

Submission
No 82

**INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND WELFARE AND
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 15 July 2021

Partially
Confidential

To whom it may concern,

In order for the Greyhound Racing industry to continue to flourish into the future, the industry needs to be investing in the younger generations. The industry needs to create a space where the younger, upcoming generations are interested and want to get involved. The harsh reality is that without today's youth taking an interest, the industry will simply die out.

This barbaric rule that has been set in place is doing the exact opposite of promoting and protecting the future of our industry. Excluding young teenagers who have been doing an excellent job is extremely disheartening and ramifications that come from that decision would only be a great loss for the industry.

We, as teenagers have proven on a number of occasions that we are more than capable of getting the job done just as well, if not better than any adult. Many of our young handlers are simply learning the steps and knowledge of our industry, by participating in handling the greyhounds. We are the future, the upcoming trainers, and by being discriminated due to our age, we will sadly be losing the interest for our great sport.

We have being reared with greyhounds and have being learning for many years from some of the best, the ways of training and handling. If we were Inexperienced and unfamiliar with dogs, than it would be a different story, but it's not. We are capable and we know what we are doing, possibly more than some

others. Not only do we love the dogs, we aspire to be trainers.

How can a former chief steward allow under 16's to box dogs and tell us that he will make all stewards allow us to box dogs for our family (mentor)? Why are you stopping something that has been successful and working so well without any incidents? And you expect young children like us to walk away from what we have been doing for 6 months? It's just not good enough. You should be trying to promote the involvement of young adults (U16's) in this great sport, not forcing them out.

My grandfather and I do everything together with the dogs and I am his helping hand. Due to my pop getting older he has started to handle the dogs less and I always do them for him to help him out in kennelling and boxing. I would really appreciate if this privilege was not taken away from me because it truly means the world.

The industry's only possibility to keep our industry running is to educate and encourage young handlers, as without them, you have nothing. Please, don't take away the privilege of boxing our dogs, it is our way of moving forward and developing the knowledge we need as trainers.

Yours Sincere,

[Redacted Signature]