

**Submission
No 886**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Sophie Beard

Date received: 5/11/2013

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important inquiry into greyhound racing.

I have been reading about the issues surrounding greyhound racing for the past year. I have been reading websites, following various greyhound rescue and adoption groups on facebook and twitter, talking to vets and other greyhound adopters and watching interesting and informative programs about the racing industry on the television.

About a month ago I adopted a 5 year old black female greyhound. She was bred for racing and was born in 2008 in a litter of 10 puppies. Only 5 of those puppies went on to do any racing, and looking at the statistics, none of them were terribly successful. They did not race for long. My girl did one trial race at the age of 2, came fourth and so was deemed not fast enough and was put up for adoption. She was with her first family for a couple of years, earned her Greenhound collar and was then put up for adoption again due to a marriage breakup. She will hopefully be with us for the rest of her life. She is the most elegant, graceful, gentle dog who loves food, walks and a comfy bed. I cannot imagine her being kept in a cage.

I am amazed at the number of organisations in NSW and around Australia, dedicated to finding homes for these beautiful dogs. If overbreeding is not occurring and people involved in the greyhound racing industry are being responsible for their dogs for the entire life of their dogs, why would all these rescue and adoption organisations be necessary? I believe they exist (and are usually full to capacity) because too many greyhounds are being discarded. Some owners/trainers deliver their unwanted dogs to adoption groups, others dogs are dumped at pounds, often in appalling condition and in need of urgent vet care, to be saved by rescue groups. We, the adopters of greyhounds, are cleaning up the mess and bearing the costs associated with taking care of the 'wastage' of the greyhound racing industry. I love my dog and will do anything for her to give her a good quality of life, but my one rescue/adoption is a tiny drop in the ocean of greyhounds needing care in NSW and around Australia.

I am very concerned about the treatment of greyhounds in the racing industry in NSW. I feel that current regulations allow unacceptable abuse/neglect and an obscene overproduction/oversupply of these dogs.

These are the main points I believe should be considered by the Committee:

1. The need for better management of the sale and over-breeding of greyhounds.
2. The need for measures, such as financial incentives, to reduce the high numbers of greyhounds euthanased each year.
3. Allegations of the 'doping' of dogs (as I saw on ABC).
4. Concern about the welfare of animals in the industry and the conflict of interest represented by Greyhound Racing NSW's role in establishing and enforcing standards for the treatment of animals in the industry.
5. The need for prosecution where animal cruelty is found.
6. The inadequacy and questionable integrity of data collection in the industry: including the number of pups born, the number of dogs euthanased and injury rates.
7. The ongoing export of greyhounds to countries where there are no effective animal cruelty laws, like Macau.

I urge you to take these issues into account and I hope this Inquiry leads to strong recommendations which will improve the treatment of these dogs.

I hope to see the end of greyhound racing in my lifetime.

Sincerely,

Sophie Beard