

233 Melrose Road  
Devonport TAS 7310  
10 June 2015

The Secretary  
Joint Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in Tasmania  
Parliament House  
Hobart TAS 7000

Dear Sir/Madam

I write on behalf of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC). AWAC is established under the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* with the purpose of advising on animal welfare matters, particularly in relation to legislation. It consists of members of Government agencies, animal industries and animal welfare groups.

The Committee discussed the issue of greyhound welfare in Tasmania at the meeting of 27 May 2015 and would like to make the following comments:

AWAC does not consider euthanasia of greyhounds to be a welfare issue, provided it is performed humanely. Inhumane methods of killing would be covered by the cruelty provisions of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*.

AWAC does not have any issues regarding blood collection from greyhounds.

Section 11 of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993* covers "use of animals to train other animals". Subsection 11(2) specifically refers to greyhounds: "A person must not keep on premises at which greyhounds are being kept any animal which is intended to be used as bait for the training of greyhounds". The Committee is of the opinion that the wording of this section should be tightened, as it is currently too difficult to use for prosecution. The inclusion of "intended" makes an offence particularly difficult to prove.

AWAC suggests changing section 11 so that it becomes an offence for a registered greyhound breeder or trainer to be found in possession of certain items. These items might include traps, snares and any lures made out of organic materials. Tasracing could provide an appropriate list. This amendment would remove the necessity of proving "intention".

It may also be appropriate to consider prohibiting ownership of any animals which could be considered prey animals (cats, rabbits, small dogs etc) by greyhound breeders and trainers, except as approved by the Registrar of Racing (or similar position). This would require some consideration as to the animals covered, and method of exemption.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on greyhound welfare in Tasmania. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P H Campbell', written in a cursive style.Handwritten initials 'fo' in blue ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.

P H Campbell

Chair

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee