

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/11/2013

Partially Confidential

I'd like to inform you that I don't support the dog killing industry of greyhound racing. □ These beautiful animals are killed in large numbers, die and injured from racing, drugged, given to universities, used for blooding, sent to Asian countries with no animal welfare laws. □ Live baiting and shooting still occur and cruel techniques are used to train. To breed sentient beings so we can race them, bet on them and kill them is barbaric in a civilized society. Only 6 states in the USA still allow greyhound racing, why are we so behind with this issue. There is obviously a large amount of organized crime supporting the industry.

According to figures provided by Greyhound Racing NSW, over 3,000 greyhounds are put down in NSW alone each year because they are "too slow", have been injured racing or training, or have reached the end of their racing career.

Just 300 dogs have been rehomed since 2009 under Greyhound Racing NSW's 'Greyhounds As Pet' program so this program isn't working.

Nationally it has been estimated that 17,000 greyhounds are killed in Australia each year.

Injuries and illnesses suffered by dogs in the greyhound racing industry include broken legs, paralysis, head trauma and cardiac arrests from over exertion. In April 2013 three dogs died at the one meeting at the Dapto track; one broke its neck in race eight while another broke its back in race two; a third dog was destroyed after breaking its offside hock, why is a broken leg a death sentence?

There are also allegations that dogs are being fed performance enhancing drugs. Across the country, positive drug swabs rose 82 per cent from 2010/11 to 2011/12.

Collated data on the number of pups born, incidences of injuries and number of dogs killed in the NSW greyhound racing industry each year remains hidden from the public.

Tracking of greyhound from birth to death largely relies on breeders and owners self-reporting to Greyhound Racing NSW.

It is unclear whether Greyhound Racing NSW is failing to collect data on the fate of greyhounds or they are not making it publically available. Either scenario is unacceptable in accounting for the welfare of dogs in the greyhound racing

industry.

There is no independent oversight of the greyhound racing industry in NSW. The industry is governed by Greyhound Racing NSW, an autonomous non-government body established in 2009 under the Greyhound Racing Act. GRNSW is responsible for both the regulatory and commercial functions of the industry.

Former greyhound racing integrity auditor, David Landa, resigned last year because he said he was unable to facilitate public inquiries into the problems within the industry. Landa claimed that "failings in the legislation make the functioning of this position as an independent oversight, simply not possible." No legislative or regulatory change was enacted following Mr Landa's resignation.

The integrity auditor is appointed by GRNSW itself. This creates a clear conflict of interest as the integrity officer is responsible for overseeing stewards, drug testing, and control and registration, advising GRNSW on those matters and investigating complaints against racing officials.

The greyhound racing industry has been plagued by allegations of doping, with reports of links to outlaw motorcycle club involvement.

Former integrity auditor David Landa expressed concern that GRNSW had not conducted any public inquiry into criminal or motorcycle club involvement in the industry.

The industry has a history of criminal activity. In 2000, when the industry was still under government regulation, an inquiry into the sport by the Independent Commission Against Corruption led to six people being charged with corrupt practices and the jailing of the former chief steward Rodney Potter. Now that the industry is self-regulating, it is out of the reach of ICAC.

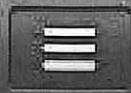
The Intercode Agreement signed in 1998 by the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing bodies divides the shares of the TAB takings between the three codes.

GRNSW receives 13 percent of the TAB takings, despite claiming to generate more than 20 per cent of betting revenue. GRNSW argues it has cost its code \$125 million since 1998. Owners, handlers and trainers have criticised the management of the Intercode agreement by GRNSW.

Please start regulating this "industry" or better still phase it out completely. What use does it actually serve?

Yours Sincerely

PS. Here is an example of a typical greyhound owner, callous and completely removed from the real issues here.



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, yes i know about some greys not being treated very well but that seems to be in the minority. When we have dogs which we cannot rehome we take them to the vet and have them euthanised humanely..you see they are more of a business than a pet and so once they have finished racing or cannot make it to a racetrack it is the only way as if we kept them all we would have a heap more than pet rescue. Mind you we do keep one as a pet.

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