

Submission
No 493

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/11/2013

Partially Confidential

Submission for the Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW

5/11/12

Submission overview: Animal welfare should be the first consideration. Need for an independent governing body in relation to animal welfare. Inquiry into Greyhound muzzling laws. Improved adoption rates for Greyhounds as companion animals.

Terms of reference K. Concerns for animal welfare should be paramount; these voiceless beings are being treated as commodities with a short longevity. If they don't perform as a 'racer' they are disposed of. Thousands of Greyhounds are killed yearly as waste products of people trying to make a few dollars. There is an obvious conflict of interest if Greyhound Racing NSW is responsible for the welfare of animals. An independent body responsible for animal welfare is an appropriate accountability system.

Terms of reference L. The only way to reduce and discourage incidence of animal cruelty, is to hold people responsible for their actions. Prosecuting perpetrators of animal cruelty must be implemented with strong penalties to discourage these crimes. An incentive to reduce kill rates is a positive thing, so financial or other means should be looked into.

Terms of reference J & M. Thousands of Greyhounds are bred each year, what happens to these unwanted dogs, where do they all go? Bashed to death, drowned, dumped at pounds, sent overseas to be abused and eaten, lucky ones are killed by euthanasia (this is a sad statement), and the lottery winners get adopted to live out their lives as loved family pets. I'd imagine that the percentage of Greyhounds loved as companion animals, is a tiny amount compared to the percentage of dogs with other outcomes. Is there data about birth rates, kill rates, injury rates, exportation rates, and adoption rates and if Greyhound Racing NSW is providing this data, is it factual?

Other related matters. There needs to be incentives to improve adoption rates, Greyhounds are lovely affectionate dogs that make excellent companion animals. Laws relating to the muzzling of these dogs while out in public are ancient (made in 1927) and are inappropriate for companion dogs; these muzzles suggest to the general public that Greyhounds are aggressive, which is far from the truth. Thus adoption of this breed are lower due to this misconception, it is also an inconvenience for owners to muzzle their dog when going out, while the dog is disturbed by being muzzled as it wants to say hello to people and get petted. Owners risk being fined for unmuzzled dogs, if they choose not to muzzle.

What I would really like is for Greyhound racing to end, racing dogs offers nothing to the improvement of society. What, something else to gamble on? Promotion of animal cruelty? Another venue to get intoxicated at? This may be a faraway dream, but improved outcomes for Greyhounds, as fellow living beings, will be a first step in the right direction.

Sincerely