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The Secretary
Joint Select Committee on Greyhound Racing in Tasmania
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To Whom It May Concern

Please consider this my submission to the Joint Select Committee Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in Tasmania.

Although I work in the animal welfare section of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment I speak for myself and this submission in no way reflects the position of the Department.

I am strongly of the belief that the greyhound racing industry in Tasmania should be shut down.

It is an inherent part of the industry that most greyhounds are destroyed well before their natural life expectancy, whether it be before, during or after racing. The number of dogs bred necessarily far exceeds the number that are deemed good enough to train and race. It is very rare to see the pups that do not make the grade offered as pets, so one can only assume the majority are destroyed.

Dogs that then fail to perform are also destroyed, and even those that run well will eventually meet their fate in the form of lethal injection. Only a small percentage of greyhounds are re-homed as pets, or kept by owners or trainers once they finish racing.

In making these statements I am drawing on my previous experience working as a veterinary nurse in a large veterinary hospital in Hobart. Restraining young, healthy dogs for euthanasia was the worst part of my job and one of the reasons I left the veterinary industry. We did also take blood from these dogs for future transfusions but I have no concerns with that practice as it was done once the dogs were unconscious and they were not killed for the purpose, they were going to die anyway.

I realise that this large scale destruction can be justified by saying that it is an animal industry and there is no outcry about animals dying humanely in other industries such as meat production. Whilst I am vegetarian and do not condone the breeding of animals for meat, I do see a distinction between this and animals that are bred for an entirely unnecessary entertainment industry. There is no place in today's society for animal industries whose only purpose is 'sport' and which require mass animal deaths. Many Australians are outraged by practices in other countries, such as bull fighting and the recent 'live piñata' ceremony in Mexico, but do not seem to realise the inevitable consequences when they support greyhound racing in our own country.

I also find it abhorrent that the Tasmanian Government financially supports the greyhound racing industry. It is disgusting that public money funds these practices whilst vital health services, and other community necessities, go begging.

Regarding live baiting in greyhound training, I have no knowledge of whether this occurs in Tasmania. Certainly if it does it should be dealt with under the strongest powers of the *Animal Welfare Act 1993*, but as far as greyhound welfare issues go I see live baiting as the tip of the iceberg. If nothing else, at least the exposure of this practice in other states has shone a light on the industry as a whole.

In summary I believe greyhound racing to be ethically unjustifiable, mainly due to the large scale destruction of healthy dogs, and I call for an end to the industry in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely



Fiona De Jersey