

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: Amazing Greys

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Amazing Greys submission to the NSW Parliament regarding greyhound racing

Amazing Greys greyhound rescue VIC has been rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming greyhounds for over two years. Many greyhounds have come from NSW- either via trainers, shelters, vet clinics or Gumtree ads.

This is what we do: <http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/greyhound-rescue-rehabilitation-rehoming-beyond/>

Here are some of the rescued greyhound's stories:

Here are the stories of three disposable losers lucky enough to find their way to us:



Coco

Coco, a one year old greyhound girl, is my pet greyhound. Discarded by a racing syndicate of 10 people, she was deemed useless and called runt of the litter. I instead love her company, her cheeky personality, her funny side. Coco is only a puppy and has her whole life ahead of her. It would have been a terrible waste of a good dog if she had been put down.



Julie

Julie, a six year old greyhound girl, is also my pet. Discarded by her trainer for being too slow, Julie was threatened to be shot. I love her patience, her placid personality and her unconditional love. She has seen many foster dogs go in and out of our house and she has welcomed them all with open arms. Julie is a sweet and affectionate girl and if she had been put down, it would too be a terrible waste of a good dog.



Snoopy

Snoopy, a four year old greyhound boy, is my foster greyhound. Discarded and left to fight for survival, Snoopy was found homeless in the streets. Despite his past and disappointment with humans, Snoopy is affectionate and thinks humans are the best invention ever! I love how cuddly he is, how he does not hold a grudge and his enthusiasm when I take him for a walk. What a waste if he had been put down!

Sadly, there are thousands more like Coco, Julie and Snoopy. They are all champions. None are disposable.

More here:

<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/lucky-puppy-joe/>

<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/greyhound-snoopy-and-his-new-lease-on-life/>

<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/meet-winnie-our-latest-rescue-greyhound/>

<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/rita-one-lucky-greyhound-lady/>

Why greyhound racing has to stop

The greyhound racing industry is one of the largest puppy mills in Australia.



It relies on breeding an enormous excess of greyhounds to find the few champions. The industry is characterised by routine killings of puppies and dogs, greed and profits.

Animal welfare is not a priority.

Numbers don't lie and the greyhound racing industry publishes its figures annually. The interesting numbers are below: greyhound litters registered versus greyhounds named for racing between 2003 and 2011.

Greyhounds Named

	ACT	NSW	NZ	NT	SA	TAS	VIC	QLD	WA	TOTAL
2011	0	5,491	480	0	349	289	3,820	1,451	400	12,280
2010	0	6,595	1,100	0	415	241	3,665	1,564	374	13,954
2009	0	5,505	1,016	25	452	236	3,967	1,554	376	13,131
2008	0	6,054	861	16	398	266	3,863	1,628	359	13,445
2007	0	6,039	490	8	404	291	4,140	1,475	438	13,285
2006	0	6,434	508	7	485	320	4,120	1,542	392	13,808
2005	0	5,364	755	20	479	278	4,141	1,549	294	12,880
2004	0	6,218	931	18	510	255	4,009	1,725	358	14,024
2003	0	5,383	917	15	413	390	3,932	1,515	360	12,925

Litters Registered

	ACT	NSW	NZ	NT	SA	TAS	VIC	QLD	WA	TOTAL
2011	0	1,276	136	0	89	87	994	350	91	3,023
2010	0	1,306	146	0	90	82	1,083	369	117	3,193
2009	0	1,305	122	0	111	74	1,015	373	110	3,110
2008	0	1,313	126	1	131	88	1,057	386	102	3,204
2007	0	1,336	124	6	119	104	1,222	356	106	3,373
2006	0	1,625	124	6	140	102	1,161	343	125	3,626
2005	0	1,540	108	1	129	101	1,274	333	112	3,598
2004	0	1,310	122	3	180	110	1,315	328	101	3,469
2003	0	1,320	161	3	136	86	1,233	342	89	3,370

