

Submission  
No 588

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

Where to start. There are a few different points in relation to this industry that are of great concern. They were listed by someone and since I couldn't have put it better myself I will list them below.

- ? High rates of over-breeding and large-scale killing of greyhounds
- ? Industry's acceptance of high level of greyhound wastage?
- ? High rates of injuries sustained during racing, often fatal
- ? Reports of the use of performance enhancing drugs on the animals
- ? Reports of inhumane methods of killing, often to healthy animals
- ? Reports of links to organised crime
- ? Insufficient commitment by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) for the welfare of the animals
- ? Lack of funds means no animal welfare improvements planned
- ? Insufficient regulation and monitoring of animal welfare by GRNSW
- ? Lack of close regulation of GRNSW's Code of Practice
- ? Insufficient penalties awarded for breaching animal welfare standards
- ? Ineffective re-homing program adopted by GRNSW
- ? Greyhounds exported to countries with inadequate welfare regulations
- ? Distinct lack of importance awarded to the welfare of the animals

There are so many bred for this industry that with the best will in the world there is no way rescue groups can cope with the amount. In fact with all the groups combined there are only the lucky few percent that make it. I don't know of many other instances where this would be considered acceptable, except for horse racing. The only way to stop the carnage is by cutting down the numbers allowed to be bred. Most dogs have finished their racing capacity by the time they are 3 or 4 and so

are discarded at a young age. Some never make the grade even so are discarded even earlier. I have been very disappointed. When Mr Hogan took over and it looked like the Industry itself was going to commit to re-homing and there were meetings held with other organisations things looked quite positive. However since then very little has been done and I would guess they re-home less than the private rescues which is just not acceptable. With the large amount of money made from the Industry it should be able to do better than that. Perhaps a levy should be introduced so that they could manage a re-homing effort like their counterparts in Victoria who have a large kennel and rehome a lot of dogs. The organisation that was rehoming through the Industry here backed away because the assessments of the dogs were too harsh and quite a lot of dogs were not making it through, eg air snapping is not aggression it is something many sighthounds do. It was one thing I heard brought up. I know there are others. It appears they were assessed by people who had never owned a Greyhound previously. It has meant that trainers who want to re-home are reluctant to hand over their dogs to the Industry as they are concerned their dogs will still be euthanased. I worked in the animal welfare industry for the past 10 yrs so have some idea of what has been reported as still going on in as far as things like live baiting and lack of care of greyhounds is concerned. Unfortunately it is very difficult to prove. Many people are too afraid to make an actual report which would involve giving their details for fear of repercussions as they are afraid of the people concerned who are quite often very aggressive and yes some have been cited as members of motor cycle gangs. So often these are not able to be followed up on. I was appalled to hear that there is no department that is directly

responsible for the welfare of Greyhounds. It seems unbelievable. Those injured on the track don't make it off usually, according to records provided by one organisation, as the owners don't appear to consider them viable any more as racers. If as a private individual I failed to get help for my dog or took it out and shot it etc I would be reported for cruelty but Greyhound Racing it appears seems to think it is acceptable as there doesn't seem to be any enquiry into such matters. I am very concerned about the recent doping allegations and hope that these will be followed up and better testing and monitoring done. The dogs shouldn't have to endure that in the name of profit. My own rescues had been taken to a pound and basically left to die like most of the others who find their way there since there are not enough places in rescue for the majority. They had been raced all over NSW and had the scars to prove it. You would not think that they had spent most of their lives kenneled now as they have adjusted really well to their new life as a loved pet and I would like to see more end up like this. I am really hoping that this enquiry will be able to make improvements to the Industry that will mean it will be better regulated and the dogs get a better deal out of it. If they have to race them then at least have minimum standards and conditions that are acceptable and a way of policing it. Not like it is currently and out of control. Thank you for the chance to make this submission. I do hope you will do your best to make it count as this is the only chance they will get.

Yours sincerely and with hope,