

Submission
No 48

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially Confidential

The greyhound racing industry certainly needs to be fully investigated and hopefully solutions to the myriad unacceptable practices will be found and enacted to protect these poor creatures from shocking and unacceptable exploitation and cruelty.

I have listed some issues to be addressed and for which solutions need to be found. I am appalled by animal cruelty and so endeavour to have the lives of these gentle sentient creatures improved and also for them to be properly looked after. To achieve this proper controls etc of the activities of vested interest here is mandatory to safeguard their welfare – these dogs are not ‘manufactured products’ to be churned out in the thousands but are sensitive, gentle creatures who have feelings and needs just like we humans.

Re Animal Welfare –

- Appallingly around 3,000 greyhounds are put down in NSW alone due to simply being a “too slow”, have been injured racing or training, or have reached the end of their racing career. Australia wide it is estimated that 17,000 greyhounds are being put down annually.
- The unacceptably low rehoming of greyhounds - Just 300 dogs under Greyhound Racing NSW’s ‘Greyhounds As Pet’ program. A Funded Retirement Plan needs to be introduced funded from the betting placed here to ensure that every dog is properly looked after from birth through to retirement.
- 3 dogs have died at one meeting after sustaining horrific injuries whilst racing – it does appear that performance enhancing drugs are also on the increase.
- Negligence regarding data collection showing the number of puppies being bred etc - The mandatory collection of data by breeders and owners is required so that the public can see the full extent of what is happening here, and hopefully enhance greater animal welfare as a result. These dogs are sentient beings who feel pain, hunger, fear just like we humans – they are not manufactured machines with no feelings – they have feelings and needs just like we humans.

Re Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry NSW –

- A truly independent organisation is required to keep an eye on this industry as I believe there is a conflict of interest here as the GRNSW looks after both the regulatory and commercial aspects of this industry. Our society has seen that when these two areas are combined within the one organisation that a certain level of corruption cannot help but be created with such things as eg internal investigations and consideration given to the ‘who’s who’.

Re Alleged Criminal Activity

- Having an independent organisation will enhance the cleaning up of this industry both in the commercial sense and the regulatory sense - internally eg doping of these poor dogs and externally by undertaking an investigation re the possible rumoured criminal involvement of any outside groups such as motorcycle gang activities.

Yours sincerely