

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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I am the owner of 2 greyhounds rescued from racing. One of them, a perfectly healthy 2 year old dog with the most gentle nature, was literally at the vets to get put down because his owner didn't want him for racing. If it wasn't for the offer of the vet to rehome him, he'd be dead now. Most greyhounds aren't that lucky with many not even making it to the vets at all, instead being killed with a hammer, being shot or just dying on the track. Those dogs that are the most unlucky are exported to China where they're briefly raced in appalling conditions (even worse than those used in Australia) before being slaughtered for meat. There is no active regulation that covers this practice as DAFF don't regard them as livestock whilst they're not regarded as being pets either. There is no shortage of information on the net (accompanied by often very graphic images) that tell the full story of the horror of greyhound racing. There is also no shortage of greyhound racing events run in temperatures of over 35C (it is quite common in Australia) even though greyhounds are very prone to heat stress and regularly die in such conditions.

The industry allows doping to run riot which results in dogs being put through incredibly cruel dosing regimes that often result in organ failure. It's self-regulation is virtually non-existent with dogs being forced to be microchipped by their breeders whilst there being no requirement to actually register that microchip so that the dog can actually be tracked. The ear tattoo system is just as bad - both of mine have ear tattoos that cannot be traced via the greyhound racing body. Those dogs that have traceable ear tattoos but are no longer wanted are occasionally found dumped with their ears cut off as was the case in Tasmania a few years ago when one was found still alive at the waste dump and had to be put down.

Around 20,000 greyhounds are bred each year for dog racing with only a small fraction being raced with the vast majority then being killed. There are even breeding subsidies in place which promote this needless killing. Despite industry spin about welfare initiatives, there are no plans to reduce numbers bred. The industry shows no regard to the welfare of these dogs at any stage in their lives. Greyhounds suffer from appallingly high rates of injuries, frequently being put down for perfectly treatable ailments (e.g. broken toes) that might affect their future performance if allowed to heal. They're usually kept in unacceptable living conditions with dogs caged/kennelled for long periods. The training methods used for them are often dubious in nature (ie. live baiting). The industry itself shows a lack of accountability, responsibility, transparency and uses clever spin to hide or deflect welfare concerns.

Looking at gambling as a whole, this is an industry that makes the majority of its money by exploiting those problem-gamblers in society that are most vulnerable. Whatever way you look at greyhound racing, it's just wrong. Please do what you can to try to bring this industry to account for it's appalling treatment of what are very beautiful, gentle and intelligent dogs.