

**Submission
No 326**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Gayle Masterson

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Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW

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31 OCT 2013

Please find attached my submission to the inquiry.

Regards

Gayle Masterson

Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW

- (a) The economic viability of greyhound racing is strained as we do not get a fair share of the revenue we generate and the costs to the participants is always increasing.
 - ie: food, suppliments, accessories, fuel, trialling entry into tracks, licence fees and registration fees
- (b) I feel that the Administration is top heavy in the Authority
- (c) I feel that successive Governments in this state have used the greyhound industry as a political football and after the elections they just drop it.
- (d) In my opinion there are too many outside influences on the current industry and they all have their own agenda. None in my opinion looking after the grass roots Owners and Trainers.
- (e) I think that the participants of greyhound racing should have a voice on who is selected for the board as well as have a representative on the board selected by the participants not by one of the Associations who are looking out for themselves.
- (f) The board should be made more accountable for their decisions. At the moment they make decisions and we just have to put up with them because you can't contact anyone to query them.
- (g)
- (h) If there were more communication with the participants before drastic changes were made would make things go smoother. The way it is now they make the changes and when we query them we are told to virtually just grin and bear it. Not Good enough.
- (i) The Authority does numerous swabs on dogs, the figure quoted for last year was 5500 and only 70 came back positive and most of these were bitches who had a slightly elevated hormone level. The Authority should seriously look at the level and raise it as the amount it is now is so low a bitch would naturally make this hormone level raise herself while racing.
- (j) I have not seen any loopholes in the regulation of Breeding, Sale or welfare of greyhounds. I have been in the industry for over 30 years
- (k)
- (l) If there was a proper survey done on retired greyhounds you would find that a large number of Owners and trainers have retired greyhounds in their kennels if not living in their homes.
- (m) The number of pups born has t be recorded on the welping sheet as well as how many still born pups. When dogs have to euthanased at a track because they are injured there is a report put in. I think that the only area that could be improved is when dogs get injured at trials and have to euthanased this should also go into a report so that if there is a high number occurring at a track this can be investigated and hopefully if ther is a problem at the track it can be rectified.

(n)Any other related matters

The grading system has been changed with no input from the participants and when we query the new system we get told this is it and that is all there is to it.

Closing time for nominations fo Non TAB tracks used to be at the one time, now they have split them but it doesn't make any difference as the draw for the earlier closing nominations isn't done until after the closing of the later one. Where we could ring and find out if we got a run at the first track we nominated for and if we missed out we had time to nominate at one of the others. I know there is a roll over feature on Oz Chase but if you are nominating more than one dog it is possible that they could be drawn at different tracks 100's of kilometres apart. Impractical.to say the least. When I mentioned this to one of the graders he just said that was my problem. Really!

That is why some tracks are down on nominations, and a lot of dogs are now sitting in kennels not getting a run. We have to still pay for their food.

I also nominated a dog at Muswellbrook for the 560 metres. There was a race put on but only 6 starters, it was a 4/5th grade. When i queried this they said the rules are that they have to have 2 wins to go into a 4/5 grade race and he only had one. Mind you he had 9 second places and he isn't a young dog just starting. But hen the following weekend at Wentworth Park there were two reserves drawn in a 4/5th grade race and they had only jst won their maiden. They got a start in the race. Where is the logic and consistency?

The graders make mistakes in drawing the fields and then wait till the morning of the race to notify the trainer the dog has been scratched from the race as it didn't qualify for that race, why was it drawn and why did it take so long to notify the trainer?

A trainer recently nominated a dog for heats to Wentworth Park, there were 2 heats and her dog ran 6th. It did not qualify for the final so she took the dog to Wentworth Park on the Tuesday and trialled, nominated for Wentworth Park for the Monday and got a run. Friday morning of the final she got a call from the authority notifying her she got a run in the final. Querying this she was told that 2 dogs had been given 10 days certificates for injury at the track and that the 2 dogs that had come 6th were made the reserves and then both got a run. I feel they should have been notified as soon as the authority knew they were included in the draw for the final as how were they to know that the dogs had been injured. If the trainer had been advised she would not have nominated for the Monday night.

It is very difficult to get through to any one at GRNSW to query them you mainly get the terrible recorded message. There should be someone available to handle the queries.

Stewards

In the past the Stewards were polite and acknowledged you but did not fraternise with the participants and in the general that is how they are today except a minority. There are stewards that spend a lot of his time in the race day office not theirs. Some also socialise with owners and trainers from the area and this does not look good to outsiders. Isn't there any checks done on them?