

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Maralyn McDowell

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There are so many things wrong with the industry it is difficult to know where to start and when to stop. Something must be done about the overbreeding and consequent 'wastage' of healthy animals who just aren't wanted anymore because they can't race or can't win money. Regulation would be something, but has to be enforced and people find ways round it - so maybe some kind of incentive - to stop overbreeding and to stop killing dogs. The industry could subsidise places that find homes for the animals and reward owners who do the right thing by the animals (while fining or banning owners who can't account for how their dogs ended up.)

Something should be done about the cruelty to the dogs and in some of the training methods, eg live bait. Perhaps more testing would stop the use of drugs on the animals. If the racing continues dogs are going to be injured so that's bad enough, steps need to be taken to not let other things happen to them.

And generally it's time to remember they are not products, units, whatever. They are living, feeling sentient beings. How people treat animals says a lot about the kind of people they are - and more and more of us are concerned about animal welfare. So please don't make this a non-issue in the enquiry.