

**Submission
No 39**

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Matthew Pye
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To whom it may concern,

I would like to raise my objection to the inadequate protections for Grey Hounds in Australia and particularly NSW. Australia is only one of 5 countries in the world that allows the racing of grey hounds which is a black mark against the countries reputation for animal welfare, and combined this with systemic cruelty in the industry the sport should be phased out over 5-10 years in my opinion. The NSW Government was so appalled by the cruelty in NSW that it did announce the industry would be shut down - only to back track due to industry pressure - not pressure for the majority of the residents in NSW.

If the industry is allowed to continue then the Government should impose legislation to protect the animals from further cruelty and ensure their living conditions are above the minimum standards recommended by Animal Welfare Professionals. These animals are forced into racing, put under stress and risking their health for humans to be able to gamble on.

A science based oversight committee should be totally independent of the racing industry and create rules that put the welfare of animals before the profits and wants of the industry. The penalties for breaching the requirements must be severe as these have consistently proven themselves to be inadequate at preventing cruelty and torture of animals in the industry.

I think it is critical that a registry is kept of all racing dogs and that each is tracked throughout it's life to ensure they are not killed once they no longer of use to the industry. I also think there should be a limit to the number of dogs that can be registered each year to protect against breeder's who have no responsibility to consider the future of the dogs after they are sold.

I understand looking after the welfare of the dogs to an adequate standard (far above the current standard) will have a significant cost however the welfare of the animals should not be diminished to suit the profits of some in the industry. If the industry can not stop cruelty and torture of the animals it uses for it's own gain then that industry should not be licensed to continue operating in NSW.

Matthew Pye