

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment

BIOSECURITY TASMANIA

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Our ref: H397761
Your ref:

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Ms Stephanie Hesford
Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in Tasmania
Parliament House
Hobart Tas 7000

Dear Ms Hesford

Thank you for your letters of 24 April 2015 inviting myself and the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) to provide a submission to the Committee.

Biosecurity Tasmania is the area within the Tasmanian Government responsible for the management of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*. Administration of the Act is done through the Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Branch which is managed by the CVO. Compliance activities are undertaken by officers appointed under the Act which includes staff within Biosecurity Tasmania and also RSPCA inspectors.

The overall role of animal welfare is to ensure that where people use or interact with animals. This is done in a humane manner that does not result in unreasonable or unnecessary pain or suffering. This role accepts that animals are killed for human purposes or to prevent overpopulation but requires that those animals are killed in a humane manner.

The CVO has already had the opportunity to review arrangements for animal welfare in the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry in preparing, in conjunction with the Director of Racing (DOR), a report to the Minister of Racing on the issue. As that report is identified in the Committee's terms of reference, I will not repeat the details in this submission.

As Committee members will be aware the Government moved several amendments to the *Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2014* during its passage through the House of Assembly to action recommendations from the greyhound review report.

Committee members should also be aware that the Minister for Primary Industries has approved animal welfare standards and guidelines for the management of dogs which were recommended by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Regulations are being drafted to mandate those standards. These standards and guidelines cover all dogs and so will cover greyhounds.

In looking at the Committee's terms of reference, the issue of live baiting is already well covered in the DOR/CVO report. The issue of wastage is also addressed in that report. However, I do need to emphasise that while this wastage may cause some community concern, if the animals are euthanased in a humane manner it does not cause a welfare concern under the Act. Greyhound racing is a livestock industry and like all livestock industries there will be excess or cull animals that need to be disposed of by euthanasia or slaughter.

The issue of 'draining' is not covered in the DOR/CVO report. I assume this term refers to the taking of blood for later transfusions from greyhounds at the time of euthanasia. Biosecurity Tasmania's view is that provided the animal is rendered insensible prior to exsanguination then there is no animal welfare concern.

Any comment I could make on the role of the regulatory authorities or amendment of their powers necessary to uphold animal welfare standards have already been covered in the DOR/CVO report.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lloyd Klumpp', written in a cursive style.

Dr Lloyd Klumpp
General Manager
BIOSECURITY TASMANIA