

**Submission  
No 943**

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

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## Greyhounds - Running For Their Lives For The Price of a Bet

I apologise for missing the deadline for submissions but I would appreciate if my submission could be taken into account please because I have very strong opinions on the welfare of the greyhounds involved in this industry and I have a few things to say. This is not in any way complete but I just wanted to get something to you as soon as possible. I've been wanting to compile my thoughts and acquired knowledge on the subject for any government department who will listen. I will continue until it is finished, whether you accept it in this New South Wales inquiry or not. I know, in my home state of Queensland, the fight continues to block the development of a greyhound racing track at Slacks Creek in Brisbane. It was reported in early October that the State Government had approved the development and the money had been allocated (somewhere between \$12 million and \$24 million!) ... millions and millions of tax-payer funded dollars that should have been used for something a lot more vitally necessary to the community. So, for now, I'll leave you with this ...

I have been following the greyhound racing industry for several years now and what I have discovered is that it is a far cry from the exciting, fun and benign sport we've all been led to believe. We obviously grow up hearing about greyhound racing and horse racing as just a harmless piece of fun, a spot of gambling, a 'day at the track', or an exciting opportunity to own/co-own a racehorse or a greyhound. Not many people question the racing industry's real purpose (money making) or look into the practices and welfare of the dogs (and horses) involved. Over the last few years, I have done just that ... both here in Australia and overseas ... and what I have found is a heartbreakingly cruel and callous industry, a business where greyhounds are treated simply as running machines. **NO OTHER DOG BREED IN AUSTRALIA IS KILLED OR SUFFERS AS MUCH AS GREYHOUNDS.**

Of course there ARE reputable greyhound breeders, owners and trainers out there but statistics show that somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 greyhounds are destroyed in this country each and every year. Then there are the hundreds of greyhounds who are sent to universities and laboratories around the country to be used in animal experiments or for dissection. And THEN there are hundreds more exported to Asian countries where there are no animal welfare laws and, worse still, some who end up in dog abattoirs or being boiled alive or those who are skinned alive for their fur. I have seen and can provide photos of all these scenarios.

And when I say 'statistics', I say it loosely because the government department allegedly responsible for regulating the greyhound racing industry in New South Wales admitted to not keeping proper records. When asked, Greyhound Racing NSW, according to the NSW parliamentary website, responded, "What data does the Government collect on the number of greyhounds killed each year because they are considered unsuitable for racing?", the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing, and Minister for the Arts replied, "The Government does not collect such data."

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/prod/la/qala.nsf/18101dc36b638302ca257146007ee41a/73129441ba2b6f30ca257b750000790d?OpenDocument>

When asked, "What has been the response to allegations of cruelty reported to Greyhound Racing NSW?", the Minister responded, "I am advised that GRNSW responds to every formal animal welfare allegation in relation to licensed persons or registered greyhounds by way of inspections, veterinary checks and, where required, joint investigation with the NSW RSPCA. Of the 36 reported investigations, only 11 persons were either disqualified, warned off or were refused licensing by GRNSW."

Again, according to their website, "A further 14 welfare breaches of the Rules of Greyhound Racing were detected during routine kennel inspections and/or racing inquiries by GRNSW

Stewards during the same period. There were no proven allegations in relation to violence or aggravated cruelty to greyhounds registered for the purposes of greyhound racing by persons licensed by Greyhound Racing NSW."

But it's through the efforts of the rescues and shelters and individual members of the community who rescue the dogs, that a more accurate figure of suffering, abuse and killing becomes apparent. Greyhounds have been found in and rescued from atrocious situations where they are kept in cramped confinement (cages) for long periods of time (if not ALL their lives), kept under weight to maintain their racing weight, being doped with performance-enhancing drugs, casually and indiscriminately discarded and disposed of at the tracks in front of the public.

80133 is the number of greyhounds born in NSW from 2003-2011 (excluding accidental matings and discarded puppies); 2552 greys were registered as pets in 2011; 6150 greys were registered as racing dogs in 2011 ... a whopping 71431 dead greyhounds ... and a paltry 300 greyhounds rehomed by GRNSW since 2009. These are appalling statistics and this is in NSW alone. (These stats from the Australian Animal Protection Law Journal.)

In April 2013 an Illawarra Mercury report on the deaths of three greyhounds at a Dapto (NSW) race meet told of one dog breaking its neck and another breaking its back. On 5th June 2013, "Tuscan Storm", a 3-year-old greyhound, won race 12 at Shepparton (Vic) but collapsed in the catching pen and was subsequently found to be deceased. 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. Injuries and deaths that occurred at the 20 non-TAB greyhound tracks in NSW cannot be determined as the stewards' reports are not publicly accessible.

Yes, we know there are some greyhound trainers better than others. Well so what? It doesn't stop the large number of deaths and injuries, the large numbers of greyhounds killed, the live baiting of animals, the greyhounds that are blooded, the greyhounds dissected at universities, the greyhounds sent to Asia, the greyhounds suffering the side affects of illegal performance-enhancing drugs, and the continual breeding of brood bitches until they have permanent health problems. All this so people can what? Ah so they can bet. Right that makes it all worth it? so much more to say, not enough time before close of business today ...

by Jennifer Moore