



A GAPing hole - 2022/23 update



Greyhound rehoming in Australia: industry GAPs vs. community rehoming

**Prepared by the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds
2022/23 Update**

End greyhound suffering



(Romy had become terrified of men during her time in the industry and needed to be re-socialised to learn there are good humans too - Credit: [@bronwynchowphotography](#))

Foreword

CPG publishes national rehoming data to shed light on the greyhound racing industry's performance as a rehomer. Using industry annual reports, government inquiries, news stories and other sources, CPG aims to unveil the reality behind the industry's touted rehoming efforts, highlighting discrepancies and holding it accountable.

The rehoming 'game'

Greyhound racing takes place in all of Australia's states and territories, except for the ACT where it's illegal. Each year, thousands of retired greyhounds urgently

need 'forever' homes. Some of these greyhounds typically find new homes through four channels.

- **Industry participants:** owners or trainers may keep greyhounds for breeding or as pets. In reality, under racing industry codes they are often merely warehoused, confined for most of the day and deprived of social interaction and mental enrichment. For example, the [NSW Greyhound Welfare Code](#) allows a greyhound to be kept in a pen that is 1.2 x 1.8 metres and exercised for only 30 minutes a day.
- **Third parties:** greyhounds are often rehomed to unvetted third

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parties - owners giving them away privately - often via Gumtree - without ensuring the adopters' suitability. With these dogs going off the radar, it is also a way euthanasia rules can be dodged. Dogs that go down this route frequently end up in [unsuitable homes](#), [mistreated](#) or killed. This is why the RSPCA [doesn't recommend](#) third party rehoming. It says - "Third party adoptions ... should be verified and followed up to ensure they are genuine." [Here's](#) a case study about such adoptions.

- **GAPs:** which stands for the Greyhound Adoption Programs or Greyhounds as Pets (depending on which state applies), are industry-run programs that get significant funding from state racing bodies, but often fall short when it comes to rehabilitation and rehoming efforts. This leads to [big questions about their effectiveness and ability](#) to ensure the well-being of retired greyhounds. GAPs generally euthanise greyhounds they deem too much work to rehabilitate.
- **Community rescues:** these [groups are run by volunteers](#), offer crucial adoption and rehabilitation services, provide a more humane approach to rehoming and often achieve better outcomes for greyhounds with a fraction of the budgets available to GAPs. These rescue groups rely on donations and fundraising and don't euthanise

greyhounds unless they are terminally ill.

These rehoming channels highlight the complexities and challenges within the greyhound racing industry, setting the stage for further exploration into the transparency and integrity of its reported rehoming efforts.

The rules of the game

In most jurisdictions, the obligations for rehoming retired greyhounds are scant, with few, if any, enforceable requirements in place to ensure their welfare post-racing.¹ These minimal obligations, established by state and territory racing bodies or regulators, often fail to provide adequate protection for retired greyhounds, leaving them vulnerable to mistreatment and uncertain futures.

Western Australia is noted for having the strongest written protections, although there is little evidence of enforcement or consequences for non-compliance. NSW, Victoria, and the Northern Territory offer some protections but frequently lack meaningful penalties. Queensland's lack of a rehoming policy prior to 2024 was inexcusable. Its new rehoming rules are weak and will allow the same third party rehoming loophole that other jurisdictions do. Meanwhile, South Australia's non-binding statement of intent regarding rehoming carries little, if any, weight.

¹ See [A GAPing hole: 2021/22](#) report, Appendix 1, pp. 35-41.

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The money game

GAPs across states operate with notably large budgets, often in the multi-millions, funded by their respective state racing bodies. GAP Queensland stands apart with complete funding directly from the State Government, while GAP Tasmania predominantly relies on state government support through Tasracing. Designed as non-profits, these well-funded organisations should prioritise the rehoming and welfare needs of greyhounds.

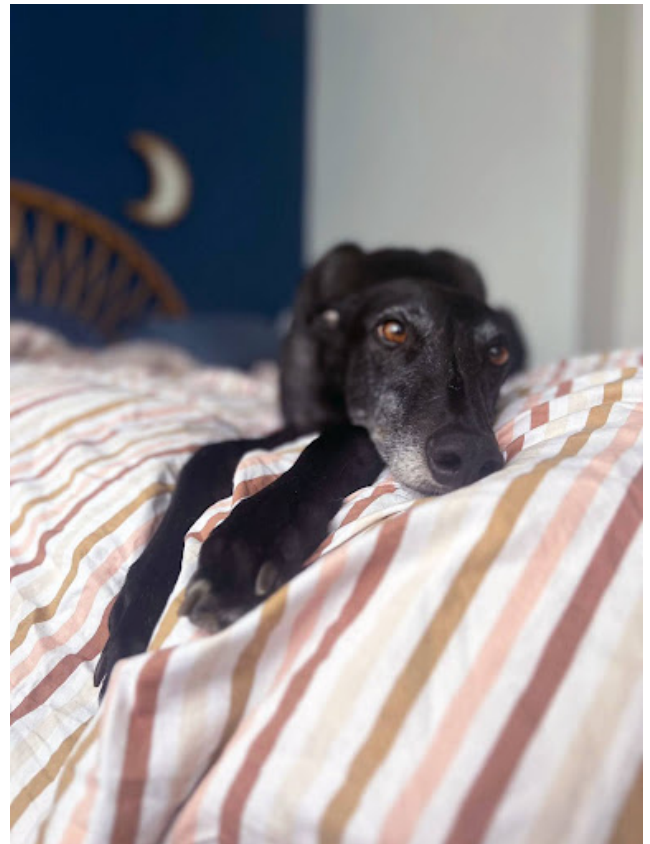
However, some GAPs rehome fewer greyhounds than community rescues, which raises questions about their operational priorities and practices. With a significant portion of budgets channelled towards glossy PR campaigns aimed at presenting a positive image of GAPs, it appears that these programs are largely a veneer to maintain a positive public perception.

The lying game

Despite being key rehoming players, GAPs often lack transparency about their efforts. This opacity, coupled with misleading rehoming figures, erodes public confidence. Instances of intentional data manipulation have been observed in several states, particularly by self-regulated racing bodies.

Victoria and South Australia display a lack of transparency and resistance to FOI requests. These practices not only cast doubt on the accuracy of reported figures but also compound concerns about data reliability and accountability in the greyhound racing industry.

Greyhound Racing NSW's misleading reporting of rehoming numbers - by counting dogs that were treated under its Rehoming Assistance Scheme, but were not rehomed by GAP - highlight broader systemic issues within the industry.



[Danny "Long Legs"](#) - Credit SavourLife and Scruffy Lovers Inc, Adelaide SA

The GAP 'entry game'

To be accepted into GAP programs, racing dogs undergo specific assessments to determine their suitability for adoption. Yet, many in the rescue community believe these assessments are often used by GAPs to 'fail' greyhounds needing behavioural rehabilitation. Racing greyhounds frequently lack proper

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socialisation with other dogs, humans as well as the sights and sounds of a household. The industry's use of prison inmates in many states to socialise these dogs demonstrates the seriousness of the issue.

