

I would like to have some input in to the enquiry regarding the treatment of Greyhounds in the racing industry.

My concern is what can happen to the wonderful dogs AFTER their racing careers.

In October 2013 following the death of my old cattle dog my partner and I thought we would adopt another dog and he suggested a greyhound – like many other people I was unaware of the GAP program so I contacted Brightside animal sanctuary and asked if they had any greyhounds available.

Less than 48 hours after my phone conversation with Emma Haswell she arrived at my door with a black greyhound bitch “to see if I liked her”

After a few days I contacted Emma and said yes we would keep the dog – could I have any paper work she had on her , and could she send me bank details and I would pay for her. A week went by and I received nothing. Emma had mentioned the dog had fitted so obviously I was keen to get some paperwork like the dogs age and record but despite repeated calls to Emma I received nothing at all.

After the dog had settled in and although I found myself learning rapidly things about greyhounds like they were supposed to be muzzled – I had never been told that by Emma. I didn't know they could not be let off lead, all this I found out from the internet and talking to people on line who had greys. And then to my surprise after the dog had been with us for some months she came into season – so despite being assured all vet work had been done it was obviously a lie. I had to take her and have her spayed.

I was quite angry about this because I wondered what else I didn't know about this dog. I checked her microchip and contacted Greyhound Racing Australia and traced her breeding and from there I found GAP and contacted them to see if they could trace the trainer and actually find out what her medical history was.

Since then I have become quite involved with these beautiful dogs – I now have 3 , adopting 2 more from GAP , where I had quite a different experience and a lot of good information and follow up.

I now bring greyhound rugs for people from the mainland and so I have actually met a lot of greyhound owners who buy the rugs from me and I have learnt that my experience with Brightside was not an isolated incident .

There are a number of owners who have adopted dogs from Brightside who found they had dogs that had not been desexed. And more commonly I have found several owners who actually did get paperwork with their dogs – but the paper work and the dog they have did not match up for example one lady told me her bitch was 3 year old and had never raced – by checking her ear tattoos the bitch was actually 5 years old and had raced 38 times and then been used as a brood bitch. This lady was under the impression that her dog didn't have to wear a muzzle because it had never raced.

Another lady was despairing of the behaviour of her dog and his lack of training – she told me he was 3 year old and should be more mature, a check of his ear tattoos showed he was actually 18 months old and she was probably expecting a bit much from him.

It concerns me because these lovely dogs are hunting dogs, they have hunting dog behaviours and you need to understand a little about them in order to provide them the best home. When Dogs come from GAP they have all their correct records and they have been foster tested and the owners know what they are getting . And there is someone to call for follow up if you have any problems.

These dogs that are obtained from trainers for nothing and then just sold quickly for the \$270 in the next day from so called "rescue" sanctuaries, are really not giving the public the right idea of what to expect or how to cope with a dog straight from a racing kennel, let alone if it had or hasn't been desexed.

I think all ex- racing dogs should be compelled to go to GAP and be tested before they are offered for adoption .

There are a large number of Brightside greyhounds often running on Kingston Beach – without muzzles, off lead – all illegal. There will be a bad incident there one day it is inevitable , there have already been a number of incidents there. Many people won't take their dogs on that beach because of the greyhound pack. Many of these owners are oblivious or just chose to ignore the laws – I was told when I got my first dog " they are supposed to wear a muzzle but they don't need it" .

My concern is to present to the public that treated correctly and with the right introduction these dogs are wonderful pets.

Being sold for profit by "rescue" groups does not do the breeds reputation any good at all, and I would hate to see any bitches become part of pig dog breeders because they were sold off and not desexed .

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