

**Submission
No 266**

INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW

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In a study at University of Pennsylvania in 2008 the greyhound was deemed as one of the most placid and gentle of all dog breeds. And so often due to their speed and gentle nature they are subjected to such horrible and despicable cruelty by the racing industry from the every step of their lives from the cradle to the grave. No other breed of dog in Australia is killed or suffers as much as the greyhound.

So often people tell me and others “greyhounds only purpose and breed is for racing” this is only true since 1926 and in actual fact for many centuries, even as far back as biblical times greyhounds were breed for hunting and companion animals for kings, queens and noble people, common people where never permitted to own a greyhound. 1926 was a turning point for this breed of noble dog to become the “poor mans horse racing.” And this is where it has stayed since then, in the gutter.

The atrocities and horrors against greyhounds are wide spread and seemingly never ending for the vast majority of these dogs from the cradle to the grave.

No other breed of dog in Australia is so over breed as is the greyhound. 2011 there were 2,887 (this is down from 2010 of 3,047) litters of greyhound puppies with 8 puppies per litter it is estimated that were 23,096 greyhound puppies born in 2011. There were 11,800 puppies named/registered for the industry, so were did 11,296 greyhounds go in 2011?

As someone who spends many hours collecting some of the states steward reports, New South Wales and Victoria of which are the largest in this country – here are some of collected stats that is available to the public, steward reports for some of the country track are not supplied.

Jan – Sep 2013

State	Euthanased /dead	fractures not confirmed deaths	Injuries	Vetted no apparent injuries	scratched - injured	scratched - sick	scratched - dead
GRV	84	83	3022	1592	158	134	0
NSWGR	4	82	1274	2360	2497	908	20
QGR	6	21	551	748	1036	456	6
NTGR	0	0	26	68	27	2	0
ACT	2	5	43	36	83	100	1
TasGR	19	8	301	494	373	157	12
SAGR	24	0 (1)	531	896	823	112	7
WAGR	1	53 (2)	718	722	621	166	0
Total	140	199	6,466	6,916	5,618	2,035	46
							21,420

- (1) 62 dogs 3 months or more. Possible fractures. SA don't give injury information
(2) plus at least 9 suspected fractures in WA

Jan- Dec 2012

State	Euthanased/ dead	fractures not confirmed deaths	Injuries	Vetted no apparent injuries	scratched - injured	scratched - sick	scratched - dead
GRV	102	63	3,548	1,999	3,548	163	2
NSWGR	11	165	1,583	2,588	3,386	1,078	26
QGR	19	12	597	1,015	1,521	432	18
NTGR	-	-	54	72	19	13	-
ACT	4	2	47	38	143	69	-
TasGR	16	8	457	633	485	127	16
SAGR	31	3	711	1,031	1,276	120	18
WAGR	1	80	939	729	788	190	6
Total	184	333	7,936	8,105	11,166	2,192	86
							30,002

Greyhounds are used by Universities across Australia for laboratory experiments, dissection, surgical training and bleeding and never if rarely make it out alive.

And the live export of Greyhounds to Macua the reason we are here today.

Greyhounds are exported from Australia to Macau, China to race at the Macau Canidrome and when they retire they are killed. There is no animal welfare nor adoption program in Macau for these dogs. Here are the numbers of greyhounds exported from Australia to Macua supplied by Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishery.

2009 = 397

2010 = 282

2011 = 309

2012 – not supplied by DAFF as requested yet this is public information

As someone that has lived in the USA and witnessed the decline in the industry this is the way of greyhound racing in Australia. As more and more of the general public that are made aware of the mass cruelty with this industry will also encourage a decline here. As more and more greyhounds that are adopted to families across Australia will be more Australian disillusioned with our Government for not banning this so called sport or mass overbreeding and killing of these majestic dogs.

Our family have adopted 6 greyhounds over the past 10 years and find them the most perfect breed of dogs as pets. We have also fostered greyhounds in desperate need of a temporary home until they are adopted into permanent homes. Of our 3 greyhounds that we have adopted here in Australia our oldest boy adopted over 6 years ago from animal shelter as a companion to our female greyhound we brought with us from the USA.

Our oldest boy, now 10-1/2 years old, was dumped from the industry because he was too old and slow on the track at the age of 4 years old. Our other boy, who is now almost 7 was dumped luckily at a no-kill shelter at the ripe old age of 2.

Our female was rescued with in 2 hours of being euthanized in a animal NSW pound at the age of 7, again too old, too slow and done being breed for the greyhound racing industry – just tossed away to be killed at rate payer dollars and no regard for the years they owned her.

This is just three examples of the toss away mentality of the greyhound racing industry. When money is involved this will out weight any welfare that these dogs deserved, they didn't asked to be born to race for money.