

In support of the ban:

I am writing to register my support for the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021.

The inherent cruelty of the greyhound racing Industry:

The wider issues relating to the rampant greed and inhumane treatment of greyhounds in the Australian (and global) gambling industry must be addressed. This submission is prefaced on the view that the practice of greyhound racing as a whole should be made illegal in Australia and globally. Upon the completion of this amendment, there should be a further bill introduced for the shutdown of the greyhound racing industry in Australia as a whole. The practice is inherently greed-motivated and cruel; with there being no overlap between the profiteering of the racing and gambling industry, and compassion shown towards the welfare and happiness of the affected dogs. The industry has shown itself to always prioritise profits over the lives of greyhounds.

The welfare standard of greyhounds in the Australian racing industry is unacceptable. Recent footage of a large greyhound racing kennel in Tasmania revealed that the greyhounds on the property lived on bare dirt, with little shade or shelter, through chilling winter nights. There was also news from just this year, of a trainer kicking and punching greyhounds on their property. See the below articles:

- <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-03/greyhound-trainer-anthony-bullock-under-investigation/102684048>).
- <https://www.9news.com.au/national/greyhound-trainer-alleged-abuse-charges-adelaide-south-australia/0fc6f94c-a93d-4efd-a78e-f823fd02f705>).

Greyhounds are allowed to race on hot summer days reaching above 30°C, with Greyhound Racing bodies in states such as South Australia allowing races to continue unless the temperature is forecast to reach 38°C or higher that day. For context, 25°C is already considered hot for a large dog, and owners would exercise caution before walking their dog in the sun on a 25°C day.

- <https://greyhoundracingsa.com.au/news/update-to-grsa-hot-weather-policy>

It is unlikely that the people in this industry exporting these greyhounds will show more care or concern for their welfare in the process of their exportation, or their living conditions post-exportation. These greyhounds are not living, sentient beings to these trainers, they are merely an object which exists to generate profit.

These news do not cover all the track injuries and deaths that routinely happen as a part of greyhound racing. As at the date of this submission on 16th August 2023, there have been 76 track deaths and 6906 track injuries. See the tracker maintained by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds: <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/media-resource/2023-australian-track-deaths-and-injuries/>

Government policies supporting animal cruelty:

Successive state and federal governments have allowed the status quo to persist and have continued to turn a blind eye on the unforgivable conditions suffered by these dogs. The exportation of greyhounds to foreign racing industries with even more questionable animal rights credentials is symptomatic of this behaviour.

The live exportation of greyhounds further contributes to Australia's global reputation as a country that proclaims to care deeply about animal welfare, but continues to tacitly support policies that permit the live exportation of animals to countries with dubious attitudes towards the humane treatment of animals.

The exportation of greyhounds further contributes overbreeding practices in Australia's greyhound racing industry:

Australia remains one of the few countries in the world where surgical artificial insemination of greyhounds is still allowed and practiced widely. This procedure is banned in many countries around the world including: the United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands. The practice has been described by the Australian Veterinary Association as invasive, painful and outdated. The practice has also contributed to an "excess" of greyhounds in the racing industry. The flow-on effects of this "excess", is the availability of supply to support the mass exportation of greyhounds overseas, where it is highly likely they are cruelly and inhumanely treated for the rest of their life.

See the below links for further discussion on this matter:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2023/jan/17/nsw-wont-review-decision-to-allow-inhuman-e-greyhound-breeding-technique>
- <https://theconversation.com/this-surgical-procedure-to-impregnate-greyhounds-in-australia-is-a-major-animal-welfare-issue-187930>
- <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/racing-industry-fights-for-surgical-mutilation-procedure-banned-overseas/>

The overbreeding of greyhounds has put undue pressure on rescue organisations across Australia to keep up with the industry to rescue and rehome greyhounds who are no longer deemed fit to race. We have seen in multiple substantiated cases that trainers who have excess dogs will opt to illegally kill and dispose of the greyhounds.

- Greyhounds killed and disposed of in a pit:
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-07-04/dead-greyhounds-listed-as-retired-on-racing-website-victoria/13426756>
- Official greyhound rehoming programmes (GAP) failing to meet their stated goals:
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/20/community-groups-in-some-states-rehoming-more-greyhounds-than-industry-programs-report-suggests>
- A discrepancy between recorded greyhound births, and greyhound "retirements" and "deaths". There are more recorded births than the total retirements and deaths of greyhounds from the same batch - where are the "missing" dogs who didn't retire or die, go?

<https://theconversation.com/greyhound-pups-must-be-tracked-from-birth-to-death-so-we-know-how-many-are-killed-144868>
<https://andrewwilkie.org/2020/07/where-are-the-hundreds-of-missing-greyhound-puppies/>

- In the local community, see the two puppies Squid and Poppy, who were about to be killed by their trainer, but fortunately rescued in QLD:
 - Squid @speedy_squid - https://www.instagram.com/p/CsZk7GyhUKz/?img_index=1
 - Poppy @birdy_the_greyhound
https://www.instagram.com/p/CdnX7UPBID6/?img_index=1

Welfare conditions during exportation process:

As of June 2023, 331 Greyhounds have been exported to the following countries: Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, UAE, UK, USA. (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export/controlled-goods/live-animals/live-animal-export-statistics/greyhound-exports>)

It is understood that long distance transportation is stressful for dogs. For even an average dog living a pet life, moving house is an event that can take a while to adjust to; let alone moving countries. Not only does the greyhound industry systematically engage in the transportation of greyhounds cross-country; when such an act is not even necessarily safe for a pet depending on the quality of the carrier service. Greyhounds are also being made to suffer the stress of being unknowingly relocated to a different country; packed onto a carrier craft (by land, air, or sea) under the arrangement of an industry that cares little for its welfare.

- Greyhounds have died from suffocation on a ferry, or died from the consequences of heavy sedation (for the convenience of the transporter).
<https://www.kold.com/story/3515349/greyhound-transporter-fined-after-eight-dogs-die>
- <https://www.independent.ie/regional/dublin/fingal/the-grim-underbelly-of-the-greyhound-industry/30750659.html>

Welfare conditions post-exportation process:

Australia has a long history of sending unwanted greyhounds to countries where there is no guarantee they will be treated humanely. The current practice of exporting greyhounds overseas to countries which lack formal rehoming and adoption programs means there is no expectation of a life post-racing for greyhounds in some countries. This means greyhounds are forced to race past an appropriate retirement age or killed at an unnecessarily young age.

See examples of the awful treatment greyhounds face once exported:

- Ireland Greyhound industry having the similar ethical welfare issues as Australia, see an example:
<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/jul/03/irish-greyhound-racing-faces-backlash-over-killing-of-dogs>

- UK dogs racing in hot weather, see an example:
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11123291/Outrage-dreadful-cruelty-Greyhound-racing-goes-ahead-heatwave.html>
- Forced to race cheetahs in a Shanghai Zoo in China:
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/nov/10/australian-greyhound-owners-fined-over-exports-to-cruel-conditions-in-china>
- Racing in Macau - 30 dogs euthanised each month:
<https://greytexploitations.com/resources-reports/the-dogs-who-run-for-their-lives/>

Closing remarks:

The issues with greyhound racing goes far beyond the export and importation of greyhounds, however the prohibition on importation and exportation will be one step further in ensuring better welfare for greyhounds in the industry, until the entire gambling and bloodsport can be banned.

Please pass the Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021.