

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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It would appear that the current management of the sale and over-breeding of greyhounds is being grossly mismanaged. There must be stricter controls for breeders to meet standards before a breeding licence is issued.

There must be an introduction of a comprehensive regulation to protect greyhounds from practices where the animal is unreasonably and unnecessarily and unjustifiably injured, terrified, killed, overworked, over bred, and over-used. Stop owners from caging the animal for long periods of time.

The breeder or potential breeder of greyhounds must attend mandatory education training sessions to obtain and/or hold a licence.

Targeted and random kennel inspections must be completed by inspectors before a breeder is issued a licence. This must happen on a regular basis.

The licence must be renewed annually, with mandatory kennel inspections and document checking.

Ensure that all greyhounds must be micro chipped.

To ensure that breeders are compliant with animal cruelty laws, inspectors could be tasked to peruse the "for sale" advertisements of greyhounds to covertly investigate breeders and conduct random inspections of the greyhounds for sale.

It is distressing to learn that a high number of greyhounds are euthanased each year.

A percentage of the funds breeders receive from the sale of the dogs must be redirected to greyhound adoption programs.

A percentage of the money from gambling on greyhounds must be redirected to greyhound breeding programs.

Breeders must provide a Veterinary Certificate of Euthanasia to ensure that it is done humanely.

During Kennel inspections and every track meet, inspectors are to conduct random and targeting drug testing of greyhounds to stamp out 'doping' of dogs.

Extreme penalties must be introduced to prosecute offenders who "dope" greyhounds.

A third party that is independent of Greyhound Racing NSW, must be established to enforce standards for the ethical treatment of the greyhounds. This is an absurd conflict of interest, and must be regulated by a body that does not profit from greyhound racing to ensure integrity. This also stems to the inadequacy and questionable integrity of data collection in the industry: including pups born, injury rates and the number of dogs euthanased each year.

There must be an increase in the penalties and/ or imprisonment of offenders who are found to be in breach of the Prevention of cruelty to Animals Act 1979. Inspectors are to be given more powers and resources to conduct these types of investigations.

The export of greyhounds to countries where there are no effective animal cruelty laws should be banned. High penalties and a "Naming and Shaming" of offenders would be a good deterrent.

Breeders/owners of greyhounds should be educated or shown footage on what happens to greyhounds in these countries where greyhounds are exported to.

In my view, the government should shut down the majority of greyhound racetracks and a percentage of the profits should go to the care and placement of the thousands of greyhounds that are discarded and killed. If there are less greyhound tracks, fewer dogs would be needed. There would be fewer people gambling away their pay checks. Don't you think there are enough sporting events and/or races to bet on anyway? The public should be better educated on the cruelty of this industry. I applaud the commencement of this inquiry into greyhound racing and I hope for a positive outcome.