

**Submission
No 375**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA)

Date received: 6/11/2013

Animal Welfare League Australia
awla

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SELECT COMMITTEE

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5 pages including cover page

November 6th 2013



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To Select Committee on Greyhound Racing NSW

Mr Grant Robb

President, Animal Welfare League Australia, 1-19 Cormack Rd, Wingfield SA

BACKGROUND

Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA) is national non-profit organisation caring for companion animals across Australia. AWLA formed in 2007, when the Animal Welfare Leagues of South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland united to become Animal Welfare League Australia. In 2010, Dogs Homes of Tasmania also joined AWLA.



AWLA affiliated shelters in South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania have 290 years of combined experience in caring for cats and dogs.

Under AWLA's national banner, states work together to share, develop and promote programs which deliver high welfare standards for companion animals. The implementation of legislation and policies which will improve life for animals, pet owners and the wider community is a core objective.

AWLA exists to uphold and promote high welfare standards for companion animals and maximise the positives of animal/human relationships. www.awla.com.au

AWLA Position

- AWLA does not support any industry which uses animals for sport or entertainment where animals suffer or are exploited for financial gain
- While greyhound racing continues, AWLA strongly supports initiatives to significantly raise welfare standards for greyhounds
- AWLA strongly supports initiatives to establish mandatory and enforceable welfare standards around the breeding, sale, racing and post-racing treatment of greyhounds
- AWLA strongly supports initiatives to significantly reduce euthanasia rates of greyhounds
- AWLA strongly support the introduction of effective mechanisms to identify and prosecute those persons mistreating animals within the greyhound racing industry
- AWLA is strongly opposed to any breeding, training, racing or post-racing practices which result in cruelty, neglect or the mistreatment of animals
- AWLA is strongly opposed to the export of greyhounds to racing industries in other countries

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AWLA Recommendations

- That Government assist the formation of two independent committees to monitor the industry going forward
- That one committee oversee financial conduct and governance
- That the second committee oversee animal welfare and data collection
- That members of both committees operate independently of Greyhound Racing NSW and are not simultaneously members of Greyhound Racing NSW
- That well defined animal welfare indicators in relation to breeding, treatment and handling, injury rates and euthanasia rates are defined by the relevant committee (1)
- That these welfare indicators are tied to mandatory and enforceable standards
- That Greyhound Racing NSW be charged with informing and promoting the standards within the industry
- That AWL NSW and RSPCA inspectors oversee enforcement of these standards
- That a financial incentive system be identified and implemented to reward greyhound racing establishments who consistently exceed welfare indicators
- That limits on the number of litters bred per year be introduced to reduce the euthanasia rate of unwanted young, healthy greyhounds who are not fast enough for racing purposes (2)
- That greyhound breeding and racing personnel be qualified and show current competency in animal husbandry
- That a financial incentive system be introduced to reward greyhound racing personnel who achieve the highest level of animal husbandry qualification appropriate to the industry
- That significantly greater resources be provided to greyhound adoption programs to increase the numbers of greyhounds re-homed (3)
- That veterinarians be mandated to report on any mistreatment or cruelty they may witness within the industry

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- That Government oversee the design, provision and collection of record keeping forms to maximise the adequacy and integrity of data collection (including pups born, injury and euthanasia rates)
- That as a minimum, greyhounds are equally protected under the current welfare codes for companion animals
- That this include the mandatory registration and micro-chipping of greyhounds to reduce the number of dogs who are inhumanely or inappropriately disposed of

(1) At one meeting in Dapto in April 2013, three dogs died – one had a broken neck, a second dog had a broken back and a third dog was destroyed after breaking its hock.

(2) Greyhound Racing NSW figures claim over 3,000 greyhounds are euthanased each year because they are too slow, have been injured during training or racing or have reached the end of their racing career.

(3) Only 300 have been re-homed since 2009 under Greyhound racing NSW's Greyhounds as Pets program.

