

**Submission
No 855**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Kate Allan

Date received: 5/11/2013

Dear Director,

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

As a volunteer for a greyhound rescue group I see first hand the condition so many of these dogs are in when they come into our care - and these are the few lucky ones that get a second chance.

I am extremely concerned about the treatment of greyhounds in the racing industry in NSW. I believe that current regulations are inadequate and therefore allow unacceptable abuse of these amazing and beautiful animals.

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

- * The need for better management of the sale and over-breeding of greyhounds. The number of dogs bred each year and the number accounted for simply do not add up. Where are the dogs that don't make it to the track?
- * The need for measures to reduce the high numbers of greyhounds euthanased each year.
- * I believe there is a serious conflict of interest represented by Greyhound Racing NSW's role in establishing and enforcing standards for the treatment of animals in the industry. How can they set adequate levels of welfare standards for these animals when their existence depends on a high number of dogs bred each year to keep their disgusting industry going?
- * The need for prosecution where animal cruelty is found, and indeed, the willingness to follow up reports of cruelty in the first place. Too often we see dogs with injuries that were not treated properly when they occurred which leads to so many issues for the dogs later on. Not to mention dogs being too underweight so they are lighter for racing. The ones rescue groups do find are the lucky ones. What about all the ones that slip through the very large cracks?
- * 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. Data collection should be from an independent party, so there is much more transparency as to the life and death of these animals.
- * The export of greyhounds to countries with no effective animal cruelty laws should be stopped immediately. The fate of these dogs in places like Macau is disgusting.
- * The continued reports of doping and corruption in the greyhound racing industry also greatly concerns me.

On a final note, commercial dog racing is illegal in 38 US states, as well as countries such as Belgium, Denmark, France, and Switzerland among others. In some of these countries racing exists but purely as an amateur sport where there are no financial gains. Without the lure of money the disgusting treatment of these dogs would surely be put to rights. In my opinion commercial racing should be made illegal in all Australian states.

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.

Sincerely,

Kate Allan