



Hon Reece Whitby MLA
Minister for Environment; Climate Action; Racing & Gaming

Our ref: 79-07393
Your Ref: A990942
Petition No. 064

Hon Peter Foster MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
env@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Chair

PETITION NO. 064 – BAN GREYHOUND RACING IN WA

Thank you for your correspondence regarding greyhound racing in Western Australia.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) has provided me with some advice regarding your concerns about the regulation of greyhound racing.

I am informed that RWWA is committed to ensuring the welfare of greyhounds and has the following welfare initiatives in place:

- The Full Life-Cycle Tracking program, which tracks racing greyhounds from birth through to retirement; and
- Injury recovery schemes such as the Greyhound Injury Rebate Scheme and the Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme. These schemes provide financial support for veterinary costs and enable RWWA to take ownership of greyhounds to provide veterinary care.

RWWA also facilitates the re-homing of retired racing greyhounds through the Greyhounds as Pets (GAP) program and has recently established a second premises to expand the program.

In addition, RWWA facilitates the Greyhound Welfare Working Group, which is comprised of industry representatives and animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA and Free the Hounds.

In relation to the 87 greyhounds that were recorded as deceased or euthanised in 2021-2022, a majority of these were due to accidental death, natural causes, illness or age, and not as a result of a racing-related injury. The total number of greyhounds euthanised or deceased in 2021-2022 was lower than the year prior. The full breakdown is as follows:

- Accident, natural causes, illness or age: 57
- Due to injury: 28
- Not suitable for rehoming: 2
- Not suitable for racing: 0

In 2021-2022, of the 721 greyhounds that retired from racing, GAP was responsible for rehoming 331 greyhounds (46 per cent). In total, 223 greyhounds (31 per cent) were rehomed through other greyhound rehoming organisations. The remaining greyhounds were adopted as pets to a third party directly from the trainer (16 per cent), the trainer/owner kept the greyhound as a pet (1 per cent) or was retired for breeding (6 per cent). In total, the greyhound racing industry was responsible for rehoming 69 per cent of retired greyhounds over the past financial year.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA WA) operates independently of RWWA and RWWA has no influence over what matters they choose to investigate, prosecute or otherwise. RSPCA WA is not precluded from prosecuting matters whether they have been reported to RWWA or not.

Thank you for raising this matter and I trust that the information provided is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Reece Whitby MLA
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING
7th of March 2023