Dogs are also frequently rejected by GAPs for poor health and physical ailments. A [nationwide survey](#) conducted by CPG among community-based greyhound rescue groups corroborated this issue, revealing that many dogs exhibited poor physical condition and untreated injuries from track racing. This underscores the urgent need for comprehensive healthcare to be provided for all greyhounds retired from racing.

NEWS

Inquiry hands down findings into SA's greyhound racing industry, as Premier threatens ban

By Leah MacLennan

Posted Thu 14 Dec 2023 at 12:00pm, updated Thu 14 Dec 2023 at 3:57pm

The South Australian government has given the greyhound racing industry two years to improve its standards, or the sport will be banned.



After two years, an inspector will make a recommendation to the SA government about whether the greyhound racing industry should continue. (Pixabay: herbert2512)

Thu 14 Dec 2023

See [here](#) for full story

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Executive summary

This year's GAPing Hole report covers rehoming data for the Australian greyhound racing industry during the 2022-2023 financial year and significant developments in 2024. It exposes alarming failures and disturbing practices, particularly in South Australia (SA) and New South Wales (NSW), as well as the problematic rehoming of greyhounds to the USA.

Industry regulation and oversight

Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory's continued lack of independent regulation is a glaring failure, leading to rampant conflicts of interest and a severe lack of transparency. This self-regulation is a sham, effectively allowing the industry to police itself with predictably disastrous results for animal welfare. Without proper oversight, rehoming efforts remain insufficient and poorly managed, leaving many retired greyhounds homeless and at risk of euthanasia or neglect.

Rehoming rules and statistics

The figures reported by Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) are grossly misleading. The Brittan [communiqué](#) has only reinforced existing doubts about GRNSW's corrupt behaviour. The industry touts rehoming successes, but this is a smokescreen hiding the grim reality. The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) received 56 reports of non-compliance with rehoming policies, but the outcomes remain undisclosed.

Despite the RSPCA condemning the practice, Queensland's new rehoming rules allow industry participants to discard ex-racers to third parties not bound by racing rules, creating a massive loophole. Moreover, Queensland has rightly earned its reputation as the 'killing state,' having sent almost 1,000 greyhounds to labs for experimentation and death over the past five years.

The Tasmania dog racing industry's new regressive desexing approach involves costs for owners, likely hindering rehoming efforts. Victoria's rule change of abandoning mandatory rehoming attempts through GAP, has resulted in an oversupply of surrendered greyhounds, inundating rescue groups and leaving many dogs in limbo. The *Greyhound Recorder* exposed a 12-month waitlist at GAP VIC - which recent communications suggest may now extend up to two years.

Nationally, breeding rates consistently outstrip rehoming efforts, with the racing industry rehoming a small fraction of the dogs it breeds. FY2023 saw 10,178 pups whelped and only 2,636 greyhounds rehomed nationwide by GAPs (see Fig. 1), so the industry rehomes only about one in every four dogs it breeds annually.

Adoptions via community-based volunteer groups struggle to keep up with the constant oversupply of dogs. Economic conditions, housing restrictions and a saturated pet ownership market in Australia exacerbate the crisis. Still, community groups rehomed more greyhounds than GAPs in FY2023, with

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2,741 dogs getting a second chance at life (see Fig. 2 and Appendix 3: Table 1).

Euthanasia and welfare

Euthanasia practices remain barbaric. NSW's Zero Unnecessary Euthanasia policy is a hollow promise, allowing euthanasia for behavioural reasons. Reports indicate that one in five greyhounds dies before five and a half

Crikey.

News / Gambling

\$20,000 a dog: dodgy greyhound industry rehoming can't keep up with overbreeding

Designed to rehabilitate the greyhound racing industry, rehoming programs are struggling in the face of a rise in overbreeding by the poorly regulated sector.

BERNARD KEANE NOV 24, 2023

Share



A GREYHOUND AT A GREYHOUNDS AS PETS ADOPTION EVENT IN SYDNEY (IMAGE: AAP/FLAVIO BRANCALEONE)

years old, with dubious causes masking the disposal of unwanted dogs.

The SA inquiry into greyhound racing revealed Greyhound Racing SA's (GRSA's) inability to report accurate euthanasia rates for non-GAP greyhounds, highlighting a gross lack of accountability. While the inquiry called for urgent breeding controls and transparent reporting to prevent further deaths, secret recordings tabled in the SA Parliament revealed dog racing industry discussions about

increasing breeding rates so as to thwart phasing out the industry.

North American rehoming

GRNSW's rehoming program to the USA and Canada, initiated in 2022, is a disgrace. Media revelations about greyhounds dying in transit and the warehousing of Australian ex-racers in North American kennels confirmed CPG's worst fears. Victoria's similar program in 2023 only amplifies concerns about substandard welfare standards overseas, with no independent verification done. New evidence suggests that US rehoming groups receiving Victorian greyhounds are overwhelmed and urgently seeking more foster and adoptive homes.

