

**Submission
No 962**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Mikaela Ferguson

Date received: 6/11/2013

Subject: Treatment of Greyhound Dogs

Dear Director,

I am writing to you about the enquiry into the treatment of Greyhound dogs.

I am an advocate for the welfare of all animals, and have a particular passion for better treatment of dogs in both domestic and racing situations.

I am at a loss as to how anyone could mistreat any animal. Be it out of ignorance, stupidity or personal gain it is unacceptable to cause harm to any other being. I believe that human and non-human animals need to be respected equally.

Not only do I find it abhorrent that dogs are treated as property and investments, but that in order to make money and continue blood lines, they are exposed to all kinds of abuse, both physical and psychological.

I know enough about dogs to know that they all, regardless of breed, deserve a life where they are safe, healthy and emotionally stable. Greyhound dogs, in particular, as you surely must know in your time within the industry - are some of the most gentle and affectionate breeds of dogs.

These animals should not be used up until they are deemed useless. Their breeding and ability to perform in a way that the racing industry celebrates, does not, and should not determine their right to live and be treated humanely. They should not be ignored or disrespected because they are non-human animals.

I would ideally like to see animals used in racing end, but I am realistic and am telling you that as an outcome of this enquiry I want to be assured that if greyhound racing is to continue that there will be legislation in place that will protect and serve the welfare of the dogs involved; that their lives outside of the racing world are respected, secure and that they will be taken care of in a way that any other dog or animal outside of the industry deserves to be treated.

I want to know that the greyhounds that I see racing, are happy and balanced dogs, that are not pushed beyond their physical limits, that they are nurtured and their owners know them and hopefully love them as not only a race dog, but a companion and pet. No one should be forced to do something against their will or ability. These dogs deserve to have their needs met, their limitations understood and considered at all stages of their lives.

Someone has to make a stand for the welfare of these animals, you have a responsibility to look out for Greyhounds, and set a standard that will be met by your colleagues and the entire racing industry. Greyhounds are living, feeling, emotional beings - without which your industry would cease to exist. They cannot speak up for themselves, so it is up to us humans to do the right thing.

Please do not let this disgusting behaviour go unnoticed or unpunished.

I thank you for your time, and look forward to seeing a positive result from this enquiry.

Sincerely,

Mikaela Ferguson