

To- The Federal Senate Inquiry on greyhound export/ import

This is my submission on the need 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.

I am asking you to pass the bill to stop the export and import of greyhounds for racing, breeding and commercial purposes- in full. Below are just a few of the reasons I believe this practice must cease immediately.

Animal Welfare

- Greyhounds are unable to be protected by Australian law when they are sent to another country. Because of this there is overwhelming evidence of our greyhounds suffering abuse, cruelty, neglect and agonising death in other countries. The Macau Canidrome may have ceased in 2018 but there are many other equally appalling racetracks our greyhounds are still being sent to. Due to the lack of transparency some greyhounds can even end up in the horrific dogmeat trade of Asia. The only way to protect them is to stop them being sent there at all.
- The racing industry itself, here in Australia, has proven time and again that it is unable to stop an inherent cruelty in the trade. By the government providing subsidies and easy export for this trade the more this industry, which is profit driven, will continue to pursue and increase exports without thought for the greyhounds. Especially since dogs which are winners/ successful here can be sold for large sums abroad. If we don't stop this now it will only get worse.
- There should be a 'whole of life responsibility' by greyhound owners/ breeders to ensure the care, including financial support, of that greyhound for its entire life. This includes a track for its entire life, its care and retirement, where/when it dies and why. There isn't. And once overseas it can virtually disappear. By stopping exporting clearer transparency of this industry will be possible.
- Greyhounds have been exported as pets or companion animals when in fact they were sent to racing facilities in Asia. The greyhound is then trapped in the hell of a gambling underground where no animal welfare exists. The Government and Racing industry has no viable regulations nor adequate oversight to prevent such abuse. The only way to stop this is to stop export. Full stop.

Overbreeding

- This industry is notorious for breeding an excessive amount of greyhounds to supply the industry as many may not prove racing viable. What happens to those who do not make the grade has been in dispute for many years. Not only have large killing pits been found previously, but even the process of 'rehomeing' has been brought into question. Sending greyhounds overseas is one way that greyhounds cannot be traced. We cannot continue to let this happen to our greyhounds.

- Because of the huge numbers being bred, (up to 6 times the capacity to rehome) the rehoming programs of the Greyhound industry cannot cope and the rescue groups who are trying to mop up the unstoppable numbers are at full capacity and unable to accept more. In fact this one industry is swamping the rescue groups which should be there to help all breeds not just one industry's lack of concern. Rescues in other countries are also unable to cope with the influx of numbers. The only way to stop this is here at the source. Stop the exports.
- Despite Racing Victoria being required to desex retired greyhounds there has been recent evidence that this is not happening and they are sent abroad to breed and race. So after surviving the gruelling industry here, they face a terrible future in another country with no laws that ensure their care. Again this would not happen if they were unable to export them.

Encouraging a Gambling Culture.

- Here in Australia there has been a concerted effort by Federal Government to try and stop the overwhelming gambling culture our society has become addicted to. The harm this has caused individuals, families, society, companies and the nation has been well documented. Gambling has caused not just mental anguish, financial ruin, and violence but suicides and murder also. Such gambling industries as the greyhound racing must be made to acknowledge this damage and assist with its repair. It can do this by reducing the breeding of greyhounds and stopping the exporting of greyhounds. And this Senate should back its own enterprise- the reduction in gambling- by passing this bill.

So, please stop the export of greyhounds and any breeding / commercial usage (semen etc) overseas. Thank you for your time and effort in reading this submission.

Regards

Diane Roberts