

June 4<sup>th</sup> 2015

**Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA) makes this submission  
to the Parliamentary Inquiry into greyhound racing in Tasmania**

Animal Welfare League Australia  
ACN 070 463 633

1-19 Cormack Rd  
Wingfield, SA, 5013  
PO Box 1525  
Port Adelaide, SA, 5015

P 08 8348 1300  
F 08 8268 9545

**1. Key Points**

- Investigations aired on ABC Four Corners in February 2015 demonstrates the greyhound racing industry's professed ability to effectively safeguard the welfare of greyhounds to be spurious.
- Indications are that animal welfare breaches are not confined to mainland states.  
(1) Tasmanian Greyhound Trainer Disqualified (The Mercury, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2015)
- Indications are that over a long period of time, there has been a persistent failure by the key governing body and industry stakeholders to address a range of serious allegations, including but not limited to live baiting
- The lack of access to reliable, independently verified figures on wastage, breeding and rate of injuries and deaths sustained on the track has serious ramifications for transparency and accountability within this industry.
- There is a lack of enforceable welfare standards around the breeding, sale, training, racing and post-racing treatment of greyhounds
- Lack of compliance around the micro-chipping and registration of greyhounds is indicated
- There are also indications that an unacceptably high number of healthy greyhounds are injured, discarded and euthanased annually
- There can be no social license for taxpayer funding of an industry which combines:
  - non-transparent processes
  - lack of reliable data
  - lack of enforceable welfare standards
  - lack of compliance where regulations do exist
  - wastage, injury and death of animals in the name of sport
  - gambling

Greyhound racing is not an ethical or acceptable use of public monies.





## 2. AWLA Position

AWLA does not support the exploitation of dogs for sport, gambling or entertainment purposes.

AWLA urges strong leadership by the Tasmanian Government in setting and adhering to an end to greyhound racing. This would establish a precedent for other Australian states. (2) In the USA, only seven out of 50 states permit greyhound racing

AWLA advocates for an end to greyhound racing, but while greyhound racing remains active, we call for:

- transparent control of all aspects of the industry and the introduction of mandatory and enforceable welfare standards for the breeding, training, sale and post-racing treatment of greyhounds
- Strictly enforced registration and identification requirements be applied to greyhounds

## 3. Solutions

### Enforcement of Registration and Identification Requirements

Registrations and ID requirements applying to other breeds of dogs should be rigorously applied to greyhounds. This would enable animal welfare authorities to more effectively monitor welfare standards in the GR industry. Enforcement agencies need a reliable and practical way of knowing who exactly owns greyhounds, where exactly the greyhounds are kept, when they are born and when and how they die.

Up to date and well managed registration and ID documentation for all greyhounds from birth through to their final location would assist animal welfare authorities to inspect and prosecute in relation to any unlawful killing, neglect or cruelty by greyhound owners and track the numbers of dogs being re-homed or euthanased. In addition, greyhound owners should be required to report litter numbers at birth (independently verified), to guard against early culling. Enforcement should be pro-active and penalties imposed for failing to micro-chip and register greyhounds.

Animal Welfare League Australia  
ACN 070 463 633

1-19 Cormack Rd  
Wingfield, SA, 5013  
PO Box 1525  
Port Adelaide, SA, 5015

P 08 8348 1300  
F 08 8268 9545





## **Strengthen Independent Oversight**

Increased resourcing to enable more rigorous operation of the independent government body/s responsible for overseeing the industry, animal welfare standards, compliance and data collection.

## **Animal Welfare Indicators in Relation to Breeding, Treatment, Training, Handling, Injury Rates and Euthanasia Rates are Defined and Tied to Mandatory and Enforceable Standards**

In addition to the above, a Greyhound Breeders Code of Practice be developed by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Greyhound breeders would be subject to a licensing scheme which would include specified limits on the number of litters bred per year.

## **Conclusion**

AWLA opposes greyhound racing because it inherently involves risk of injury and death to animals. While greyhound racing continues, there is clearly a need to significantly raise welfare standards to protect the animals involved. Thought leaders in government are embracing animal welfare ideals, recognising the salutary turn in society's attitude toward animals.

Further, the benefits of greyhound racing are afforded to a small number of the population, primarily those who race winning dogs. Many more are negatively affected through gambling losses and flow on affects to families. Greyhound racing is not an ethical, equitable or widely popular use of tax payer funds.

## **Contact**

Anne Boxhall  
Executive Officer  
Animal Welfare League Australia  
[aboxhall@awla.com.au](mailto:aboxhall@awla.com.au)  
Mob 0423 924 880



## Background

Animal Welfare League Australia (AWLA) has over 300 years of combined experience in caring for animals. AWLA is committed to raising awareness of animal welfare issues and participating in the development of codes, policies and programs aimed at maintaining high standards of sustainable animal welfare in Australia. The organisation's focus is companion animals however AWLA advocates for the responsible and humane treatment of all animals. Animal Welfare Leagues of New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Lort Smith (VIC) Dogs' Homes of Tasmania and SAFE Inc WA are proud members of AWLA.

[www.awla.com.au](http://www.awla.com.au)

