

CONSTITUENT QUESTION

House of Assembly

ASKED BY: Dr Rosalie Woodruff MP

ANSWERED BY: Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Racing

QUESTION:

My question is on behalf of Mark from Risdon Vale. Today in the other place, a petition of nearly 5000 Tasmanian signatures will be tabled calling for an end to greyhound racing. You have committed to cleaning up the sad disposal of dogs online once their 'usefulness' period ends. But just this week, greyhounds are still listed on Gumtree, and there may be more coming across the Tasman now that New Zealand have led the way and announced an end to greyhound racing.

Despite putting more than \$1 million into greyhound welfare, Tasracing has confirmed the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania and RSPCA, who rehabilitate and rehome these beautiful animals, are only eligible to competitively apply for a one-off grant of \$5000 through a process only open for three weeks of the year. With a 12-month waiting list to enter GAP (Greyhounds as Pets Tasmania), more dogs have been sent to these organisations, yet they get no more funding. Will you commit to providing more resources to organisations such as the Dogs' Homes and the RSPCA?

ANSWER:

Last financial year, a total of 179 greyhounds were rehomed, with Tasracing's Greyhounds As Pets (GAP) rehoming 83 greyhounds during that period (increased from 72 the previous year). Other (ancillary) rehoming agencies, including Brightside, Dogs Home of Tasmania, Illoura Animal Refuge and the RSPCA, accounted for 34 rehoming (based on greyhound retirement data provided by industry participants). For the current financial year, GAP is aiming to rehome 100+ greyhounds.

All of these ancillary rehoming agencies benefit from financial assistance through Tasracing's Greyhound Retirement Preparation Scheme (GRPS), which applies to all greyhounds retiring from industry, providing up to \$1,100 per greyhound for desexing, dentals and vaccinations. These Tasracing rebates provide benefit to all ancillary rehoming agencies, as they will not be required to pay for these procedures.

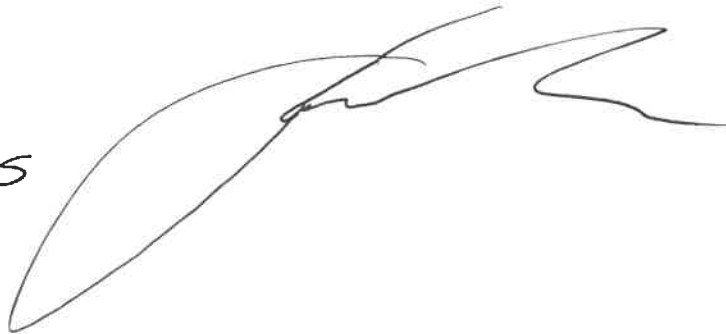
In addition, Tasracing has just launched its second annual round of Racing Animal Welfare Grants (RAWG), which provides funding for facilities (up to \$10,000 each), projects and activities (up to \$5,000 each) that provide tangible benefits to enhance the welfare of racing and retired greyhounds (and horses). As with last year's grant round, all ancillary rehoming agencies are encouraged to apply. I have been advised that the RSPCA have not applied, however an application from Dogs' Homes of Tasmania has been received.

Tasracing is always seeking new ways to support those ancillary rehoming agencies ready to engage with us in finding new homes for retired racing greyhounds.

Thank you for raising this question on this important matter. I trust that the information I have provided addresses the question from your constituent.

Hon Jane Howlett MP
Minister for Racing

Date: 5.6.2025

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, likely belonging to Jane Howlett, is positioned to the right of the date.