

**Submission
No 939**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mrs Asta Lander

Date received: 6/11/2013

Submission – Greyhound racing industry

By Asta Lander

This is my personal experience. I adopted a greyhound who otherwise would have been put down because he had broken a hock. I adopted a young dog who was deemed unsuitable for racing. This was through two independent adoption groups.

This year I rescued a male greyhound when contacted by a country ranger. This dog came to me fully intact, emaciated, shivering, loose bowels, terrified and starving. He was covered in urine and faeces. He was also missing large patches of fur, a skin disorder, and he was covered in scars. According to the ranger he was 'given' to an elderly couple when he was retired. I have been told that they relinquished him to the local pound after 48 hours because amongst other things he 'lifted his leg on their furniture'. I have also been told that he was once over 40 kilos. From the photo attached you will see that he was well under that. Through his tattoos I was able to track the trainer and I reported him to the steward. Little came of that, other than a lot of very confusing stories and people blaming others. Why did I report him? Yes I was upset with the condition of the dog, but I was even more concerned by the inadequate rehoming arrangement and I wanted to ensure that this would not happen again. Sadly I have no confidence that I have done anything more than encouraged the trainer to knock the next dog on the head or to cut off his ears to remove the link to him, before dumping. (My fears may be unfounded. I hope they are.) The owner got word of all of this. He contacted me directly, this was threatening for me, and I feel this should not have happened. He explained that he had not given the trainer permission to rehome the dog. He sent me money to cover bills, which I accepted.

I have many more concerns –

The sending of dogs to other countries to race, where welfare is inadequate.

The acceptance of greyhounds as by-products of the racing industry, and their 'wastage' as acceptable

High rates of injuries, often resulting in death

The removing of ears when dumped – and dumping in general

The euthanasia of otherwise healthy dogs (particularly when they have not considered rehoming)

It is my experience that there is not a safe, unbiased and fair system to report concerns to

The integrity auditor is appointed by GRNSW itself

There is no independent oversight of the greyhound racing industry in NSW

What would be considered cruelty to animals in a backyard is overlooked in the industry

links to organised crime

Doping of dogs

High rates of overbreeding and killing of greyhounds

Inadequate kennelling resulting in large dogs losing the fur on their rumps, and boredom in general

The use of debarking muzzles in some situations

The use of greyhounds for blood donations (often drained of blood before euthanasia)

Tracking of greyhound from birth to death largely relies on breeders and owners self reporting

Data on the number of pups born, incidences of injuries and number of dogs killed is hidden from the public

In house fighting/ backstabbing/ blaming

Lack of professionalism

Lack of respect for the concerns of the public who care about animal welfare

The greyhound racing industry is perceived as a dirty industry