Source: <http://www.galtd.org.au/GreyhoundsAustralasia/>

Let's make some sense out of these numbers: each litter consists of an average of 7 puppies so this means the following:

Year	Greyhounds Bred	Greyhounds Raced	Greyhounds Missing
2003	23,590	12,925	10,664
2004	24,283	14,024	10,259
2005	25,186	12,880	12,306
2006	25,382	13,809	11,573
2007	23,611	13,285	10,326
2008	22,428	13,445	8,983
2009	21,770	13,131	8,639
2010	22,351	13,952	8,399
2011	21,161	12,280	8,881

Every year an average of 10,000 greyhounds (38%) don't even make it to the tracks and are discarded. Because they are too slow, because they are injured, because they don't chase!

The ones that make it to the track are not better off. Serious injuries such as head trauma and broken legs are common and death by euthanasia is the result. Most injuries are not economical to treat so vets are on stand by at each race and ready to euthanise. But rest assured, it is done in the most humane way as possible to minimise suffering. Ha ha, good one!



Racing kills- one way or another

The industry is not really fazed however as long as it has GAP, the greyhound adoption program, to generate the feel good stories for PR. GAP is the greyhound adoption program run by the [racing industry since 1996](#) and has re-homed [4,000 greyhounds](#) since. That's an average of 250 greyhounds ever year in the past 16 years. The racing minister Denis Naphtine in Victoria calls this **“a great success”** and generously allocates [\\$1 million](#) out of the \$79.5 million budget over the next 4 years.

That's only about 1% of the total budget dedicated to the welfare of the greyhounds! Your tax money!

It's also worth mentioning that for example the program manager for [GAP in Victoria races greyhounds](#) herself. Come on, with “friends” like this who needs enemies? That's like having a cocaine addicted drug therapist.

It is more likely for a greyhound to be killed, kept for breeding, given away to vet schools and laboratories for cruel examples than to be rescued by GAP. Some very unlucky greyhounds also are exported for racing to China or worse: human meat consumption. Find out more [here](#) and [here](#).

Some people ask “What's wrong with that?” and happily gamble away the lives of thousands of greyhounds. However, we are 100% against the racing industry and wish our tax money would not

support the racing industry. (<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/why-greyhound-racing-needs-to-stop/>)

Abuse on and off the track

Greyhounds are at risk of being seriously injured when on the race track and collision such as pictured below are common.

Collisions very often result in euthanasia of the greyhounds as broken legs, hocks and damaged spines are not cheap to treat. Sometimes the injuries are deadly too as we learned this week about [the death of Cool Fly](#), a little greyhound girl after the race.

But it is not only the racing track where greyhounds fear pain and hurt...



Image via australianracinggreyhound.com

A racing greyhound is kept confined in kennels for most of its day. They live in isolation with perhaps other greyhounds next to them but without much room to move, play and run around. It is a sad and very lonely life that is only broken up by feeding and training times. Needless to say it is an environment unsuitable for any animal with the constant boredom, loneliness and frustration.



This leaves emotional and psychological damage in all greyhounds- some recover quicker, others never.

As a foster carer for 14 greyhounds in 2012 I also know about the emotional and psychological damage too well. EVERY greyhound that has come into our care has been emotionally scared to various degrees. The issues range from being afraid of water hoses (you will find out why further down) to not being able to walk in the park because of severe anxiety. ALL greyhounds initially have separation anxiety and it takes a few weeks for them to realize that their life of loneliness and abandonment is finally over.

