing NSW, "Animal Welfare Policy", Nov. 2006,  
<<http://www.thedogs.com.au/Uploads/Userfiles/Animal%20Welfare%20Policy.pdf>>.

I would like to share my experience within the QLD animal welfare industry in regards to the treatment and wastage of greyhounds Australia wide. Many dogs that I have dealt with in QLD have NSW ear brands, or have come from NSW, and therefore I believe my information is pertinent to the inquiry into Greyhound Racing NSW.

I have worked for animal welfare groups such as the RSPCA, Animal Welfare League QLD, a specialist veterinary clinic, and a University Veterinary Clinic for over 10 years. During this time, my work has seen me in the front line of the raw end of the industry; dealing with trainers, owners and breeders of greyhounds and the public's perception of greyhound racing. I have also helped with volunteer group Friends of the Hound for at least 6 years, fostered many greyhounds in my home, performed behavioural evaluations for shelters and private groups, and helped rehome hundreds of dogs. I have participated in animal cruelty raids on greyhound properties, and developed working relationships with what could only be described as "greyhound hoarders" to try and facilitate the rehoming and rescue of their dogs. My experience is broad and varied with both the greater communities' expectations and the opinions and knowledge from greyhound trainers and breeders.

I have been privy to some very sensitive and shocking information, have experienced some horrific actions from both owners and veterinary practices, and have been continually frustrated with both Greyhounds Australasia and Racing QLD/GRNSW in their ineptitude and lack of willingness to make tangible changes to their industry, most importantly with recording and tracking of dogs, funding adoption programs sufficiently and following up cruelty complaints and breaches.

During these 10 years, I have had to call Racing QLD and NSW repeatedly to get dog information based on ear brands. Often the brands are unrecognisable, faded or incomplete. This simple fact leaves many dogs without traceability, and therefore the repeat offenders go "under the radar" and cannot be followed up by the authority for not reporting change of ownership/euthanasia etc. Tattooing dogs is a very outdated, and abhorrent practice: puppies from 12 weeks of age receive these tattoos in both ears, several letters and numbers long, with NO anaesthetic. The move to allow micro-chipping for racing greyhounds was a welcome step, but the management of this system is not without fault either, and I have personally had to intervene in a situation where a legally adopted greyhound's owner was called and harassed by the previous racing owner. However, the microchipping system is much more robust and accurate in general, and with only the discomfort similar to a vaccination. If this database was managed accurately and with timely owner transfers, branding would not be required at all. A scanner, pc tablet and online database with dogs' details would be extremely cost effective to implement if there was the argument about brands being necessary for quick dog identification trackside.

The amount of dogs that are not reported as deceased or retired means that any figures that actually are available are skewed. In my experience, GRNSW clearly does not uphold or follow their own Animal Welfare Policy regarding whole of life tracking – many hundreds, if not thousands of greyhounds are ending up in privately run rescue groups and pounds around Australia, if they are lucky.

In my work at veterinary clinics, I have seen many owners come in with greyhounds to be euthanized and "bled". Often owners would come in with an injured racing dog, and to help pay for it's treatment, the owner would bring in other dogs as blood donors. When I questioned this practice, I was told that it happened all the time and that they were usually "bled dry", meaning blood taken while under anaesthetic, then euthanized. I witnessed this numerous times. Other dogs were kept as in-house blood donors and donations taken as needed. These animals were cared for by staff as best they could, but it was far from a normal life with proper enrichment. When the dogs barked the owner of the practice would ask nurses to "ace the damn dogs" meaning to sedate them with acepromazine. I was often not able to rescue many as the previous owners would not give permission for them to be rehomed. The practice owner trained racing greyhounds as well so many deals were made "off the books" with other trainers for treatment etc. When I queried other staff about this, they said they did

not approve, but they did not want to lose their job. I resigned due to this unethical behaviour. Whilst these dogs were technically euthanized humanely, the way they were treated was in no way with any kind of compassion for a living thing. They were seen as "products" that were to be consumed, and had a use by date.

I have had owners who surrendered dogs to shelters, then lie blatantly when questioned, such as saying their house was broken in to and the dog stolen, or it went missing, all the while having signed surrender documentation. One repeat offender springs to mind and is now renown for just opening the gate, letting his dogs out to fend for themselves or be picked up by animal control officers, and proclaim ignorance if questioned on their practices. Whilst this might seem like one "bad apple", this scenario is repeated again and again throughout the seedy underbelly of the industry.

