

**Submission
No 530**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Organisation: Greyhound Freedom

Date received: 12/11/2013

- Drugs

14. Greyhound as Pets

15. Other welfare concerns:

- Exporting to Asia and expansion in China
- Used in research and universities
- Bleeding

16. The impact on vet clinic staff on large numbers of greyhound euthanased and bleeding

17. Compassion fatigue in greyhound adoption organisations

18. What do leading animal welfare and humane groups think about greyhound racing?

19. A glimpse at what is happening with greyhound racing worldwide

20 Why doesn't the general public know about the high injury rates, track deaths and high kill rate of greyhounds?

21. Final word and Dawson

Conclusion

Introduction

Greyhound Freedom is comprised of a small group of concerned individuals from around Australia that call themselves greyhound advocates. We have serious concerns for the welfare of greyhounds on and off the track.

Some of the information we are presenting concerns not only NSW, but also the racing industry in Australia as a whole. We believe it is impossible to consider NSW in isolation as the attitudes; deaths and treatment of greyhounds do not change simply because there is a state or territory boundary. Trainers and owners travel around Australia to race meets and greyhounds are sold often many times to different trainers in different states. What happens in NSW has an impact on, and reflects what is happening in other states and vice versa.

Although hearsay and anecdotal information is generally not strong enough to present to an inquiry, we ask that such information presented by ourselves and other groups not be ignored. In a recent 3 way phone call I had with both Bill Fanning, the GRNSW Integrity Officer and Tony O'Mara the GRNSW General Manager, they admitted to me that a "they know they can't get people in the industry to report welfare issues". If this is indeed the case, you need use whatever information you have and go outside the industry to find information and look at the information welfare advocate groups have, which is often anecdotal. Our concern is not how much money we can earn or the thrill of winning, our only agenda is the wellbeing of animals.

1. Death and Injuries at New South Wales and Australian Greyhound Tracks

Three years ago Greyhound Freedom tried to find out information about greyhounds that have died on the track, fractured their legs and general injuries suffered by greyhounds from racing. We did this to try and ascertain just how dangerous an activity racing was to the health and welfare of greyhounds. Every now and then you hear about horses breaking their legs and dying on the track, but what about greyhounds? GRNSW collects a great deal of information and statistics which are available to the public. They provide a plethora of trainer statistics, dogs' performance statistics and track statistics. All of it exists to help the punters determine which dogs to bet on, and yet none of it relates to animal welfare issues like injuries and deaths. We were unable to find any comprehensive information from GRNSW or Greyhound Australasia (that they were willing to admit or share with us) so we decided to start looking at the stewards reports that were available online. From 2012 we started collecting all the data that was available publicly.

Here we present the data we collected.

Notes :

1. This data is collected from steward reports available online and in the case of the Northern Territory from emails sent from a racing inspector from the NT Government.
2. See list of tracks below to see where from where the data was received.
3. This compilation **does not** represent all races run in Australia. For example it does not include qualifying heats in Victoria and it does not include these non-TAB tracks in NSW - Mudgee, Potts Park, Tweed Heads, Coonabarabran, Kempsey, Muswellbrook, Temora, Appin, Armidale, Goulburn, Coonamble, Lithgow, Broken Hill, Tamworth, Moree, Cowra, Gunnedah, Wauchope, Taree, Young. (Goulburn and Gunnedah have had some stewards available in 2013).

4. To give you an idea of how much racing occurs at these non-TAB tracks: in October 2013 there are 224 race meets in NSW and 84 of these are at non-TAB tracks where we are unable to obtain steward reports.
- This represents just over 30% of race meets in NSW that we do not have any injury or death information.
5. There may be other races that we are unaware of that do not publish steward reports that we are unaware of.
6. In addition please note that different states report different information:
- South Australia does not report injury types,
 - Western Australia does not report deaths,
 - New South Wales have stopped reporting deaths.

This means essentially that the deaths and injuries are considerably higher than what we have recorded.

7. Also note we have previously shared statistics with interested parties via social media. The figures have changed as we have updated our data.

Disclaimer

We have made all attempts to provide accurate information as is possible. There may be some inaccuracies due to errors on steward reports and human errors from data entry and collation.

Table A - Australia wide injuries and deaths summary

Year	Aus 2012	Aus 2013 Jan - Sept	Aus total	NSW 2012	NSW 2013 Jan- Sept	NSW total
Dead	184 <small>(see table B below)</small>	140 <small>(see table B below)</small>	224	11	4	15
Fractures	333 <small>(see table B below)</small>	199 <small>(see table B below)</small>	532	165	82	247
Scratched dead	85	46	131	26	20	46
Injuries at the track	7936	6466	14402	1583 <small>(see table C below)</small>	1274 <small>(see table C below)</small>	2857
Scratched due to injuries	11166	5618	16784	3386	2497	5883
Scratched due to sickness	2 192	2035	4227	1078	908	1986
Vetted, no apparent injuries	8105	6916	15021	2588	2360	4948

Dead = Number of greyhounds that either died on the track, died at the end of the race, or were euthanased as a result of their injuries (regardless of whether they were treatable) or were reported as being deceased at later due to a race or were told to a Greyhound Freedom person via steward or vet. In other words these greyhounds left the track in a body bag.

Tracks - NSW : Bathurst, Bulli, Casino, Dapto, Dubbo, The Gardens, Grafton, Gosford, Lismore, Maitland, Nowra, Richmond, Wagga, Wentworth Park. Qld : Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Ipswich, Townsville, Rockhampton, Capalaba. Vic : Ballarat, Bendigo, Cranbourne, Geelong, Healesville, Horsham, Meadows, Shepparton, Sale, Warragul. Sandown, Traralgon, Warrnambool. SA: Gawler, Angle Park, Mt Gambier, Strathalbyn. WA: Mandurah, Northam, Cannington TAS: Hobart, Launceston, Devonport .ACT – Canberra. NT – Darwin

From January 2012 – September 2013 there have been a total of 32 073 injury events and 9 048 in NSW.

A look at injury types and deaths in Australia :

Table B - Deaths

Year	2012	2013 Jan - Sept	Total
Died on track or in catching pen Includes heart attack, required autopsy	5	12	17
Euthanased due to fracture/s (see details below)	133	96	226
Euthanased due to head trauma	1	-	1
Euthanased due to dropped muscles	2	-	2
Euthanased due to severe ligament damage, severe lacerations, tendons	1	2	3
Euthanased due to dislocation	2	1	3

Died or euthanased reason not given	40	29	72
<u>Description of fractures that resulted in euthanasia :</u>			
Fractured hocks	71	26	97
Fractured foreleg	19	32	51
Fractured radius/ulna	11	13	24
Fractured tibia	8	4	12
Fractured femur	5	1	6
Fractured shoulder	5	-	5
Fractured toes	3	2	5
Fractured metatarsal	3	-	3
Fractured wrist	3	6	10
Fractured elbow	3	4	7
Other fractures	2	4	6
Fractured neck	-	3	3
Fractured back	-	3	3

→The number one reason for a greyhound dying at the tracks was being put to sleep after fracturing a bone.

→The number one fracture received that resulted in being put to sleep was a fractured hock.

→ Note 17 greyhounds died on the track or collapsing in the catching pen after running. We have not been able to determine the cause of all of them as the autopsies have not been made public.

Two examples of greyhounds dying on the tracks in 2013

Kool Brock – On the 4th April 2013 at Dapto, Kool Brock came together with another greyhound on the first turn. Kool Brock fell and broke his neck. Although there is no mention on the stewards report, Brian Daniels, the track vet for the day, informed me that this dog died on the track. There was no mention of this on the stewards report as GRNSW, as has been mentioned before, stopped reporting deaths.

Jacas Mate – On the 19th September 2013, Jacas Mate collapsed immediately after racing and died. An autopsy report revealed that Jacas Mate died from respiratory failure and pulmonary odema.

Table C – FRACTURES not included in the death statistics

Some of these will have been euthanased or died, but this information has not been provided on the steward report so they are just listed as injuries. Some dogs had multiple fractures.

