

GREYHOUND SANCTUARIES

COMBINING ANIMAL WELFARE WITH REGIONAL JOB CREATION

by *Dennis Anderson, Vice President, Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG)*

INTRODUCTION

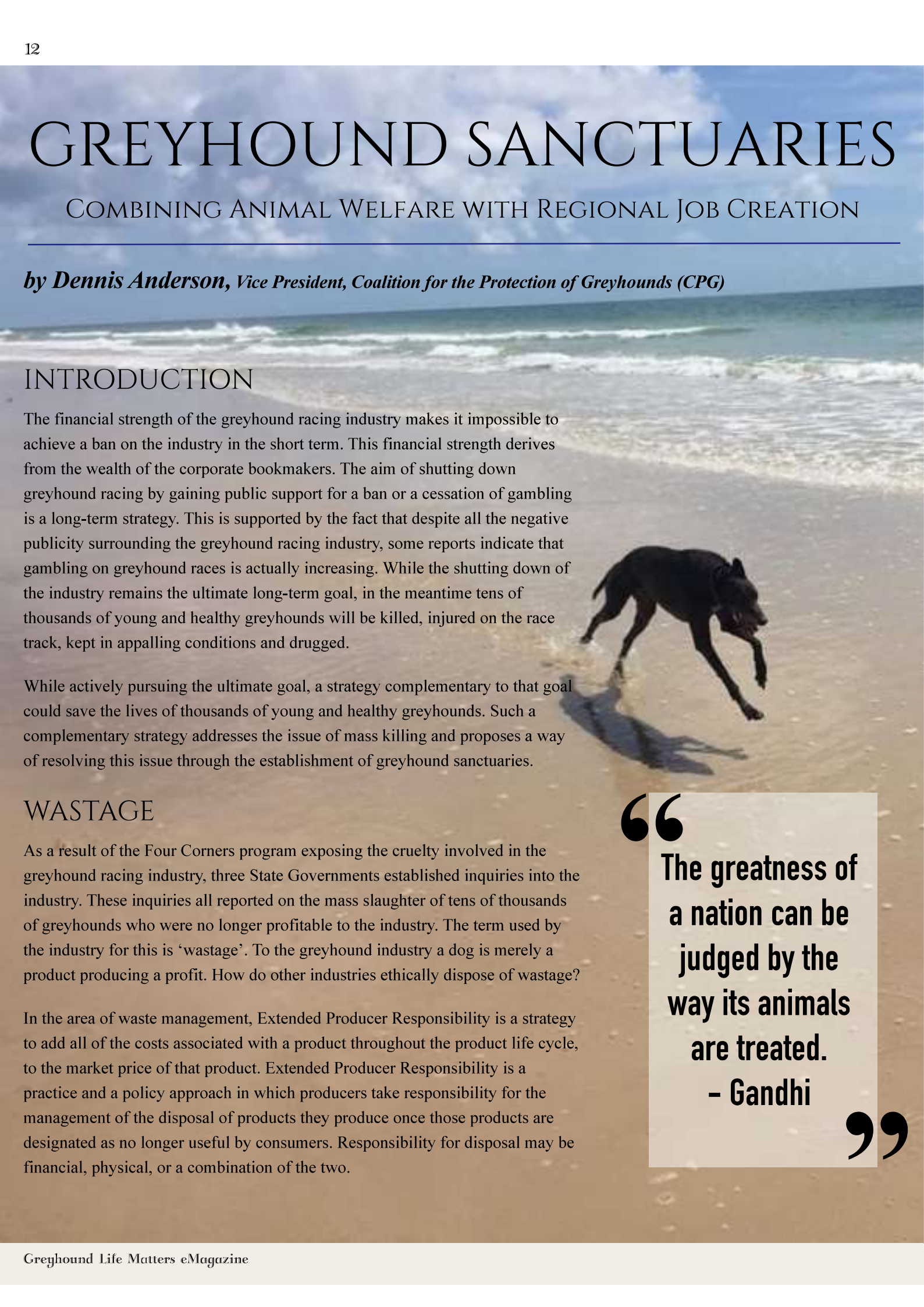
The financial strength of the greyhound racing industry makes it impossible to achieve a ban on the industry in the short term. This financial strength derives from the wealth of the corporate bookmakers. The aim of shutting down greyhound racing by gaining public support for a ban or a cessation of gambling is a long-term strategy. This is supported by the fact that despite all the negative publicity surrounding the greyhound racing industry, some reports indicate that gambling on greyhound races is actually increasing. While the shutting down of the industry remains the ultimate long-term goal, in the meantime tens of thousands of young and healthy greyhounds will be killed, injured on the race track, kept in appalling conditions and drugged.

