

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Miss Jodi Green

Date received: 6/11/2013

I think the greyhound racing industry governing bodies need a very big shake up and a few things need to seriously be looked at... The first is simple... Why are owners/ trainers not made to put the dog in a rehoming course or rehome it responsibly??? And secondly, why is the recording system for a dogs whereabouts so incorrect and hard to access??? I will be using the examples of the dogs rescue in Wagga Wagga from the hunter and also my own dog.

The two dogs currently in care in Wagga Wagga were given away to a hunter... These dogs were either mistreated before they were given away or they were given to someone, who obviously did not care one iota about them! They were severely underweight & had several severe injuries! The bitch was so skinny that you could see almost every bone in her body and she had a hole in her foot that you could see the bone! How was it that these dogs were allowed to be put in this situation???

Greyhound whereabouts records... I rescued my dog from the Tamworth Regional Council Pound, after he had been tied to the fence & left without food, shelter or water on a weekend! The Tamworth pound is not attended all weekend, so there is no way of determining how long he had been there. He was not surrendered, just dumped! The pound advertised him in the usual way to try and find his owner. After 20 days in the pound, no one came to collect him. I bought him home and tried to notify the GRA NSW what had happened & where the dog was now. My dog was microchipped, but the council chip reader said that it was showing up as 'no data'... Why are the details not recorded on the chip? When i contacted the GRA, i was only after basic information in my dog (like age). I was told that IF the dogs details were in the system, the his registered owner would have to be contacted to find out how he ended up in the pound, even though i had told them how he was found & that no one came looking for him... I informed them that i had purchased the dog from the council and he was now going to be a pet. I was informed that not only could they not give me any details about the dog, but i was not able to legally inform them of the dogs change in circumstance!!! I informed the GRA of the terrible condition my dog was in and how petrified of everything it was. He was showing severe signs of being bashed & had some cuts on him. He also had a very bad toe injury consistent with having a sprung toe and it being left untreated. The toe was double the normal size and stuck out at a strange angle. He had a very swollen front wrist and limped on it... It looked like it could have been an old break that had not healed properly. He also had a severely swollen elbow and was filled with fluid. This was very painful for him and when touched, he would yelp and flinch. This dog was so very frightened that when you picked up his lead, he would hide. I could not even take him outside to the toilet... He would hide until i put the lead down and then i would still have trouble catching him.... He was absolutely petrified of men and when we happened to meet one (while still in my yard), he screamed and tugged on the lead trying to get away.

I tried to find out how i would go about finding out general information, like age... I was informed that GRA was not even able to confirm that my dog was registered! This is ridiculous! I have since been able to find out that the dog is local and that the person who is his registered owner has dogs still registered in his name and is racing! Why was he allowed to so callously dispose of a dog and keep the others? I am not expecting people to keep every dog in their kennels, but i think it needs to be looked at why he was allowed to get away with this... Also, i purchased the dog after he was dumped, why was i not allowed to advise of his change in status? Does the governing bodies not care where these dogs end up???

I am also a little disgusted with the amount of adoption programs are situated in regional NSW... None!!! That is right, NONE! The nearest adoption groups are either GAP in Sydney or Greyhound Rescue in Sydney.... GAP will not accept a dog found in a pound as the dog is unable to be signed over to them by the previous owner. GAP also will not accept foster carers outside of Sydney and its surrounding suburbs... How does the industry affiliated rehoming program expect to rehome the necessary amount of dogs, when they will not operate in regional areas??? I live in Manilla NSW, and the following tracks are within a couple of hours of my home: Tamworth, Armidale, Gunnedah, Moree, Coonabarabran & Coonamble... These are only the tracks within approx. 3hrs of Manilla. Sydney is at least 4-6hrs away from any of these tracks and therefore, GAP is not an active participant out here! I think it is disgusting that the industry affiliated group does not even operate in all areas!!! I know that they do not take foster carers out here, because i asked to be one!!! I was told that they only accepted fosters in the Sydney area, so that ongoing support could be offered... With technology, i don't understand why this is an issue... A phone call can be made to a foster carer to check how they are going...

Since May 2013, i have helped with the rescue of at least 5 greyhounds that were either dumped at the pound, found wandering the streets or was surrendered! Local adoption groups will not take on a greyhound, as it is too hard to rehome them. Greyhound Rescue have been good enough to take them on board.

Greyhounds are not portrayed as pets in regional areas, in fact there is no media about greyhounds except for the racetracks! I own the only pet greyhound for several hours drive! I have spoken to owners, trainers and local track officials to find out what involvement GAP has with regional tracks and the response i received was not very encouraging! It was indicated that they are not active at all out here!

Greyhounds are not portrayed as pets & not seen out in the town as pets... This had led to the public being severely uneducated about the greyhound breed & therefore misunderstood... Within Australia greyhounds are viewed as being vicious or savage and not good pets by the general public... As the adoption groups are not active throughout NSW, there are many areas where this misconception has not been rectified... This is also limiting the ability for greyhounds to be rehomed, as they are just not out here!!! This is why so many are put down & get lost!!!

The question i pose to this inquiry is this: How does the industry hope to change the way it is viewed without being pro active itself??

To help these problems, i propose that an adoption branch be set up out in regional areas (somewhere like Tamworth is central)... This will encourage more people to utilise the program. Also the dogs will be active in the community and therefore will be seen as a good pet and change peoples perception of them! I not an adoption branch, then at least some kind of halfway house or foster carers... Somewhere that could help promote the dogs and to accept dogs from trainers in the region!!!

I would be happy to offer my time to either volunteer periodically to help out with the promotion or running an adoption branch or as a foster carer....