Year	2012	2013	Total Aus	2012 NSW only	2013 NSW only	Total NSW only
Fractured hock	163	140	303	99	45	144
Fractured foreleg	31	18	49	23	9	32
Fractured radius/ulna	7	7	14	-	-	-
Fractured tibia	1	4	5	1	1	2
Fractured femur	2	3	5	1	-	1
Fractured shoulder	14	10	24	7	5	12
Fractured toe	49	39	88	19	10	29
Fractured metatarsal	9	29	38	2	5	7
Fractured wrist	9	5	14	5	3	8
Fractured elbow	8	1	9	5	-	-
Other fractures	24	14	38	3	2	5
Fractured tail	6	4	10	1	2	3
Fractured neck (likely to be dead)	2	-	2	1	-	1
Fractured fibula	3	2	5	-	-	-
Fractured spine (likely to be dead)	1	4	5	-	-	-
Skull/ nose	-	2	2	1	-	1

Table D NSW Fractures by Track

Track	2012	2013 (Jan –Sept)	Total
Bathurst	14	6	20
Bulli	4	4	8
Casino	16	-	16
Dapto	18	8	26
Dubbo	10	9	19
Gardens	24	13	37
Grafton	2	3	5
Gosford	11	3	14
Lismore	9	-	9
Maitland	10	6	16
Nowra	11	7	18
Richmond	18	13	31
Wagga	5	-	5
Wentworth Park	13	10	23
Gunnedah & Goulburn	-	4	4

Once again please note: NSW have stopped reporting whether greyhounds died on the track or were put to sleep as a result of injuries. Often the greyhounds that are put to sleep are given no stand time. They don't need time to recover if they are dead.

In 2012 - 77 in NSW dogs with fractures were given no stand time, which may be indication there were put to sleep at the track

In 2013 – 34 in NSW dogs with fractures were given no stand down
It is possible that these dogs were euthanased, but it was not recorded

As you would expect the tracks with more races had more fractures.

Also note that Casino had 16 fractures in 2012 and none so far in 2013. Is it because they have improved the track or they are not listing fractures anymore? I spoke to someone from Casino in November who insisted that everything was recorded and said they haven't done anything different to their track other than add water. He wasn't happy about being questioned to say the least.

What happens to greyhounds after they suffer fractures?

Greyhounds will generally take 2- 12 months before they can race again if at all, depending on the fractures. So we have looked at the greyhounds with fractures that occurred on NSW tracks in 2012 to see whether they raced again

NSW greyhounds that had fractures in 2012. Where are they now?

Of the 165 greyhounds with fractures after racing on NSW track in 2012 - 152 out of 165 did not race again. This was determined by looking at the GRV fasttrack website

Of the 13 greyhounds with fractures that raced again;

- 7 - broken toes,
- 2 - broken bones in the feet
- 2 - broken shoulder bones,
- 1 broken nose,
- 1 broken tail.

Most of these are less severe fractures, as would be expected.

Of the 152 greyhounds that did not race again, 11 have been used or will be used for breeding.

We don't know what happened to the other 141 greyhounds that did not race again or are not being used for breeding.

→92% of greyhounds with fractures did not race again

→None of the greyhounds with hock injuries raced again.

For the 141 greyhounds that did no race again and are not being used for breeding there is no way of knowing what happened to these greyhounds unless the owners or GRNSW tell us. We suspect the majority of these greyhounds will be dead.

→So that is potentially another 141 greyhounds that need to be added to the DEAD column.

Take a look at some of the greyhounds that had fractures;

Broken legs usually cost thousands of dollars so it is highly unlikely that the majority of dogs would have received the expensive medical treatment required to fix these breaks . Many of the dogs had not even 'earned' their owners any money;

- 'Demolition Jack' broke a foreleg on his first race at Bathurst on the 4th June 2006 and had 'earned' his owner

a total of \$20. Do you think thousands will be spent fixing his leg?

- 'Zin Zin Zumba' broke a foreleg and 'earned' \$20 over 2 races,
 - 'Frisky Marble' broke a foreleg at Nowra on her the first turn, on her first race and had 'earned' \$40 for her owners.
 - The greyhound received a broken foreleg at Dubbo in November 2012. She had 'earned' just \$255 for the syndicate that owned. The possibility of the syndicate forking out the money for her operation is almost nil. It seems that the chance of getting medical treatment and being re-homed reduces if the dog is owned by a syndicate. More about this later. is most certainly dead. Incidentally I phoned Dubbo race track to find out whether was put to sleep and the response I got is "Why do you want to know?" and "We don't have that information".
- Why all the secrecy, is there something wrong with a greyhound dying from racing or not?

I have encountered similar attitudes when I have phoned or emailed tracks, trainers and owners to find out the whereabouts of a particular dog. No one wants to admit to me a dog was put to sleep. Maybe they don't want to admit a dog ran for its life and died.

Table E – NSW Injuries in detail

Note there are injuries than injury events as some dogs had multiple injuries

Injury (some dogs have multiple injuries)	2012	2013 Jan - Sept
Fractures already mentioned above	165	82
Legs (hock, hind etc)	200	140
Shoulder	230	115
Muscle torn or pain (pin, bicep etc..)	244	328
Groin	185	194
Wrists	104	107
Hips	133	112
Torn or Dropped back muscle	36	49

Lacerations/ deep lacerations	105	81
Back	25	19
Webbing Split	52	35
Neck	18	19
Foot	72	60
Toes	57	43
Elbow	15	21
Hamstring	7	8
Sever Bruising	5	3
Ligament or tendon ruptured	18	16
Dislocation	19	24
Torn dew claw or nail	19	5
Tail broken or amputated	3	1
Cramping, severe cramping	5	16
Spike Marks	13	14
Heat stress/ stress/ winded/ thumps	7	11
Chest	18	20
Concussion	2	4
Vomiting	1	-
Blood in urine	2	-
Acidosis	2	-
No details. other	18	13
Ruptured blood vessel	-	2
<u>Total Injuries at 14 tracks</u>	1615	1460
Total injury events at 14 tracks	1582	1274

→ In 2012 and 2013 so far there was a total of **3075** injuries recorded at 14 NSW tracks on race days. What this information doesn't tell us is how severe these injuries were and whether it stopped them from racing again.

Steward Reports represent only a part of the injury picture

The problem with these tables:

- There are more than 20 tracks that are not included in the data
- It gives you no indication of the severity of the injury
- It also doesn't show the injuries that will be picked up the next day or later on.

It does not reflect the pain and suffering that may last the rest of their short life or if they are lucky to be adopted the rest of their adopted life.

John Kohnke, an Australian expert in racing greyhound and author of the book "Veterinary Advice for Greyhound Owners" 1993, had this to say at a greyhound conference ;

"Studies of the types and incidence of injuries on race tracks indicate that only a very small percentage of injuries which occur on the race track are actually recognised and diagnosed on the day or evening of the race."

John Kohnke has also pointed out that **50%** of greyhounds sustain one or more minor injuries and only **16%** of major injuries are diagnosed at the track.

Aetiology and Epidemiology of Racing Injuries .An Australian Perspective. By John Kohnke BVSc RDA

<http://www.greyhoundvets.co.uk/pdf/conf%202012/Aetiology%20and%20Epidemiology%20of%20Racing%20Injuries%20John%20Kohnke%20SGV%20Conference%202012.pdf>

John Kohnke also says this in his newsletter;

"Many stress related conditions, such as subclinical cramping, post-race urinary shutdown and respiratory distress can occur with obvious external physical signs within 1-6 hours after a hard race. However, a number of less common metabolic and other conditions related to extreme physical exertion, often without visible symptoms, can also affect greyhounds over the 6-72 hours during the post-race recovery period"

http://www.stargreyhoundproducts.com/assets/LetsTalkGreyhounds%20Issue2_1.pdf

So it is quite clear, that although there were 3075 injuries on the track there are so many more injuries, pain and suffering that we are unable to record and establish.

Long term medical concerns for greyhounds

We are unable to obtain data about the long term impact of racing on the health of greyhounds, but we do know from our own experience and anecdotal evidence from adoption groups that this issue needs serious consideration.

One can get a picture of what the acute injuries are for greyhounds, but what impact does it have on their muscles, their skeletons for their entire life?