While actively pursuing the ultimate goal, a strategy complementary to that goal could save the lives of thousands of young and healthy greyhounds. Such a complementary strategy addresses the issue of mass killing and proposes a way of resolving this issue through the establishment of greyhound sanctuaries.

WASTAGE

As a result of the Four Corners program exposing the cruelty involved in the greyhound racing industry, three State Governments established inquiries into the industry. These inquiries all reported on the mass slaughter of tens of thousands of greyhounds who were no longer profitable to the industry. The term used by the industry for this is 'wastage'. To the greyhound industry a dog is merely a product producing a profit. How do other industries ethically dispose of wastage?

In the area of waste management, Extended Producer Responsibility is a strategy to add all of the costs associated with a product throughout the product life cycle, to the market price of that product. Extended Producer Responsibility is a practice and a policy approach in which producers take responsibility for the management of the disposal of products they produce once those products are designated as no longer useful by consumers. Responsibility for disposal may be financial, physical, or a combination of the two.



**“
The greatness of
a nation can be
judged by the
way its animals
are treated.
– Gandhi
”**

FINANCIAL LIABILITY

In accordance with the principles of the Extended Producer Responsibility, the commercial operator of the greyhound racing industry is liable for the cost of maintaining a greyhound throughout its entire lifecycle. This lifecycle extends from birth to natural death. The only exception to this should be where a registered vet decides it is in the welfare interests of the greyhound to be euthanized by a registered vet.

GREYHOUND SANCTUARIES

Concept

One definition of the word sanctuary is a “place where injured or unwanted animals of a specified kind are cared for”. These sanctuaries would enable young and older greyhounds not required for racing to live out the remainder of their natural lives in a safe and comfortable environment and with the chance that a small percentage of them will be adopted to a loving home. The concept would involve the establishment, operation, regulation, inspection and funding of greyhound sanctuaries throughout Australia, primarily in regional areas. An additional benefit would be the creation of new jobs in regional areas.

Establishment and Operation

The concept requires the establishment and operation of greyhound sanctuaries as privately-operated businesses in accordance with standards set by State Government Greyhound Integrity Commissions. Persons wishing to operate a sanctuary will apply to the Commission for a Greyhound Sanctuary Operators Licence. All applicants will be vetted and licenced by the Commission. Industry participants will not be eligible to be licenced to operate a greyhound sanctuary.

Standards

The Commission will regulate the standards for greyhound sanctuaries to ensure the welfare of the greyhounds. The standards are to be based on the internationally recognised five domains of animal welfare and the five freedoms which form the basic framework for animal welfare standards globally.

The five domains of animal welfare are:

1. **Nutrition.** Appropriate nutrition and access to food must be provided. Nutrition requirements must be tailored to the age, gender, body mass and health of the dog. Water and feeding infrastructure must ensure accessibility to and security of food and food must be of good quality.
2. **Environment.** This must ensure environmental opportunity and choice by stipulating accommodation requirements, including sizes, materials, design, bedding, drainage, ventilation, yards, yard sizes, temperature control and

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location. This will include requirements for both indoor and outdoor accommodation. Sanitation requirements must include how often accommodation, pens and yards must be cleaned. Transportation requirements must ensure well ventilated transport for the greyhounds.

3. **Health.** This must ensure fitness, ableness and access to treatment. Veterinarian provision and health care, preventing the spread of infectious diseases and minimum exercise requirements must be met. A process for euthanasia whereby the greyhound can only be euthanised by a registered vet when the vet considers it is in the best interest of the greyhound must be enforced.
4. **Behaviour.** This must enable behavioural expression by banning the use of barking muzzles or other devices that hinder the dog from being able to express normal behaviours, anxiety or distress. All dogs must have access to activities that involve choice, variety and benign challenges. The use of substances not prescribed by a vet which may unnaturally alter the dog's behaviour is prohibited.
5. **Mental or Affective State.** This must encourage engagement and positive stimulation that provides goal-oriented engagement, rewards, playfulness, curiosity and affection. Security measures such as fencing to protect greyhounds from other animals which may cause harm or distress must be in place. Tethering and containment standards must be detailed. The number of dogs allowed per staff member must be specified.



Beautiful and relaxed Mya who owns Joe and Linda Ferry

The five freedoms are:

1. **Freedom from thirst and hunger.** Nutrition by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. **Freedom from discomfort** by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. **Freedom from pain, injury and disease** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. **Freedom to express normal behaviour** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities, and the company of the animal's own kind.
5. **Freedom from fear and distress** by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Inspection

The Commission will inspect all greyhound sanctuaries at least twice per annum to ensure standards are met.

