

**Submission
No 471**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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Lee Wilmott

I thought I would start by giving you the link to the ABC's recent story on a small part of the Greyhound racing industry

<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/backgroundbriefing/2012-11-11/4355398>

My name is Lee Wilmott and I am the owner of a rescued greyhound. She was the daughter of a champion and a six thousand dollar dud. She was lucky and she was rescued by the Greyhound adoption Programme. I got her straight out of the kennels. She showed very clear behaviour as a result of what I know to be trauma.

She couldn't cope with open space, she had a high startle reaction, she would hide humans in numbers more than 2, could not walk down or upstairs, she had to be toilet trained, she was very thin, she had coat missing from her thighs and side from laying on cement, she has scars from goodness only knows what and she was and still is terrified of vets.

Greyhounds are sight hunters, they were never meant to run in a group around a circular track. This was done because of coursing and hare chasing. Frankly hounds are a good rabbit disposal machine and coursing was much more civilised except for the rabbit.

The list below is an outline of what really happens in the industry as far as the dogs are concerned and I am sure that there are many rescue group sending submissions with evidence the numbers and the hideous hideous photos. Frankly it has to stop.

1. Overbreeding (around 20,000 bred each year for dog racing, with breeding subsidies in place, & despite industry spin about welfare initiatives, no plans to reduce numbers bred);
2. The subsequent mass wastage - a deplorable number of dogs used, abused & discarded (killed), & the exploitation (exploiting them for their potential speed with no concern for their lives or future post-racing).

<http://www.amazinggreys.com.au/why-greyhound-racing-needs-to-stop/>

3. The appallingly high rate of injuries, unacceptable living conditions (dogs caged/kennelled for long periods), dubious training methods (ie. live baiting) & prevalence of doping (with little consequences or punishment), cruelty, & the lack of accountability, responsibility, transparency shown by industry - which uses clever spin to hide or deflect welfare concerns, & the inefficiency of their self-regulated governance.

4. The issues of gambling (particularly in low socio-economic regions) & high

participation rate of 'unsavoury', uneducated and even criminal types. This is my concern. Gambling has destroyed families . Has caused health problems , violence, homelessness and children lost opportunities.

This is an issue that many groups have written to you about. But until you see a wheelbarrow of dog bodies or the dreaded E on the hounds head you just don't get it. Its time to bring all of this out in the open. We are addressing live export.. The reality of horse racing is coming out into the public agenda. However the dogs need to stop. In general it is worse than horses.