

Submission
No 2

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 5/09/2013

Partially Confidential

Submission for Parliamentary Enquiry into Greyhound Racing in NSW

05/09/2013

To whom it may concern.

My submission is in relation to greyhound welfare in NSW.

Please be aware that I have owned racing greyhounds for the past 10 years. I have owned 10 racing greyhounds in this time. When I brought my first greyhound, I promised myself that after racing, or if it didn't make the track that all dogs would be rehomed. I have always found this process to be 1) Not too much work to rehome 2) There are avenues already available to owners to rehome their dogs.

In NSW we have GAP, the greyhound adoption centre. Whilst all greyhounds do not pass every test, we are able to retrieve the greyhounds from GAP if they do not pass the test. The previous two dogs that I have rehomed recently have been privately and also through VIC Safety Net. The Safety net in Victoria is for any dogs that don't make it through GAP. These dogs are used for blood donations for 1 year for the vet hospital, therefore giving much needed blood to help other dogs in trouble. They are then guaranteed a home after this. I don't think that the greens would be aware of this.

Greyhound owners love their dogs; they need to be in tip top condition to race. Trainers and owners need to have dogs in great shape to race. Therefore all of these pups etc get the best upbringing they can possibly provide...of the dogs can't win races and that not in anyone's interests. Sure there are some bad apples in the industry...but there are bad apples everywhere, even in parliament!

Therefore my main points are that most owners will look to rehome or keep their dogs after racing. I do not feel that the animal welfare part of this issue is lacking. People now more than ever are taking greyhounds as pets; they are being welcomed into society.

I would recommend that if higher levels of welfare are imposed that the inter-code agreement be re-looked at. I am all in favour of a retirement home for greyhounds. A large property somewhere that can rehome any that can't be. This could be similar to the living legends that the horses have. This could be funded by an increase to participant's registration costs, or by making sure we get our fair shares of turnover from the TAB. Even as an owner I would be prepared to pay weekly for the food for the dogs that were in the retirement home and I know of many other owners that would do the same. We are the new breed of greyhound owners. We are not out of the 1960s with ideals that are not related to welfare. We young owners are the ones that are changing the welfare situation in greyhound racing.

Horses die all the time; they get sold for peanuts and get sent to knackeries. They get more money than us however they do not spend the same amount on welfare. If welfare rules are increased and money taken from the intercode pot, Greyhound racing will probably cease to exist. If this does happen many many people will not have a living. Dogs would have to be put down on mass if the industry closes, this would mean a large extra burden on the government for centrelink payments, etc. I am available at any time to discuss the above, and am prepared to make a personal submission to the enquiry if needs be

Kind Regards