



BAN GREYHOUND RACING

THE GREENS' PLAN TO BAN GREYHOUND RACING IN VICTORIA

Greyhound racing is responsible for the needless killing of thousands of healthy dogs every year - for the sake of a bet. The Greens want to see an end to greyhound racing in Victoria and nationwide.

Greyhound racing operates in only a few countries and sadly one of them is Australia - except for the ACT, which banned it from 30 April, 2018.

It has been banned in most states of the USA including most recently in Florida, which could signal the end of greyhound racing in the USA.

Animals Australia reports that up to 17,000 healthy greyhounds are killed each year in the Australian greyhound racing industry simply because they are no longer, or never were, 'fit for racing'.ⁱ

The Greens plan will:

- **Amend the Racing Act 1958 to ban greyhound racing, and implement a transition plan for workers in the industry and a welfare plan for greyhounds.**

THE RACING LIFE OF A GREYHOUND

Greyhounds who *do* 'make it' to the race track often sustain serious injuries, such as broken hocks or legs, head trauma or cardiac arrest.

Often, if the owner or trainer deems an injury to be 'uneconomical' to treat, the dog will be 'euthanased'.

Up to 200 dogs are reported injured during official races each week. The latest Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) report states there were 81 fatalities at Victorian tracks.ⁱⁱ

Greyhound owners, breeders and trainers do not generally keep greyhounds as companion animals. Most racing greyhounds are housed alone in pens or kennels and are only let out for racing or training.

LIFE AFTER GREYHOUND RACING

Once a greyhound is no longer winning races or 'paying its way' in races, its future is bleak. A natural lifespan for a greyhound is 12 to 14 years, but very few racing dogs live this long. Some may go on to be used for breeding, but even that will be short lived.

In 2015, the Report of the Victorian Racing Integrity Commissioner into the Victorian greyhound racing industry estimated as many as 4,000 greyhounds were killed every year in Victoria before their fifth birthday. The Commissioner called for an Inquiry into the greyhound deaths but this has not happened.ⁱⁱⁱ

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) revealed in its 2016-17 annual report that 1,429 greyhounds were euthanased, however these figures are not independently verified. While this is less than the 3,000 reported in the prior year, it's still far too many needless greyhound deaths.

LIVE BAITING

In 2015, The ABC *Four Corners* program aired an explosive expose of live animals being used to 'blood' greyhounds. The graphic footage was



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captured as part of a six-month undercover operation involving Four Corners, Animals Australia and the RSPCA which uncovered widespread live baiting in the greyhound racing industry in at least three states of Australia. What was revealed, shocked Australians.

Following the Four Corners exposé, the New South Wales Special Commission of Inquiry into Greyhound Racing was set up to examine the allegations. It found 'immense' levels of injury and 'wastage' in greyhound racing that it said could not be overcome and recommended a complete shut-down of the industry.

Following the Inquiry, former NSW Premier Mr Baird committed to ban greyhound racing only to later reverse this decision due to political pressure. Despite this, the campaign to shut down greyhound racing across Australia is ongoing. The Greens are part of this campaign.

Other investigations and inquiries have exposed the greyhound racing industry as secretive and corrupt, with a culture of systemic and pervasive animal cruelty and resistance to change.^{iv}

All this - just so people can bet on a race!

ADOPTION PROGRAMS

The greyhound racing industry's Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) operates in most states but it rehomes only a relatively small number of ex-racing greyhounds.

In Victoria, which has the biggest program, the GRV annual report stated that the GAP rehomed 1,314 greyhounds in 2016-17.

Other groups also rehome greyhounds, but altogether those efforts still amount to only around 10 per cent of dogs being adopted post racing.

Despite government and industry claims, greyhound adoption programs are not the answer to the inherent problems of wastage, injury and cruelty in the greyhound racing industry.

The only way to end the cruelty and the suffering of greyhounds is to end greyhound racing in Victoria and across Australia.

References

ⁱ Animals Australia – Greyhound racing:

<https://animalsaustralia.org/issues/greyhound-racing.php>

ⁱⁱ Greyhound Racing Victoria annual report 2016-17:

<http://www.grv.org.au/about-us/grv-annual-reports/>

ⁱⁱⁱ 2015 Own Motion Inquiry into Live Baiting in Greyhound Racing in Victoria Final Report:

<https://www.racingintegrity.vic.gov.au/news-publications/publications/2015-own-motion-inquiry-into-live-baiting-in-greyhound-racing-in>

^{iv} Report of the Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW