

Submission
No 686

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

I do not support the sport of greyhound racing at all. No matter what the industry does and how much effort it puts into rehoming dogs (which at the moment is inexcusably low anyway), there will ALWAYS be surplus dogs which means there will ALWAYS be dogs being killed. Not to mention the many more that die from injuries, and those drugged by their trainers in an attempt to improve their race performance (refer to report on ABC's 7:30, October 15th 2013). I have seen first hand the "wastage" that occurs in the industry. As a veterinary science student at a NSW university, I have completed numerous dissection and post-mortem practical classes and nearly all of the dogs provided for these were greyhounds - young, healthy dogs euthenased for no other reason than not performing well enough on the track. The number of dogs we received in my first three years of vet school was astounding. And obviously this is just a handful of those that are actually killed.

I have also been involved with an organisation that rescues and rehouse ex-racer greyhounds. Some of these dogs come into rescue completely emaciated, others with scars indicating past physical abuse. Some are completely healthy and uninjured but they still have been disposed of by trainers, like inanimate objects that no longer work, rather than the living breathing animals that they are. Thankfully these few are the lucky ones that continue their life as pets. But as all statistics suggest, they are absolutely in the minority.

I believe this is all absolutely unjustifiable in the name of sport. The surplus dogs being killed, the injuries, the abuse, the doping. I support a full ban or at the very least, legislation to improve the welfare of greyhounds and place greater controls on breeding. Changes absolutely must be made.