Financial investments and effectiveness

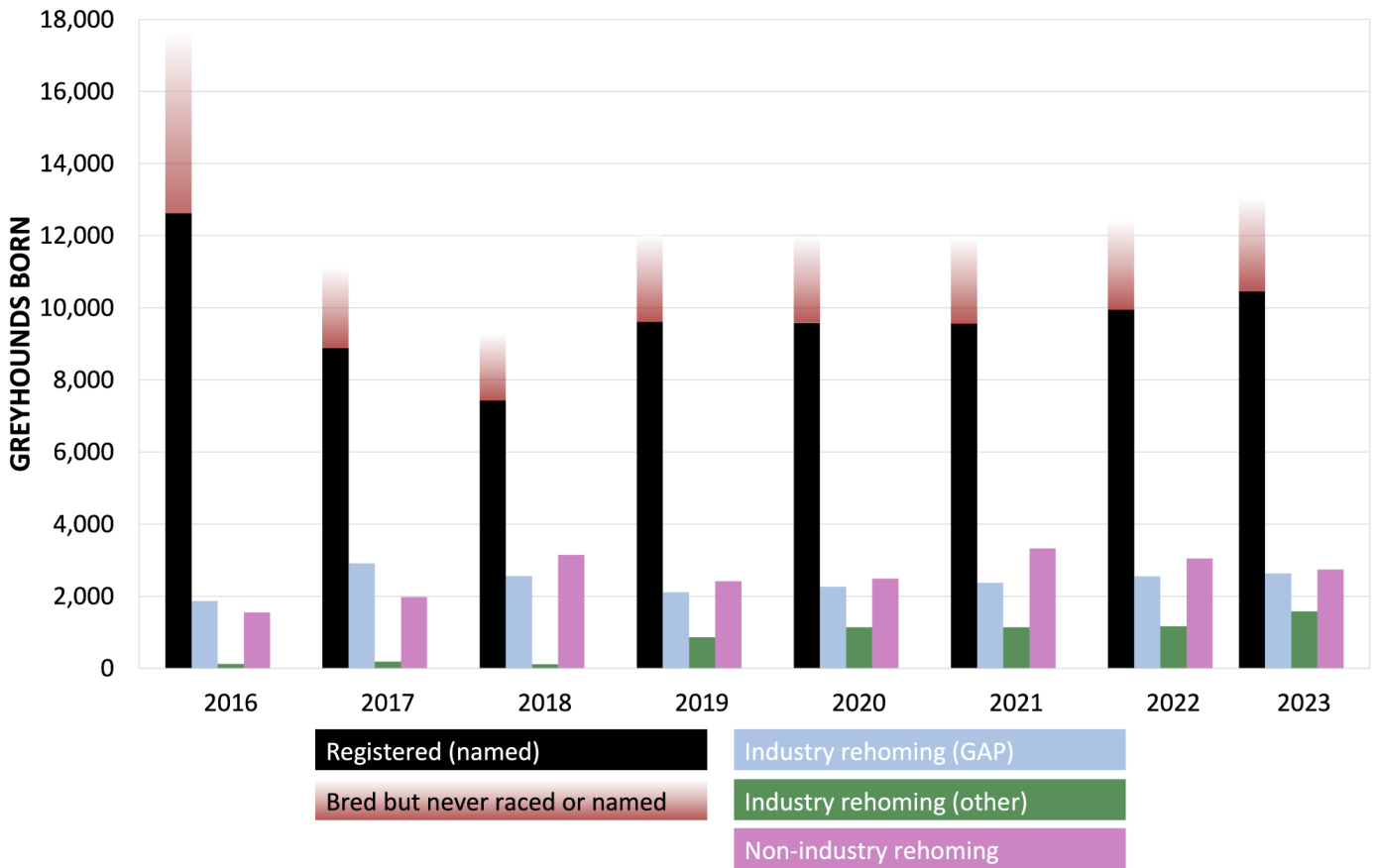
Despite enormous financial investments, with NSW's GAP program hitting \$11.1M and Victoria at \$8.2M, the results are dismal. Community groups rehome as many dogs on a shoestring budget, exposing the inefficiency of the racing industry. Victoria's skewed focus on North American placements over local rehoming efforts is particularly egregious.

Conclusion

The greyhound racing industry remains mired in welfare issues, regulatory failure and deceitful practices. The SA inquiry and NSW developments highlight the urgent need for comprehensive reforms, stringent policy enforcement and transparent reporting to safeguard greyhound welfare.

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Figure 1: Breeding vs Rehoming



Data notes

Note 1: Please see Appendix 3: Table 2 from p. 33 onwards in this publication for rehoming data per state.

Note 2: Victorian and WA data are not audited by an independent regulator as occurs in Queensland, Tasmania and NSW. SA data is unreliable and RSPCA SA has slammed Greyhound Racing SA for its lack of data transparency. The NT publishes no data on greyhound rehoming.

Note 3: In previous years, this graph has contained un-named dogs estimated at 40% (McHugh inquiry estimate), but this is no longer a useful guide as so much change has taken place. Only NSW releases data on unnamed dogs, but even this is self-reported by racing industry participants, so we've indicated above that the number of un-named dogs is

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unclear.

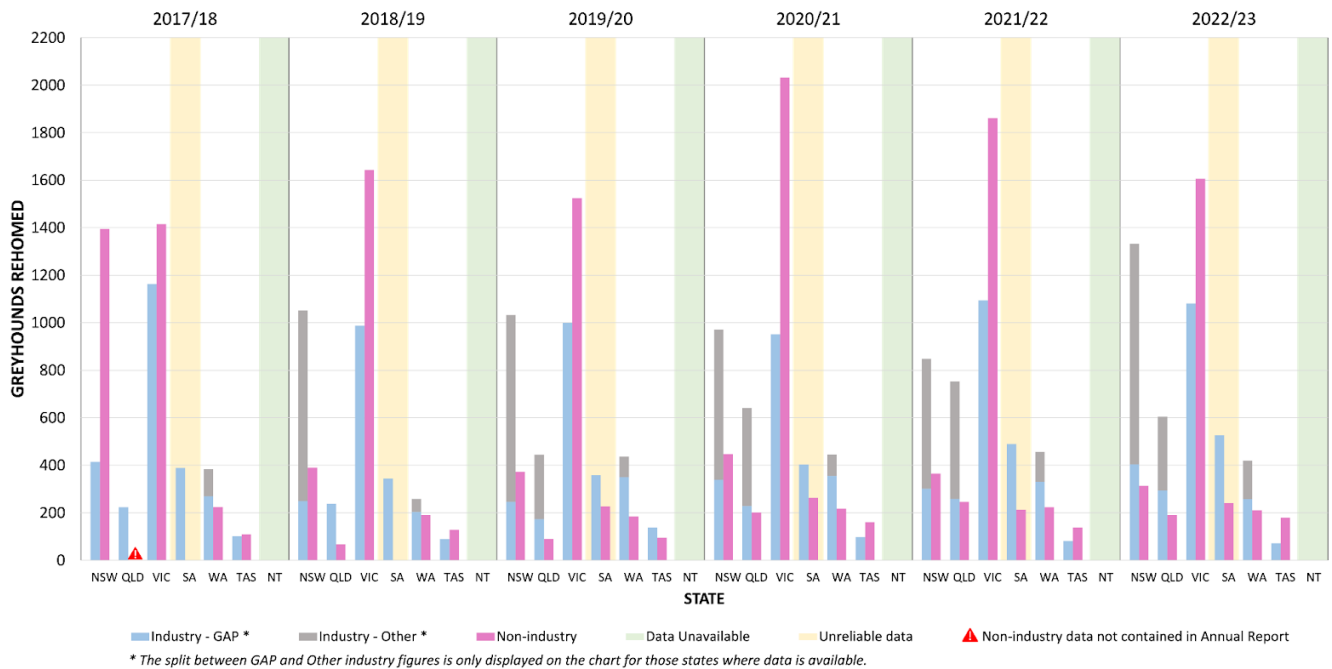


Figure 2: Industry vs Community Rehoming

CPG analysis – overview by state

VICTORIA

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) serves as both the promoter and regulator of greyhound racing in Victoria. This is because the State Labor Government has always supported racing industry self-regulation, while it hands over [tens of millions](#) of tax-payer dollars per year to prop it up. *The Racing Act 1958* was amended in August 2019 to introduce the Victoria Racing Tribunal (VRT) and the Victorian Racing Integrity Board (VRIB).

Victoria has a Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP VIC), which is overseen

and financially supported by Greyhound Racing Victoria. GRV allocated an additional \$1.8M to its greyhound welfare programs in 2022-23, bringing the total expenditure in this area to \$8.2M for the year.² This included funding for the Desexing & Dental Scheme, the Greyhound Recovery Initiative, and GAP VIC.³

In May 2022, a significant change was made to the [rehoming rules](#) for greyhounds in Victoria, impacting how owners and trainers handle retired racing dogs. Previously, owners and trainers were required to attempt rehoming their dogs through GAP before considering euthanasia. This gave community rescue groups time to find homes for dogs on



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their waiting lists, as dogs had to be assessed by GAP before any other action could be taken. However, the rule change removed these requirements. Owners and trainers are no longer obligated to get their dogs assessed by GAP or try rehoming with a rescue group.

Now, they can discard their dogs to a pound, as long as it is outside their municipality, or legally euthanise them after submitting a notice of intention to GRV. According to rescue groups, this shift has led to an oversupply of surrendered greyhounds, overwhelming community groups who are struggling to manage the influx of dogs needing homes.⁴

Meanwhile, GRV uses an unverified tracking system which doesn't monitor greyhounds once they are retired from racing. Consequently, GRV's rehoming claims must be approached with caution. GRV claims it rehomed 2,688 greyhounds in the 2023 financial year. Adoptions through GAP VIC totalled 1,082, a decline from the previous year and only slightly above the six-year average. Despite fluctuations, the trend remains stagnant, showing no sustained increase over time.⁵

[The Greyhound Recorder](#) exposed the long 12-month waiting period at GAP VIC, revealing the inefficiencies plaguing the Victorian racing industry's greyhound rehoming efforts. More recently, communications between greyhound owners and rescue groups suggest that GAP is now advising owners the waitlist

⁴ Information provided by Gumtree Greys, Melbourne's oldest greyhound rescue group.

⁵ GRV Report 2023, p. 12.

has extended to two years.⁶ As a result, Victorian trainers have started to host their own rehoming events, highlighting the shortcomings of the official rehoming system.

There were 1,606 community adoptions, encompassing participants retaining their greyhounds as pets, unvetted third-party adoptions, and placements through volunteer rehoming groups. However, as is typical of its ongoing lack of data transparency, GRV does not specify the exact breakdown, indicating only that the first two categories constitute the bulk of the total.⁷

GRV also lacks transparency regarding euthanasia for behavioural reasons or failure to rehome. It reported a total of 382 euthanasias⁸ (including 40 at race meetings⁹). The increase of ten euthanasias from the previous year is attributed by GRV to growth in the greyhound population and serious injuries,¹⁰ but as usual no evidence is available.

In the 23FY, Victoria saw 4,000 pups whelped, the lowest count in four years. However, with rising numbers in the 2021 and 2022 financial years, there has been only a minimal reduction in long-term

⁶ Gumtree Greys correspondence.

⁷ GRV Report 2023, p. 12.

⁸ GRV Report 2023, p. 13.

⁹ GRV Report 2023, p. 15.

¹⁰ GRV Report 2023, p. 13.



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figures. Breeding rates are about four times higher than current rehoming numbers for GAP VIC.¹¹

A new Victorian digital tracking platform was slated for launch in July 2024, but its effectiveness remains to be seen. The Victorian Government is making claims that the system will track dogs for 'whole of life'. This is highly unlikely unless the system has the capacity to capture post-retirement outcomes, such as euthanasia, as it would require veterinarians to report such events - a huge undertaking.

New evidence challenges overseas placement claims

GRV, like NSW, has initiated greyhound rehoming ventures in the US and Canada, but uses the group Racing2Rehome to do so (see Appendix 1 for a joint statement from GRV and Racing2Rehome regarding the program).

While [Racing2Rehome](#) publicly asserts that greyhounds sent to the United States have foster homes already lined up, evidence from organisations like Royal Hounds Greyhound Adoption Group and Greyhound Pets Inc., which actually handle the adoptions, tells a different story. These groups are frequently seen on [social media](#) pleading for foster carers and adopters due to being overwhelmed with dogs. Moreover, foster homes and adopters are sought in order to [fill flights](#) from Australia with greyhounds, likely as a means to cut costs. Additionally, questions arise about the

cost-effectiveness of GRV sending 169 greyhounds¹² overseas in the 2023FY at a cost of \$505,000.



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Adoption Fee Waived THIS SATURDAY
(but wait, there is a catch)

WINTER WARMERS ADOPTION CAMPAIGN

Saturday 20th July
10am - 2pm
444 Melrose Drive, Tullamarine

- * Turn up wearing your pjs and we will WAIVE THE ADOPTION FEE and give you a block of chocolate!
- * Around 25 beautiful greyhounds available for adoption.
- * No appointment needed.
- * Every greyhound adopted comes with their own pair of adorable long johns.
- * Call 57990166 if you have a favourite greyhound you wish to reserve!

(sorry, no cat tolerant greyhounds available at the moment)



(GAP Victoria is still too lazy to do any home checks before handing over a dog, despite a multi-million dollar budget)

NEW SOUTH WALES

In New South Wales, the organisations responsible for commercial operations and regulation are separate entities. The Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) oversees regulation. Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) handles the industry's commercial aspects,

¹¹ GRV Report 2023, p. 11.

¹² GRV - email message to CPG, Sept. 17, 2024.

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including club registration and racecourse safety standards.

GRNSW also manages the Greyhounds as Pets program (GAP NSW). Investment in GAP NSW surged by 55 per cent year-on-year, totalling \$11.1M in FY22-23.¹³ This marks an increase of nearly \$4M compared to the previous financial year, but it's mostly spent on PR spin, rather rehoming dogs.

GWIC operates an e-tracking system (eTrac) that is often misleadingly referred to as 'whole of life' tracking. The system tracks greyhounds owned by industry participants but does not monitor those dogs rehomed privately by racing owners, sent interstate, or dumped at pounds. These are significant loopholes in oversight and accountability.

In the 2023 financial year, 1,646 greyhounds are recorded as retiring to pet life in NSW. This figure comprises 557 dogs (34 per cent) kept as pets or for breeding by their owners, 371 at-risk dogs (22 per cent) retired to unvetted third parties by racing participants, and 404 dogs (24 per cent) received by GAP NSW. While this is an improvement for GAP NSW, there is a continued reliance on external organisations, with community rehoming groups taking in 314 dogs (19 per cent).¹⁴

The tally omits seven greyhounds retired interstate, essentially falling off the radar. Disturbingly, one dog met its demise in a

veterinary research facility.¹⁵ Additionally, 19 greyhounds were put down in FY23 due to behavioural issues, and three GAP program greyhounds were euthanised for failure to secure rehoming.¹⁶ In FY23, GWIC received 56 reports of alleged non-compliance with its rehoming policy,¹⁷ but provides no data on how many of these resulted in penalties.

In the 23FY, GRNSW established partnerships with the Police Association of NSW (PANSW) and the Australian Federal Police Association (AFPA), facilitating greyhound adoptions for their members as companions. However, specific adoption figures for the financial year have not been disclosed.

GRNSW's 2022-23 annual report touts 2,202 'GRNSW-assisted' rehomes for the financial year. However, this misleading number comprises the 404 adoptions facilitated by GAP plus 1,798 dogs supported through GAP NSW's Homing Assistance Scheme, which covers expenses such as de-sexing and dental care. Even taking this number at face value, it significantly lags behind the current breeding rates, with 3,756 pups whelped in NSW during the 23FY.

On a more positive note, starting May 1, 2023, GWIC implemented its '[Zero Unnecessary Euthanasia](#)' industry rehoming policy, featuring the following key changes:

- "Greyhounds can no longer be

¹³ [Greyhound Racing NSW 2022-2023 Annual Report](#), p. 95.

¹⁴ [Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission \(GWIC\) 2022/23 Annual Report](#), p. 30.

¹⁵ GWIC Report 2023, p. 30.

¹⁶ GWIC Report 2023, p. 31.

¹⁷ GWIC Report 2023, p. 19.



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retired or surrendered to a NSW or interstate facility that conducts animal research, animal plasma or blood collection.

- Greyhounds can only be rehomed to Council pounds with prior approval of the Commission.
- The making of two genuine attempts to rehome and notifying GWIC of the intent to euthanise is NO longer permitted.
- A greyhound can be humanely euthanised by a veterinarian if it has bitten a person (with medical evidence) or if it has failed a temperament assessment undertaken by a veterinary practitioner or other person approved by GRNSW.”

CPG welcomes the initial strides made by GWIC, however, there are big questions about how the regulator will be able to stop greyhounds being given to research facilities. These are not places known for data transparency, so it's unclear how GWIC will gather the relevant intelligence needed.

Meanwhile, CPG staunchly opposes the euthanasia of greyhounds for behavioural reasons, advocating instead for the rehabilitation measures used by community-run greyhound rescue groups. CPG also urges GAP NSW to emulate Queensland's initiative by appointing a behavioural management specialist for its greyhound rehoming.

The Brittan exposé

[Recent reports](#) have surfaced that greyhounds in NSW are being raced at unsustainable levels, resulting in high stress, injury, and deaths on race tracks.¹⁸

Former chief vet, Alex Brittan, alleged in his explosive [communiqué](#) of almost 200 pages that from 2022, GRNSW tried to increase the number of dogs raced by paying trainers an allowance of \$60 for every dog they brought to a race. This policy has allegedly boosted injury rates as trainers race slower greyhounds as often as possible, even when they had no chance of winning. Additionally, vets typically spend only 30 seconds checking each dog's medical fitness to race, and greyhounds are sometimes left ignored in trackside cages, causing stress and self-injury. These issues have huge knock-on effects on rehoming, with two-thirds of greyhounds entering GRNSW's rehoming program requiring significant medication or rehabilitation due to psychological damage.¹⁹

Brittan also said that after retiring, half of NSW's racing dogs each year are not rehomed, leaving 8,000 to 13,000 greyhounds in limbo, some of which shuttled to paid commercial kennels. For chief vet, Alex Brittan, alleged GRNSW inflates rehoming figures by including dogs whose owners receive payments to prepare them for potential future

¹⁸ ['NSW's greyhound racing industry faces fresh claims of animal abuse. A vet's report makes these five allegations'](#), The Guardian, July 13, 2024.

¹⁹ NSW allegations, The Guardian.

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rehoming. The backlog of waiting dogs will likely never be rehomed and will die within industrial facilities.²⁰

These numbers are supported by the industry regulator GWIC which stated in 2022, that there were around 4700 greyhounds who needed homes and 1300 homes available for them and that shortfall was increasing at around 30% per year.²¹

NSW's greyhound racing industry faces fresh claims of animal abuse. A vet's report makes these five allegations

Report tabled in NSW parliament contains allegations of animal abuse, under-reporting of deaths and failures in rehoming

The Guardian



Brittan further alleged that one in five greyhounds in the industry dies before the age of five and a half, which is significantly more than the norm. Deaths are often attributed to vague causes, creating a loophole for discarding unwanted dogs. There are allegations of local shooters

²⁰ NSW allegations, The Guardian.

²¹ See [A GAPing Hole Report](#), FY 2021-2022, Figure 8, p.17.

being asked to kill unwanted dogs and vets known to facilitate high numbers of euthanasia.

Moreover, he alleges GWIC has underreported the number of dog deaths, with participants not reporting deaths as required. Furthermore, greyhound bodies and remains have been allegedly found in freezers and a fire pit at a vet's premises, with these deaths unreported. Thousands of young unregistered greyhounds and older greyhounds not yet raced are at the greatest risk of dying without their deaths being reported.²²

Dr. Brittan ultimately alleged that nothing has changed since the industry was briefly shut down in 2016 over animal abuse. Twice as many greyhounds die than are rehomed over the past four years to June 2023. GRNSW and GWIC are accused by Brittan of misrepresenting, underreporting, and obfuscating the facts about animal welfare.²³

Serious concerns have been also raised by staff after GRNSW shut down the [Wyee adoption centre](#) in 2024 amid budget cuts due to decreased gambling revenue. Staff allege the move, aimed at repurposing the facility for rehoming dogs to the US, compromises animal welfare, with unsuitable dogs being earmarked for export. Former employees claim executives viewed dogs as commodities and prioritised cost-cutting over welfare.

Adding to these issues, GRNSW has been paying trainers to house greyhounds that

²² NSW allegations, The Guardian.

²³ NSW allegations, The Guardian.

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GAP cannot accommodate²⁴, raising questions about oversight. GWIC lacks jurisdiction once greyhounds enter GAP NSW, making welfare monitoring challenging, i.e., if an infraction was found upon inspection, it's unlikely the regulator could take any action. Finally, in July 2024, NSW Racing Minister David Harris issued a [show cause notice](#) to the GRNSW board for allegedly breaching its licence by failing to disclose issues that tarnish the industry's reputation. Days later, the NSW Government announced an [independent inquiry](#) into GRNSW, including its animal welfare and rehoming practices. The GRNSW board survived, but the CEO did not.

²⁴ GWIC - email message to Animal Liberation, Sept. 16, 2024.

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USA rehoming

Recent revelations by the Australian media about GAP Wyee and NSW's US rehoming program have proved how correct CPG was in **expressing its concerns** regarding GRNSW's lack of transparency.

The Guardian article reveals that unsuitable dogs are being sent to the US -

"A current GAP employee... said executives insisted on sending dogs to the US that 'weren't suitable,' including those that had higher grade heart murmurs or pannus, a type of eye disease."

Conflicting reports have surfaced about the number of dogs that died in transit. GRNSW chief executive Rob Macaulay claimed "only one dog had died," while former GAP employee Sarah Stratford disputed this, alleging "three dogs had died."

It has further emerged that the USA rehoming program is warehousing greyhounds -

"A former GAP employee said: "We'd follow up with the rescues in America ... and many of them would still be awaiting adoption and in kennels. And that would be months.""

Subsequently, GWIC announced an **investigation** and Qantas halted the export of NSW greyhounds to the USA.

Despite this, the controversial scheme sending retired racing greyhounds to the US has **recommended** with another airline, even after two more dogs died in transit.

GRNSW's rehoming figures have been supplemented with the introduction in the 2023FY year of collaboration with North American adopters, such as Greyhound Pets of America (GPA) and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).²⁵ In the 2023 financial year, 136 greyhounds were exported by GAP NSW to the US and 24 to Canada.²⁶ However, it's vital to remember that there is no independent verification of these rehoming.

