

**Submission  
No 786**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Name:** Ms Kathryn Woolfe

**Date received:** 6/11/2013

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Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important inquiry into greyhound racing.

I am very concerned about the treatment of greyhounds in the racing industry in NSW. I feel that current regulations allow unacceptable abuse of these beautiful dogs.

These are the main points I believe should be considered by the Committee:

1. The need for better management of the sale and over-breeding of greyhounds.
2. The need for measures, such as financial incentives, to reduce the high numbers of greyhounds euthanased each year.
3. Allegations of the 'doping' of dogs (as I saw on ABC).
4. Concern about the welfare of animals in the industry and the conflict of interest represented by Greyhound Racing NSW's role in establishing and enforcing standards for the treatment of animals in the industry.
5. The need for prosecution where animal cruelty is found.
6. The inadequacy and questionable integrity of data collection in the industry: including the number of pups born, the number of dogs euthanased and injury rates.
7. The ongoing export of greyhounds to countries where there are no effective animal cruelty laws, like Macau. At the Canidrome Racetrack in Macau, an average of 30 greyhounds are killed every month. These dogs are then replaced by greyhounds that are imported from Australia. The track has no adoption program. Right now, there are hundreds of greyhounds living at the Canidrome dog track in Macau. These dogs are kept in small cages, and every dog will eventually be killed.
8. The Industry's acceptance of high level of greyhound waste
9. Lack of close regulation of GRNSW's Code of Practice Insufficient penalties awarded for breaching animal welfare standards

10. Ineffective re-homing program adopted by GRNSW I enclose the following statistics as evidence for some of the issues of concern:

Injury and death statistics for Greyhounds From Jan 2012 to Sep 2013:

324 greyhounds died at the track. They either collapsed on the track, in the catching pen or were euthanased as a result of their injuries.

532 greyhounds had fractures. 90% of greyhounds with fractures are not raced again or not used for breeding.

132 greyhounds were scratched from a race because of the death of the greyhound.

There were 31 186 injuries. These greyhounds were scratched from a race due to injuries or they suffered an injury from a race.

In NSW between 2003 - 2011 there were 80 133 born (not including discarded puppies that were not recorded).

That is on average 8900 greyhounds born in NSW each year.

In 2013 there are only 2 552 greyhounds registered as pets and 6150 as racing greyhounds. As Greyhounds have to be either registered as pets or racing dog, this statistic suggests there were nearly 100 000 greyhounds which are unaccounted for. It is concerning as to the fate of these dogs.

The way that greyhounds are used and exploited once discarded from the racing industry is numerous and extensive. Many vet clinics accept greyhounds discarded by the industry and take their blood before they are euthanased. The community is aware that many greyhounds are not

euthanased. The dogs are killed inhumanely such as being bludgeoned to death or by other unacceptable practices.

I include in my submission a recently published study conducted by researchers at the University of Newcastle, greyhounds underwent invasive and distressing surgery without general anaesthetic or any form of sedative.

<http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/case-studies/invasive-surgery-conducted-on-conscious-greyhounds>

I sincerely urge you to take these issues and the statistics into account and I hope this Inquiry leads to strong recommendations which will improve the treatment of these dogs. I am aware of strong community concerns about the mistreatment of the dogs in this industry. It is in the interest of the Greyhound Racing industry to listen to community concerns if the industry is to continue into the future.