

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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According to figures provided by Greyhound Racing NSW, over 3,000 greyhounds are put down in NSW alone each year because they are "too slow", have been injured racing or training, or have reached the end of their racing career. This use and kill mentality is simply abhorrant.

Just 300 dogs have been rehomed since 2009 under Greyhound Racing NSW's 'Greyhounds As Pet' program. This needs to be significantly increased.

Nationally it has been estimated that 17,000 greyhounds are killed in Australia each year. In addition, injuries and illnesses suffered by dogs in the greyhound racing industry include broken legs, paralysis, head trauma and cardiac arrests from over exertion. In April 2013 three dogs died at the one meeting at the Dapto track; one broke its neck in race eight while another broke its back in race two; a third dog was destroyed after breaking its offside hock.

There are also allegations that dogs are being fed performance enhancing drugs. Across the country, positive drug swabs rose 82 per cent from 2010/11 to 2011/12. There needs to be a complete ban on drugs and ongoing enforcement provided.

Collated data on the number of pups born, incidences of injuries and number of dogs killed in the NSW greyhound racing industry each year needs to be made public. It is unclear whether Greyhound Racing NSW is failing to collect data on the fate of greyhounds or they are not making it publically available. Either scenario is unacceptable in accounting for the welfare of dogs in the greyhound racing industry.

Tracking of greyhound from birth to death largely relies on breeders and owners self-reporting to Greyhound Racing NSW. There needs to be an independent body to ensure accountability.

I personally have heard of greyhounds being taken to vets to 'bleed out' a slow cruel death so that their blood can be used for transfusions. Incredibly unethical and cruel business. The Greyhound Industry use, profit from and destroy mentality. This will come out for the public to see for themselves.