Probably the most common problems seen in ex-racing dogs are musculoskeletal injuries. Strains, sprains, ruptured muscles, and avulsions and tears of tendons and ligaments are frequently found. Some of the more common injuries are those of the superficial and deep digital flexor tendons leading to a "dropped toe" or the gracilis muscle, known as a "dropped back muscle."
(from "Care of the Racing Greyhound", by Blythe, Gannon and Craig)

We also know from our own greyhounds that there is a high incidence of arthritis, pain, muscle and joint problems. So the injuries they endure on the track can continue to plague them throughout their whole life. Greyhound adoption groups have many stories of greyhounds, their injuries, their pain and the long term medical care required as a direct result of their racing "career".

Should racing a greyhound for commercial racing purposes be deemed an act of cruelty?

What the greyhound industry will try and do to deflect the seriousness of these injuries is to look at the percentage of animals that are injured as per the number of greyhound races. The problem with this approach is that it totally negates the very real suffering and pain inflicted on each individual dog that races and receives an injury. These dogs not only suffer injuries, but as we have mentioned often they will have ongoing health problems throughout their life if they are lucky enough to be re-homed.

If you look at this reality and what individual greyhounds endure, there is no way this could not be called deliberately inflicting pain and suffering on an dog :3075 injuries in NSW, more than 756 greyhound dying at the track or breaking legs, 50 % of dogs suffering some sort of injury either minor or severe, 92% of greyhounds with fractures never racing again and injuries like this : severe near side hind leg & tear near side thigh, severe laceration nearside hind leg, cracked offside shoulder, severe dropped offside back muscle, concussion & lacerated tongue, extreme case of cramping, torn offside back muscle, head and neck injury, suffering mild concussion, severe back injury, serious offside fore leg injury.

There is whole gamut of other injuries which are directly related to pushing a greyhound to perform to its limit including acidosis, and water diabetes,:

** "Acidosis is a term used to describe soreness and swelling ('blowing up') of the backline and hind limb muscles following a sprint exercise and racing in an otherwise healthy greyhound."*

** The term 'racing thirst' is used to describe an excessive thirst for water that can develop within hours of a hard race, leading to the passing of large volumes of dilute urine and dehydration.*

The humans who race greyhounds know that injury is part and parcel of this industry. They know there is always a risk. They know that there is a high chance of harm and suffering could result from racing their greyhound.

There is not a clear definition of cruelty in the NSW Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, however, we do know that is an offence 3) A person in charge of an animal shall not fail at any time:

(a) to exercise reasonable care, control or supervision of an animal to prevent the commission of an act of cruelty upon the animal

So if a human deliberately engages in an activity in which there is a 50% chance of injury and there is always a

chance of a serious, life threatening injury that causes suffering, how can racing a dog be deemed "to exercise reasonable care to prevent an act of cruelty upon an animal"? Industry participants are making their dog do something which there is a high chance they will suffer.

Greyhound racing deliberately inflicts injury, pain and suffering on to animal.

We also ask this question: how many greyhound die, break bones, suffer dropped muscles, have concussion, received lacerations, suffer head trauma, break their hocks, suffer stress before racing them is considered a cruel and a breach of the Prevent of Cruelty to Animals Act? How many does it take? Is the cruelty to individual greyhounds not enough or 3075 greyhounds not enough?

Recommendations

- Acknowledge that members of the general community deem the very act of greyhound racing committing an offence in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ACT.
- All deaths be recorded on steward reports, whether the dog died itself or was put to sleep as a result of injuries suffered.
- All injuries and deaths to be recorded for all NSW tracks and races not just TAB tracks.
- A summary of all deaths, fractures and injuries be made publicly available.
- GRNSW should encourage all racing bodied in Australia to follow suit and make this death and injury information available and easily accessible to the public for all tracks in Australia.

If there is nothing wrong with greyhound racing, then there is nothing for them to hide.



Greyhounds receive injuries when turning corners, crashing into each and falling

2. Large Number of greyhounds discarded and killed is unacceptable

The Australian greyhound racing system cannot exist without breeding and disposing of large numbers of dogs, because the economics of this industry mean that you have to get a fast dog, fast dogs means higher earnings. It is this aspect of the industry which is particularly abhorrent and which the industry has done very well so far in covering up. But they can't keep it hidden any longer.

In 2012 Brent Hogan the GRNSWCEO said in the ABC story on Background Briefing on greyhound racing that 3000 greyhounds were killed each year in the NSW racing industry. We believe it is significantly more than this.

The problem is that it is incredibly difficult for the public to obtain accurate information about greyhounds that have been 'discarded' in NSW and Australia as a whole (as the industry calls greyhounds that are not good enough to race due to injury or lack of performance).

Figures do not include accidental matings and discarded puppies

In 2012 after questions were asked in the NSW Parliament about the racing industry we know how many were born in NSW from 2003 to 2011, however, these figures do not include greyhounds that are discarded before they are registered (ear tattooed) and it does not include unregistered or accidental matings which are all consequences of a racing industry. So whatever figures we achieve do not represent the full picture.

I recently spoke to Tony O'Mara and Bill Fanning from GRNSW about a particular investigation of a cruelty case. It involved a greyhound puppy called Dawson. Dawson suffered a serious leg injury at 6 weeks of age. The injury was deemed to be a fracture of the tibia, and yet the owner did not seek further vet treatment and the leg was left in that condition for 2 more months, before he was eventually taken back to the vet to be put to sleep. Tony and Bill questioned why this greyhound would have an ear tattoo when clearly he would not be suitable to race? In this case he was given an ear tattoo. This shows to me that greyhounds if they are not deemed suitable would not be tattooed and therefore not registered with GRNSW. These dogs would be then lost and unaccounted for. How many greyhounds does this happen to? How many more puppies are born that we have no idea of because they didn't show the right traits or had medical problems.

We have been given anecdotal evidence and testimonies from people who used to be in the industry about puppies being drowned.

"I actually found a brown sack on day when washing my hands in the river than ran through the property, full of dead newborn pups"

from someone who used to be involved in the racing industry but wishes to remain anonymous due to concerns for his wellbeing from exposing the industry.

Industry participants lie

We also know that industry participants lie about the nature of how greyhounds die and as expressed in this comment on a greyhound forum.

"Getting Bit by a snake or running into a post can only happen so many times before they become weak excuses"

June 28th 2012 in a discussion about high euthanasia rates on the Greyhound Knowledge Forum

More than 3000 greyhounds are killed –

misleads the public

From the questions asked in NSW Parliament 2012 we know there were the following births recorded from 2003 – 2011 there were 80 133.

If you look at the Greyhound Australasia website and how many litters there were, you can work out that there were on average 7 greyhounds per litter.

So we can see that on average there were 8900 recorded greyhound births.

So we can estimate that from 2003 – 2012

Greyhounds live on average 12- 14 years of age. In theory, not accounting for accidental deaths and illnesses, there should be 89 0000 greyhounds still alive. But where are there?

there were over 89 000 greyhound born in NSW.

In NSW according to the Division of Local Government, from correspondence I had with them in September there were currently 2 5T51 greyhound registered as pets, and 6150 greyhounds registered with GRNSW as racing greyhounds. hat only totals 8 701 greyhounds. Where are the rest of the 80 000 or so greyhounds?

Brent Hogan has admitted that 3000 are killed each year. This amounts to 33 000 greyhounds – as staggering as that figure is – but where are the other 47 000 or so greyhounds?

Extremely poor adoption figures from GRNSW who say its main concern is welfare

On a number of occasions I have requested the adoption figure from Greyhounds As Pets from GAP themselves, from GRNSW . Neither organisation was willing to give to give me this information. I asked for their financial year adoption figures but was refused. The only figures I could fine was in an annual report which said in the first year of operation GAP re-homed 43 greyhounds. In addition it was announced in the 2012 questions in Parliament they have re-homed 300 greyhounds since 2009.

What do GAP and GRNSW have to hide? Why do they want to keep the figures so private? Not even the NSW Minister for Racing or the Minister for Agriculture (who administers the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act) knows how many greyhounds are adopted. I suspect they don't want these figures released as it highlights what a poor job they are doing, especially when you consider that independent adoption groups like Greyhound Rescue and Friends of the Hound are now re-homing over 100 are year each and together have re-homed well over 800 greyhounds with no industry support or involvement.

