

Our Policy Position on Greyhound Welfare



The Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds is an organisation dedicated to ending greyhound suffering. Our ultimate goal is to have greyhound racing banned but we recognise this will not happen in the near future. Until governments ban racing they must reduce the number of deaths and injuries. The CPG approach to this is based on five key demands.



Implement whole of life tracking

WHY: Thousands of greyhounds go missing in Australia each year.

HOW: A system must be implemented to monitor the welfare of individual greyhounds for their entire life including breeding, raising, training, racing, retirement and rehoming. This data must be maintained at a state and national level. It must include the exact number of greyhounds born each year, how many are issued with a "name", and how many are euthanased. The costs of maintaining whole of life tracking must be the responsibility of the greyhound racing industry.



Fund rescues and sanctuaries

WHY: The life of a racing greyhound is very short and thousands of unwanted greyhounds are put to death despite being healthy and rehoming.

HOW: State Governments must fund private greyhound rehoming organisations without limits on veterinary costs and including the cost of day-to-day operations. Additionally, the greyhound racing industry must fund privately operated "sanctuaries" which are licenced by State Governments and inspected by appropriate animal welfare organisations. If the industry opposes the sanctuary concept it must state what alternative plans it has to enable greyhounds to live to the end of their natural lives.



Increase penalties

WHY: Penalties are not proving a deterrent given the financial rewards offered by the industry.

HOW: As the key motivation for greyhound racing is financial gain, deterrents must be effectively punitive. The industry must also strengthen associated regulation and enforcement. Ultimately the failed industry self-regulation must be replaced with a State Government regulatory body established in each State.



Reduce breeding

WHY: Around 40% of the 11,000 greyhounds bred in Australia each year are surplus to requirements.

HOW: The greyhound racing industry must stop offering financial incentives for breeding. State Governments must stop supporting the industry with taxpayers' money as this is an incentive for over-breeding. A whole of life tracking system must be implemented. Surgical artificial insemination (AI) must be banned as it is highly painful and unethical.



Make tracks safer

WHY: Approximately 750 greyhounds are injured each month and 400 are killed each year on Australian tracks.

HOW: According to a report by the University of Technology, Sydney 80% of catastrophic and major injuries are caused by track congestion. To improve track safety, the greyhound racing industry must implement the following key recommendations: develop purpose-built straight tracks; reduce the number of starters from eight greyhounds to six; and install an extended lure at all tracks.

For more information on the CPG approach to greyhound welfare, please visit:
www.greyhoundcoalition.com/end-greyhound-suffering/