Meanwhile, in our FY2022 rehoming report, CPG posed questions that Greyhound Racing

²⁵ GRNSW Report 2023, p. 8-9.

²⁶ GWIC Report 2023, p. 32.



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NSW (GRNSW) should be answering about its rehoming practices. GRNSW, as always, fails to be transparent, despite getting [millions in taxpayer dollars](#) and thus having a duty to the public to be open and honest. Instead, information was provided to CPG by the NSW regulator GWIC (Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission) via email in 2024 (see Appendix 2).

Questions for GRNSW still remain

While CPG appreciates the efforts by GWIC to provide information on exported greyhounds, we have deep concerns about the welfare standards, transparency and accountability of these rehoming practices. They include the following.

1. **Welfare of exported greyhounds** - The comments by ex-GAP NSW employees in the Guardian Australia article (see above) make it clear that GRNSW is not providing accurate data to GWIC. Consequently, clarity is urgently needed on how many greyhounds are successfully rehomed in the US and how many are warehoused in kennels waiting for homes (and how long they spend there waiting). GRNSW and/or GWIC should provide transparent reporting on these matters to ensure the well-being of these dogs.
2. **Deaths in transit** - GRNSW reported that only one greyhound died during transit to the US, while an ex-GAP NSW employee claimed that three dogs had perished. Since then, two more dogs have [reportedly](#) died, raising further concerns about the accuracy of GRNSW's reporting and the safety of these transport arrangements. GRNSW should provide a transparent and detailed account of the deaths, including how many greyhounds have died in total and what steps are being taken to prevent further incidents.
3. **Reason for exporting companion animals** - It's puzzling why Australia, which has a reported [shortage of assistance dogs](#), would export greyhounds to the US for this purpose. Before sending dogs abroad, we should first address the demand locally and ensure that every effort is made to rehome these dogs within Australia. The truth is that the training GRNSW has provided ex-racers is underpar. As a result, its mascot for the program, Austin, [failed as a PTSD dog](#).
4. **Transparency in eTrac** - While eTrac records greyhounds as retired to GAP before export, it doesn't track their journey post-retirement. Given that these dogs are sent abroad, it's crucial for public trust and accountability that their whereabouts and well-being are traceable throughout their lives, not just until they leave for the US. The revelations by ex-GAP NSW employees make it clear that GRNSW's publicity and the information it provides to GWIC are unreliable.
5. **Training for PTSD companion roles** - The community has a right to know how well NSW ex-racing dogs are being prepared to serve as PTSD companion animals.

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This normally [takes two years](#), yet GRNSW claims its ex-racing dogs are well prepared for this support work with only a few weeks of training. Given this, there should be transparency regarding the training programs, the success rates, and what happens to dogs who fail training. Data should be made available by GRNSW to ensure accountability and provide insights into the effectiveness of these programs.

6. **Rehoming failures** - Are rehoming failures overseas reported to GRNSW and GWIC? How are these dogs re-integrated into the system, and what measures are in place to ensure their well-being?
7. **Cost implications** - Due to GRNSW's recent [cost-cutting measures](#), it's likely that the welfare of greyhounds will be compromised. While GRNSW claims this won't be the case, its poor past record for failing to be honest is self evident.
8. **Contractual agreements** - While contractual agreements with US rehoming counterparts sound promising, their effectiveness in ensuring the return and rehoming of greyhounds remains uncertain. These agreements need to be transparent, legally binding and monitored by GWIC to ensure they are enforced.

QUEENSLAND

In Queensland, Racing Queensland (RQ) functions as the commercial operator for greyhound racing, under the Office of Racing. The state government operates a Greyhounds as Pets (GAP Qld) program, facilitated and funded by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC), a government entity.

This situation means that the costs for rehoming retired greyhounds in Queensland fall on taxpayers, rather than the industry taking financial responsibility for rehoming efforts. QRIC's annual report does not disclose the total cost of funding GAP for FY2023. However, a figure published following a [question on notice](#) asked on 14 June 2024 indicated that Queensland taxpayers are being heavily burdened with these costs, with the total

amounting to just under \$2.3M.

Queensland implemented a tracking system in 2020, which claims to offer "holistic greyhound life-cycle tracking." However, the system only monitors greyhounds from birth to de-registration from racing, with QRIC relying on self-reported owner data.

Furthermore, the new Queensland [rehoming rules](#) introduced in 2024 condone third-party rehoming, presenting it as the primary option. This creates a significant loophole, whereby racing dog owners can transfer greyhounds to third parties, leaving those dogs vulnerable to abandonment or euthanasia without accountability. This is why the RSPCA [doesn't recommend](#) third party rehoming.

The rules also allow euthanasia for behavioural reasons, QRIC's complete lack

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of reporting on its enforcement of socialisation rules which could help prevent such outcomes. Additionally, the new rules permit dogs to be surrendered to universities and other facilities for experiments, provided their main function is rehoming, further weakening protections for greyhounds.

According to QRIC, Queensland saw 1096 greyhound retirements in the 2022-2023 financial year. Among these, 235 were retained by owners or trainers as pets, while 44 were kept for breeding.²⁷

Serious concerns arise with 209 at-risk dogs reportedly rehomed to third parties during the 23FY,²⁸ with their fates unknown after being transferred out of the industry.

A further 123 dogs were 'surrendered to other agencies',²⁹ typically indicating their use in medical lab experiments. Following CPG's outreach about the University of Queensland's poor rehoming rate for ex-racing greyhounds used for experiments, UQ has paused accepting these dogs while it reviews the program and considers community submissions. However, CPG's concerns remain until a final decision has been made.³⁰

CPG now refers to Queensland as the 'killing state' as it has allowed more than 900 greyhounds over the last five years to be sent to a grisly end. This happens because these dogs are sent to universities and labs where they are experimented upon, dissected and bled out.

Another alarming aspect of the data is the euthanasia of 150 retired greyhounds deemed unsuitable for rehoming. Additionally, of the 294 greyhounds entering GAP Qld in FY23, 35 were euthanised for health or behavioural reasons.³¹ CPG notes GAP Qld's new stance on euthanising greyhounds for prey drive, with the introduction of a behaviour management specialist in July 2023.³² CPG's expectation is a significant reduction in euthanising retired greyhounds for behavioural reasons in next year's data.

In the 2023 financial year, GAP Qld rehomed 299 dogs, the highest since 2017. This increase is attributed by QRIC to a new adoption base in Brisbane, providing easier access for adopters near the city.³³ However, with 1,176 pups whelped in the 23FY, there remains an enormous gap in rehoming capacity

²⁷ [QRIC Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement Quarterly Reports FY22-23](#).

²⁸ QRIC Quarterly Reports FY23.

²⁹ QRIC Quarterly Reports FY23.

³⁰ University of Queensland - email message to CPG, Oct. 14, 2024.

³¹ QRIC Quarterly Reports FY23.

³² [Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement Quarterly Report \(Q4\) April – June 2023](#), p. 6.

³³ [Queensland Racing Integrity Commission Annual Report 2022-2023](#), p. 5.



