

**Submission  
No 860**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Kayla Melbourne

**Date received:** 5/11/2013

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern for the welfare of racing greyhounds in New South Wales. I ask you to strive for tighter regulation of this industry regarding the welfare of dogs at breeding farms, the output of breeding farms and the treatment of dogs by trainers/owners during and after their racing careers.

I grew up as the daughter of a greyhound trainer and have seen the ugly side of this industry first hand. My father was a kind and compassionate trainer, often keeping on greyhounds at our home long after the owners had ordered their termination, until they could be adopted out as pets.

Unfortunately in my local greyhound racing community, my father was the exception rather than the rule and the same pattern is repeated in greyhound racing communities across both our state and country.

In this industry, these friendly and loving dogs are considered to be literally disposable. Less than 30% of the pups produced by breeders actually make it to the track (those that don't are killed by either breeders or trainer/owners), and of those that do, a much smaller proportion actually live long enough to see out their racing careers (a few years at most) and if they aren't terminated at this point, have a chance to experience regular 'dog life'.

During their racing careers, these domesticated animals are often isolated and treated coldly, to prevent them from becoming too friendly with humans and so losing their "instinct" for blood and chasing which is ingrained into their behaviour at an early age by initiation training known as "blooding". When the dogs aren't being trained, they are often kept confined in small kennels for long periods of time to force rest and to help prevent any injuries occurring by these naturally energetic and excitable dogs being free to run/move around.

The facts are; there are too many greyhounds being bred, too many dogs being killed before and after making it to the track and too many dogs being treated poorly during their careers by being kept in confinement, intimidated and even drugged by their owners/ trainers all in the name of winning a race or two. This needs to be stopped!

Please help in the development of tighter regulations in all aspects of this industry.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Kayla Melbourne