Regarding accurate figures, data I have been collecting for years has led me to collate that very few deaths are reported. Since 2011, over 95 greyhounds have died on QLD tracks. However these were only the ones euthanized at the track, or reported deceased for their next race report. This figure does not include the many hundreds of race scratchings, or failures to appear. Reading the stewards reports, dogs being reported as being ill with a "virus", "spider bite" "kennel stress" or just plain "injured" tells a more sinister story – dogs who never appear in a race again after these reports just mysteriously vanish. These reported 95 dogs have earned their collective owners and trainers over \$417k – with some individuals such as Swift Warrior earning \$32k – surely if not on a compassionate level but on a pragmatic one, these animals deserved adequate vet treatment and retirement, for injuries such as broken toes or hocks? Although these are QLD figures, NSW figures would be similar if not much more sobering, with non TAB tracks not having stewards reports readily accessible. With waiting lists almost constantly up to 50 dogs long, private rescue groups such as Friends of the Hound, Greyhound Rescue etc cannot keep cleaning up after the NSW racing industry. For hard working, educated and compassionate individuals to keep on being the saviour for many of the industries' discards, it beggars belief that such a huge money spinner cannot provide financial support for the very animals that are earning the revenue.

Unless there are some serious, meaningful and practical changes to the racing industry as a whole, the public will demand it be abolished. The change I have seen in public perception in the last 10 years has been absolutely phenomenal, and every person who meets or adopts a greyhounds then tells a hundred or so more people while out on walks, relatives, friends etc. This wave of awareness of the industry will be its downfall if it does not work to embrace a better way.

I personally cannot see any way, while money is involved, that greyhounds are getting a fair deal. Please take the time to consider these submissions, and make this inquiry about animal welfare after all. The tide is turning, and it is not in GRNSW's favour.