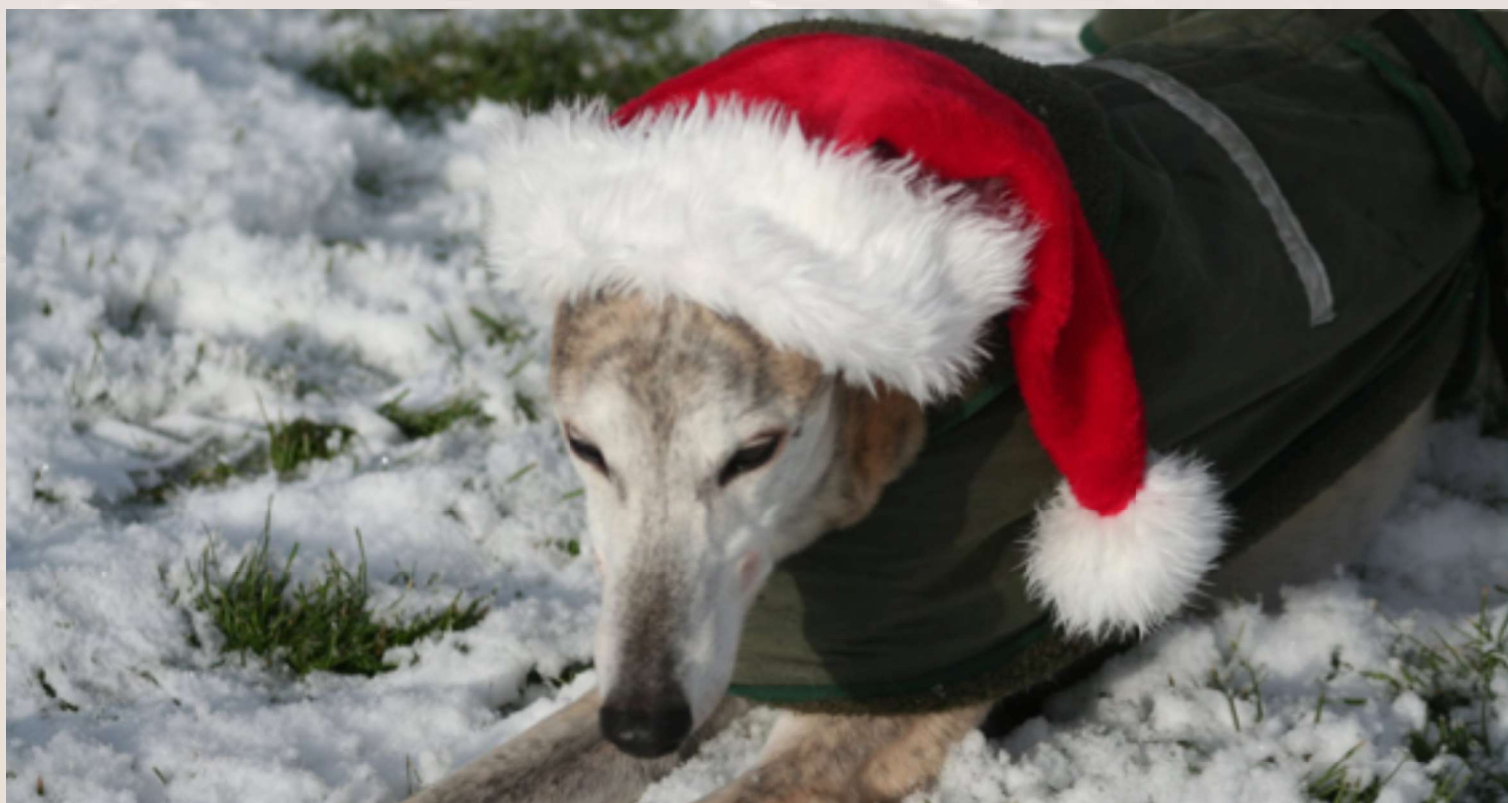
Number of Greyhounds Requiring Sanctuary

Animals Australia estimated that there are approximately 20,000 greyhounds born each year Australia wide. A greyhound has a life expectancy of between 12 and 15 years. Assuming an average life expectancy of 13 years the number of greyhounds requiring sanctuary could be as high as 260,000 at any one time.

Business Model

The sanctuary business model is based on private individuals or companies being paid to operate a sanctuary. The amount paid will cover all the costs of running the sanctuary. Prospective owner/operators will be able to calculate their costs, weigh these against projected income to ascertain the viability of establishing a sanctuary.

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Amanda Lawrence's Eddie

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Funding

Based on the principle of Extended Producer Responsibility funding for the greyhound sanctuaries will be provided by the greyhound racing industry. The principle is that the cost of paying for dogs in sanctuaries is a cost of doing business. The funding will include the cost of paying sanctuary operators and the additional costs incurred by the Commissions to administer the sanctuaries scheme including the cost of additional inspectors.

