

I am writing to express my full support for the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021, as it was originally introduced.

The issue at hand pertains to the ongoing export of Australian greyhounds to countries where they face vulnerability to abuse and untimely death. Alarming incidents, such as the export of Canya Cruise and Turbo Thomas to China in 2021, just days after racing at Melbourne tracks, only to be listed on a Chinese breeding website, highlight the urgency of addressing this matter.

This cruel trade has led to the unspeakable suffering and premature death of thousands of innocent Australian dogs, and I strongly urge you to take action to put an end to it.

It is disheartening to learn that despite the industry's ban on exporting dogs to Macau, the Australian government has continued to issue permits for such exports. As reported by The Guardian Australia, 590 greyhounds were approved for export to Macau within two years *after* the territory was blacklisted by the racing industry. Macau, being the largest gambling hub for greyhound racing, is notorious for its abhorrent conditions and alarming death rates.

At the ill-famed cruel "tourist park" Shanghai Animal Park, greyhounds languish alone in hot, dark concrete cells until it's time that they are forced to race against Cheetahs. Footage by investigative journalists showed distressed greyhounds peering out of elevated, squalid cells where they were housed in solitary confinement. Elsewhere, short runs, where the dogs go to the toilet and supposedly get exercise, offered no water and practically no shade from the searing sun. Their only respite, a daily dash around a track deemed completely unfit for dog racing. During the investigation, Animals Australia aired claims from locals that once the dogs were injured and of no further use, they were fed live to the park's predators, such as big cats.

Not only are there reports of the mistreatment of exported greyhounds in China, but in South America, these dogs are subjected to unimaginable cruelty, including being fed viagra and arsenic to "run until they die".

Though export numbers have since reduced, owners have continued trafficking greyhounds by circumventing racing industry processes: exporting without seeking a GA passport or sending dogs first to countries that are considered 'safe' by the industry, such as England, before having them rerouted elsewhere.

Exporting greyhounds to countries such as China, South America, and even England is deeply distressing, with greyhounds living in abhorrent conditions being kept in concrete compounds for 20+ hours per day, often facing scorching temperatures, skin conditions, and untreated injuries. This blatant disregard for their well-being is completely unacceptable, and we must act to protect these innocent animals from further suffering.

The export and import of greyhounds for commercial purposes not only flagrantly disregards the principles of animal welfare but also casts a dark shadow on Australia's

reputation as a nation that upholds compassion and ethical treatment of animals.

Personally, I find it disgusting and embarrassing that my own government, which should listen to its people and act with democratic values, is endorsing such callousness towards animal rights and welfare. This undermines the very essence of our shared values and leaves me feeling ashamed of our federal government.

I implore you to support and advocate for the ban on the export and import of greyhounds for commercial purposes. By implementing such a ban, we can send a clear message that Australia stands against animal cruelty and will not tolerate the exploitation of these gentle creatures for financial gain.

I wholeheartedly urge you to support the comprehensive passing of the bill, as it represents a crucial step towards ending this inhumane practice. Together, we can work towards safeguarding the welfare of these gentle animals.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Lawrance