

Submission  
No 354

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date received:** 6/11/2013

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Partially Confidential

## Submission – Greyhound Racing Enquiry

To the committee

I am making a submission into the inquiry based on my animal welfare concerns for greyhounds, I am not submitting this on behalf of an organisation or group.

The terms of reference of the inquiry 1(i) – (m) all focus on animal welfare matters. I believe animal welfare should be of the most importance in this industry, not the economic viability or financial performance, both of which are on the downturn due to the dying industry of greyhound racing.

Profits should not be made from the exploitation of an innocent creature – that is first and foremost. My recommendations to the racing industry.

I recommend you move to digital greyhound racing. This is an age of technology. You can create a cheap, instantiations product that does not require the money required to maintain racetracks, boards, staff, vets, data integrity, etc and ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS (which doesn't seem to be on the greyhound racing industries radar anyway). Digital gambling requires less annual expenditure and generates more profit - just look at poker machines. Greyhound racing is a blue collar, working class attraction just like the poker machines. Cheaper bets, more races, 24/7 availability, greater accessibility and more profits. Zero animal cruelty!

Of course, you would have to completely ban, or radically reduce the breeding of greyhounds now to ensure animals will have a life after racing and that animals are not continually bred for a dying industry. Nor put down or export overseas. You should employ expert knowledge from animal welfare agencies to discuss a phase out breeding program and/or retirement or rehoming plans for greyhounds.

In regards to your terms of reference, if you decide not to move to digital gambling.

1(i) – Obviously no animal should be drugged - EVER!!! This is disgusting and clearly shows that the industry is cruel, corrupt and not governed or regulated. There is no regard for the 'product' in this industry, which is disturbing to say the least considering this is what your foul industry makes money from, innocent animals.

1(j) - All breeders must be registered and registration must be renewed annually for any dog to race. The renewal of registration is dependent upon meeting strict animal welfare and breeding guidelines. There is absolutely no requirement for a person to breed greyhounds excessively. There should also be strict rules about how many dogs a person (or breeder) can own and race at the one time i.e two to three dogs. All breeders must have retirement plans for their animals or some links to animal welfare/rehoming agencies.

Additionally, and I cannot stress this enough - **No Australian breeder should export greyhounds to overseas markets!** Exporting live animals should be banned! This is truly abhorrent and vile that members of the greyhound industry allow live animals into a **cruel overseas market.**

Greyhounds are not a manufactured commodity – they are living, breathing and innocent creatures. For a human to make a profit from an animal is truly despicable. According to the **Macau Daily Times**, dogs race four times a week. If they finish outside the top three in five sequential races, they are **destroyed**. The head of Macau's animal control department has stated that every greyhound arriving at the track is dead within three years. **An average of thirty new dogs arrives each month from Australia.** (Taken from Grey2K USA Worldwide website).

Again, the fact that greyhounds are exported to an overseas market (where conditions are far worse than here) shows that the Australian Greyhound racing Industry is a cruel, unethical, money making machine and needs an entire overhaul of staff and/or committee members and a change in attitude towards the 'product' that keeps the machine running – the animal, the beautiful innocent animal – the greyhound.

1(k) – Clearly Greyhound Racing NSW has had no involvement in establishing or enforcing standards of the treatment of animals otherwise this inquiry would not be happening. So, this is definitely a term of reference that will need close examination and urgency applied to it.

1(l) – Any person, breeder or otherwise that harms, mistreats or is cruel to an animal should face *huge* penalties and prosecution by Greyhound Racing NSW and the police. If possible euthanasia of an animal is required, the animal should be examined by an independent veterinarian who will make the determination for euthanasia. Any person or breeder euthanizing their animals (other than by a registered vet and by injection) should be prosecuted and penalised. There have been numerous reports about people killing their greyhounds callously (and crudely i.e. shotgun, beating, electrocution) and this is common folklore among non-racing people that breeders will kill and dump their greyhounds rather than euthanize humanely and by a vet.

1(m) – With any industry, data integrity, accountability, transparency, quality facts and figures, should be part of everyday business. Employ such standards and best practice, make it of utmost importance.

I have been very harsh and critical of your industry, and will always be unfortunately, as I consider animals to be innocent creatures and should never be used as a money making commodity. I value all life, particularly innocent animals, and would never support a person or industry that does not also value the lives of animals. I hope Greyhound Racing NSW (and nationally) phase out racing and move to digital, or at the very least completely overhaul the industry and focus on better animal welfare standards and outcomes for the innocent greyhounds.

I look forward to the results of your inquiry.