

**Submission
No 702**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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Date received: 28/10/2013

SUBMISSION TO NSW PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING

Why greyhound racing should be banned and not simply regulated:

1. Welfare:

In an industry that exists for profit, killing unprofitable dogs/puppies is going to be the preferred method. The number of deaths is not adequately recorded and, even if it were, one unnecessary death is too many. All greyhound deaths, resulting directly or indirectly from greyhound racing, are unnecessary because this industry breeds them to earn or die, not to live. Injury rates, track deaths, puppies killed, ex-racers killed are all too many. The industry has far too many victims.

How many deaths?

It is extremely difficult to get numbers, which should ring alarm bells.

When asked about the statistics on deaths, the answer in parliament was

“The Government does not collect such data.”!

80,133 greyhounds born between 2003 - 2011. This figure does not include accidental matings or puppies discarded for other reasons.

By 2011 there were only 2,552¹ greyhounds registered as companion greyhounds at councils and 6,150 greyhounds registered as racing

greyhounds. Only 300 greyhounds were rehomed by GAP.

(<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/la/qala.nsf/18101dc36b638302ca257146007ee41a/73129441ba2b6f30ca257b750000790d?OpenDocument> and <http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Council%20Reports%20of%20Dog%20Attacks%20in%20NSW%202010-11.pdf>)

This means that **71,431 greyhounds simply vanished!** With an estimate of 17,000 being killed annually, I suspect they “vanished” into the grave.

(<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-10-15/greyhound-racing-industry-hit-by-doping-cruelty-allegations/5024714>)

How do they die?

Whether they are put down “humanely” or not makes no difference. They die unnecessarily and that cannot be justified.

This from a Lateline interview:

“TED HUMPHRIES: They do it inhumanely. They shoot them or hammer them or throw them off bridges. I knew one particular person who would hang them.

MATTHEW CARNEY: So they'd hammer them, what do you mean, literally put a hammer on their head?

TED HUMPHRIES: Yes, bash them with a hammer.”

(<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2012/s3629916.htm>)

2. **Governance:** There is a conflict of interest between the governing body and the industry. Any self-regulating industry is bound to be problematic. How can an industry that governs itself be regarded as one that ensures adequate welfare of animals and behaviour of those involved, such as corruption and drug use, when the sole purpose of the industry is to generate profit?

For example: "But [Mr Landa] told The Sun-Herald it soon became apparent that failings in the legislation made the function of his position as an independent oversight 'simply not possible'".

(<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/nsw-racing-going-to-the-dogs-20120714-2230l.html#ixzz20mEQMgym>)

3. **Greyhound racing should be banned.** These dogs are bred in the thousands, discarded like disposable commodities and the few who survive are exploited until they too are discarded. Most are killed, many in unthinkable cruel ways. The only reason for this horror is shallow profit or worse, "fun". It's not necessary and it contributes nothing to society, on the contrary, it only perpetuates the unethical idea that the lives of the vulnerable are at the disposal of those in power. This industry breeds animals into a life of injury and mistreatment followed by an early death. In no way can this be considered moral or defensible.

I have two greyhounds who were destined to be killed. Their only crime was not running fast enough for the breeder to profit. They are young and healthy but only because they didn't qualify to race they were, like so many others, considered worthless to this disgusting industry. They were part of the lucky few who escaped an early grave.

They are the most elegant, peaceful dogs with a dignity that puts the industry they come from to shame.

They were rescued from Ireland because Italy, like any civil society should, banned greyhound racing 10 years ago. It's about time the rest of the world followed suit and saw this industry for what it is; the vile abuse of life for profit.

- 4. Conclusion.** There seems to be inadequate accountability for breeding numbers, injuries, deaths and general welfare of greyhounds. Not enough is done to rehome or care for those who are injured, don't qualify or stop racing. There needs to be independent oversight of this industry to ensure the most basic level of accountability and regulation in all areas. The best course of action for anyone with a hint of humanity would be to move to a complete ban.

Julie McHenry
Australian Citizen, Italy

1. *Division of Local Government, Department of Premier & Cabinet*

The latest available information on the number of greyhounds identified on the Companion Animals Register is at 30 June 2012:

Pure bred: 2,552

Cross-breed: 580

Total: 3,132

I understand that there were approximately 6,150 racing greyhounds registered at that time.

We publish all of the previously provided figures as part of our annual dog attack data report. The numbers on racing greyhounds quoted in these reports are provided by Greyhound Racing NSW.