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compared to current breeding rates.³⁴

Meanwhile, community rehoming groups took in 190 former racing dogs in the financial year, underscoring the heavy reliance on community rescuers to find new homes for retired greyhounds in Queensland.



(Left to Right) Greyhounds Cindy, tripod Mac and Saffie

TASMANIA

The Office of Racing Integrity (ORI), under the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas), oversees the integrity of all three racing codes in Tasmania. After a long period of under par performance, the Tasmanian Government abolished ORI in January 2024.

Tasracing, a separate, state-owned company under NRE Tas, manages the commercial aspects of greyhound racing. Funded by taxpayers and generating revenue by way of fees from betting

³⁴ QRIC Quarterly Reports FY23.

companies, Tasracing also operates the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP Tas). CPG's view is that The Tasmanian Government can abolish its racing regulator, but unless it removes inspection and anti-doping responsibilities from Tasracing, animals will continue to suffer - see CPG's Tasmanian regulatory report for greater detail.

Tasmania does not have whole-of-life tracking, with the fate of many greyhounds unknown. In the 22/23 financial year, Tasracing reported 304 greyhound retirements, with 82.6% (251) rehomed by the industry and community—an improvement from the previous year when 219 (71.8 per cent) of 305 retirees found new homes. Of those not rehomed in FY23, 17 (5.6 per cent) were euthanised, and 23 (7.6 per cent) died from other causes—also improvements from the previous financial year.³⁵

For its part, GAP Tas performed poorly. The 23FY year marks the third consecutive decline in their numbers, with only 72 dogs rehomed in FY23—the lowest since the 14/15 financial year.³⁶ With 210 pups whelped in the 22/23 financial year,³⁷ GAP Tas' current rehoming rate falls substantially short of breeding rates, prompting concerns about the program's sustainability and the need for reforms.

More comprehensive data on retirement should include greyhounds retired to

³⁵ [Tasracing Annual Report 2022/23](#), p. 17.

³⁶ Tasracing Report 2023, p. 15.

³⁷ Tasracing Report 2023, p. 17.

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programs other than the industry's GAP.³⁸ CPG's report on the current state of greyhound racing regulation in Tasmania said:

"... the evident lack of publicly available reports into welfare-related incidents put greyhounds in Tasmania at unacceptable risk of harm and mistreatment. This can subsequently jeopardise their rehoming potential at the end of their time in racing due to behavioural issues and potential lifelong injuries. More transparency regarding the number of inspections is essential to demonstrate to the public that welfare is taken seriously. The lack of regularly updated information on breeders, trainers and owners means it is essentially impossible to ensure there is sufficient welfare oversight within the industry. Accurate and transparent records of this information are critical to ensuring greyhound welfare."³⁹

A damning [article](#) published in the Hobart Mercury on July 3, 2024, paints a horrifying picture of the conditions at GAP Tasmania. The report, written by a former GAP employee, details squalid, rodent-infested facilities, emaciated dogs, and a complete lack of care or concern from trainers who abandoned the animals. The former employee described the

experience as more akin to a "horror movie" than a rehoming program, highlighting the severe neglect and abuse greyhounds suffer under the current system. This shocking account underscores the urgent need for independent oversight and comprehensive reform within Tasmania's greyhound industry.

There are positive aspects of GAP Tas' efforts. The organisation did not euthanise any dogs for failed assessment on behavioural grounds for the second consecutive year, and there were no returns to racing owners for failed behavioural assessments for the third consecutive year. However, one dog was euthanised for medical reasons, and one died for unspecified reasons.⁴⁰

Despite GAP Tas' success in reducing euthanasia numbers to zero in recent years, a [leaked Tasracing document](#) raises an alarm about the potential consideration of increased euthanasia as a matter of policy within the program. CPG opposes such considerations and urges Tasracing to take measures to prevent rising euthanasia rates.



Read [here](#) about poor Zipping Princess who was given away via Gumtree in bad condition - Image credit: Animal Liberation Tasmania

³⁸ See recommendation 12 - [Current state of greyhound racing regulation: Tasmania](#), p. 27.

³⁹ Greyhound Racing Regulation: Tasmania, p. 29.

⁴⁰ Tasracing Report 2023, op. cit.

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The balance of 179 greyhounds rehomed in the 23FY is credited to community efforts—the highest number rehomed by the community since data collection began in the 16/17 financial year. Consistent with previous years, community efforts continue to be responsible for rehoming the majority of greyhounds in the state.

Finally, CPG notes the launch of Tasracing’s Greyhound Retirement Preparation Scheme (GRPS) on January 15, 2024. Replacing the previous Greyhound Desexing Scheme, where Tasracing directly covered vet bills for mandatory desexing (244 cases in FY23), the updated approach requires greyhound owners to fund desexing and apply to Tasracing for a rebate. Requiring industry participants to pay upfront may result in fewer dogs being desexed, so CPG plans to review the impact of this new scheme next year.



(AWLQ Foster Carer Ann Jeffery with Greyhounds Bouncer & Chelsea (L to R))

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWWA) is allowed to self-regulate by the State Government. The management of Greyhounds as Pets WA (GAP WA) also falls under the purview of RWWA. The budget RWWA allocates for GAP WA is not directly reported.

According to RWWA, the total number of greyhounds retired in the state saw a decrease from 721 in the previous financial year to 645. This reduction may be partly explained by a large increase in the number of greyhounds who either died or were euthanised before entering retirement, reaching 111 compared to 87 in the previous fiscal year. These figures each include two dogs euthanised due to being deemed unsuitable for rehoming⁴¹

There has also been a notable shift from third-party retirements (decreasing from 115 in FY22 to 79 in FY23) to greyhounds being retained by their owners as pets (increasing from seven in FY22 to 40 in FY23). Another 41 dogs were retired for breeding, consistent with the previous fiscal year.⁴²

GAP rehoming has witnessed a downward trend for the second consecutive year, experiencing a significant decline from 337 in FY22 to 258 in FY23. These figures include adoptions of dogs that underwent the Greyhound Injury Full Recovery Scheme (GIFRS). Additionally, three greyhounds in the GAP program and two in GIFRS were euthanised or deceased

⁴¹ [RWWA Annual Report 2023](#), p. 52.

⁴² RWWA Report 2023, p. 52.

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during this period.⁴³ Meanwhile, 520 pups were whelped in the state, indicating that GAP is a long way from being able to respond to WA's current breeding rate.⁴⁴

Concerns persist about the well-being of greyhounds recovering in kennel environments rather than homes. Notably, 59 entered the GIFRS program, with only 22 eventually finding adoptive homes.⁴⁵ Consequently, dogs are being warehoused by RWWA's GAP because it can't find sufficient homes for discarded greyhounds. Furthermore, GAP WA does not conduct home checks for the dogs it does adopt out, raising concerns about whether the dogs will be placed in safe, suitable environments.⁴⁶



(Ex-racing Greyhound Tiny (14) rescued 10 years ago and loving her time at the beach. Died at 14.5 years of age.