I sometimes wonder what trainers and owners do to these sensitive, loyal, gentle and people loving dogs to cause all the emotional trauma they carry around? [Greyhound racing forums](#) are a gold mine to unearth the disgusting, shocking and unnecessary suffering racing greyhounds endure in Australia and I would encourage everyone to read the conversation threads. This is first hand info about the barbaric and cruel 'sport' of greyhound racing and this particular discussion is about greyhounds barking in their kennels:

The issue is that greyhounds are very unhappy in kennels which are just tiny cages. [One trainer confirms](#) *"Before they had 2100 x 1200 now they have a day kennel 3500 x 1500 with a kennel box at 1 end which I think is an ideal size for new pups coming in learning the tricks ...and the lock up kennels I have made 2700 x 1200 ...I think having them come straight into a small kennel area after they have spent all their lives in a paddock or large yard ..then expecting them to go to goal after all that freedom is the cause of dogs barking."*

This is [one trainer's problem](#): *"I have a dog at present who is an **absolute lunatic, barks, go nuts at anything (is mad keen) and eats beds, buckets and his wire cage**. He went to the track on race day last Thursday for a look, car ride and to be kennelled with race dogs, not 5 min after leaving him,*

stewards called to remove him. have tried all sorts of muzzles, but **he tries to tear it off, rubs against cage, and then jumps & bangs his head/body all over the place.** Thinking of pouring 2 weeks more work into him, then spelling on small farm 4 weeks (well away from track, lure, or anything that moves). we may even muzzle him for a full day at a time. **Dam shame his attitude"**



[One trainer reports](#) that his greyhound “was looking like he was on drugs as his eyes were bloodshot from no sleep and non stop barking.”

The secret to stopping greyhounds from barking and misbehaving prior to a race? Simple according to [this trainer](#): “Had a dog years ago that used to lose his races in the kennel before hand. I then got given a leather hood for his kennel muzzle so it left him totally in the dark and the wife made some Velcro boots for his paws to stop him scratching!”

Another popular method to stop greyhounds from barking are so-called barking muzzles- freely available at your pet stores.

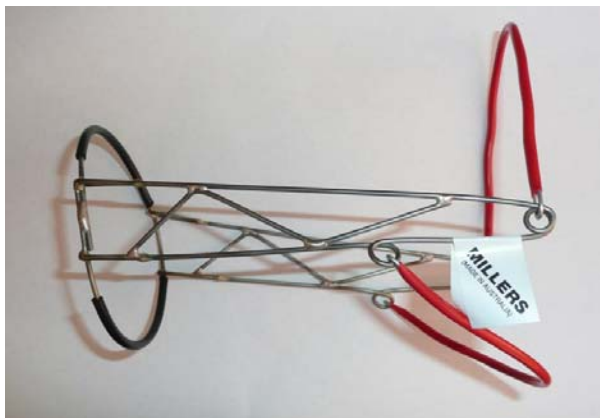


Image via <http://www.millersmuzzles.com>

This is [one trainer's experience](#):

*“They (barking muzzles) do work for some dogs, I have had a couple of serious barkers that would just lie down and go to sleep once they realize they can’t bark, and I’ve also had them come out of the kennels frothing at the mouth with slobber all over them and shit running down their legs because they were so **stressed out through trying to bark.**”*

[Another trainer](#) doesn’t like the barking muzzle but recommends hitting your dog with a rolled up newspaper and hosing the dog down in kennels. The same trainer also has a sound proof area under the house where his greyhounds **“could howl for hours on end”** One [trainer agrees](#) with the water hose tactic and responds:

“I’ve got a barking muzzle on her 24/7 and she knows if she starts she gets hosed”

If a barking muzzle is not cruel enough (it prevents a dog to open its mouth and a lot of our dogs have a deep ridge on their nose from the ring digging into their noses), another recommendation is to use an electronic bark control collar! Although illegal in NSW, SA and ACT (why not in VIC, the second largest greyhound racing state?) the administration of electric shocks to stop a greyhound from barking is recommended in greyhound racing circles. Even the council seems to agree as [this trainer reveals](#):

*“Yes they are illegal in new under the conditions stated but obviously one would show due care in being discreet when using and really they are so quick in the re-education I’m talking two saps and an incessant barker of all hours never so much as attempted to bark outside what is acceptable. The **lady from council** said to me that it was a shame that who complained about the inhuman element of static correction have totally avoided seeing the overall benefit that being able to control dogs with behavioral problems is in it’s showing greater welfare to the animal by taming it!”*

[Another remedy](#) for barking greyhounds is a tennis ball, lemon or orange in a normal wire muzzle as it prevents the dog from opening its mouth far enough to bark.

