

**Submission  
No 357**

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

**Name:** Mr Raymond Lee

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LEGISLATIVE  
COUNCIL

4th November, 2013

The Director  
Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in NSW  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

My submission is in regard to integrity, animal welfare and drugs in racing.

I am a 75 year old and have been breeding, rearing and racing dogs for 55 yrs.

During my time in the industry I have seen the CEO's come and go. Most of the stewards are sourced by "not what you know but who you know". I know of no-one who had any experience with greyhounds or had an academic level to hold a position that wields so much power. They can destroy peoples' lives and also in most cases, the lives of their animals. You only have to read the GRA rules on disqualification to see how impossible it is for those people. These rules are disgraceful and need amending. Trainers are intimidated at "inquiries" by the authority.

Not all greyhound trainers are the same. There are some that should have their facilities inspected regularly and yet this occurs vary rarely. We have 2 house dogs, 9 race dogs, 3 pups and 12 retired race dogs who's ages range from 8yrs to 15yrs. We have "graves" all over the property where previous greyhounds are buried. They lead long and happy lives and were well looked after till the end.

My partner, Louise, is a supporter of the RSPCA and has always been involved with animal welfare. We have built our lives and property around animals. We have managed to get 4 dogs into the Adoption Program, however this is very difficult because of the huge number of Greyhounds unsuited for racing or retired due to injury or age. Maybe the GRA should consider assisting owners with retired dogs so the huge number that are destroyed could be reduced. Millions of dollars are spent talking about Animal Welfare, but none of it seems to help the owners, trainers or animals.

The code of practice needs looking into. I have had only one inspection in 55 years and some trainers have never been inspected. The GRA Integrity has "gone mad" regarding drugs in racing and although it does exist, most of the time it is for simple careless mistakes eg caffeine metabolites or medications prescribed by qualified vets.

I have had breaches, none for serious, prohibited drugs. My last breach was for caffeine metabolites 50 nanograms which is the LOWEST level ever recorded, yet I have been disqualified for 3 years. 12 months have passed and all the extra work has been imposed upon Louise who is struggling to handle everything as I am forbidden to touch, feed or handle the dogs in any way. The only way the load could be lightened would be for us to sell some of the race dogs and have all our old pet dogs put to sleep. This is something we do not want to do.

I believe that 90% of the trouble with the Greyhound Industry is the GRA itself :- 1. Most of the CEO's do not have the experience for the positions they hold. 2. The Integrity have too much power, they are

judge, jury and prosecutor. 3. Their attitude is one of intimidation  
4. Appeals are a waste of time as new evidence cannot be produced and  
the judge makes his decision on a transcript which in my case was  
altered to suit their benefit.

I would be pleased to be given the opportunity to express my views at the  
inquiry.

Yours faithfully

Raymond Lee