

Submission
No 589

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

Date received: 6/11/2013

Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern

I am writing a submission to abolish Greyhound racing. A sport even though it is regulated (apparently) has many loop holes and allows for the abuse, neglect and wastage of perfectly healthy animals.

Firstly, I would like to thank the New South Wales (NSW) Government for instigating such an enquiry – it is well needed and demonstrates an acknowledgment of public awareness and thought. It also brings to light the atrocities occurring in dog racing.

I would consider the sport (Greyhound racing) the 'lowest' of the lows, people using animals to gain money and too allow gambling to continue destroying peoples' lives. Although, I see gambling as a big issue in Australia I will not focus my submission in this area.

It is clear that the Greyhound owners/trainers care more about the money than the dog's health, with the dogs being kept extremely lean, many having poor nutrition and some underfed to achieve the perfect racer. In such instances, these are the lucky dogs left alive long enough to even make it to the track. Time and time again these dogs live a life of misery and abuse that would be considered totally unacceptable for a human being but this seems to be OK because the dogs' sole aim is to run fast and win money – because we [the public] are told they enjoy running. The dogs do not enjoy being fed drugs and other supplements aimed only to improve their speed and stamina, to be beaten to win, beaten if they don't win and ultimately destroyed when they have failed. It is an actual disgrace that this sport has been allowed to continue in the 21st century, let alone in a developed country.

The sport allows for the destruction of healthy puppies that are not needed (considered wastage), injured (by no fault of their own), or affected by continual line breeding. This trend is not only for unfortunate puppies but for young, juvenile dogs too. The lucky 'wastage' (I use the term loosely) are dogs that are euthanised ethically at a veterinary facility. Unfortunately, many are either dumped with their ears cut off so they are unidentifiable (registered racing dogs have ear tattoos for identification), beaten or bludgeoned to death, gassed, drowned, hanged or even worse. It is disgusting that human beings even consider this a method of euthanasia.

My preference is for Greyhound racing to be abolished totally.

At the very least, there is a need to heavily regulate the sport (I am aware that it is currently regulated but this is not assisting in Greyhound 'wastage', abuse and neglect problem) where individual[s]/groups[s] found to be harming a dog in any way as mentioned above be prosecuted and band from the sport indefinitely.

Owners/trainers need to be accountable for all their dogs, this includes litters of puppies. There needs to be a system that monitors ALL litters, and the owner needs to disclose how many puppies were born and where they are all going (dogs not homed should automatically go to rescue facilities for them to manage). This regulation should be extended to adult dogs, first point of call for any dog not racing, to old, injured etcetera be to a rescue facility where they decide the dog's fate. Additionally, there needs to be a regulation that monitors the number of dogs bred/owned by individuals/groups – for example, an individual may not be able to own and/or race more than 5 dogs over a two year period. Some kind of governance is important to establishing and maintaining the rules.

I believe this enquiry has come at a critical stage in the Greyhound racing industry with much public awareness and anger, and has the potential to serve the public well and eradicate the inhumane activities that permeate through such an archaic sport. The NSW Government has demonstrated a need to further probe such a disgusting sport that through media attention, social media and public outcry made the public more aware of what is happening when people so call 'place a bet' on the dogs. This is the NSW Government's chance to get it right and either abolish the sport entirely which is preferred or drastically improve the regulation of Greyhound racing, stop the cruelty, hold people accountable for their actions and perhaps manage this process through a national regulatory body.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards