

Stephanie Hesford

From: Carolyn Mart 642077@hotmail.com
Sent: Thursday, 11 June 2015 2:39 PM
To: Stephanie Hesford
Subject: Greyhound Racing Submission

Dear Madam Secretary

(a) practices in the Tasmanian greyhound racing industry, including whether live baiting, 'wastage' and 'draining' of greyhounds is occurring, and if so, to what extent;

(b) the role of regulatory authorities in upholding animal welfare standards in the industry and encouraging best practice;

My name is Carolyn and I am 37 years old.

I'm a wife and mother, I love animals and donate to charities and disaster reliefs. I've rescued cats, rabbits, birds and lambs, I play sport and I volunteer with an animal re homing program. I consider myself a good person.

I also own, breed and race greyhounds.

This is a huge part of my life, of who I am, even though I don't make a living from this and am classed as a hobbyist.

The first point I would like to address is the socialisation issue of pups.

These beautiful creatures are extremely lucky to be reared the way they are. No other breed is allowed to run free in a large yard with all his/her siblings for the first 12+months of life. Most certainly not all the purpose bred pet dogs that get sold off at 12 weeks, and tragically some much earlier due to the lure of the dollar.

Dogs are a pack animal, and that first year spent alongside their litter mates is invaluable to their social and behavioural development.

My puppies spend their days chasing pine cones off the trees, playing with squeaky toys and being cuddled and taught lead manners by myself, my co-owner and all our children, just like any other domestic puppy.

They are extremely well behaved, well adjusted dogs who are in no way lacking in socialisation skills.

Dogs reared in a kind, loving environment, broken in on artificial skins and squeakers still love to chase, and still win races. Our pups are testament to that.

I have never used, or heard any industry participant refer to dogs as wastage. I find the term revolting and insulting. I agree there is an issue with over breeding and would prefer to see the large sums of money incentives to breed redirected into our industry funded re homing program. I believe all dogs should get the right to be assessed for suitability for entry into said program, but as an owner and breeder I am aware that some dogs do possess a higher prey drive than others and that it in no way reflects how the dog was reared or what methods of training were used. Watching the live baiting saga unfold on ABC was heartbreaking and deeply distressing. I'm not ashamed to say I cried.

These archaic and extremely cruel practises, which may have been commonplace in another generation, have absolutely no place in this one. They are not accepted by the majority of participants now, or the wider community which looks at us now in horror and disgust.

There is absolutely no room in this sport for drug cheats or the inhumane killing or maiming of animals and the full weight of the law, both in police and under the racing laws by which we are governed, should be levelled at guilty parties.

On the issue of dogs being blood donors, I have no problem with an owner, if they have chosen to have their dog humanely euthanised, to allow their dog to be sedated and save the life of someone's dear little dog that's been hit by a car, or eaten a poison bait or the like. People seem to forget this when carrying on about "draining" dogs.

First and foremost we need to remember Greyhounds are purpose bred for racing. I do not know of anyone breeding greyhounds for the domestic pet market.

Luckily for GAP TAS we see a lot of young dogs who never had a racing career get entered into the program and adopted out, despite the fact they haven't earned a cent on the track for their owners, but simply because they are awesome dogs who will make great pets.

Greyhounds really are the most amazing family pet and enrich the lives of all they come into contact with.

I really wish people would remember this and focus on the fact they have this wonderful family member BECAUSE of the racing industry, NOT INSPITE OF IT!!!!

Sincerely, Carolyn Mart

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Mart

Hobart

Tas, 7011