

Submission
No 459

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name Suppressed

Date received: 6/11/2013

Partially Confidential

I do not support the greyhound industry. I, like many others, feel that my voice has been silenced by the invested interests of people involved in the industry. I also believe that all great change comes from democracy and allowing everyone's opinion to be heard, not just the opinion of those who are profiting from this industry, so I would firstly like to thank you for inviting us to give our opinion on this subject.

I do not support the use of animals for human entertainment and financial gain in any way. The welfare of animals used in the racing industry must be considered carefully and assessed as to whether the rewards that we receive from the industry condone the welfare costs to the animal. In my opinion they do not. Death and injury is of great concern in greyhound racing. Greyhounds are produced in large numbers to supply the industry, however, only animals that perform well will be selected for racing, the remainder will be euthanised. Similarly, animals that do not continue to perform well or become injured will be culled. Financial interests encourage cognitive dissonance to the issues that arise in the industry. As a result animal welfare is often compromised in order to improve racing performance. This can be seen in the use of performance enhancing drugs, the racing of injured animals and the cruel training techniques have become common practice in the greyhound industry. As a veterinary student, we regularly perform practical work on greyhounds that are "surplus to the industry". This statement, underpins the psychology of the greyhound industry. It simultaneously encourages us to think of animals as property rather than living sentient beings and also diverts attention away from the death of the animal.

I believe that all decisions must be made with full knowledge of the subject and that the opinion of one stakeholder must not be given more weight than any other. Thank you again for allowing me to give my opinion on this subject.