

Subject: Proposal to Amend the 'Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958' and 'Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956' to Prohibit the Export and Import of Greyhounds for Racing, Breeding, and Commercial Purposes

Dear Members of Parliament,

I am writing to emphasize the need to amend the 'Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958' and 'Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956' in order to prohibit the export and import of greyhounds for racing, breeding, and commercial purposes. This amendment is crucial in addressing several pressing issues within the greyhound racing industry, as outlined below:

1. **Ethical Responsibility:** The current state of the greyhound racing industry is witnessing an excessive breeding of greyhounds, resulting in an overwhelming surplus of these magnificent animals. As responsible members of society, we have an ethical obligation to ensure their well-being. Prohibiting the export and import of greyhounds for racing, breeding, and commercial purposes would help enforce a "whole of life" responsibility, ensuring that these animals are not abandoned or subjected to unethical treatment.

Moreover, the existence of substantial monetary incentives within the industry creates a motivation to export these greyhounds overseas. This poses a significant concern, as it implies that some dogs may end up in countries with inadequate regulations, potentially facing neglect, exploitation, or inhumane conditions. By amending the regulations, we can prevent such unethical exports and safeguard the welfare of these animals.

2. **Compliance with Racing Rules:** The rules of racing in Victoria, where retired greyhounds are required to be desexed, have been compromised on multiple occasions. Recent examples have surfaced of greyhounds being sent offshore un-desexed, specifically for the purpose of breeding and racing. This circumvention of the existing regulations not only undermines the integrity of the industry but also perpetuates the overbreeding cycle.

Amending the customs regulations would help reinforce compliance with racing rules and ensure that retired greyhounds are appropriately managed and protected, irrespective of their geographic location. It would close the existing loopholes that allow for such un-desexed exports, thereby preventing uncontrolled breeding practices and the potential exploitation of these animals.

3. **Closing the Legal Gap:** Currently, exporting greyhounds overseas for racing, breeding, and commercial purposes is still permitted by law. This legal gap not only undermines the efforts to regulate the industry but also compromises the welfare of the greyhounds involved. By enacting legislation to make the export and import of greyhounds for these purposes illegal, we can bridge this gap and align our regulations with ethical standards and community expectations.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to consider amending the 'Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958' and 'Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956' to prohibit the export and import of greyhounds for racing, breeding, and commercial purposes. By doing so, we can address the issue of excessive breeding, ensure compliance with racing rules, and close the legal gap that currently exists. This

amendment will be a crucial step towards promoting the ethical treatment and welfare of greyhounds, and it will reinforce our commitment to responsible animal management.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give careful consideration to this proposal, which has the potential to bring about positive change within the greyhound racing industry.

Sincerely,
Shohre Mansouri Jajae