

**Submission
No 147**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Mr Larry Hickey

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The continuation of greyhound racing is a blight upon a modern civilised society. There are some cultural customs that in the 21st century need to be stopped, just as bull-fighting needs to be stopped in Hispanic countries.

The breeding of greyhounds to supply racing dogs to the industry is a tragedy. Why, you might ask? Because of the massive murdering of greyhounds, through-out every year of their existence.

From birth the pick of the litter are chosen to be trained and any pups surplus to this are disposed off. Hopefully euthanized, but most probably drowned; or disposed of in some other manner that costs nothing.

Then, after training the dogs, if they prove to be a non-chaser, they become useless as a racing commodity and are generally euthanized. Some are put into adoption programs, but in most cases the trainers could not be bothered as they have little or no emotional attachment to the animals beyond their earning capacity on the track; and as a result don't care for their well being in becoming adopted. Again, euthanizing the dogs costs, except for the many veterinarians who offer special deals on cheap disposals, or there are the many veterinarian universities that take the animals to drain their blood and use for dissection to train vet students.

In a racing greyhound's life there is great potential for injury on the track, and unless the dog has a positive earnings return, then the owners do not bother to pay for their treatment, euthanizing the dog is far cheaper.

A racing dogs' career usually only lasts until they are (at the most) five years old. After this they are surplus to requirements and unless there is a demand for their breeding potential then they are generally disposed off. Once again there is a small percentage offered up for adoption, and the rest are generally euthanized, or offered to universities for veterinarian research.

As you can see the future for racing greyhounds is not a rosy one. Most trainers deny the huge numbers euthanized but one does not see the Australian suburbs littered with pet greyhounds. And why is it the responsibility of volunteer rescue groups to rehome greyhounds that are bred for one purpose: the perpetuating of a money making gambling industry sanctioned by your government. GAP (greyhound adoption programs in QLD, NSW and Vic) programs run by state racing organisations have very small rehoming rates and act as little else than propaganda machines. Why does GAP in Queensland have the only right to grade an ex-racing greyhound as suitable to not need to wear a muzzle. Are not the RSPCA a respected and professional enough organisation to adequately assess an animal for its potential to harm. Apparently not, as only the GAP organisation has the right in Queensland.

These dogs are companion animals like any other dogs yet are treated as a commodity to perpetuate gambling. They are not treated well, as in 95% of cases they are disposed off. What civilised modern society could tolerate a kill rate of this magnitude. They are dogs, wonderful loving animals that deserve much better.