

## **SUBMISSION: CUSTOMS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (COMMERCIAL GREYHOUND EXPORT AND IMPORT PROHIBITION) BILL 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide submissions about the Bill, **Greyhound Rescue supports the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021**, introduced by Senator Mehreen Faruqi on 1 September 2021.

Greyhound exports to countries with weaker animal welfare regulations, such as China, the United States, Spain, and the UK, raise concerns about compromised welfare and ethical treatment. Thousands of greyhounds are sent overseas annually, with China being a prominent destination despite its inadequate animal welfare laws. These greyhounds face a multitude of risks when exported. Many endure long and stressful journeys, often involving cramped and uncomfortable conditions. Some are subjected to inhumane practices such as doping, illegal racing, or premature retirement leading to uncertain fates. There have been cases of greyhounds being abandoned or euthanised when they no longer meet the racing or breeding standards.

Exporting greyhounds contradicts Australia's commitment to high animal welfare standards and undermines its values. A ban on greyhound exports is necessary to protect their welfare, uphold Australian animal welfare values, and discourage global practice. This ban would send a strong message, both ensuring the welfare of these animals and encouraging other countries to improve their animal welfare regulations.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Australia has long been recognised as a nation that values the well-being and welfare of animals. Our country has developed stringent animal cruelty standards, reflecting the core values of compassion, empathy, and preserving ethical practices. Within this context, the exportation of greyhounds for racing or breeding to countries with less stringent or inadequate regulations raises significant concerns regarding the potential compromise of animal welfare, ethical treatment, and Australian values.

Greyhounds have long been associated with racing and breeding industries worldwide. However, the exportation of greyhounds for racing or breeding purposes has sparked debate surrounding animal welfare standards. This parliamentary submission seeks to compare Australia's animal cruelty standards with the weaker standards of export destination countries to emphasise the urgent need to ban the exportation of greyhounds for racing or breeding purposes. By bringing attention to the risks and grave harm faced by greyhounds in countries with lesser regulatory safeguards, we urge the Parliament to take decisive action to safeguard the welfare and dignity of these remarkable animals.

Australia has established a reputation for implementing stringent animal welfare regulations and advocating for the ethical treatment of animals. These standards reflect the collective societal consciousness and underscore the moral obligation to safeguard the well-being of sentient beings. In this context, the exportation

of greyhounds to countries with lax or insufficient regulations raises significant concerns about the potential for compromised animal welfare and ethical practices.

The forthcoming sections of this submission will provide detailed evidence of the dangers Australian greyhounds face when leaving the country. Of particular concern are countries such as China, the United States, Spain, and the UK, where greyhounds are subjected to significant risks to their physical and mental health. Spain, for instance, employs greyhounds for hunting, a practice known as coursing, which involves pursuing and capturing live prey. Similarly, China's racing industry has drawn criticism for its questionable treatment of greyhounds, including substandard living conditions and reports of mistreatment. In the United States, while many states have banned greyhound racing, the remaining tracks still present risks to the well-being of these dogs.

Furthermore, beyond the context of racing and breeding, the potential exploitation of greyhounds for meat consumption is a growing concern. Some countries view greyhound meat as a delicacy, raising distressing questions about the treatment of these dogs in the process of fulfilling such demands.

We implore the Committee to consider the urgent need for action to protect beloved Australian greyhounds from harm and to reinforce Australia's commitment to animal welfare and the humane treatment of all creatures.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE GREYHOUND EXPORT INDUSTRY**

As one of only eight countries with a greyhound racing industry worldwide, the Australian greyhound export industry encompasses a significant scale and broad scope. With global reach, Australian greyhounds are exported to various countries around the world. This year alone, as of June 2023 183 Greyhounds were exported to Canada, China, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, the UAE, the UK, and the USA.<sup>1</sup>

Greyhounds are sold at a premium to overseas buyers, making it a lucrative market for breeders, trainers, and exporters. However, the export industry's activities also have broader implications for the domestic greyhound industry in Australia, affecting the supply and demand dynamics within the country's breeding sector. The scale and scope of the greyhound export industry can vary over time, influenced by factors such as market demand, regulatory changes, and public sentiment.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/live-animal-export-statistics/greyhound-exports>

## MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN IMPORTING AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUNDS

### CHINA AND MACAU'S CRUEL BLOODSPORT

Transporting greyhounds to China raises multiple issues and concerns regarding their welfare. Some key issues involve living conditions, as reports have indicated that exported greyhounds are housed in substandard and cramped facilities, leading to stress, health problems, and diminished quality of life. Moreover, China's lack of robust animal welfare regulations and enforcement mechanisms has drawn criticism, resulting in inadequate oversight and monitoring of greyhound welfare, leaving them susceptible to mistreatment and neglect.

Further, although greyhound racing exists in mainland China, it is an illegal practice there so not only are there welfare risks, but the greyhounds are going into an illegal industry. This is the reason Greyhounds Australasia will not issue "passports" for greyhounds to be exported to China.

Greyhound racing practices in China, particularly in places like Macau, have also sparked controversy due to concerns about animal welfare, including the use of live baiting, which poses significant risks to the physical and mental well-being of the dogs. Additionally, there are worries regarding the absence of proper retirement and rehoming programs for greyhounds in China, potentially leaving retired dogs with uncertain futures, or at risk of abandonment or euthanasia.

In the Shanghai Wild Animal Park, Australian Greyhounds are being kept in tiny enclosures just to be raced against cheetahs for entertainment purposes, and eventually are being fed to other wild animals in the Animal Park.

Once a Greyhound is unfit for entertainment or racing purposes, their journey becomes even more horrific. The absence of proper regulation and oversight over the dog industries mean that owners of greyhounds can get an additional profit out of these sentient animals by killing them or sending them off to being killed for China's renowned dogmeat market in the most cost-efficient ways possible<sup>2</sup>. Activist Kerry Elliman reports, "I've seen videos where dogs are being boiled alive. I saw one the other day when a meat wagon was being hosed down with scalding hot water – with the dogs still in it. You could hear them screaming. It was horrific."<sup>3</sup>

According to Rebecca Chiu, a local member of PETA, greyhounds are also sought after for their fur. "They are stuffed inside sacks while being transported. Investigators have found live dogs shivering in the bitter cold in unheated rooms, surrounded by the bodies of dead dogs hanging from hooks. They are often skinned alive. And yet, this is still legal in China".<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://greyexploitations.com/resources-reports/the-dogs-who-run-for-their-lives/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://greyexploitations.com/resources-reports/the-dogs-who-run-for-their-lives/>

Because there are no official rehoming programs like in Australia, only a few greyhounds make it out of this industry alive. The lucky ones that do, are taken in by activist and charity groups, having been reduced to skin and bone and infected with viruses like scabies, missing patches of fur, injuries, and severe psychological damage. Some are in conditions so bad they do not make it to recovery.

## THE UNITED STATES RECORD OF MASS EUTHANISATION AND RACETRACK DEATHS

Greyhound racing in the United States has faced bans in many states due to its cruel and unregulated nature, driven by concerns about the well-being of these beautiful dogs. The racing industry subjects these animals to a life of suffering and neglect. Tragically, records reveal a staggering number of injuries, and the frequency of greyhound deaths on tracks is alarming.

These highly social animals endure isolation, spending most of their time alone in cages for up to 23 hours daily. They are deprived of exercise, play, and social interaction, which is crucial for their physical and mental well-being. The confinement takes a toll on their spirits and overall health. Government records expose the horrific reality of racing injuries inflicted upon these innocent creatures. Broken necks, broken backs, dislocations, torn muscles, and even electrocution cases have been documented. The dogs suffer immensely, and many lose their lives on the tracks. Those who survive with severe injuries are often euthanised or deemed no longer valuable for racing, leading to their untimely end.

The scale of the problem is immense. Between 2008 and 2018, over 15,000 greyhound injuries were documented nationwide. Shockingly, this number is likely an underestimate as some states do not even require reporting injuries. The conditions in which these dogs are kept are deplorable, with stacked metal cages barely providing any space to move or rest comfortably.

