

**Submission
No 979**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Ms Leslie McCawley

Date received: 6/11/2013

Dear Director,

It is very distressing to learn about the harsh and often lethal conditions imposed on dogs caught up and exploited in the world of racing.

It appears that current legislation is not strict enough, in that it allows dreadful abuse of dogs, which are by nature lovable, loyal and eager to please. Dogs really do deserve better.

May I suggest several areas for the Select Committee to consider?

1. The whole area of breeding and sale of greyhounds needs to be better organised and monitored.
2. Fewer dogs should be killed; huge numbers of greyhounds are 'euthanised' each year. 'Euthanised' is a soft word meaning killed, and these dogs do not deserve to be killed just because they can't win a race. They are living beings who have a life to live, and deserve to have a chance. They are not machines.
3. Giving drugs to dogs is horrible. These allegations need to be fully investigated. Prohibition of such practices needs to be enforced.
4. Objective evaluation of the role of Greyhound Racing NSW. Does it really deserve its role in establishing and enforcing standards for the treatment of dogs? Or is that a case of 'the fox guarding the chickens'?
5. Prosecution in every case where animal cruelty is found.
6. Auditable and monitorable data should be required on all aspects of the dog-racing endeavour, including the number of puppies born, dogs euthanised, and injury rates.
7. Consider banning of animal export to the many countries that have no animal cruelty laws on their books, or do not enforce them.

My grand-dad was passionate about the dog races but it would have broken his heart if he had known how the dogs are actually treated. I think most people would be horror-struck if they knew what suffering this "sport" involved for dogs, who almost everyone loves.

This Inquiry is long overdue, and I hope it leads to improved treatment of all of these dogs. Thank you for undertaking this important work!

Sincerely,

Leslie McCawley