



Dogs' Homes of Tasmania

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Response to Questions on Notice

Joint Standing Committee on Greyhound Racing Transition

Greyhound Racing Legislation Amendments (Phasing Out Reform) Bill 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information following my appearance before the Joint Standing Committee on 11 February 2026.

During the hearing, I undertook to provide further detail regarding euthanasia numbers and the proportion relating to greyhounds.

This response provides those figures and, importantly, clarifies the context in which shelter euthanasia occurs. It also addresses comparisons that have been made between animal shelter euthanasia rates and euthanasia outcomes within the greyhound racing industry.

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania – Intake and Euthanasia Figures

The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania recorded the following outcomes over the previous 3 year period:

| Financial Year | Total Intake | Total Euthanised | Greyhound Intake | Greyhounds Euthanised |
|----------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 2022–23 | 3,056 | 500 | 25 | 3 |
| 2023–24 | 3,123 | 619 | 24 | 3 |
| 2024-25 | 2,909 | 533 | 38 | 7 |

These figures align with those referenced during the Committee hearing and publicly available in Dogs Homes of Tasmania Annual Reports and website.

Greyhounds represented only a very small proportion of total intake and euthanasia. Based on preliminary review, euthanasia of greyhounds within our care is rare and typically relates to serious, pre-existing medical or behavioural conditions.

It is important to clarify that comparisons between animal shelter euthanasia rates and euthanasia occurring within the greyhound racing industry are not valid comparisons. They relate to fundamentally different animal populations and circumstances.

Animal shelters, including Dogs' Homes of Tasmania, receive animals that are already unwanted, abandoned, seized due to cruelty or neglect, or surrendered due to serious medical or behavioural issues.

In many cases, these animals have:

- Significant untreated medical conditions
- Behavioural challenges that pose public safety risks
- Experienced neglect, trauma, or poor early socialisation



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- Already exhausted options for remaining in their existing homes

Animal shelters do not breed animals, select animals for performance, or control the upstream factors that lead to their surrender. Rather, shelters provide a safety net for animals who have nowhere else to go.

Euthanasia in shelters is therefore a last-resort welfare decision made only after:

- Veterinary assessment
- Behavioural assessment
- Treatment and rehabilitation attempts, where appropriate
- Exploration of foster care
- Exploration of rehoming options

These decisions are made to prevent ongoing suffering or where an animal cannot be safely rehomed.

By contrast, greyhounds exist within a breeding and racing system in which animals are purpose-bred and managed within a structured industry environment.

As such, shelter euthanasia figures reflect broader community animal welfare challenges, including irresponsible breeding, abandonment, and neglect. They do not reflect decisions made within a controlled breeding or performance system.

Comparing these two contexts without recognising these fundamental differences creates a misleading impression and does not accurately reflect the welfare outcomes of greyhounds or the role of animal shelters.

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania has extensive experience rehoming greyhounds.

Our experience is that greyhounds generally have very good rehoming outcomes once appropriate veterinary care, behavioural support, and foster placement are provided.

This reflects the effectiveness of structured rehoming programs and the suitability of greyhounds as companion animals when appropriately supported.

Dogs' Homes of Tasmania remains committed to transparency, continuous improvement, and achieving the best possible welfare outcomes for all animals in our care.

We also remain committed to working constructively with Government, industry, and other stakeholders to support a humane and well-managed transition for greyhounds.

Shelter euthanasia figures must be understood within their proper context.

Animal shelters operate as a safety net for animals already at risk. They do not create these risks, but work to mitigate them.



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Comparisons between shelter euthanasia rates and outcomes within the greyhound racing industry are therefore not directly comparable and should be interpreted with caution.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide this clarification and would be pleased to provide any further information required.