Furthermore, the feeding practices within the industry are deeply concerning. To cut costs, greyhounds are fed "4-D meat," sourced from animals unfit for human consumption. This raw meat comes from dead, dying, diseased, or disabled animals. Adding denatured charcoal to the meat is an attempt to prevent human use. However, this substandard diet puts the greyhounds at a higher risk of contracting dangerous illnesses such as salmonella and E. coli.<sup>4</sup>

States with active racing tracks have implemented minimal regulations, allowing the mistreatment of thousands of dogs. The industry's self-regulation has proven ineffective in protecting these gentle creatures. Public policies must be put in place to prioritise the well-being of these dogs over profit-driven motives.

Various humane organisations strongly advocate for an immediate end to the inhumane treatment of greyhounds in the racing industry. The mistreatment of these intelligent and loving animals is a grave injustice that must be addressed with urgency and compassion. It is time to protect and cherish these magnificent creatures rather than subject them to lives of confinement, suffering, and untimely deaths.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/greyhound-racing-faq#care>



## THE UNITED KINGDOM'S ANIMAL ABUSE

The UK has a long-standing tradition of Greyhound racing. Even though the industry had over 100 years to regulate and improve animal welfare on the racing tracks, Greyhounds still suffer from injuries, inhumane treatments and only reach an average lifespan of two to three years of age.<sup>5</sup> According to the Greyhound Board of Great Britain injury and retirement data, 4,354 greyhounds were injured, and 99 died on the track. While 2,718 were killed because they were deemed to be unfit for rehoming, vet costs couldn't be covered, or they died a sudden death since 2018.<sup>6</sup>

### 2018 - 2022 Injury / Retirement Data

#### Injury Data

		2022	
		Total Dog Runs	
		362,427	
	Total Injuries	% of Injuries against total runs	
Hock Injuries	817	0.22	
Wrist Injuries	706	0.19	
Foot Injuries	864	0.24	
Hind Long Bone	38	0.01	
Fore Long Bone	95	0.03	
Fore Limb Muscle	400	0.11	
Hind Limb Muscle	944	0.26	
Other	490	0.14	
<b>Total Injuries</b>	<b>4,354</b>	<b>1.20</b>	
<b>Track Fatalities</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0.03</b>	

However, those numbers do not yet reflect the complete picture of greyhound fatalities. Around 4700 Greyhounds go missing every year, which can be assumed to reflect the number of dogs 'destroyed' because they were not fit for the racing industry anymore, according to the APGAW.<sup>7</sup>

The dogs that disappear or die are symptomatic of a huge problem in the Greyhound industry. The mass breeding and importing of Greyhounds produces many unwanted 'underperforming' dogs.<sup>8</sup>

The resulting low monetary value of unwanted greyhounds leads to cruel, cost-cutting methods of disposing of these sentient beings. Instead of responsibly finding suitable homes for these animals or seeking veterinary assistance for humane euthanasia, certain individuals opt to unlawfully end their lives on their own. Disturbingly, there have been reported cases of dogs being shot, brutally beaten to death using blunt tools, or subjected to drowning.<sup>9</sup>

Female Greyhounds face the additional burden of being used for breeding purposes, which happens too young, too old, or too frequent and in inhumane conditions, and discarded when they are not useful anymore. In one of these cases, a four-year-old, heavily pregnant female greyhound, with her six pups was found dead and dumped. Her starved body was mutilated, as her ears were cut off, to prevent people from identifying her

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=comarac>

<sup>6</sup> <https://gbgb-prod-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20093800/2018-2022-Injury-Retirement-Summary-Final.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://sgvscience.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/report-of-apgaw-inquiry-into-the-welfare-of-greyhounds.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://gbgb-prod-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/20093800/2018-2022-Injury-Retirement-Summary-Final.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/dublin/fingal/the-grim-underbelly-of-the-greyhound-industry/30750659.html>

tattoo of origin.<sup>10</sup> In a similar manner, there are recurring stories of greyhounds being put in sacks and being drowned alive.<sup>11</sup>

