

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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Partially Confidential

Submission for 'Enquiry Into Greyhound Racing In New South Wales

I oppose Greyhound Racing because the Australian Greyhound Racing System cannot exist without breeding and disposing of massive numbers of dogs, and because the Economics of the Industry require that Profits be Valued Over and Above the Welfare of the dogs.

Greyhounds bred and kept like livestock is contrary to what is ethically right, it also is contrary to their sentient and pack mentality. Like all other breeds of dogs, they deserve recognition and rights in accordance with humanity, and not enslaved for financial gain. No other breed of dog is forced an existence of a life so dismal.

The Ethos projected by the Racing Industry of the 'Sport' of Greyhound Racing Conflicts with Humane Ethics and Morality.

The Dogs deserve that their story be told to the public, for us to make balanced and ethical decisions regarding the future of Greyhound Racing.

The effectiveness of current industry regulation, including the level of autonomy of Greyhound Racing NSW:

There is no independent oversight of the greyhound racing industry in NSW. The industry is governed by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW), an autonomous non-government body established in 2009 under the Greyhound Racing Act 2009 (NSW). GRNSW is responsible for both the regulatory and commercial functions of the industry.

Within GRNSW, there is no independent regulatory body or official, making it difficult or impossible for integrity of the Industry to be monitored. There is an integrity auditor; this role is appointed by GRNSW itself. This creates a clear conflict of interest as the integrity officer is responsible for overseeing stewards, drug testing, control and registration, advising GRNSW on those matters and investigating complaints against racing officials.

Indeed, former greyhound racing integrity auditor for NSW, David Landa has spoken publicly about his resignation in 2012, criticizing the role as compromised and unworkable.

Landa claimed that he was unable to facilitate public inquiries into the problems within the industry, and that "failings in the legislation make the functioning of this position as an independent oversight, simply not possible".

No legislative or regulatory change was enacted following Mr. Landa's resignation.

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There is no government body in NSW which takes responsibility for the welfare of greyhounds.

The Minister for Racing is responsible for racing but not the welfare of racing greyhounds. The government departments do not know how many greyhounds are bred, killed or die on the track each year.

GRNSW operates under the Greyhound Racing Act 2009 (NSW). Neither this Act nor any other statutory or regulatory instrument requires GRNSW to report welfare issues or cruelty cases, to the RSPCA, the Government, and The Media or to the Public in any way. There are significant welfare issues for Greyhounds that result from a commercial racing and gaming industry that is not independently regulated.

The insularity of the racing industry from Public scrutiny means that the majority of welfare issues are not transparent to the Public, nor are these issues reported to the media or recorded in any reports, industry or otherwise (that are transparently available).

The incidence of drug administration and doping in the industry and the efficacy of Greyhound Racing NSW control and testing processes:

The link in the Greyhound racing industry to criminal activity has been brought up in the many inquiries into the industry. In 2000, when the industry was still under government regulation, an inquiry into the sport by the Independent Commission against Corruption led to six people being charged with corrupt practices and the jailing of the former chief steward Rodney Potter. Now that the industry is self-regulating, it is out of the reach

This link to criminal activity appears to be a continuing issue.

Former integrity auditor David Landa expressed concern that GRNSW had not conducted any public inquiry into criminal or motorcycle club involvement in the industry.

The Greyhound racing industry has been plagued by allegations of doping, with reports of links to outlaw motorcycle club involvement.

From 2010/11 to 2011/12, across the country, positive drug swabs rose 82 per cent.

Recently reported incidents confirm that this is a continuing issue:

- Greyhound trainer, _____ was disqualified for 12 months due to a greyhound having a positive swab for amphetamine.¹⁰
- Greyhound trainer _____ was stood down in June 2013 over a positive test to cocaine by a dog in his kennel, Transcend Time.¹¹
- Greyhound trainer _____, received a suspension of two months over positive test to the prohibited substances - Caffeine, Theophylline, Paraxthine and Theobromine by two of his dogs.
- _____ was found guilty after an inquiry into a positive swab from a greyhound to Procaine and was fined \$500. ¹³
- _____ was fined \$500 and suspended for two years after an inquiry into a positive swab from a greyhound to Procaine.
- In March 2013, trainer _____ was disqualified for a period of nine months and was fined \$3,000 after a urine sample taken from Vanderburg's greyhound tested positive to amphetamine and benzoylecgonine.

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Sale and Breeding of Greyhounds, including the Market Conditions and Welfare of Animals.

Over-breeding of Greyhounds and the HIGH Euthanasia Rate

In NSW in 2012, there were 4000 registered greyhound trainers and 8200 registered greyhound owners. In NSW, on average for the last 5 years, 8900 greyhounds were born each year.

Greyhounds, if they remain uninjured or do not perish, generally have a two year racing Career, beginning at around 14 months and ending at around 4 years of age, after this time there are enormous numbers of greyhounds that are no longer wanted by their owners or trainers. They may be injured, deemed too slow to race, do not want to chase the lure, or are not desired for breeding purposes.

According to figures provided by GRNSW, over 3,000 greyhounds are put down in NSW alone each year because they are “too slow”, have been injured racing or training, which include broken legs, paralysis, head trauma and cardiac arrests from over exertion or have reached the end of their racing career.

The Greyhound Advocacy Group, *Greyhound Freedom* has determined that in 2012 - 510 greyhounds fractured a bone or died from their injuries at a TAB Greyhound Track in Australia. There were 1583 further injuries and 3386 greyhounds were scratched from scheduled races due to injuries. In 2013, from January to September - a total of 849 greyhounds died or were killed as a result of their injuries or broken bones from racing, and there were 12,084 other injuries from racing. Injuries and Deaths which occurred at the 20 non-TAB Greyhound Tracks in NSW are Unable to be Determined, as the

Stewards' Reports are NOT accessible to the Public.

The Adequacy and Integrity of Data collected (or not collected) by the Greyhound Racing Industry, supposedly tracking dogs from Birth to Death, is called into Question

This is likely to be a conservative estimate of the TRUE number of greyhounds killed each year. From 2003 to 2011, there were 80,133 greyhounds born in NSW.

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In 2012, there were 2,552 greyhounds registered as pets and 6150 greyhounds registered as racing greyhounds. Greyhounds live 10 to 12 years, so in 2012 - there should be more than 80,133 greyhounds alive. Thus, it seems that 71,431 greyhounds are unaccounted.

It is unclear whether GRNSW is failing to collect data on the fate of greyhounds or not making it publically available. Either scenario is UNACCEPTABLE in accounting for the welfare of dogs in the greyhound racing industry.

Re-homing of Greyhounds discarded from the racing industry provides an alternative to the premature euthanasia of otherwise healthy dogs. Some greyhounds are re-homed through the industry run program "Greyhounds as Pets", or through independent volunteer greyhound rescue groups.

GRNSW does NOT publically disclose the number of greyhounds adopted through the 'Greyhounds as Pets' program, however it has been revealed that just 300 dogs have been re-homed since 2009 under this program.

This is a VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE of the greyhounds born in NSW.

This figure does NOT include puppies discarded from unplanned litters.

Thus, the MAJORITY of greyhounds born in NSW are disposed of or die at a young age, and their fate is largely unknown.

There is NO record of the Fate of the Thousands of Greyhounds "retired" from their racing careers after the age of 4. There is NO record of the Number of Greyhounds given to Universities for Teaching and Training, or Kept by Veterinary Hospitals as LIVE Blood Donors, or Sent to Overseas Racing Industries such as Macau in China.

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Unlicensed Puppies

Under the GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules, breeding of greyhounds is strictly regulated. Under Rule 126 of GRNSW Greyhound Racing Rules "where the owner of a greyhound consents to another person using the greyhound for breeding purposes.... A prescribed authority form shall be lodged with the Controlling Body..." Rules 126-140 relate to the rules controlling siring, whelping and breeding more generally.

The strict regulation of the breeding of greyhounds results in unlicensed puppies born accidentally, or in an unregistered situation, being destroyed. This outcome was brought to public attention in the well reported incident involving greyhound trainer Tony Lockett, who was sued when he sold unlicensed greyhound puppies.

After the tests confirmed that the nearly 40 greyhound puppies were not sired correctly, the authorities removed their breeding certificates, stamping them "sire unknown", and the puppies were destroyed. Re-homing and Rescue Groups rarely have greyhound puppies surrendered into their care.

Therefore, there are THOUSANDS of Greyhounds which are born and die every year in Australia, that DO NOT get re-homed.

It is not known whether any data is collated on the number of puppies born, or the number of greyhounds killed in the NSW greyhound racing industry each year. This data remains hidden from the Public.

It is not until dogs have reached 12 weeks of age that they are required to be implanted with a microchip, or at point of sale or change of ownership (whichever occurs first).

This is the first time an external record of their existence is required to be kept.

Tracking of Greyhounds from Birth to Death largely relies on Breeders and Owners "Self-Reporting" to Greyhound Racing NSW"

There needs to be MORE TRANSPARENCY in the LIFECYCLE of these dogs.

The implementation of relevant policies, rules and regulations as well as information and education programs, in addition, GRNSW insists that clubs adhere to animal and greyhound welfare policies and regulations as a condition of their registration.

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Whilst the Animal Welfare Policy of GRNSW provides that those involved in greyhound racing "Must take appropriate action where... Cruelty or Neglect is identified, including reporting of offending parties to the RSPCA or other relevant authorities that are in a position to take action against an offender "; the RSPCA does NOT generally intervene in the welfare of Greyhounds whilst in the Racing Industry.

Dr Hugh Wirth was quoted in 2004 as stating that whilst he deplored the overproduction of greyhounds for the racing industry, the Official RSPCA position is that there is no reason to ban greyhound racing.

The RSPCA gains its authority from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW), which does little to protect the welfare of greyhounds in the racing industry:

The racing of Greyhounds is itself not an offense under the Act and the killing of an animal is also, not unlawful per se.... As long as the pain and suffering inflicted on the animal during the act of killing does not amount to cruelty, it is lawful for an owner to dispose of their property.

Furthermore, there is no act of cruelty involved in greyhounds dying as a result of injuries sustained during a race. As long as the racing is legitimate and the pain and suffering inflicted on the animal during the act of killing, does not amount to cruelty, there is no offense in the disposal or death of injured, slow or otherwise unwanted greyhounds.

Any cruelty or mistreatment of greyhounds would have to be reported to the RSPCA in order for any investigation to be instigated.

In reality, this leaves the welfare of greyhounds in the hands of the Stewards who manage the operations of race meets. The role of the steward is to administer the racing rules, which involves the steward acting as Investigator - Prosecutor and Adjudicator of Breaches to the racing rules.

This multifaceted role was highlighted as problematic by Malcolm Scott in his 2008 Report into the racing industry, as this leaves little room for the separation of power needed to allow for due process to occur.

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Malcolm Scott in his 2008 Report highlighted that “the traditional role of stewards is that of acting as Investigator, Prosecutor and Adjudicator. There is no discernable break or differentiation between stewards engaging in all three functions. Leaving aside matters of Law and issues of Natural Justice, there is a Lingering Perception that it is Inappropriate for the Same Person to Gather Evidence, Bring about a Charge based upon that Evidence, Prosecute that Evidence and Determine the Charge based upon that Prosecution.

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