

Stephanie Hesford

From: Noel Gibson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 5 June 2015 8:37 PM
To: Stephanie Hesford
Subject: Inquiry into Greyhound Racing in Tasmania

Dear Madam Secretary

I have been around Greyhounds since I was a young boy, I am now 68!! I have watched these dogs grow from puppies to racers to pets. I am very proud and happy to say that my family never indulged in the practices that have recently come to light and in my opinion came about out of pure greed!

I am now an owner/foster carer/parent if you will of these magnificent animals, and to that end I work by fostering, closely with GAPTAS, who are doing a sensational job in rehoming these dogs once they have finished their racing careers! Albeit with very little backup, financially and in resources from the racing authorities in Tasmania - a blight on the authorities copy book for that!!

As a volunteer foster carer I take it upon myself to educate the general public not only about the dogs and their inherent benefits, but to the laws requiring them to be muzzled in public! A fact that a certain so called Rescue Centre fails to tell people to whom they sell dogs to. Also ALL dogs that come into foster care through GAPTAS are spayed, come complete with a history, checklist of what is required to be passed before they are even considered for adoption! Once adopted out they have proven to be exceptional pets and companions.

Their very persona makes them candidates as Assistance/Companion Dogs for the elderly, for they are tall older people do not have to stoop or bend over to pat them, they are very probably one of the cleanest animals around.

The people who "rescue" these dogs and simply turn them over to buyers are doing the dog a disservice, as these people receive these animals from irruptable sources who use inhumane methods of training. A dog, any dog who has been trained by live baiting, or even by dummied up baits are potentially dangerous to the public, akin to attack/guard dogs and unfortunately there are a few organisations out there who simply turn these dogs out and of course there is an incident and it is ALL of the breed that comes into disrepute!

These dogs were born (not bred) to run, it is when they're at there happiest (unless sleeping - their other favourite pastime) to deprive them of that would be a crime. By all means search out the undesirable trainer/s owner/s and throw the full weight of the law at them, but save the dogs and let them do what they want to do...run & sleep after that it's a case of sleep and be loved!!!

Yours sincerely,
Noel Gibson
Blackmans Bay
Tasmania, 7052