While the UK prides itself with having official standards for the protection of the welfare of the animals, “a three-month detailed investigation into the conditions of Greyhound training kennels in the UK published by the Dogs Trust (2015) revealed that breaches of even the minimal standards extant within the GBGB minimum standards Rule 212 and CIEH Guidance on Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, were common. These included kennels heavily soiled with excreta and urine that had not been cleaned for days, thick layers of dust and cobwebs, and the absence of any visible signs of cleaning or cleaning materials.

Some facilities were in a poor state of repair, with sharp metal and wooden edges posing injury risks to dogs, rot and water damage causing roofing collapse and additional hazards, inadequate lighting, no visible firefighting equipment, filthy food preparation areas, and additional problems (Knight. A, 2018).<sup>12</sup>

The lack of responsibility for greyhound abuse can be illustrated with the example of the Greyhound trainers Robert and John Freeman. They kept their dogs in such horrid conditions, that the Judge for the case couldn't bear to watch the full kennel footage and said: “Looking at the place where you kept the dogs it wasn't so much a kennel as a concentration camp. Seeing the dog turn and turn in that way was heartbreaking. It was heedless neglect and cruelty”.<sup>13</sup>

The rescued puppies were badly injured, with broken tails, eye problems, fleas, and critically low weight. John Freeman was given a 90-day sentence suspended due to his ill health and fined £500. However, neither of them had their license revoked. The greyhound racing industry allowed them to continue to breed, train and race greyhounds, hence affording them the ideal opportunity to re-offend.

## **SPAIN'S TRADITIONAL GREYHOUND SLAUGHTER**

Spain has a widespread tradition that involves torturing and killing approximately 60,000-75,000 Greyhounds (Galgos) in a hunt.<sup>14 15</sup>

In the past, Galgos were selectively bred by Spanish aristocracy and regarded as valuable assets. In modern

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<sup>10</sup> <https://greyploitations.com/resources-reports/murdered-mutilated-pregnant-greyhound/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://greyploitations.com/resources-reports/greyhounds-disgusting-death-tip-of-the-iceberg/>

<sup>12</sup> Knight A (2018). Injuries in Racing Greyhounds. Cleveland, UK: Greyt Exploitations.

<sup>13</sup> <https://greyploitations.com/resources-reports/concentration-camp-kennels/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.spcai.org/take-action/sign-our-petitions/ban-galgo-hunting-in-spain>

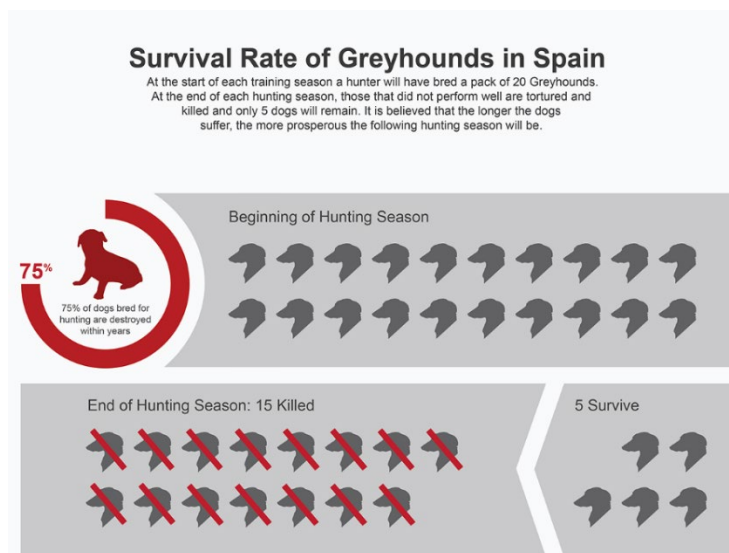
<sup>15</sup> <https://www.spcai.org/take-action/spanish-greyhounds/facts-of-galgo-hunting>

times, they are bred for the purposes of recreational hunting and hare coursing—an increasingly contentious and competitive activity that involves two Galgos racing together along a specified path, relentlessly pursuing a hare that is released with the sole purpose of evading capture at all costs. Throughout the hunting season, spanning from September to February, they are confined to kennels whenever they are not actively working, completely isolated from any interaction with fellow animals or humans.

Their diet consists of subpar food, their injuries remain unattended, and they endure physical abuse as punishment for any disobedience. This mistreatment occurs precisely when they are deemed somewhat valuable.<sup>16</sup>

Resulting from a belief that greater suffering leads to increased results, these dogs are faced with the cruellest practices to yield the best results. Popular practices include tying them to a car and forcing them to either keep up with the speed or be dragged to death. Many dogs do not survive these barbaric practices. The ones that do will have to enter the cycle of abuse and suffering all over again until they too succumb to the torture.

Besides the tradition of greyhound hunting, the killing of greyhounds in itself is a tradition. After a race “A good dog may be hanged high for a more rapid death, but a loser or “sucio” dog may be hanged low so that its hind legs just touch the ground in order to maximise the suffering and prolong the agony as much as possible. I have seen dogs tied to a tree to die slowly of hunger and thirst. Dogs have been found impaled, beaten, burned, or injected with gasoline or disinfectant—the list is too disgusting to enumerate.”<sup>17</sup>



Besides hanging greyhounds by a noose with their feet barely touching the ground, other methods like inserting a metal pole in their mouth to keep them from eating or breathing properly, a rock tied to a rope to beat the dogs to death, dropping the dogs into wells without food or stuffing them into trash bags and burying them alive are popular practices.

Once these practices got international awareness, the public outcry forced local authorities to put laws in place to condemn this way of killing greyhounds. However, there has yet to be much real change for these animals. Laws concerning the

protection of animals that are “worth nothing” are not enforced in favour of a softer general attitude by the

<sup>16</sup> <https://thebark.com/content/saving-spanish-greyhounds>

<sup>17</sup> <https://greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/information-library/the-greyhounds-and-galgos-of-spain/>



police toward the people.<sup>18</sup>

“[A]n end to the industry would be a positive move, and would spare many future generations of dogs an uncertain fate once they outlive their financial usefulness.” Chay Neal, President, Animal Liberation Queensland

## UNIVERSAL RISK FACTORS

### HEALTH PROBLEMS AND EUTHANASIA

The previous paragraphs talked about issues in specific countries, some of the dangers that Greyhounds face once they leave Australia are universal. While a greyhound's natural lifespan ranges between 12 and 14 years, most exported Greyhounds won't even reach half of that, due to injuries, malnourishment, health problems resulting from improper breeding, exhaustion on racetracks and neglect.

Annually, approximately 8,000 new litters are introduced into the world of greyhound racing, resulting in a staggering influx of 48,000 puppies<sup>19</sup>. However, not all these puppies possess the desired racing gene. Tragically, many of these animals are eventually sent to destinations lacking adequate animal protection laws and meet an untimely death. Alarming statistics from the ASPCA reveal that more than 80,000 Greyhound pups become victims of the racing industry's unscrupulous breeding methods, painting a bleak picture of their fate.

Unfortunately, even the fast-racing puppies will have to retire once they are not fast enough. These dogs face similar issues, as the capacity to find suitable homes for these retiring or unraced greyhounds often falls short, leaving these healthy dogs without a place to go, so despite their overall good health, unwanted greyhounds may face the heartbreaking fate of euthanasia. Adding to the concern is the need for more transparency exhibited by much of the greyhound racing industry, with incomplete and inconsistent reporting on the outcomes of these greyhounds. Nevertheless, available statistics unequivocally indicate that a considerable number of greyhounds continue to be euthanised by the greyhound racing industry each year.<sup>20</sup>