The 300 greyhounds re-homed represents .0003% of the estimated 80 000 greyhounds born in NSW over the last 11 years. It is a figure the whole industry should be ashamed of.

So what happened to all the other greyhounds, where did they go, how were they killed?
These are answers that need to be addressed and immediately.

Breeding dogs to race and kill them so we can bet is no longer acceptable

The community's attitude towards animals is changing and people no longer see them as commodities. To breed an animal to make it race, and then kill it purely so humans can bet it simply not acceptable in the community. It is entirely out of touch with what is ok and means to live in civilized society.

Killing 3000 a year or the more realistic figure of 8000 a year is no acceptable in this day and age. Killing even one single dog because it is not suitable for racing, it has injured itself or it has retired is not even acceptable. The only acceptable reason to kill an animal is to euthanase them humanely when they are suffering. And not because you have made them do something like racing which has caused them serious injury. Killing animals for betting is NOT acceptable.

Recommendations

- All greyhounds need to be tracked from birth to deaths
- This information needs to be publicly available, if there is nothing wrong, what does the industry have to hide?
- The industry needs to take responsibility for the life of every single animal that it breeds. An adoption and welfare fund which is financed by an increase in registration fees and a portion (a suggested 1%) of the NSW Government receives from betting, to pay for retirement for every single dog. This fund should also be available for greyhounds requiring veterinary treatment where the participants cannot afford.
- A small number of greyhounds are not suitable to be re-homed, largely due to either the high prey drive or poor socialisation of the dog, which is again another industry failure; therefore these dogs should be looked after in greyhound sanctuaries which are financed by the fund.
- If the cost of providing for the retirement of 8900 greyhounds breed a year is prohibitive then the breeding restrictions need to be introduced.
- The re-homing and adoption of greyhounds should not be restricted to industry run adoption groups like Greyhounds as Pets. We will deal with this issue later, but there has been a great deal of in effective and deceptive behaviour from this organisation. Other independent groups and charities or private bodies should be involved as well provide a higher rate of re-homing and rehabilitation.
- The fund should also be used to assist those leaving the industry find resources and support if they have a large number of greyhounds they are unable to keep.
- A separate fund should exist to help greyhound racing participants deciding to seek employment and training in other industries which not exploit and kill animals. Education, counselling and financial support should be considered.

3. Why cruelty and welfare issues don't get reported

It should be acknowledged that the industry and welfare groups generally don't report welfare issues. The lack of reports does not accurately reflect welfare issues in the racing industry.

1. As mentioned in the introduction Bill Fanning and Tony O'Mara from GRNSW openly admitted on the phone to me that the industry "participants don't report welfare issues". There could be a great psychological debate as why this is so, but regardless of the reasons this is the reality. Which ultimately means a change in strategy and an outside, independent body needs to be actively and aggressively investigating welfare issues.
2. Veterinary staff won't report cruelty and high kill rates as they believe that the industry participants won't seek veterinary treatment which leads to further cruelty and welfare issues.
3. Adoption and rescue groups generally won't report welfare issues because they believe if they report someone then they won't be given any dogs to save either direct from trainers or from veterinary clinics. There is this constant unspoken threat "we'll just kill the dogs if you say anything". This threat is very real and very pervasive. I know someone who saved a greyhound in Qld that was severely beaten and couldn't walk properly. This person wanted to make sure she had saved more dogs before reporting to the RSPCA, as she believe this person would do anything he could to hurt the dogs if he finds out. The trainer that is responsible for the treatment of this dog is well known to clinic in Brisbane and yet they haven't reported this trainer (as far as I know either). This is one reason why the abuse and poor "management" of greyhounds, amongst some trainers and owners, that treat their dogs poorly, is allowed to continue.

4. Cheap days at vet clinics – they do this because they know the industry participants can't be trusted.

Many vet clinics around Australia that have greyhound racing clientele offer cheap euthanasia rates. One such vet clinic is Northern Rivers Vet Clinic in Casino NSW. They have a special rate of \$20 for greyhounds on Thursdays. The reason they offer this service they claim, as do many other vet clinics, is they want to offer a humane way of killing (killing is our word, not theirs). The cost to euthanase a pet dog of 30kg is around \$110 depending on the clinic.

This is quite important as it highlights this important issue: vet staff recognise the potential for racing participants to dispose of greyhounds using means that are deemed humane such as shooting, hanging, drowning, buried alive, fed to crocodiles, dumped and left to die, etc..

So matter how much GRNSW or the participants cry that the welfare of greyhounds is the most important aspect of racing, and how much they love their greyhounds. Money speaks louder than words. Vets are willing to forgo the possibility of receiving \$110 for a euthanasia service for only \$20 as they know the sort of people that congregate in this industry cannot be trusted to do the right thing by their dogs if it costs too much.

- Recommendations

- Establish mandatory reporting of cruelty complaints and welfare issues for industry participants.
- A separate body to actively and aggressively investigate all aspects of greyhound racing, cruelty complaints

and welfare issues

→ A welfare hotline to be established to report welfare issues.

5. Conflict of Interest GRNSW and welfare

The NSW Greyhound Racing Act of 2009 establishes one of the main roles of Greyhound Racing New South Wales is to initiate, develop and implement policies considered conducive to the promotion, strategic development and welfare of the greyhound racing industry in the State

There is no mention of welfare issues in the Racing Act, only the “welfare” of greyhound racing.

This position of GRNSW is in direct conflict with the welfare of greyhounds. The promotion and expansion of the racing industry is the goal, not the welfare of greyhounds. If there is a decision to be made which may impact the welfare of greyhounds the economic decision always overrides the welfare of greyhounds.

Tony O'Mara is the General Manager of Growth and Sustainability and yet he is re has been given the responsibility for welfare issues. It seems that GRNSW are only interested in welfare is as much as they don't want welfare issues to affect the growth and sustainability. It is a bit like getting the fox to watch the hen house. If your main goal is to steal the eggs you are not going to make welfare of the chickens your main responsibility.

6. The NSW govt collects \$158 million yet accepts no responsibility for greyhound welfare .

The NSW government happily collect millions of dollars from betting and yet accept no responsibility or involvement with the welfare of animals.

The Minister for Racing has no involvement with welfare issues.

The Minister for Agriculture has no involvement with the racing industry except if cruelty cases are reported directly to the DPI, even then they may be passed on to GRNSW.

Neither Ministers have knowledge, involvement or collection information on greyhound adoptions, deaths, injuries, kill rates, kennel inspections or other welfare issues. It is all left up to a body, GRNSW, which is totally independent and not subject to direction or control to deal with these issues.

If the government wants to tax the betting industry, it needs to take responsibility for the issues it creates.

You have created a body, GRNSW which is a law unto themselves and not answerable anybody and you have wiped your hands of any involvement with the welfare of animals which are exploited to obtain these finances.

7. Attitude of people in the greyhound racing industry

Like any industry there is a spectrum of attitudes and treatment of animals.

There is a predominant attitude amongst greyhound racing participants that their dogs are treated as “kings and queens”. What they mean I am not really sure. Maybe they think providing food and shelter and the fact that they are not being beaten up is a luxurious life. The majority have no qualms about the large number of greyhounds killed.

This honest statement recorded on social media sums up nicely and succinctly the attitude of many in the industry



. What seems to be the overriding concern is that this activity is allowed to continue with as little rules as possible and how much money they can earn.

from on social media openly admits to taking pups off the vets when he couldn't sell them



An attitude that is extremely hard to swallow is the attitude of participants that would have their dogs killed, even though someone offers to re-home them. We have heard a number of situations where a veterinary member has offered to help re-homed greyhounds booked in to be put to sleep and many have said NO! They worry that they will be bred and someone else will win money, they make excuses they don't know what sort of a home they will go to, they despise people who re-home greyhounds as they know many are against greyhound racing.

Why do people race greyhounds ?

Many people in the industry participate because of the thrill of a win
 "Once you have tasted that winning feeling you just want more and more success"
 - Sharp Greyhound Racing website

Greyhound Australasia tell us that 95% of greyhound racing participants are classified as hobbyists.

Why do dogs have to suffer and die so humans can have a hobby and have the thrill of a win?

