

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

## **Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into greyhound racing**

I write to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Greyhound Racing.

I am appalled by the number of Greyhounds killed and maimed in the Greyhound Racing Industry of NSW and wish to Parliamentary Inquiry to investigate this issue with regard to Animal Welfare.

The number of registered Greyhounds born each year is frightening. The number of Greyhounds bred and unaccounted for is unacceptable. The black hole into which Greyhounds unwanted, or from accidental matings can fall allows vast ranges of unsupervised cruelty. Hey – registered Greyhounds disappear all the time! Please institute a method of tracking all Greyhounds whelped.

The significance of genetics in the breeding of Greyhounds must be made clear to Greyhound breeders. Australia's best woman basketballer Lauren Jackson is the product of two excellent basketballers. The ignorant attitude of mating two slow or unraced Greyhounds in the hope of producing a champion must be stopped. I suggest that, like Victoria, we require a \$1,000 registration fee for making a Greyhound male available to stud. I further suggest that new entrants to the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW be required to attend and pass a course based on welfare and genetics. Litters of Greyhound should cost more to register than they presently do. A Continuing Education program should be introduced for existing owners and trainers, with a requirement to amass a certain number of continuing education points per year to maintain registration. This would require the Australian Veterinary Association and Greyhound Racing NSW to run regular courses. This approach is used by a number of professional associations, including the Pharmacy Guild, the Australian Veterinary Association and the Australian Computer Society. Make Greyhound racing professional!

Greyhound tracks not serviced by the TAB need to be closed down. There is insufficient care and management done at these tracks.

All tracks need to have one or more Veterinarians in attendance during race meetings. These veterinarians must provide reports as to the number of dogs injured at the track at each race, and the care provided, and the eventual destination of injured Greyhounds. These reports must be provided by the track to Greyhound Racing NSW and the RSPCA.

Tracks should be changed to straight tracks rather than ovals. Linda Beer, a veterinary behaviourist employed by Greyhound Racing Victoria, has done research on injuries to racing Greyhounds, and has statistics of the number of Greyhounds injured on oval tracks compare to straight tracks.

An existing body must be given responsibility for the welfare of racing Greyhounds. Whether this is the RSPCA or a similar body is immaterial, as long as it is NOT Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW), who have shown a tolerance for cruelty in their current existence. These responsibilities must include the inspection of kennels and the supervision of training. Having a separate body to GRNSW will not only provide more independent oversight, but be seen to provide this.

The racing Act of 2009 must be amended to include the welfare of Greyhounds. Unless their welfare is enshrined in law and its flouting liable to penalties and prosecution, these animals will continue to be abused.

## **Submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into greyhound racing**

GRNSW must be required to report quarterly on welfare and cruelty issues, injury and breeding figures, either to the NSW Parliament or to the independent body overseeing Greyhound welfare. These reports should be publicly available.

All Greyhound stud fees, whelping fees, registration fees and entry fees should carry a levy to support Greyhound rehoming. These levies should not be directed only to the industry sponsored Greyhound rehoming groups, but to all Greyhound rehoming groups. Marketing and publicity should be undertaken to raise the profile of Greyhounds as companion dogs.