More recently, Greyhounds also face new dangers like being exploited for a growing interest in their meat and organs. For example, an investigation conducted by The Sunday Times has revealed a disturbing reality: healthy greyhounds are being systematically euthanised to provide organs for The Royal Veterinary College. Trainers and owners are charged a reduced fee of £30 for destroying the greyhounds, with no inquiries made, while the RVC receives at least £30 for each supplied organ.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <https://greyhoundsinneed.co.uk/information-library/the-greyhounds-and-galgos-of-spain/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://worldanimalfoundation.org/advocate/is-greyhound-racing-cruel/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-are-the-animal-welfare-issues-with-greyhound-racing/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://greyexploitations.com/introduction/exploited-after-destruction/>

## SUFFERING AND DEATH DURING TRANSPORTATION

Once a Greyhound departs Australia, our national guidelines no longer apply. Under current legislation, Australia is still exporting Greyhounds to countries deemed 'safe'. However, for many greyhounds, the country they are being exported to is not their only destination. No safeguards protect these dogs from being shipped to countries with even lower animal welfare standards. Disturbingly, high-performing Greyhounds imported from Australia to Ireland and the UK may be exported alongside local underperforming Greyhounds once their racing results no longer meet expectations. In Spain, the unwanted Greyhounds are then hung from trees or killed in other forms for entertainment.

Similarly, 35 Greyhounds died of heatstroke on their 12-hour journey to Mexico, because they were no longer competitive at any American racetrack.<sup>22</sup> The individual responsible for this fatal transportation had their license suspended for a mere 60 days, intending to return to racing as soon as possible.

Despite the existence of official animal welfare regulations, a significant number of these animals are illegally transported, putting their lives at risk. One tragic incident involved eleven Greyhounds who met a suffocating end as they were crammed into cages on a ferry, exceeding the recommended density. Shockingly, the greyhound smuggler responsible for this dreadful act faced no charges or consequences for the lives lost.<sup>23</sup>

Regrettably, the problem persists. Three Greyhounds lost their lives during transport from Ireland just three months ago. These dogs were excessively sedated, a practice employed to minimise the need for watering, feeding, and toileting stops. Unfortunately, this resulted in their untimely deaths.<sup>24</sup>

But it's not just travel on land that is a danger to Greyhounds. There have been an increasing number of animals that die on airlines. According to a record-keeping study started in May of 2005, by the US Department of Transportation, 96 pets were either injured, lost, or had died during air travel.<sup>25</sup>

A woman reported an incident where her Greyhound was almost killed during a flight after baggage handlers left the animals in their crates for over 12 hours - including more than an hour spent outside on the tarmac in 94-degree heat. Furthermore, there was video evidence of personnel kicking the dog several times. When they arrived in Boston, the Greyhound was dying, her crate covered in blood, faeces, and urine.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.kold.com/story/3515349/greyhound-transporter-fined-after-eight-dogs-die/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/dublin/fingal/the-grim-underbelly-of-the-greyhound-industry/30750659.html>

<sup>24</sup> [https://twitter.com/Jura\\_Harris/status/1632075693092745221](https://twitter.com/Jura_Harris/status/1632075693092745221)

<sup>25</sup> <https://trysincere.com/blog/air-travel-why-are-dogs-dying-on-airplanes/>

<sup>26</sup> [https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g1-i26969-k6998366-United\\_Airlines\\_PetSafe\\_almost\\_killed\\_my\\_Greyhound-Traveling\\_with\\_Pets.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowTopic-g1-i26969-k6998366-United_Airlines_PetSafe_almost_killed_my_Greyhound-Traveling_with_Pets.html)

Janet Sinclair claims that to add insult to injury, the airline only agreed to pay for the animals' veterinary bills if she signed a non-disclosure agreement promising not to discuss the incident with the media.<sup>27</sup>

These distressing accounts of Greyhound transportation highlight the urgent need to take stronger action. Instead of focusing solely on enforcement and accountability, it is time to address the root of the problem.

We must advocate for a complete ban on the export of Greyhounds.

The continued occurrence of tragic outcomes demands a comprehensive solution. Prohibiting the export of Greyhounds would eliminate the opportunity for these animals to be subjected to inhumane conditions and questionable destinations.