80 000 greyhounds discarded and 756 deaths and fractures so humans can have a hobby and the thrill of winning. What sort of humans are we?

8. GRNSW trying to mislead the public

Covering up the number of greyhounds killed

I believe that [redacted] and GRNSW are trying to mislead the public and cover up the grim reality of this industry. I do understand why they are trying to cover up, because if the reality of this industry was exposed to the general public then there would be a bigger push to close it down.

In 2012 Brent Hogan said in the ABC report in Background Briefing that 3000 greyhounds were euthanised as a result of the racing industry. It is interesting that this figure is so nice and neat and rounded? As mentioned above our figures that is more like 8000 a year that are disposed.

The bogus Dapto inquiry

In April 2013 it came to my attention that 3 greyhounds died in one night at Dapto on the 10th April. It was not mentioned in the steward reports (of course) so I rang up the track vet Brian Daniels to confirm this. Brian Daniels told me honestly what happened to the dogs. One greyhound broke its neck and died on the track. The 2 other dogs had fractures and were subsequently put to sleep. I rang up the local Illawarra paper and asked if they would do a story on it. They were very interested and ran a story the next day. Interestingly enough Brent Hogan launched an investigation.

Well I have tried to find out what has happened to this investigation and have just been given a run around by GRNSW. I personally don't believe there was one and why would there be? Greyhound racing sometimes kills dogs, it happens when you run at high speed. So I don't believe there is an investigation. I believe that Brent

Hogan as lied to the public, misled the public as he needs to put out some flames. Further more I would like to know where are the investigations with other track where there have been high injury rates -

3rd March 2012– 3 greyhounds broke legs at Bathurst and have never raced again. It is possible all were put to sleep on race night. There was no inquiry.

3rd May 2012 – 3 greyhounds broke legs at Dapto and have never raced again. It is possible all 3 were put to sleep on race night. There was no inquiry.

10th May 2012 – 3 greyhounds broke legs at Dubbo and have never raced again. It is possible all 3 were put to sleep on race night. There was no inquiry

Where was the inquiry after these injuries happened? Maybe there will only be an inquiry when I ring the media and get the story in the paper?

Hiding the number of deaths. In 2011 on social media we started sharing information about greyhounds being injured and dying on the track. In 2011 greyhound dying or being put to sleep were mentioned on NSW steward reports, but they are not anymore. The only way to find out if greyhounds died or were put to sleep is to speak to the owners/ trainer, the vet or the track. On many occasions I have tried to find out this information and as expected, people are not forthcoming. I believe that GRNSW have deliberately tried to hide deaths on NSW tracks and furthermore I believe that greyhounds that fracture legs are not always listed as fractures now to cover up the number of occurrences.

Misleading the public that there are no cruelty complaints

After a recent ABC 7.30 Report on the racing industry released this statement;

“Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) today received confirmation from RSPCA NSW that there is currently no evidence or investigation to suggest acts of animal cruelty are occurring in the greyhound racing industry in NSW.”

When I questioned and recently on the phone I asked: so you are telling me that GRSW have never had greyhound cruelty cases to investigate and neither to the RSPCA? Their answer was no ,that what meant was that there were no CURRENT investigations. Talk about totally misleading the public and industry participants. It actually could be considered not just misleading, but an outright lie.

GRNSW have resorted to lies and falsehoods because they know people are finding out just how disgusting this industry is.

9. Syndicates and competitions– no responsibility

Syndications are a way for the general public to own a greyhound and get involved in greyhound racing. Syndicate members pay an upfront fee and some up keeping fees and share a proportion of the winnings. The problem with this type of system is that it makes it very easy for syndicate members to ignore that this is a breathing, sentient being and the dog is viewed purely as a money making scheme, as an “investment”. Quite often syndicate members have not even met “their” greyhound. There is no mention of what happens if

the dog is not good enough to race, if they get injured or when they retire. There is no mention, no plan in place or money kept to look after the dog if there is a serious injury. There is little consideration given what happens to the dog if it is not winning money.

Last year the Hoey Moey Pub in Coffs Harbour advertised shares in a greyhound to be managed by the pub. When we spoke to the Pub management there was no mention or discussion of what happens if they injure themselves racing or what happens if they are not good enough or retired. The discussion was all about how much money you could win.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-12/north-coast-pubs-poised-to-race-greyhounds/4366966?§ion=news>

We did a survey of syndications in Australia and looked at the information to see whether there was an mention or discussion of what happens if the dog has an injury or what happens when it retires

Predominantly syndications are about encouraging people to invest their money in a product.

Race a Chaser says ;

"Does it ever happen that a racing greyhound doesn't win any prizemoney?"

"Never. If you greyhound is fit and injury free, Race A Chaser will always place your greyhound to its best advantage to maximise your ownership experience and your financial returns."

Sharp Greyhound Racing

"Our goal is to provide members a chance to enter the Greyhound Racing Industry at an easy, affordable cost and enjoy the thrills of Greyhound Racing"

Greyhound Racing and Syndication at least were honest about the risks

"Because of the risks involved in greyhound racing, we would like each member to know exactly what they will be getting into before committing. I am more than happy to discuss all the risks involved to all members. It can be a lot of fun, but can also bring a lot of disappointment. Not all greyhounds will make it to the track and this is one of the risks in greyhound racing. On the other hand, we may strike a classy race dog/bitch that wins many races"

Only one syndication we came across emphasised the life and welfare of the greyhounds instead of the investment however, they were not representative of the syndicate websites we looked at

"Oz Greyhound Syndicates is motivated by seeing their dogs live long, healthy lives beyond their racing careers with an emphasis on enjoyment rather than profitability for shareholders"

The structure of syndicates mean that it seriously diminishes the responsibility that people have to take for the welfare of a greyhound. There is no requirement for syndications to concern themselves with the long term welfare of the dog. Unless syndicate systems can be revamped to provide for the welfare and life of a greyhound, they should be phased out.

Recommedations

→ It should be mandatory for syndications to explain to prospective shareholders about welfare issues, injuries and what happens to the dog if they are good enough or when they retire. They need to have a plan in place to pay for medical and injury costs for dogs and a plan for it to have a home if it is not good enough to race, it is injured

or it is retired. It is not good enough to simply say GAP.

GAP do not re-home many dogs and have limited places. If there is no comprehensive plan to provide for the welfare of this dog, the syndication should not be able to be registered.

→ Compulsory for syndications to tell the purchaser what will happen if the dog gets injured, the costs associated and what is going to happen when if it is injured or retires.

→ If syndications cannot meet these requirements then they should be phased out.

→ Winning greyhound in a competition whether it is by syndication or direct ownership should be banned.

10. Hot days and no air conditioning

Greyhounds are not like most breeds in that they have very little body fat which makes them intolerant to hot and cold temperatures.

Although GRNSW have developed a hot weather policy and guidelines information sheet, we express great concern for the fact that on days that races are not cancelled until the temperature reaches 40 degrees heat. Owners are not allowed to withdraw dogs until 38 degrees. There are a number of tracks in NSW which do not have air conditioning including: Kempsey, Muswellbrook, Taree, and Wauchope.

What is too hot for greyhounds? Well we don't know. But common sense tells us that humans are extremely uncomfortable running around in 30 degree heat let alone 38 degree heat. Anyone with a companion greyhound can tell you when it is a warm day they don't move and they plonk themselves down in the coolest part of the house. They don't cope well in 30 degrees, so how can the racing industry say that welfare is their number one concern? This is clearly a blatant lie. The cost of cancelling a race and the inconvenience to punters and participants is their number one concern. Anyone with serious concern for the welfare of dogs would not suggest – it is 38 degrees – 'let's go for a run'.

Jane McNichol from Adelaide University is currently doing a study on heat stress in racing greyhounds say that the hot weather policies around Australia

“ have been formulated without any validated evidence”

<http://www.workingdogalliance.com.au/portfolio/heat-stress-greyhounds/>

Recommendations

→ The temperature at which race meets are cancelled needs to be reviewed and the temperature selected based on health findings and the welfare of dogs, not what would be financially inconvenient.

→ All tracks in NSW should have air conditioning and heating or they should not receive a licence to operate.