Do you feel sick too? I certainly do and hope that greyhound racing and the associated abuse of these wonderful dogs ends soon. Please support greyhounds and speak out for the blatant abuse and neglect that they endure as racing animals! The sooner it ends, the better!

What happens to greyhounds after they race?

Sadly, most of them die- or as the greyhound racing industry calls it ‘humanely euthanised’.

There are thousands of greyhounds bred for racing and while there are some greyhound rescue groups in Australia to help these dogs, the sheer numbers make greyhound rescue a tough gig.

Too many are not fast enough, don't chase the lure, are injured or are otherwise unwanted.

Some of the greyhound rescue groups such as GAP VIC are part of the racing industry which means it receives money for the work it does. But even with financial support, these industry run programs cannot save and re-home the thousand of greyhounds which require a home after their retirement or because of their unsuitability to race.

The numbers that are re-homed by rescue groups such as us, [Greyhound Rescue](#), [Friends of the Hound](#), [Greyhound Adoptions WA](#) etc. accounts for only a very small percentage of the dogs bred.

So what happens to the thousands of greyhounds that are not profitable?

- Racing injuries (and subsequent euthanasia) are fairly common as well as death due to drugs
- Some greyhound trainers who surrender their unwanted and perfectly healthy dogs have arrangements with their vets that they will not charge for their dogs' euthanasia. It is an arrangement so the vets have a free source of blood which they can use for surgical and medical procedures they perform on paying customers' dogs (the long-suffering greyhounds have a generic blood type).
- Many other unwanted greyhounds are euthanized after being used for teaching and training purposes in Australian veterinary courses.
- Australian greyhounds are being exported to race in Macau in China where there are no animal welfare laws and no chance of re-homing afterwards.

It is really amazing how the killing and exploitation of these lovable dogs continues to not just exist but to also be subsidised by the government. (<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/what-happens-to-greyhounds-after-they-race/>)

The truth behind the marketing spin

A [recent SMH article](#) paints a lovely picture of **greyhound racing**: it is a profitable "sport" with prize money up to \$350,000 while buying and keeping greyhounds is cheap. There is talk about stud fees

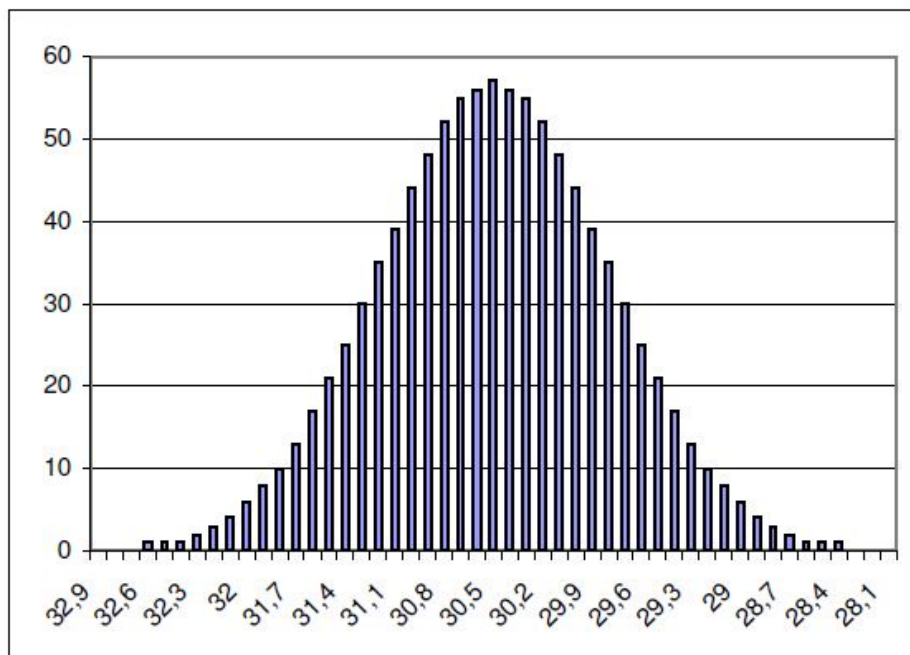
and prize winning pups and don't forget that "celebrities" such as Tony Lockett, Tim Cahill and Vic Lorusso (who now?) breed and race greyhounds.