Sanctuary operators will receive funds directly from the Commissions. The Commissions will calculate the cost to the operator on a per dog basis, and the amount paid to the operator will be calculated using the number of dogs in the sanctuary.

Employment

Greyhound sanctuaries will employ full-time employees supplemented by volunteers. There must be a sufficient number of full-time staff to operate the sanctuary in the event that volunteers cannot be found. The NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into the Greyhound Racing Industry identified that in FY15 4,414 people participated in the NSW greyhound racing industry either on a full-time or part-time basis. These participants were trainers, owner/trainers and attendants and supported a racing population of approximately 6,800 registered greyhounds. In addition, an unknown number of people profit indirectly from the industry by providing services such as food supply, vet services and track and kennel maintenance.

Based on the estimate that the sanctuary program could house up to 260,000 dogs, the employment created would be many times that of current industry numbers. Direct employment in the sanctuary program will depend upon the ratio of carers to dogs but it can be anticipated that it will number many thousands of people. The indirect jobs created by the sanctuary project will be in the order of many times the numbers supplying the current greyhound racing population. The majority of these new jobs would be in regional areas. Not only does the sanctuary concept maintain the current level of racing industry employment, it will create substantial new employment in regional areas.

Greyhound Adoption

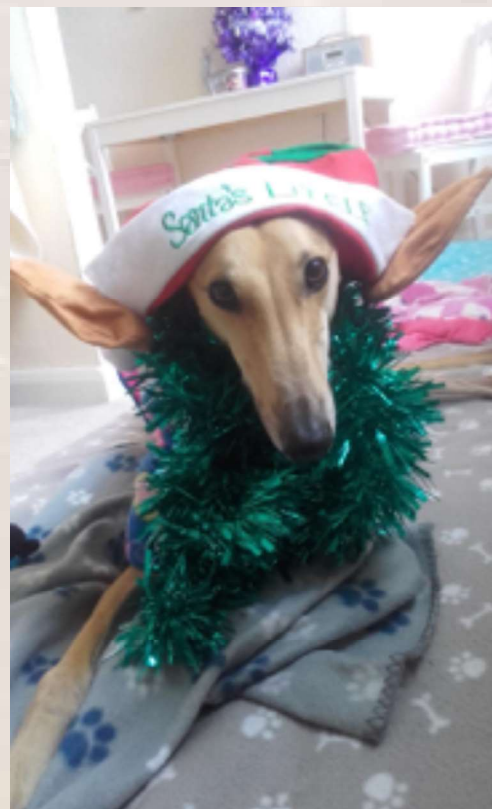
The public will be able to adopt greyhounds from the sanctuaries.

FAILURE TO ADOPT SANCTUARIES

If the greyhound racing industry does not accept it is financially liable to meet the costs of the whole of natural lifecycle of greyhounds, this is evidence that the industry is not serious about animal welfare. If the industry rejects the sanctuary



Tanya Sawyer's Ivar



Tanya Sawyer's Amber

model, it must state what measures it intends to implement to prevent the deaths of tens of thousands of healthy dogs. Adoption either through industry adoption programs or private rescues is not the answer. Without sanctuaries thousands of healthy greyhounds are and will continue to be killed each year.

A 100% adoption rate aspiration by the industry has been shown in Victoria to be a failure. Not only did such an aspiration depend on independent self-funded rescue groups, even with the adoptions made by these groups, the adoption rate fell far short of 100%. In its 2018 annual report, Greyhound Racing Victoria reported that 2,641 dogs were rehomed and only 1,163 of these were rehomed by

the industry Greyhound Adoption Program. The remainder were rehomed by independent groups. A total of 975 dogs were killed. These numbers demonstrate a gross failure to meet the 100% adoption rate aspiration.

THE WAY FORWARD

The Coalition is working to progress the sanctuaries proposal in a variety of ways. Because the greyhound racing industry is controlled differently in each State, the Coalition is tailoring the way forward taking into consideration the differences in legislation and regulation in each jurisdiction. Another factor contributing to the need for differing approaches in each State is the political

support for greyhound welfare that exists within State Parliaments.

While the long-term aim is to shut down the industry, much can be done in the short-term to alleviate the suffering and unnecessary deaths of these wonderful greyhounds.

The CPG sanctuary proposal for Queensland has been sent to the Queensland Government as part of our submission on the Racing Integrity Act 2016. The submission can be found at <https://coalitionprotectgreyhounds.wordpress.com/2019/07/11/the-cpgs-submission-re-queensland-racing-integrity-act-attached/>



Joe and Lind Ferry's Pauly and Jewell with Santa