11. Live Baiting

although live baiting was banned approximately 30 years ago there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest that the practice still continues. Mark Townend from the QLD RSPCA admitted to me in a phone conversation in 2013 that they know live baiting still occurs but they need the evidence to prosecute people. If it is occurring in Qld, common sense would tell you that it is probably occurring in NSW.

A number of trainers and owners have raised the issue when passing on greyhounds to independent greyhound adoption groups to provide help to the adoption group in assessing a dog's temperament. They say things like "he won't chase anything, not even a live rabbit"

This information has been reiterated from people who have contacted us to tell us that live baiting still happens.

"From a young age greyhound pups are encouraged to kill if they don't they are taught. Wild rabbits, chickens and baby chicks, guinea pigs, baby pigs, domestic rabbits, cats and kittens, possums anything that squeals. If they don't kill they are mainly put down depending if they still chase"

– from someone who used to be involved in greyhound racing in NSW but wishes to remain anonymous as he fears for repercussions of exposing this information

"You can always tell a greyhound that has had a possum as they fight back and can cause big facial damage" - anonymous

We have been given information that live baiting has taken place in the past at the following venues:

- [redacted] greyhound track in [redacted]. They use rabbits and they often are put in the rubbish bin half alive after they have been "used" on the dogs.
- [redacted] Greyhound Track [redacted]. This place has used both cats and possums collected by a local possum catcher. The claws from the possums are removed.

Recommendations

→ An independent welfare unit be established and actively investigate any reports of live baiting. They need to police training, break-in establishments and slip tracks.

→ Anyone found doing or knowing people doing this and not reporting this needs to be banned for life

→ There needs to be mandatory reporting of live baiting occurrences for all industry participants

12. Other industry issues :

Kennel Inspections

I have met people when walking my dogs that have told me they have been in the industry for 20 or 30 years and have never had their properties inspected.

Breaking in and training establishments

We have heard of gruesome techniques used at breaking in and training establishments in addition to live baiting. Using hot items to prod them out of the boxes, rubbing hot cream on their genitals, poking them up the anus with sticks, using electric shock,

Dogs being given prohibited substances

When a trainer or owner has been disqualified for the use of prohibited substances there is no consideration of actions taken on behalf of the dog.

The person should have a cruelty case filed against them if there is deemed to be long term side effects of a drug and GRNSW should take action to help the dog in question with potential medical problems.

Those found to be have given a dog an illegal substance should also reported to the police.

Transferring of dogs to another trainer's name

It has come to our attention that some trainers/ owners after being disqualified simply transfer a dog's ownership to someone else but still receive financial reward when the dog races.

We have also heard of trainers/ owners taking their dogs to New Zealand to race during the disqualification time.

Procedures need to be put in place to stop both situations

You Shouldn't be allowed to bet on dogs to loose

We understand that that punters can bet on a dog to loose. This provides opportunity for dishonest members of the racing community to do something to their dog which will affect the outcome of a race. Not only does this make it easy for participants to cheat the system it means the welfare of dogs can suffer from being given 'something' to affect their performance.

Recommendations

→ GRNSW allocate more money into kennel inspections and a separate welfare body to do regular surprise inspections of kennels and training establishments. This may cost quite some money, but if this is what needs to occur to look after the welfare of greyhounds, then it needs to happen regardless of the cost. The money needs to be found from somewhere, otherwise don't have an industry.

→ Trainers should not allow to be earning money from racing after they have been disqualified in either Australia or New Zealand. GRNSW needs to work with other bodies to ensure this does not occur.

→ Trainers/ owners charged with the use of illegal substances needs to be reported to the police

→ Trainers/ owners charged with giving greyhounds toxics substance needs to be reported as committing an act of cruelty.

→ Greyhounds given prohibited or illegal substances need to have their health/ medical issues addressed and GRNSW needs to ensure action is taken to see that their long tern health is not compromised where possible.

→ Ban betting on dogs to loose.

13. Other health issues in greyhounds

Brood bitches being overbreed

We have heard on a number of occasions of brood bitches having so many litters of puppies which has lead serious health problems including miscarriage, and so such much scarring that desexing was almost impossible. There need to be a limit on how many litters a greyhound can have.

Pannus

Pannus is an inherited disease that creates inflammation in the eyes and leads to blindness if not managed. Symptoms start to develop between 2-5 years of age. GRNSW does not recommend breeding greyhounds with pannus, but it does not restrict it. The reason why GRNSW could be reflected in this comment made by a Greyhound Racing Victoria official;

“well it doesn’t matter if greyhounds are breed with pannus as most greyhounds are dead by 4 years of age by the time it develops so it doesn’t matter”

As pannus is an inherited disease greyhounds should not be allowed to continue breeding dogs with pannus

Bald Thigh Syndrome of Greyhound Dogs

The majority of greyhounds that are racing or recently escaped the racing industry have a a condition which is known as bald thigh syndrome. In time many greyhounds after number of years will grow this hair back. Whilst this condition is seemingly cosmetic it reflects the overall health of the greyhound.

One of the contributing factors according greyhound health expert, Tom Meulman, in a racing greyhound is due to the fact the adrenal glands are responsible for stimulating the “fight or flight” response, and in a racing greyhound are for the most part kept in a high state of activity. Overstimulated adrenal glands that can cause the hormone imbalance between the adrenal cortex and the thyroid gland which in turn results in damaged hair follicles, causing hair loss and bald thighs in some greyhounds.

“Because this system is controlled from the brain, there is little doubt that general hair loss is often worse in highly excitable greyhounds. That is also why in retired greyhounds that are in an environment which encourages a far more relaxed lifestyle and therefore less stimulation of the adrenal glands, the hair loss often corrects itself.”

So hair loss is not cosmetic. Every greyhound you see with bald thighs has had the over stimulation of it's adrenal glands which course hormone imbalances. These greyhounds are in a state of imbalance caused by the forced racing and training which is leaving their health in an unnatural state. All because humans want to have a bet, greyhound health suffers.

Drugs

Another health issue which is of great concern is the legal and illegal drugs given to greyhounds which affect their short and long term health.

It seems the decision to allow trainers and owners to give drugs to greyhounds is based on whether this will give a dog an unfair advantage rather than based on the health problems that drugs can cause. Wynny is a greyhound who died from the effects of giving her drugs. Here is her story :

"Wynny the Greyhound was racing in Western Australia until November 2012, under the name . She came to me as a foster dog straight from the racing kennels on 7 January 2013, at the age of 3, through the rescue organisation Greyhounds as Pets (GAP), which is run by the racing industry (Greyhounds WA).

I was to be her foster carer while she learned how to live as a happy, loved and well-behaved family pet, so she would be ready for a permanent adoptive home a few months later.

Unfortunately by the time she left the trainer's kennel she was already ill, as well as obviously having painful hips (possibly due to a bad fall). Nobody told me about this, or I would have sought proper treatment for her immediately, and it wasn't until she suddenly became seriously ill that I discovered she had chronic liver disease. In the absence of any other cause, the vets attributed the damage to the prolonged use of drugs to keep her racing despite her hip problems. Here's the story of the 7 life-changing weeks she was with me, and her tragic death due to the invidious industry to which she gave all 3 years of her life."

<http://www.drughoundracing.com/>



Recommendations

- Introduce limits of the number of litters brood bitches can have
- Acknowledge that greyhounds suffer enormous physical stress and this can affect their wellbeing for their entire lives.
- Ban the breeding of greyhounds with pannus by GRNSW participants

→ Examine drugs given to greyhounds and make recommendations of restricting use of drugs that have detrimental impacts on their short or long term health

14. Greyhound as Pets

Greyhounds as Pets NSW, the industry funded adoption program, have a bad reputation in the welfare community, and from comments I have read on greyhound forums, from the industry as well.

