

Submission
No 598

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I am strongly opposed to the continuation of greyhound racing in NSW. I am deeply concerned on the numbers of greyhounds killed every year for not being fast enough. It seems the racing people are more concerned about the prize money.

I am a volunteer / foster carer for Friends of the Hound, a greyhound rescue group. I cannot believe the amount of greyhounds that need rescuing on a daily basis. The greyhound trainers will not wait long for you to take their dogs because they have to fill the kennel with the next hopeful greyhound and then its just a never ending story.

I have witnessed first hand for the past 10 years how a hobby trainer operates and keeps his dogs. He lives in a suburban block with 5 kennels in his back yard. These dogs are in there for 23-24 hours a day, coming out to toilet and whatever little exercise he gives them. This is not how any dog should live their short life, in a concrete cell with a hard bed. I've questioned him on why haven't they got something comfortable to sleep on and his reply "they rip everything up."

The racing industry is a self-regulated industry. No steward has ever been to his property to check how the greyhounds are cared for. They'd probably say it was ok because they have shelter and bedding... But this is not good enough, it's disgusting.

There is no one who looks after the greyhounds or looks out for their welfare.

I have also met a dog he had there that was going to Macau. There are no animal welfare laws in China, so another death sentence for these poor dogs. I was told the dog was sold for \$400. The dog never made it there, weeks later in training the dog broke its leg, actually snapped through the skin, and was put to sleep.

This hobby trainer would never wait too long for a rescue group to take his dogs because he had to get the next one in and didn't want to feed the one not making him any money. He would take the dog to the pound or RSPCA, they would ask if the dog were small dog friendly, he would say "probably not" and the dog was euthanized. Their behavioral testing is too high for the greyhound to pass when they come straight off the track. There is no one looking out for the welfare of these dogs. I find that once they have been in a home environment for a while they come down and make perfect pets that can get along with small dogs and some can live happily with cats and chickens.

GAP, the greyhound rescue group, paid by the industry are just a cover up to make them look like they are re-homing all the greyhounds. Unfortunately they rehome less greyhounds than a small not for profit rescue group. Again they are not giving the greyhounds time to come down from racing. They are given temperament tests that they will never pass. GAP also have a long waiting list, trainers and owners won't wait, so take them to vets and universities to be euthanized. These poor dogs cannot win.

I have been told by this hobby trainer that his mate kills all his dogs because he doesn't want them to find homes just incase they aren't looked after well. This is the mentality of these people.

This is all caused because of the over-breeding and mass wastage.

Their needs to be regulations put in place to the amount of litters one dog can have in her life time. And there isn't.

I know a garbage truck driver whose permanent job was to go out each day, 6 days a week, to the two universities in Brisbane and Gatton to pick up dead animals. When he looked in the bin he said all he saw were greyhounds.

Greyhounds are taken to the universities for free euthanasia. There they are blooded, dissected and used in veterinary science because they are classed as wastage and there are so many of them. This is because of the over-breeding of these poor dogs.

I know of a doctor who is a cardiologist, in his training, in a hospital, there were greyhounds used to teach the doctors how to insert tubes into the heart. He was astounded that a beautiful breed of dog was used like this. Man's best friend. He now has adopted a greyhound.

I know a vet nurse in an emergency veterinary surgery whose owner, bleeds the greyhounds and euthanizes them. They euthanize 3-8 greyhounds everyday. The vet nurses have tried to get the owner of the practice to rehome them, but he doesn't want to try and find them homes. Free blood donors for that clinic. Why?

This is because of the over breeding of these dogs.

This self-regulated industry needs someone to look out for the greyhounds' welfare. This cruel industry needs a shake up; greyhounds need someone on their side.

In the instance greyhound racing is not banned, I recommend the following to help improve the welfare of greyhounds in NSW:

- We need an independent government body to oversee welfare of racing greyhounds.
- Ban the killing of healthy greyhounds.
- Ban export of greyhounds to Macau.
- Ban the use of greyhounds being used in vet schools and hospitals.
- Heavy penalties for those who fail to abide by GRNSW'S code of practice.
- Close regulation of GRNSW'S code.

- There needs to be a limit on the amount of litters one dog can have

The public is mortified when they find out the amount of greyhounds disposed of daily for not being fast enough. Something has to be done.