Sincerely,

TRACK	DATE	GREYHOUND	MONEY EARNT (approx)	OUTCOME	
Albion Park	21/09/11	Jay Houston	\$5,000	near foreleg injury - euthanised	
	16/09/11	Singing My Song		deceased at Casino	
	11/09/11	Dessa Command	\$2,228	fx stopper bone - euthanised	
	29/08/11	Bamidele	\$1,354	offside hock - euthanised	
	24/09/11	Belle Fleur	\$1,558	collapsed in catching pen - deceased	
	2/06/11	Claimant	\$18,000	deceased ??	
	18/05/11	Tah Bella		off foreleg - euthanised	
	6/05/11	Blondies Red	\$790	off foreleg - euthanised	
	7/04/11	Rose Jubilee	\$4,000	off hindleg - euthanised	
	18/12/11	Irinka Kylie	\$1,948	off foreleg - euthanised	
	15/12/11	Set For Fame	\$4,631	off foreleg - euthanised	
	24/11/11	Marshall Star	\$23,406	offside hock - euthanised	
	14/11/11	Classy Cardin	\$8,710	deceased	
	6/11/11	Angel Force	\$2,630	offside shoulder - euthanised	
	21/11/11	Pacific Jewel		near foreleg injury - euthanised	
	21/11/11	Sartorial Cloud	\$4,718	offside hock - euthanised	
	21/12/11	Ellery	\$11,341	near foreleg injury - euthanised	
	9/04/12	Champagne Citi	\$4,894	deceased ??	
	17/05/12	Swift Warrior	\$32,414	offside hock - euthanised	
	11/06/12	Son of Zorro	\$6,256	collided in catching pen - euthanised	
	23/12/12	Five Black Beans	\$6,622	deceased ??	
	8/04/13	Straight Jacket		deceased ??	
	23/06/13	Knee Knocka	\$35	deceased ??	
	12/08/13	Lend Us Five	\$1,185	cardiac arrest - deceased	
	16/03/11	Queen of Bond	\$430	off foreleg - euthanised	
	Ipswich	23/08/11	Deedee Olympus	\$3,000	offside hock - euthanised
		18/10/13	Magic Mates	\$1,890	deceased?
		24/01/12	Al Julhara	\$1,657	deceased?
		20/01/12	Deadly Ugly	\$6,346	off foreleg - euthanised
		13/01/12	Silver Schilling	\$2,247	offside hock - euthanised
		13/01/12	Ublique	\$3,674	offside hock - euthanised
		7/09/11	Moonlight State	\$3,000	offside hock - euthanised
		9/12/11	Where's Paddy	\$15,182	offside hock - euthanised
24/05/11		Poker Joker		deceased ??	
24/05/11		Slick Band	\$456	off foreleg - euthanised	
18/05/11		Cheryl Brooke	\$500	nearside hock - euthanised	
25/02/12		Buddy Unreal	\$500	deceased?	
23/03/12		Holmatro	\$824	offside hock - euthanised	
20/04/12		Gunny's Girl	\$791	off foreleg - euthanised	
4/05/12		Walloon Warrior	\$6,641	offside hock - euthanised	
25/05/12		Riana Sue	\$8,461	near hind leg - euthanised	
24/07/12		Only a Sparrow	\$3,218	off foreleg - euthanised	
30/11/12		Longtime Waiting	\$126	deceased?	
13/04/11		Punisher	\$11,000	nearside hock - euthanised	
19/03/11		Treblig Geordie	\$1,610	deceased ??	
Capalaba		18/12/10	Rarely Red		nearside wrist - euthanised
	26/04/11	Shez Torquing	\$2,000	offhind torn lacerated muscle - euth	
Townsville	20/12/11	Twelve Blue	\$2,474	fx offside hock - euthanised	
	26/10/13	Gumbys Shout	\$85	deceased?	
	10/09/13	Andy's Chaos	\$24,347	severe internal injuries - no races since	
	13/12/11	Maybe Mine	\$4,700	hock - euthanised	
	6/12/11	Troubadour	\$5,582	severe cramping - euthanised	
	25/10/11	Dengue Fury	\$11,865	dislocated nearside hip - euthanised	
	5/04/11	Huckleberry Finn	\$1,710	fx offside hock - euthanised	
	1/03/11	Saw	\$12,000	fx hock - euthanised	
	21/02/12	Is It True	\$10,350	deceased?	
	19/06/12	Charlie Booker	\$3,522	deceased?	
	17/07/12	Four Way Ibizan	\$5,170	off shoulder - euthanised	
	14/08/12	Jessie Jay	\$1,138	deceased ??	
	2/10/12	Hot Tamalie	\$2,178	deceased ??	
	2/04/13	Flash Ferguson	\$8,350	deceased ??	
	29/01/13	Knock Me Not	\$6,791	deceased ??	
	22/02/11	Stolen Daisy	\$2,000	deceased ??	
	28/06/11	Cyclonic Speed	\$266	fx off hind - euthanised	
	Rockhampton	23/11/11	Bit of Speed	\$2,661	deceased?
		11/01/12	Biddy Boo	\$5,246	fx hock - euthanised
		24/07/13	Kay Cee Flyer	\$3,952	deceased ??
		16/10/13	Miss Cami Lee	\$2,610	deceased ??
12/06/13		Tardis	\$22,618	deceased ??	
12/06/13		Headache	\$520	deceased ??	
4/05/11		Big Hua	\$906	fx leg - euthanised	
28/05/11		Money Man Floyd	\$43	deceased ??	
2/05/12		Fantasy Flight	\$4,546	fx hock - euthanised	
30/05/12		Beautiful World	\$531	deceased ??	
13/06/12		Waverly Creek	\$5,092	fx hock - euthanised	
19/12/12		Cook County Kid	\$1,438	deceased ??	
26/12/12		Jayman	\$4,946	fx offside hock - euthanised	
21/11/12		Farmor Vino	\$4,791	deceased ??	
14/11/12		Duty Calls	\$35	deceased ??	
24/10/12		Mulu	\$675	deceased ??	
12/03/11		Lindee	\$560	deceased ??	
2/07/11		Big Burnout	\$0	deceased ??	
Bundaberg		27/10/12	Black Pudding	\$2,821	deceased ??
		5/01/13	Madd Princess	\$95	deceased ??
		25/08/12	Oriental Lakoda	\$2,342	deceased ??
	25/02/12	Shandy Rocket	\$1,322	deceased ??	
	16/07/11	Brim Bell	\$3,000	fx off hind hock - euthanised	
Cairns	21/01/12	Jeremiah Joseph	\$691	deceased?	
	14/01/12	Blue Foley	\$2,799	deceased?	
	19/11/11	Lucky Five	\$5,909	offside hock - euthanised	
	14/10/11	New Shiraz	\$2,874	fx offside hock - euthanised	
	8/07/12	Kings Reign	\$4,661	deceased ??	
	8/12/12	Who Do Assassin	\$10,093	deceased ??	
	15/12/12	Advance Fire	\$620	deceased ??	
	8/07/12	Black Sequel	\$1,504	deceased ??	
			\$417,702		