

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Miss Sophie Moles

Date received: 16/10/2013

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in the hopes that the conditions for greyhounds, forced into a life of racing are improved. I am referring to the lives of these animals as needing to be the most integral part of the enquiry made into the greyhound racing industry. Not listed as item (k) in the matters to be investigated.

The allegations and horrible realities facing these dogs is no way for a dog to live, and in all cases be forced to live and die by. The fact that those who run, partake and have any stake in this industry are not fully made accountable for their actions and that those actions are not managed is beyond me. Therefore I urge that there be harsher and stricter regulations brought upon this industry, in particular to the export, doping and euthanizing of these animals. For I believe it vital that someone is looking out for the welfare of these animals, not as property or in terms of racing standards, but as living, breathing animals that require the same respect and care that all animals deserve.

These animals breeding, living and death must be better managed in order to improve the treatment of these animals and in order to improve the outcome for them after their life as racing dogs have ceased. For there is a future for these dogs beyond racing, in fact there should really be no life for them in racing as using an animal for sport is a hideous recreation. But it should be made illegal for these dogs to be trained in a way that they are unable to be re-homed after their racing career is over or if they are unsuitable for a racing career, no dog should be forced to be put down because of the way they were treated by their owners, the people who are by law meant to look out for their animals and the welfare of that animal in all aspects of its life. I understand that for some seeing their animals go off to live fulfilling and loving lives is not incentive enough to prevent them from killing them whether it be inhumanely or humanely. Therefore a proposal for some sort of incentive scheme, if this industry is to be maintained, which it shouldn't, but if it is, to be enforced so that these animals, these beautiful animals have an increased likelihood of living a life free of this awful sport.

Further on this point the inhumane and premature killing, breeding, doping and exporting of these animals, with owners knowing full well their fate in countries without animal welfare laws, should be punished. Not only should the punishment fit the crime, and these are criminal acts, but they should be severe and take place swiftly. The enforcement of animal welfare laws in Australia is lax, but in an industry where the sole focus is on the animal, should not their well-being and care be of the absolute importance and first priority. Therefore those found guilty of animal cruelty against these animals should be forced to not only quit the industry immediately but proper legal charges should be drawn up against them. Thus the current conflict of interest of Greyhound Racing NSW's role in establishing and acting upon these animal welfare laws and regulations must be researched and if necessary, and I do think it is, this industry should be consistently vetted by an independent branch or body whose sole purpose is to look out for the animals in a sport where it seems no one else is.

Finally, I believe that whilst this enquiry is long overdue it is important it is carried out now with my previous point in mind, that the animal should come first and thus be item (a) on your list of matters. Further, if this industry is opposed and does not fulfil

the changes outlined after making this enquiry I propose that it be shut down. In today's society it baffles me that we are still treating animals with such disrespect and forcing them to entertain us at a significant, and in a disastrous amount of cases, deathly cost to their health and emotional well-being. It should not be the skin off their backs that supplies all the wealth and jobs provided to and by this industry but the skin off the industries back providing in for those animals.

Sincerely,

Sophie Moles