

**Submission  
No 367**

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

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Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a submission into the Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW.

Australians are a caring, animal loving and thoughtful people. The cruelty and mistreatment of greyhounds in the pursuit of entertainment and the greed for money is contrary to the Australian ethos. As a caring Australian, I have the following objections to this industry:

- Lack of animal welfare.
- Lack of transparency.

### Animal Welfare Issues

Numerous animal welfare issues exist in the Greyhound racing industry:

1. Overbreeding: It is a fact that the industry needs to breed more dogs than is necessary for races. Over-breeding allows participants in the industry to select the dogs most likely to perform well in racing. This means that homes need to be found for all the dogs and puppies not selected for racing and for those retired from racing. Wonderful work is being carried out by Greyhound rescue groups doing their best to find caring new homes for these dogs. Shelters and pounds are already full of dogs of various breeds (not including greyhounds) needing loving homes. Thousands of healthy dogs, non-greyhounds, are euthanised each and every year because homes can't be found for them in time. The purposeful breeding of greyhounds is compounding the existing concern of finding loving homes for all dogs (including greyhounds).
2. Injuries: The racing itself has inherent dangers for the greyhounds. Injuries sustained while racing occur all too often. Often, as a result of injury the dog can't continue competing. What happens to the dog then? As this industry is often undertaken by suburban backyard hobbyists drawn to the industry because of the lesser funds needed than their horseracing counterparts, participants often can't afford medical treatment or they see it as not worth-

their-while to treat a dog which may not be able to race again. The dog is often euthanised rather than receiving the care he/she deserves.

3. Doping: It has been proven that doping is occurring in the industry. What care or concern for the dogs is exhibited through this practice? Money is the driving force not animal welfare.

#### Lack of Transparency

As one of the drawcards for this industry is the lesser expense to participate when compared to horse racing, often participants are the suburban backyard hobbyists. This allows much to go on behind closed doors. Examples of this may include: the killing of unwanted dogs (adults and puppies); cruelty in training methods; use of live baits (while this has been banned, there are concerns that some may still be using these cruel practices), doping and dogs being locked in cages for extended periods.

#### “Benefits” Purported by the Greyhound Racing Industry

One of the “benefits” promoted by the Greyhound racing industry is that they donate to charity. The cruel reality of the industry outweighs this purported “benefit”. The Government would better serve charities by looking to assist them in other ways, then by ploughing money into Greyhound racing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this submission. I look forward to this Inquiry’s findings. I have faith that the focus is on animal welfare, where the needs and care of the dogs is placed above the greed for money and this dark industry’s secrets are unveiled and exposed to public scrutiny.