It is our responsibility to prioritise the well-being and safety of these magnificent creatures by putting an end to their exportation. By implementing a ban on the export of Greyhounds, we can send a powerful message that their lives and welfare are paramount. Only through such decisive action can we truly protect these animals from the suffering and potential tragedies associated with transportation.

## **AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC SENTIMENT AND CONCERNS**

Historically, the export of Australian greyhounds to countries like China and Macau, where the dog racing industry operates under different regulations and standards, has raised concerns among animal welfare activists and some members of the public. These concerns primarily revolve around the treatment and welfare of the greyhounds in destination countries, given reports of poor conditions, mistreatment, and high mortality rates in some racing industries abroad.

In recent years, several investigations and exposés have shed light on the harsh conditions and inhumane treatment of greyhounds in some overseas jurisdictions, further fuelling public criticism. Public opinion on greyhound exporting in Australia has varied, with a significant portion of the population expressing opposition to the practice due to ethical concerns about animal welfare and the treatment of racing dogs.

In response to public outcry, the NSW Government took action by establishing a Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry in NSW.<sup>28</sup> This inquiry, led by the esteemed former High Court Judge, the Honourable Michael McHugh AC QC, delved into the issue of animal rights abuses within the greyhound industry and subsequently presented recommendations based on its findings, including the alarming evidence

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2512223/United-Airlines-Almost-Killed-My-Greyhound-Dog-left-hot-tarmac.html>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.gwic.nsw.gov.au/about/history-and-greyhound-reform>

of the stress inflicted upon greyhounds during transport, the substandard conditions in which greyhounds are kept in particular countries. The high rate of injuries sustained at overseas racetracks led to many greyhounds being euthanised. Thus, the Commission recommends that GRNSW, in conjunction with GA, continue their efforts to engage with the Federal Government with a view to increased action by the Federal Government, in connection with regulating the export of live greyhounds.<sup>29</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The export of Australian greyhounds to countries with weaker animal welfare regulations should be banned for a multitude of compelling reasons. While Australia upholds high animal welfare standards, exporting greyhounds to nations like China, the United States, Spain, and the UK raises serious concerns about compromised welfare and ethical treatment.

By allowing the export of greyhounds to countries with inadequate animal welfare laws, Australia risks undermining its reputation as a leader in animal welfare. This contradicts the country's values and principles, as it directly exposes greyhounds to potential harm and mistreatment. The transportation and conditions experienced by these dogs during export can be highly stressful and detrimental to their physical and psychological well-being. Furthermore, reports of doping and illegal racing practices in some destination countries only heighten the ethical concerns surrounding this industry.

A ban on greyhound exports is necessary to protect these animals' welfare. It sends a clear message that Australia will not compromise on its commitment to animal welfare standards, regardless of economic interests. By taking a proactive stance, Australia can influence global change by encouraging other nations to improve their animal welfare regulations and practices. A ban on greyhound exports not only safeguards the well-being of these dogs, but it also preserves Australia's integrity and credibility as a nation dedicated to animal welfare. It sets a powerful example for the rest of the world, inspiring others to prioritise the ethical treatment of animals and work towards stronger regulations in their own jurisdictions.

Additionally, the ban can have a positive impact on the greyhound racing industry within Australia itself. It can drive industry stakeholders to focus on improving domestic standards, welfare practices, and responsible breeding, rather than relying on the export market to mitigate surplus dogs. This shift can foster a culture of compassion and responsibility within the industry, ensuring a brighter future for greyhounds in Australia.

The export of Australian greyhounds to countries with weaker animal welfare regulations should be prohibited. It aligns with Australia's commitment to high animal welfare standards, protects the well-being of greyhounds, and sets an example for the world. By implementing this ban, Australia can reinforce its position as a global leader in animal welfare and contribute to the global movement for better treatment of animals.

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<sup>29</sup> [https://greyhoundcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/apo-nid65365\\_6.pdf](https://greyhoundcoalition.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/apo-nid65365_6.pdf)