What a lovely and yet false picture of the greyhound racing industry.

First of all, it is not a sport. The [Australian Sports Foundation](#) defines sports as "*a **human** activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill, which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport.*" So unless you run and physically exert yourself greyhound racing is not a sport!

The prize money in greyhound racing is tempting. \$350,000 is a lot of cash for most of us. But how easy is it really to win?

The chart below shows the average speed of 1,000 greyhounds. Most greyhounds run at an average speed. To breed and train **THE champion** is like finding a needle in a haystack. Which is why in 2001 out of the [21,161 bred only 12,280 raced](#). **Roughly 40% did not even make it to the tracks!**



Source: http://www.greyhound-data.com/dir/536/Quantitative_Genetics.pdf

The constant over breeding of greyhounds is the biggest problem with greyhound racing. While it is cheap to produce shit loads of puppies, only few are prize winning champions.

As a breeder and trainer you have to be prepared to breed, rear and kill hundreds if not thousands of greyhounds to make a living out of racing the few fast dogs.

See the chart below- this gives you a good idea of how many puppies are pumped out of a single greyhound- **in the case of Acacia Ablaze 2,430 puppies!**

AWESOME ASSASSIN(Bk).....	2,151 pups.....	No Blues, One White.
BARNEYS ALARM(BeBd)	745 pups.....	No Fawns.
ACACIA ABLAZE(F).....	2,430 pups.....	No Blues.
ASHIGGA(Bk).....	666 pups.....	No Fawns.
BLACK SHIRAZ(Bk).....	2,020 pups.....	No Fawns , One Blue which was later named and registered as Black.
BOBNIAC(BeBd).....	1,460 pups.....	No Whites.
CRY HAVOC(Wbk).....	1,371 pups.....	No Brindles, three White & Fawn which were later named and registered as Black, White & Black and White & Blue.
FORTIFIED SPEED(Rbd).....	919 pups.....	No Blues, No Whites,.....One Fawn.
WORLD TITLE(Bk).....	1,359 pups.....	No Whites, Three Blues.
ZAZZIAM(Bk).....	1,378 pups.....	No Blues, No Brindles, No Fawns.

Breeding is easy thanks to artificial insemination. I love how breeders paint this lovely picture of stud greyhounds. There is nothing lovely about that! In many if not most cases, semen is collected from the male dog (watch [this video](#) of how it is done) and then frozen. Yep, that's right: breeders give their greyhounds hand jobs to extract the semen! And then there is not reason left to keep the greyhound. **After all, why feed the beast if you can freeze its semen?**

Truly disturbing so it is not surprising that the greyhound racing industry in Australia is a declining industry grasping at straws to survive. For example, Triple M recently advertised the races in Adelaide luring punters with **free food** to the event on their Facebook page:



Triple M Adelaide

October 11

Off to the Greyhounds tonight!! Cant wait, its going to be awesome!! Big shout out to all our listeners that are coming along for a free feed. See you there!! Cosi

And the [McGrath breast cancer foundation](#) even uses greyhounds in pink racing jackets to raise funds for them. How could they? Isn't a charity supposed to do good and not get in bed with morally bankrupt institutions such as the greyhound racing industry?

Racing, whether it is greyhounds or horses, is a tough, cut throat business that requires humans to breed, train and kill thousands of animals. It is not lucrative, fashionable and only cretins find it entertaining.

Do you really want to be a part of it? <http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/the-truth-behind-the-greyhound-racing-marketing-spin/>