The criticisms include;

- They re-home only a small number of dogs.
- All dogs are assessed using a stringent testing procedure and if they do not pass they are either returned to owner or are killed.
- Industry participants have complained of dogs that were killed even though were supposed to be returned if failed.
- Industry participants have questioned their assessment methods given they know the behaviour of a dog and it has failed even though they didn't expect them to fail.
- There is a high kill rate. This is only hearsay as GAP refuses to release their figures to the public, both adoption and fail rates. What do they have to hide? Perhaps the suggestion they exist as more to reduce concerns of the public about high kill rates rather than find homes for large numbers of greyhounds may be true. The more greyhounds that get re-homed, more people fall in love with greyhounds and they begin to question their treatment in the greyhound racing industry.
- Even dogs that are shy fail their assessment and are killed.
- Dogs that are not small dog friendly do not pass the assessment are killed or returned to owners, even though they are given very little re-training (if any) to learn not to chase.
- So the industry discards the greyhounds that are not chasers and GAP discards the dogs that are chasers without any re-training even though it is an industry which has encouraged greyhounds to chase.
- The method of assessment and the abilities of the assessors have been called into question. The people who determine whether a greyhound is suitable for re-homing have questionable skills.
- There is little or no retraining even though the majority of greyhounds have had very little exposure to the life of a companion animal.
- GAP has restrictions on greyhound's age and medical issues. If this is what the GRNSW has produced, then this is what GAP should help find homes for. Their rule should not exist to make their lives easy, their primary objective should be to help greyhounds have a quality life (and be alive!), adjust to the life of a companion animal and find a home.
- Recent announcements by GRNSW on additional funds for welfare initiatives do not seem to include expansion of the GAP program.
- It is recognised by those in the adoption community that the longer a greyhound has had to adjust into the community, and the more re-training they have had then the better they will perform on an assessment.
- The assessment should be used a guide to find suitable homes, not a guide to kill dogs. Not all dogs are small dog friendly or take time so get used to what small dogs are. The industry has to take responsibility for the fact they have trained them to chase small animals and give them time to re-train. Friends of the Hound and

Greyhound Safety Net reports after discussions with them earlier in the year that 90% of dogs do not have this issue and a high percentage of those remaining can be worked with.

- My own personal experience after saving a greyhound from a Sydney pound when she was on death row: my dog acted in a way that indicated she thought small dogs were things to chase. And why wouldn't she? She would have been encouraged to chase. I have had dog training experience and I used this knowledge to expose and socialise her to small dogs in a safe manner. Now she is great with small dogs and you would never know that she behaved this way. I am a responsible dog owner, however, and do not let her off lead with very small dogs. Why is it that I can spend the time re-training a dog not to chase and yet the industry adoption group who have so called behaviour experts cannot do this?

- I have a friend that had a greyhound that would have easily be deemed a cat killer. She was pretty keen to get at her cat. For 2 and a half years she kept them separated using safety gates etc. After a period of time she could see that they would both be fine and for the next 5 years they lived happily together. All dogs are different and this would not always be possible, but it shows you what is possible with dogs that would have easily failed the GAP test and would have been dead.

- It seems that many people in the industry actually do not know dog behaviour and could benefit from workshops or training to help prepare their dogs for the life of a companion animal.

Recommendations

→ Make available to the public all adoption and kills rates since the inception of GAP.

→ Get an independent assessment of the abilities and knowledge of the people within GAP that do the assessment test from someone who has actual dog training, and behavioural abilities. Both the assessment test and the assessors need to be examined to see whether they are most effective tool to help greyhounds be re-homed.

→ Organise workshops for industry participants on how to prepare greyhounds for the life of a companion dog.

→ GAP to stop putting restrictions on old or sick dogs. The object should be to help greyhounds discarded by the industry, not make GRNSW "look good" or make life easier for GAP staff.

→ Funding should be provided, as already has been suggested to expand adoption arrangements and that this funding support non industry groups re-train, and find homes for adoption

15. Other welfare concerns

The issues will have been addressed by other parties, however, we would like to emphasize we are concerned about the following issues;

- The exporting of greyhounds to countries like China and Vietnam that have no animal welfare laws and a poor record of treatment of animals.

- There are commercial interests that are looking at expanding racing in China and we have to ensure that Australian greyhounds are not sent to China.

- The use of greyhounds for research, dissection and bleeding and universities. There are a number of universities and research facilities which accept greyhounds discarded by the racing industry his practice is not only abhorrent, it is a practice stopped some 30 years. Many people in the industry deny this, but it doesn't take much effort to find out that it still goes on. Veterinary and science students can attest to this as they often use greyhounds cadavers study anatomy. I recently phone The School of Veterinary Science at Charles Sturt

University and asked something about greyhounds. The receptionist respond "ah do you have some greyhounds for us?". I have been promised statistics from the senior animal technician on how many greyhounds they use and what they use them for, but I am still waiting for this information.

-How do we know GRNSW and GAP are not enlisted to provide greyhounds for research? In Victoria well known trainer was used to find enough dogs for a drug trial under the guise that they were being re-homed.

Recommendations

->An immediate ban on export of greyhounds to countries with no welfare law or laws not equal to or better than states in Australia. Ban GRNSW participants from exporting dogs or breeding products.

→ Stop greyhound participants dumping their greyhounds on universities or research facilities.

→NSW government to supply list of vet clinics which use the blood of greyhounds and then kill them – so this information is publicly available. Both need to support a dog blood bank initiate so that greyhound blood is not relied upon.

→-NSW government to supply information to the public, which public and private companies and educational institutions use greyhounds for experimenting, dissection and drug testing. That the government support initiates to find other sources and ways to train science and vet students as they do in the UK



HOW CAN WE TRUST GREYHOUND INDUSTRY ADOPTION GROUPS ?

A number of years ago an ad like this was placed in a national greyhound publication



selected by
then
tortured
then
killed

a well known Victoria trainer was paid \$50 000 to house the greyhounds

The ad was totally misleading

The dogs were used in a drug trial of dangerous experimental pig vaccine called Improvac

- The trial was organised by [redacted] enlisted the assistance of the [redacted] program and staff in order to gather enough greyhound bitches to fill the quota of 50 required to conduct the experimental trials.
- The 50 greyhound bitches placed in lonely, small and dusty dirt yards. [redacted] staff allocated by [redacted] to care for the 50 bitches struggled to cope with the workload
- Side affects included massive swellings and ulcerations. Other side effects of improvac were ovarian or other cancers, Loss of appetite, lethargy, susceptibility to viruses, temperature fluctuation, vomiting, weight loss, infections, allergic reactions, and vaccine related death.
- When asked, "What would be done with the 50 bitches once the experiment had concluded?" Mr. [redacted] confirmed that all animals subject to testing by [redacted] are euthanized, as a matter of company policy.
- [redacted] were aware of the risks to these bitches and kept that information from the people who unknowingly donated their animals for experimental use.
- There was some media exposure of this issue when it occurred and [redacted] said they would re-home all the dogs despite it being in opposition to [redacted] policy.
- When [redacted] was asked for the list of greyhounds in the trial and the names of greyhounds rehomed by [redacted] refused, because - they killed them all!

16. The impact on vet clinic staff on large numbers of greyhound euthanased and bleeding

The large number of greyhounds taken to veterinary clinics has a huge impact on the staff that are forced to kill healthy animals.

Here is part of a testimony from a vet nurse that worked in a NSW vet clinic where greyhounds were regularly discarded by trainers:

"On countless occasions I found myself out the back literally sobbing over these dogs I was unable to save. Sleepless nights & the sickening feeling that comes with being utterly helpless when trying to save an innocent life from an inhumane death"

The short term and long term effect on staff that are made to kill healthy greyhounds is very real. The emotional and mental wellbeing of people can seriously be affected.

The racing industry need to acknowledge and take responsibility for what they are doing to veterinary staff who overwhelming wants to help animals. Not kill them.

17 . Compassion fatigue in greyhound adoption

An issue that has been totally ignored when discussing the greyhound racing world, but definitely should be considered is compassion fatigue.

As we have established, thousands of greyhounds are discarded and killed by the racing industry every year in Australia. There are only a small number of groups in Australia that re-home greyhounds. Many mixed breed rescue groups have left greyhounds to greyhounds groups believing they have difficult or have special needs. Many groups are unaware of the large number of greyhounds disposed of. So it is left to a small number of greyhounds groups to help greyhounds. The pressure placed on this small number of groups to save the large number of greyhounds is enormous. Greyhound Freedom is in contact with a number of these groups and I have witnessed the stress and emotional strain of trying to help as many greyhounds as possible. Trainers and owners contacting them regularly asking if they have space and when they are asked them to wait, they say "nup - I have to get rid of her/ him. I'll take her somewhere else" which usually means they will kill them .The emails, the phone calls are constant. They are unable to help all greyhounds and this causes a great deal of emotional stress in addition the pressure place on them by people in the industry. This stress is exacerbated by the suffering they witness from the greyhounds they help due to physical or emotional trauma.

The volunteers within these groups will suffer from stress and from compassion fatigue. Compassion fatigue stems from an over commitment to work that involves caring for others and is considered by some to be a kind of secondary posttraumatic stress disorder. Because they often invest themselves deeply in the animals they care for members of an animal care groups may be particularly vulnerable to compassion fatigue.

Many people who rescue animals, who work in animal shelters, and who are otherwise involved in animal welfare and animal rights are exhausted and suffering from compassion fatigue. They are not able to talk about their grief and exhaustion openly with either their animal rescue co-workers or their other friends and family, and are looking for a safe place in which to share their feelings so that they do not burn out.

In the paper Bradshaw et al in the paper Caring for the Caregiver:

"Assessment of Animal Care Professional and Organizational Wellbeing." Says that compassion fatigue has systems of post-traumatic stress disorder as in many instances, caregivers are simultaneously an instrument of animal salvation and euthanasia.

http://www.kerulos.org/programmes/service_files/Kerulos%20Caring%20for%20Caregiver%20Assesment.pdf

How can the NSW government and GRNSW continue to ignore the impact that this industry is having on the mental health and wellbeing of those in the veterinary industry and rescue groups by allowing this situation of high numbers of greyhounds killed?

Recommendation

→GRNSW and NSW Government to provide counselling and support services for vet industry staff and greyhounds adoption

18. What do leading animal welfare and humane groups think about greyhound racing?

The Humane Society of the United States, is the largest animal protection group in the USA and one of the largest in the world, have this to say about greyhound racing:

“Greyhound racing constitutes animal abuse because of the industry’s excessive surplus breeding practices, the often cruel methods by which unwanted dogs are destroyed, the daily conditions in which many dogs are forced to live, and the killing and maiming of bait animals, such as rabbits, during training exercises. The industry exists solely for the entertainment and profit of people—often at the expense of the animals’ welfare”

“Could the greyhound racing industry ever be operated in a humane manner?”

No. The racing industry is inherently cruel. Greyhound racing is a form of gaming in which the amount of money a dog generates determines his or her expendability. The answer for greyhounds is neither regulation nor adoption of “retired” dogs, but the elimination of the greyhound racing industry.”

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/greyhound_racing/facts/greyhound_racing_facts.html#.UnoM6XBmiSo

The RSPCA of the UK has this position on greyhound racing:

“The RSPCA is opposed to the racing and training of dogs where distress or injury result from placing excessive demands upon the animal”

19. A glimpse at what is happening with greyhound racing worldwide

The United States, the UK and Ireland along with Australia are the 4 largest greyhound racing nations in the world.

In The United States:

- Greyhound racing has now been banned in 38 states and stopped in another 5 states.
- The number of greyhounds bred for racing has declined for 10 consecutive years.
- Between 2001 and 2011, the total amount gambled on greyhound racing nationwide declined by 67%

source : Grey2K website

<http://www.grey2kusa.org/index.php>

The UK

- Falling attendances have seen the number of licensed tracks that used to attract hordes of race fans reduced from 85 to just 25.

- The number of people going to dog tracks has slumped 40% in the past eight years, down from 3.5million in 2005 to around 2.1million now
 - 2 tracks closed in 2013 – Oxford and Catford and 2 more tracks up for sale which could see them redeveloped : Belle Vue (Manchester) and Hall Green (Birmingham) .
- <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/348756/Gone-to-the-dogs-Fears-for-greyhound-racing-as-Walthamstow-track-closes>

Ireland

In August a strategic review of the industry was announced by The Irish Greyhound Board

"...the semi-state firm had combined debts in excess of €30m and its tracks lost €1.1m last year: "Confidence in the industry is shattered. Breeding figures and racing pools are dangerously low. The regulatory function is completely and utterly failing on a regular basis with one scandal after another."

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/archives/2013/0806/world/greyhound-industry-to-be-reviewed-238960.html>

20. Why doesn't the general public know about the high injury rates, track deaths and high kill rate of greyhounds?

1. Because the greyhound industry does not make it public how many are discarded, die on the track or how many injuries there are. They don't collect this data or advertise this information to the public. If you want to know, you have to go digging. I have sent emails to GRNSW and I have never received a reply. When I spoke to Tony O'Mara recently, he said "well you don't live in NSW so we didn't respond".

2. The media is reluctant to report on such issues due to the money they get from the racing industry. I recently spoke to John Davis the racing writer for the Telegraph. I rang up in response to a story in which they printed this comment;

"greyhound racing is the only one which invests heavily in finding homes for its retirees via its "greyhounds as pets" and adoption scheme programs."

I rang up to point out that rehoming less than .01% of the greyhounds born in NSW doesn't exactly equate to investing heavily. The response was John Davis the senior racing writer for the Telegraph made this startling comment;

"we would never print that information. We are a pro-racing paper. We are a Murdoch newspaper"

Recommendation

->The NSW government do a survey of the general public about what they think of greyhound racing and whether this activity should be government supported after explaining to the public the number of greyhound injuries, deaths and numbers being discarded.

21. Final Word and Dawson

If there are spelling errors, grammar errors or poorly explained points in my submission this can be blamed on the greyhound racing industry. You see for the last 5 weeks I have been caring for a greyhound puppy called Dawson. Looking after this little guy has taken a great proportion of my time I have already referred to Dawson earlier on, however, let me explain in detail;

Dawson was born in NSW and when he was 6 weeks old he injured his leg. He was taken to the vet by his owner and the diagnosis was a broken leg, but not confirmed with an x-ray. The owner opted to take Dawson home without an x-ray, without further treatment and as far as I know without pain killers. Dawson's leg was to heal "naturally". The pain must have been tremendous. Dawson's leg did heal, in way, but it was bent. Approximately 2 months later Dawson was taken back to the vet to be put to sleep because clearly a bent leg was not going to be suitable for a racing greyhound. Dawson puppy was expendable because he was worth nothing to the racing industry. Lucky Dawson did have a few things on his side that day 1. A caring vet nurse asked if they could take him and help re-home. 2. The owner said yes – sometimes they say no. 3. An adoption group, Friends of the Hound, had a space available. They don't always, as they have a waiting list that is sometimes 80 dogs. As a foster carer for Friends of the Hound, Dawson ended up with me until his leg heals. The surgeon confirmed the injury would have occurred at 6 weeks and it was a broken tibia. Dawson has had an operation to fix his leg and now 6 pins and an external bracket. This vet clinic has often helped greyhounds and did this operation at a heavily discounted price. When his leg is good he will be adopted by a loving home.

I raise this issue because; the impact of these discarded greyhounds has immense costs to the community such as compassion fatigue, stress, emotional, time costs and financial costs. All these need to be recognized by GRNSW and the NSW Government. Do we want a compassionate society that cares for animals? If we do, why is it that those outside the industry (adoption groups and vet staff) spend so much time and energy caring for these animals when it should be the industry, participants, and the NSW government? Where is my reimbursement for spending my time, my money and my life helping these dogs? I do it because I care, but where the responsibility should not lie with caring humans, but the bodies that create the suffering in the first place.



Dawson's leg x-ray after his operation.

Conclusion

The attitudes towards animals are changing and as the general public find out more about the greyhound racing industry, in particular the number of greyhounds that are discarded by the racing injury and the number of greyhounds receiving injuries and dying from racing, it is becoming increasingly unacceptable for a government to earn money from this industry and allow it to be a commercial activity. We accept that in the short term there that greyhound racing will continue, but we will work towards the prohibition of greyhound racing on grounds of cruelty. In the meantime we urge the NSW state government to bring about these most important changes for the welfare of animals; that all greyhounds be tracked from birth to death, all this information be available to the public, all death and injury information from all tracks be made easily available to the public, establish a welfare fund to assist in re-homing every single greyhounds into a home or sanctuary, and an independent welfare unit to be establish to actively pursue, investigate welfare issues including the mistreatment of greyhounds and live baiting.