

**Submission
No 23**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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Jeff Collerson

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I retired in October as greyhound editor, restaurant reviewer and wine critic for the Daily Telegraph and Daily Mirror after 44 years at News Limited. Before that, from 1962 to 1968, I was greyhound editor of the then Sir Frank Packer-owned Daily Telegraph, where I also covered horse racing, boxing and rugby league.

I notice in the terms of reference for the greyhound racing inquiry that animal welfare is to come under scrutiny. I would like to point out that greyhounds enjoy a fantastic lifestyle and have a far better chance of living out their post racing day lives than thoroughbreds, harness horses or even show dogs.

Greyhound racing is the only racing code which spends considerable amounts of money to find homes for retired dogs under their "greyhounds as pets" programme. The other codes ignore the fate of their "retirees."

Does anyone seriously believe racehorses or harness horses wind up in a lush paddock somewhere? No. They usually finish their days at the knackery.

Show dogs are usually confined to small pens or cages to ensure they don't get dirty or hurt themselves while enjoying a romp. Greyhounds though dine on steak and get to gallop every day, just as nature intended.

Hundreds of trainers keep their retired dogs as pets. I once wrote a back page story for the Daily Telegraph about [redacted] who owned a successful women's hairdressing business at Double Bay while training a team of his beloved greyhounds. Only trouble was [redacted] could not bear to part with any of them so sold the lucrative hairdressing business and bought a farm at Wingello, in the southern highlands, where he not only trains his racers but keep the old ones as pets.

I sincerely hope that these facts are taken into consideration when the animal welfare issue is raised.

Yours sincerely, Jeff Collerson