

**Submission  
No 701**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

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Greyhounds belong on couches not in crates. The long history of greyhound racing has to be seen as where it has to found itself today - with dwindling numbers track-side and significant increases in the cases of dog doping and animal cruelty.

The Humane Society of the USA (one of the biggest animal protection groups in the world) says this about greyhound racing -

"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."

Not only this, but you only need read some of Greyhound Racing's own literature to see they themselves don't believe in the profiteering from greyhound racing. All this industry does is provide an extra source of unwanted dogs that end up in vets and pounds and drain their resources.

It may be a slightly different story if the industry provided a meaningful rehoming program, but GAP NSW figures do not explain the huge gap in figures between greyhounds born and greyhounds rehomed. This instead falls to the dozens of rescue organisations whose volunteers work tirelessly around the clock to help save these beautiful dogs. The figures are astounding and absolutely heartbreaking, and, as per GRNSW own rules, do not take into account "unregistered" breeding or accidental mating (where my greyhound x wolfhound came from - and left to die). This is on top of the rigorous and unrealistic behavioural tests GAP put these dogs through... All resulting in a pitiful number of successful rehoming.

Ad over the past few years there has been an increase in the accounts of dog doping. These poor animals are subjected to dreadful living conditions in small confined spaces, and then doped with substances from cocaine to testosterone. These large dogs are already subject to cardiac and pulmonary problems and these drugs can exacerbate conditions - another of my rescued greyhounds was retired after recording very high heart rate, luckily to a wonderful rescue organisation who have rehomed more dogs in 2013 ALONE than GAP have in their entire history! And the calls to collect unwanted dogs have only increased since the tax changes at the beginning of 2013 FY. The lucky ones make it to these rescue charities - often with paws, toes, ears missing and with other physical and emotional scars that take years to heal, whereas thousands of others are surrendered to vets for euthanising or blood donating (many are totally drained of blood and left to die, or have medical procedures practiced on them, dead or alive - and usually leaving emotional scars on the vet staff forced to take these actions), surrendered to universities for vet students to practice on, not to mention all the unrecorded deaths in backyards from gunshot wounds, poisoning and neglect.

Others are picked up for breeding with other large dogs for fighting and hunting. These dogs have the most gentle, loving nature and want nothing more than to be loved. There is such a stigma around these dogs and I find it hard to imagine that border collies or poodles or Labradors would be subject to the cruel and horrific lives so many greyhounds suffer. Why is it different for greyhounds? You only need to spend a minute with one of these amazing animals to understand how gentle and undeserving of this treatment they really are.

Even those trainers that claim to love their dogs and rehome "every single one", are still supporting an industry that profits from the death of these dogs. I am afraid watching my boys at the local park that they might trip and break a leg... And with the high number of incidents at tracks (many MANY of which are reported incorrectly and seem to "forget to mention" the injured dog was put to sleep) the proof is right there in the numbers - this is NOT a safe sport for the racing dogs.

I hope you can see the truth behind the racing industry and understand these dogs have as much of a right to a free existence as you, me and your pooch snuggled up on your couch at home. The truth is that thousands of these dogs are ending up dead every year while rescue organisations struggle to take on the quota. Why are we giving tax breaks for breeding more animals when our pounds and govt-run bodies are at breaking point sheltering already unwanted animals? Please consider these arguments before you make your decision.