

Submission
No 685

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern,

I have two adopted greyhounds, Buster and Charli. Their stories highlight two issues within the greyhound racing industry that should be of concern to your inquiry.

Charli was bred to race but, like so many greyhounds, was too slow. Fortunately, she was rehomed through the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) in Victoria. Charli's sister was not so lucky; she was given away outside a re-homing program and was beaten to death with a chain.

Buster was also less fortunate than Charli. His owners sent him to a greyhound racing trainer in Rockbank, Victoria. That trainer took on around 70 dogs and charged their owners accordingly. He then abandoned the dogs in their pens. The sound of crying dogs eventually caused his neighbours to contact the RSCPA. By the time they were rescued, some 40 dogs had died and the remainder, including Buster, were walking skeletons. It took over 12 months for Buster to regain his health.

The only thing unusual about both Charli and Buster's stories is that they are still alive. Unlike most unsuccessful racing greyhounds, they were not summarily killed.

Two regulatory changes might have altered their pre-adoption experiences. Firstly, greater enforcement of standards for licenced trainers and greater education amongst owners would decrease the opportunities for trainers like Buster's to exploit dogs and owners.

Secondly, formal greyhound re-homing groups are needed to create safe pathways for unwanted dogs. All greyhound racing peak bodies should be required to make mandatory contributions to re homing groups. The relationship between Greyhound Racing Victoria and the Greyhound Adoption Program is one example. Other entities that profit from racing, such as racetrack owners and gambling agencies, should also be required to contribute to these groups.

I thank the Committee for its inquiry into this matter and wish it well in its deliberations. I hope that the Committee is able to bring greater respect and compassion to this industry.

Yours faithfully,