

Submission  
No 583

## INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

**Name:** Name suppressed

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

---

Partially Confidential

I have a rescue greyhound who was found wandering, starving (14.8kg) and carrying awful injuries in remote bushland by some trout fishermen. They took her to the nearest council pound who had no luck locating an owner so called the RSPCA who wouldn't take her as she was a commercial animal. Then the pound were going to put her down but someone there contacted a private rescue group who took her in and paid all her initial food and medical costs and nursed her back to health. They also contacted her registered owner who said he had given her away as a hunting dog and didn't care where she was now but he didn't want her back. So then the rescue group (Brightside Farm Sanctuary) set about rehoming her and that's when we got her.

I have been a vet nurse in the past and was aware of the gross overbreeding but luckily the vet I worked for refused to put down healthy dogs for no reason so he had no racing clientele but we often looked after dogs that were unwanted by the industry and had become a 'waste product'. From my personal experience it seems that the second a greyhound is deemed a 'waste product' there is not a dollar more spent on their care and what happens to them is in the lap of the gods.

My biggest concerns are the gross degree of overbreeding, the widespread doping and the lack of accountability for the huge number of 'waste product' hounds.

Other industries have to account for and financially fund the appropriate disposal of any waste produced from their industry so why does the greyhound racing industry not have to do this as part of their normal practice??

If they cannot afford to rehome or provide care for the hounds once they are no longer needed or wanted then perhaps they should stop breeding so many?

Greyhounds make great pets and there is so much potential for them as domestic pets, assistance dogs (in the US they work as assistance dogs for returned veterans with PTSD, in nursing homes and for children with cerebral palsy), companion pets and and rehabilitation assistance dogs for inmates of the prison system.

They should be sought after as a valuable animal after they are no longer needed on the track but due to the sheer number of them available this will never be the case until the overbreeding is controlled.

I also think it is very cheeky that the industry relies upon the generosity of the public and privately funded rescue groups to help hounds make the transition to a new life rather than factoring that cost in at the beginning of the dogs life cycle. I am aware that there is one industry funded organisation performing this task (GAP) but the number of dogs that they rehomed last year compared to the number who were bred, got euthanised or simply disappeared, speaks volumes. If the industry is serious about this issue, every single animal bred should be accounted for and their life after racing/breeding should be funded by the industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission.