

**Submission
No 192**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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I am putting a submission in to help improve the welfare of greyhounds in the racing industry in Australia - sadly it is fraught with allegations of animal cruelty, corruption, over-breeding, and illegal drug use. Thousands of dogs are euthanised each year either after being injured, for being too slow, for reaching the end of their 'careers', or they are just considered surplus to demand. Tragically, accounts of greyhounds being killed inhumanely are widely reported.

HERE ARE THE PROBLEMS AS SEEN ON TV & FROM WHAT I HAVE RESEARCHED as taken from HSI -

- High rates of over-breeding and large-scale killing of greyhounds
- Industry's acceptance of high level of greyhound 'wastage'
- High rates of injuries sustained during racing, often fatal
- Reports of the use of performance enhancing drugs on the animals
- Reports of inhumane methods of killing, often to healthy animals
- Reports of links to organised crime
- Insufficient commitment by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) for the welfare of the animals
- Lack of funds means no animal welfare improvements planned
- Insufficient regulation and monitoring of animal welfare by GRNSW
- Lack of close regulation of GRNSW's Code of Practice
- Insufficient penalties awarded for breaching animal welfare standards
- Ineffective re-homing program adopted by GRNSW
- Greyhounds exported to countries with inadequate welfare regulations
- Distinct lack of importance awarded to the welfare of the animals

In the instance that greyhound racing is not banned, HSI who I support with monthly donations has offered the following recommendations that would go towards greatly improving the welfare of greyhounds in NSW, if implemented and I would like to see them implemented:

- Significant increase in GRNSW funds allocated to improve animal welfare
- No incentives awarded which encourage over-breeding of greyhounds
- Close regulation of GRNSW's Code of Practice
- Heavy penalties for those who fail to abide by GRNSW's Code of Practice
- Accurate data collection by GRNSW on greyhound statistics
- Data on the greyhound industry to be made available to the public domain
- Increased funding allocated to greyhound re-homing programs
- Percentage of betting funds used for animal welfare & re-homing programs
- Independent government body to oversee welfare of racing greyhounds
- Introduce more stringent monitoring on illegal drug use
- All greyhounds to be registered with councils and micro-chipped
- Phase out the use of cornered tracks to reduce injury toll
- Offer rewards to those who report inhumane killing methods
- Offer rewards to those who report use of live baits during training
- Ban the killing of healthy greyhounds
- Ban export of greyhounds to countries with inadequate welfare regulations
- Ban the use of ex-greyhounds in research or for use in veterinary schools

Please do not allow beautiful animals to suffer - this is Australia not a third world country - animals should not be suffering in our country & I expect our government to make sure of this.