

**Submission
No 399**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Dr Bianca Carroll

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To The Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in New South Wales,

I have recently adopted two greyhounds. They were surrendered to rescue organisations because they were not fast enough to race. The 7.30 Report on 15th October 2013 therefore piqued my interest. I was shocked and disappointed after watching it and decided to do some research of my own. To put it mildly, I think the number of greyhounds bred and discarded is absolutely abhorrent. To make matters worse is the huge discrepancy in the figures being reported. The enquiry by the Greens in 2012 revealed that in the period between 2003 and 2011 80,133 greyhounds were born in NSW. 2,552 were registered as pets and 6,150 were registered as racing [1]. The CEO of Greyhound Racing NSW Mr Brent Hogan reports that 3000 are euthanized each year [2]. If this figure is averaged over the same time period, it makes for 24,000 greyhounds being euthanized. What happened to the remaining 47,431 greyhounds? To make matters worse this is only one state.

RSPCA and PETA have run campaigns and public education programs regarding the dangers of leaving your dog in a car on a hot day. A dog can die in as little as 6 minutes in the summer in a car if the temperature is more than 30 degrees [3]. A greyhound race will only be called off according to the "GRNSW Policy on Hot Weather" if the temperature is over 40 degrees [4]. I am concerned about the risks faced by these dogs of heatstroke, hypoxia, seizures and acidosis. Added to this, are the serious allegations of doping with cocaine, amphetamines, caffeine, EPO and even Viagra. The administration of a drug like cocaine that raises their core temperature even higher puts them at further risk. In the "Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986" it defines a person as committing an act of cruelty if they administer "a poison or any other substance which, when administered to that type of animal, has a harmful effect on the animal" [5]. The greyhound racing association asserts that they have an active anti-doping policy with regular and random urine screening. Due to the short half life of EPO it is very difficult to detect in urine if ceased 32 to 49 hours prior to screening [6]. The performance enhancing effects of EPO can persist beyond this time frame.

The Australian Medical Association has released some statistics on problem gambling in Australia. "An estimated 2.5 per cent of Australians experience moderate to severe problems caused by gambling. For every person with a gambling problem, it is estimated that an additional 5 to 10 people are adversely affected by their gambling. This means that up to 5 million Australians feel the health, social and financial impacts of problem gambling, including friends, families and employers of people with a gambling problem".[7]

As humans we have achieved a level of wealth and power that has been unparalleled throughout history. I think it is our duty to protect the vulnerable and not be exploitative for the sake of entertainment. The greyhound racing industry seems to be an example of consumerism at its very worst. In this respect, I sincerely ask you to consider abolishing greyhound racing as I believe it is bad for people and very bad for greyhounds.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Bianca Carroll

References

- [1] <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/la/qala.nsf/18101dc36b638302ca257146007ee41a/73129441ba2b6f30ca257b750000790d?OpenDocument>
- [1] <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Council%20Reports%20of%20Dog%20Attacks%20in%20NSW%202010-11.pdf>
- [2] <http://theconversation.com/the-unbearable-lightness-of-being-a-greyhound-10800>
- [2] <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-09/greyhound-racing-euthanasia-rates-slammed/4362442>
- [3] <http://www.rspcansw.org.au/learn/pet-hazards/heat-stress-in-animals>
- [3] www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+1677&aid=2240
- [4] <http://www.thedogs.com.au/DPage.aspx?spid=116&id=6>
- [5] http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/poctaa1986360/
- [6] <http://jat.oxfordjournals.org/content/30/9/663.full.pdf> Detection of the Administration of Human Erythropoietin (HuEPO) to Canines
- [7] <https://ama.com.au/position-statement/health-effects-problem-gambling>