

**Submission  
No 67**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

**Organisation:** Animal Welfare League NSW

**Date Received:** 29 January 2021

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# **Submission for the Inquiry into the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission**

## **Animal Welfare League NSW**

### **Overview of Animal Welfare League NSW**

Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) is a registered charity that has been operating for over 61 years. We provide expert care to surrendered, neglected, injured and abandoned animals across New South Wales. Animal Welfare League NSW is made up of the following departments;

- Inspectorate
- Veterinary
- Shelters
- Administration
- Branch Network

The objects for which the Company is established are for the pursuit of charitable purposes, to apply its income to promote those purposes and including (but without limitation) the following:

- a) To promote the welfare of animals in all forms
- b) To make provision for lost, neglected, abandoned and unwanted animals
- c) To prevent cruelty and neglect of animals
- d) To relieve pain and distress, and otherwise aid injured and sick animals
- e) To promote sterilisation of all companion animals
- f) To employ Inspectors to investigate complaints relating to animal's wellbeing and enforce the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act
- g) To take or cause to be taken any legal action in relation to these objects
- h) To make public by any means the objects of the company
- i) To provide teaching facilities in the care and training of animals
- j) To raise and administer funding for the company to enable the company to achieve its objects
- k) To encourage the making of gifts and testamentary dispositions to the company to enable the company to achieve its objects
- l) To make donations for charitable purposes
- m) To do all such other acts as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

### **AWLNSW's comment on the terms of reference**

(a) the policies, procedures, mechanisms, and overarching principles of the Commission in relation to industry participants,

We recommend that the greyhound rehoming policy be amended to prohibit the euthanasia of healthy greyhounds. This will reduce the number of greyhounds euthanised where rehoming options are available and hopefully promote the reduction of breeding due to the oversupply within the industry and subsequent rehoming difficulties.

(b) the appropriateness of disciplinary action for those industry participants breaching legal requirements as set out by the Commission,

As with all animal welfare penalties, we believe that the maximum penalty should be imposed for any breach to promote compliance and ensure that these matters are taken seriously by industry participants.

(c) the options for appeal by industry participants who breach legal requirements as set out by the Commission,

The option for appeal of any decision should be retained to ensure procedural fairness in all cases.

(d) the combined relationship of the Commission, the industry operator Greyhound Racing NSW, and industry participants in relation to the overall greyhound racing industry,

We strongly feel that the Commission should not be governed by Greyhound Racing NSW and that this relationship poses a significant conflict of interest to ensuring adequate functioning of the commission to ensure the welfare and integrity of greyhound racing. Greyhound Racing NSW and industry participants should not be allowed to provide input into the decisions surrounding legislation, code of practice, policies and procedures that they would be governed by as it allows for bias information to be considered in these matters.

(e) the existing funding agreement between the Commission and Greyhound Racing NSW with a view to considering recommended options,

In relation to our previous statement, the commission should not be directly funded by GRNSW. A more acceptable method of funding would be to have the commission funded by the NSW government, separate to GRNSW. Again, this is to ensure there is no bias and that the commission can uphold its duties without intimidation or control from the greyhound racing industry.

(f) the actions, conduct and effectiveness of the Commission and GRNSW, in particular in relation to its role in improving the welfare of greyhounds, and

We believe that GWIC has an integral role in ensuring the welfare of greyhounds. Relevant legislation can hinder the effectiveness of their role by inhibiting the actions they can take in relation to the welfare of greyhounds and expansion of their powers under said legislation would enable further progress relating to the welfare of greyhounds. Further improvement should include; enabling more comprehensive tracking of all greyhounds to ensure all healthy greyhounds are allowed to live a full life in private homes or sanctuaries, reducing the breeding of greyhounds to stop the oversupply within the industry, making racing tracks safer for greyhounds to reduce on-track injuries they face, and ensuring industry compliance in relation to the reporting of cruelty against greyhounds to GWIC to allow for appropriate action to be taken.

(g) any other related matter.

No comment.