

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 4/11/2013

Partially Confidential

Submission for "Inquiry into Greyhound racing in NSW"

I am very concerned with the continued practice of greyhound racing in New South Wales and nationwide for that matter.

According to figures provided by Greyhound Racing NSW, over 3,000 greyhounds are put down in New South Wales alone each year because they are "too slow", have been injured racing or training, or have reached the end of their racing careers. Most dogs are retired around the age of three or four. A greyhound's natural lifespan would be normally 12 to 14 years of age if they were lucky to spend it in a normal family home environment.

It is estimated 20,000 greyhound pups are bred each year and the vast majority will not become champion racers. Many young greyhounds show no interest in chasing lures or simply are not fast enough to make it to the track. If they are not going to be economically viable, these healthy dogs are usually discarded or killed. This also happens with older dogs past their prime. Many greyhound trainers surrender their healthy dogs to Vets who require free sources of blood for surgical and medical procedures they perform on paying customers' dogs as greyhounds have a generic blood type. Other owners surrender their healthy dogs to University Veterinary Faculties where they are used for teaching and training.

The number of greyhounds re-homed by groups such as the racing industry's Greyhound Adoption Program, rescue groups "Friends of the Hound" and shelters - Animal Welfare League Qld accounts for only a very small percentage (an estimated 5%) of the dogs bred. Only 300 dogs have been re-homed since 2009 under Greyhound Racing NSW's "Greyhounds as Pets" program. The Greyhound Racing NSW Annual Report 08-09 states, with regard to it's Greyhounds as Pets Program, "Over the last year, two thirds of all dogs entering the program have been re-homed. This has equated to 43 dogs this year with plans to continue this rate of growth next year". That is only 43 greyhounds rehomed as pets in NSW by an industry which breeds an average of more than 8,300 dogs in this state every year.

There are also allegations of criminal activity within this industry. There are other concerns with allegations of doping, use of performance enhancing drugs, use of live baiting. This was reported recently on ABC's 7.30 program.

This industry is facing decline in profits and popularity world wide and in Australia also. I find this sport cruel and think tax payer's money would be much better spent on other community projects e.g. upgrading schools, hospitals etc. Apart from the cruelty aspect, gambling causes such a huge problem with so many families. Why would governments support this industry ?

I think greyhound racing should be abolished. The industry has proven to be incapable of self governance, with its incidences of doping and cruelty, and its

overbreeding and wastage of dogs' lives. These dogs are just like other dogs. They are placid, friendly, trusting animals, responding to love and affection just like other dogs. Can you imagine the public uproar if golden retrievers or poodles were suddenly used in the same way ? These dogs feel the same emotions as other dogs. It is such a pity so many people only use them for their own financial gain, and when they are no longer making profit for them, dispose of them like rubbish.