

Submission
No 575

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/11/2013

Partially Confidential

Dear Ministers, Committee Members, Sirs/Madams,

I am writing in regards to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the greyhound racing industry; in particular the horrifying lack of animal welfare and protection of these voiceless animals, within it.

I wish to add my voice to the concerns of many Australians for the unacceptable and, in large part, non-existent welfare standards for the greyhounds used in the racing industry; and to ask that an independent body be formed to oversee all ongoing animal welfare in the racing industry; with harsh penalties to those owners and trainers who do not conform to new high standards of care.

I further ask the Committee to take into consideration the following:

1. The number of greyhounds killed by the racing industry is shocking and unacceptable. 80 133 greyhounds born between 2033 - 2011. This figure does not include accidental matings or puppies discarded for other reasons. By 2011 there were only 2 552 greyhounds registered as companion greyhounds at councils and 6 150 greyhounds registered as racing greyhounds. This means that 71 431 greyhounds simply vanished. See references below.

2. Every time a greyhound is raced it's life is at risk.

In 2012- 517 (updated) greyhounds either died at the track or broke bones. 90% of these greyhounds disappeared from the racing industry altogether. So broken bones generally equates with death. In 2013 from Jan - Sept- 339 greyhounds died at the track or broke their bones. 12 dogs collapsed and died on the track or the catching pen from cardiac arrest or lungs collapsing or an undetermined reason. These figures were collected by Greyhound Freedom and will be provided with their submission. It does not include about 1/3 of the tracks in Australia and not all states record all information. NSW and WA do not report deaths. SA do not report injuries. So the number of greyhounds killed and broken bones is definitely higher than this.

3. There is NO government department that is responsible for the welfare of racing greyhounds. The DPI and the Minister of Racing have no involvement with the racing industry even though they administer the prevention of cruelty to animals act. The only exception if a person rings up to report a cruelty case. Members of the public are generally not privy to this information. I believe there should be a separate and independent body to oversee and investigate animal welfare issues. Including inspecting kennels, inspecting training where some gruesome and cruel activities occur, particular when breaking dogs in. Live baiting still occurs in the industry and there is no one to prevent it.

4. GRNSW administers the Racing Act 2009, where there is no mention of the welfare of greyhounds. They also are a self regulated body that is not answerable to the government or public on welfare issues. Their charter is to promote and expand greyhound racing which is in conflict with the welfare of greyhounds. Until greyhound racing is banned, this has to change. The reporting of welfare and cruelty issues should be mandatory to an independent body. All death, injury, breeding statistics must be available to the public and this independent welfare body. All activities in this industry need to be transparent.

5. I support a fee for all registered greyhounds to go towards re-homing greyhounds. Also a percentage of the funds that the government collects from betting should go to the cost for retraining and re-homing greyhounds. This should not be limited to the industry group GAP. A fund should be established to help trainers, breeders and owners exiting the industry to help re-home their dogs and also to retrain them for employment in other industries.

The statistics mentioned come from the following sources:

The number of greyhounds born and greyhounds re-homed by GRNSW come from questions asked in NSW Parliament from The Greens in 2012:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/la/qala.nsf/18101dc36b638302ca257146007ee41a/73129441ba2b6f30ca257b750000790d?OpenDocument>

The number of greyhounds registered as pets and registered racing greyhounds are here:

<http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Council%20Reports%20of%20Dog%20Attacks%20in%20NSW%202010-11.pdf>

Also direct from
Division of Local Government, Department of Premier & Cabinet:

The latest available information on the number of greyhounds identified on the Companion Animals Register is at 30 June 2012:

Pure bred: 2,552
Cross-breed: 580
Total: 3,132

I understand that there were approximately 6,150 racing greyhounds registered at that time.

The numbers on racing greyhounds quoted in these reports are provided by Greyhound Racing NSW.

The latest published report is for 2010/11:

<http://www.dlg.nsw.gov.au/dlg/dlghome/documents/Information/Council%20Reports%20of%20Dog%20Attacks%20in%20NSW%202010-11.pdf> (see tables 10 and 11).

This album has more statistics and testimonies and information about why this is a dog killing industry and why it needs to stop.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.534490356585545.122609.195244413843476&type=3>

Note: Facts and figures above collected by the 'Greyhound Racing - Don't Bet On It' public page on Facebook. Author of this submission referred to the links given within it to confirm the facts and figures quoted.

I thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,