

**Submission
No 905**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Andrew Hendry

Date received: 6/11/2013

Dear Director,

My name is Andrew Hendry, I am a sports journalist from Forestville, in lower north shore Sydney.

I have always been concerned about greyhound racing as it turns beautiful creatures into financial commodities, and I do not feel the best interests of the dogs are being looked out for.

Dogs are incredible creatures, capable of saving lives, protecting livestock, guiding the blind, assisting law enforcement in controlling illicit substances, and myriad other invaluable services to society. Not to mention the unconditional love and companionship they provide.

I believe the greyhound racing industry does not act with the best interests of the dogs. I would like to see stricter regulations regarding:

1. Stricter management of the sale and over-breeding of greyhounds. I would like to see an independent animal welfare organisation have tighter control /oversight over the breeding and sale of racing greyhounds.
2. The need for measures, such as financial incentives, to reduce the high numbers of greyhounds euthanised each year. Once the dogs have served their purpose in racing, they are often seen as useless and discarded in potentially cruel ways. A government program or financial incentives to re-house retired racing dogs should be high priority.
3. Allegations of the 'doping' of dogs as seen on ABC. Stricter, tighter doping controls must be introduced. Giving drugs to dogs is first and foremost cruelty to animals, and secondly it is cheating.
4. Concern about the welfare of animals in the industry and the conflict of interest represented by Greyhound Racing NSW's role in establishing and enforcing standards for the treatment of animals in the industry. As mentioned in point 1, an independent animal welfare organisation should have oversight/more power over industry standards and regulations, and the ability to punish offenders.
5. A greater need for prosecution where animal cruelty is found is required. Especially in the case of doping - it's not just cheating, it's animal cruelty. Longer bans, higher financial penalties.
6. The inadequacy and questionable integrity of data collection in the industry: including the number of pups born, the number of dogs euthanised and injury rates. Again, an independent animal welfare organisation should have oversight here.
7. The ongoing export of greyhounds to countries where there are no effective animal cruelty laws, like Macau.

I urge you to take these issues into account and I hope this Inquiry leads to strong recommendations which will improve the treatment of these dogs.

Sincerely,

Andrew Hendry