Tragically, from 1 February 2024, the GIFRS will no longer accept ownership of

⁴³ RWWA Report 2023, p. 52.

⁴⁴ [RWWA Racing Industry Status Report 2022-2023](#), p. 40.

⁴⁵ RWWA Status Report 2023, p. 40

⁴⁶ Advice received from WA's Free the Hounds.

greyhounds injured on track. This is because RWWA's GAP costs have skyrocketed with many rehabilitated dogs waiting long periods for an adoptive home.

This change has resulted in more than a fivefold increase in WA euthanasia rates due to industry participants being unwilling to keep an injured dog while it heals, as it takes the place of a dog that can earn money - see the TV news item [here](#).



This retrograde step returns WA to the status of all other jurisdictions, i.e., racing industry vets kill injured dogs on track, while private vets kill them off track at the request of industry participants in order to keep the official toll down.

Meanwhile, community rehoming reached 211, nearly matching the number of GAP placements, indicating continued heavy reliance on community volunteers to rehome ex-racers.⁴⁷ This dependence persists even after RWWA established a second GAP site in early 2023.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ RWWA Status Report 2023, p. 40.

⁴⁸ RWWA Status Report 2023, p. 51.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In South Australia (SA), the Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing oversees the racing industry, while Greyhound Racing SA Limited (GRSA) is the industry's controlling body. Effectively, GRSA has been allowed to self-regulate by the SA Government.

GRSA also funds the Greyhounds As Pets (GAP SA) program in the state, directing a total of \$2,659,000 towards the program and associated rehoming initiatives throughout the year.⁴⁹

Currently, SA does not have whole-of-life tracking, and [RSPCA SA has criticized GRSA](#) for its lack of transparency, accusing the industry of secrecy and self-interest. Given the doubt about GRSA's reported figures, it's crucial to approach the statistics with caution, particularly given the vagueness of categories like 'other rehoming,' in GRSA's data. Missing data, such as the total number of greyhounds retired in the state (rather than only those retired to GAP), also hide the full picture.

According to GRSA, the overall number of rehomed greyhounds in FY23 hit a record high at 767, rising from 703 in FY22. GRSA's GAP SA claims a significant role in this, rehoming 526 dogs, up from 489, while other rehoming efforts contributed 241, an increase from 214. One dog was euthanised by GAP because of behaviour/temperament issues, and local

⁴⁹ [GRSA Annual Report 2022-2023](#), p. 15.

breeding decreased to 516 from 752 the previous year and 732 the year before.⁵⁰

Following disturbing revelations of abuse in the South Australian greyhound industry, an inquiry was launched by the SA Government in August 2023. The findings, published on November 30, 2023, reveal the real story behind GRSA's data. This includes a lack of control over breeding, influxes of greyhounds from other states, difficulties finding homes, inadequate investment in GAP, and subpar conditions for greyhounds awaiting adoption.⁵¹

The inquiry also exposed GRSA's inability to accurately assess euthanasia rates for retired greyhounds outside the GAP program. This is due to GRSA's dependence on industry participants providing data by way of notification forms. Additionally, a loophole in rehoming policies allows participants to designate retired greyhounds as personal pets before pursuing euthanasia, circumventing regulations that prohibit euthanasia for reasons other than emergencies proven to be in the best interests of the dog.⁵²

The inquiry's recommendations address the many challenges facing GRSA, emphasising the need for ethical breeding practices, better facilities, caps on interstate-bred greyhounds, increased investment in GAP and enhanced oversight. Transparency and accountability are pivotal, with recommendations to

⁵⁰ GRSA Report 2023, p. 12.

⁵¹ [Independent Inquiry into the Governance of the Greyhound Racing Industry](#), p. 94.

⁵² Governance Inquiry, pp. 94-95.



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establish a tracking system for greyhounds and increase staffing for inspections to ensure the welfare of all racing greyhounds.

Upon releasing the report, Premier Peter Malinauskas issued a stern warning, giving the greyhound racing industry in South Australia a two-year ultimatum to enact substantial reforms. He also appointed an inspector to oversee and guarantee the effective implementation of the recommendations. The premier said failure to meet the specified standards within this timeframe will result in a complete ban on the sport in South Australia.

The Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG) acknowledges the inquiry's efforts and the Premier's remarks, but asserts that the proposed reforms fall short. CPG advocates for immediate decisive action and a clear transition plan to phase out the SA dog racing industry entirely, given the lack of public support for it and the demonstrated inability of the industry to meet welfare standards.

Prior to the State Government's inquiry, CPG's report on SA greyhound racing regulation detailed many failings in the state's self-regulatory approach to the dog racing industry. In particular, after the appalling live baiting case which made headlines around the nation, it was clear that SA's regulatory response was deeply lacking, so CPG recommended:

"That all greyhounds that have been trained at a facility, where the

live baiting is:

- **suspected**, be removed from further racing and provided with behavioural re-training to prepare them for life as pets, and
- **confirmed**, undergo behavioural training to maximise their chances of transitioning to life as a pet."⁵³

Instead for now, greyhounds trained by the use of animal body parts, and greyhounds suspected of having been trained by live baiting, continue to race which demonstrates no concern for their rehoming prospects.

Furthermore, [secret recordings](#) tabled in SA Parliament revealed alarming discussions among industry figures. Breeders discussed intentionally increasing breeding rates to make shutting down the industry due to welfare issues more difficult and costly. This cynical strategy highlights the industry's disregard for animal welfare and underscores the urgent need for genuine reform rather than superficial measures designed to protect the industry's interests.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

The NT Government [says](#) - "The greyhound racing industry, its promoters and regulators are responsible for the welfare of greyhound racing dogs". Consequently, there is no independent regulator of greyhound welfare in the

⁵³See [Current state of greyhound racing regulation: South Australia](#), p. 18.



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Territory. The Northern Territory also has no form of greyhound tracking, leaving gaps in oversight and accountability.

Moreover, while the Northern Territory Racing Commission (NTRC) has a policy on the welfare of racing greyhounds, it does not report on infractions by industry participants, or on greyhound welfare data, despite claiming that its [policy](#) -

- “helps appointed officials assess each individual and property where greyhounds are kept,
- ensures industry participants show their duty of care for greyhounds.”

Instead, the NTRC focuses on making decisions about the conduct of gambling firms operating in the NT. Unlike other jurisdictions, the NT operates without a formal Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) and provides financial support of \$2-3K per dog to community organisations for each greyhound rehomed.

Regrettably, another year has elapsed without tangible progress in the Northern Territory's greyhound racing industry. The absence of a GAP and related rehoming data publication by racing authorities underscore a concerning trend. Despite prior revelations and damning findings in the Darwin Greyhound Association (DGA) Report, pivotal reforms have yet to be implemented.

The NT Minister for Racing [reported](#) in 2022 that 62% of the recommendations from the DGA report had been completed. However, there has been no transparency

or update on further progress since then, leaving the current status of reforms unclear. Worse still, because the DGA is covered by the NT rules for associations, no reporting beyond financial reporting is required.

The DGA's recent attempts at addressing greyhound welfare, particularly in rehoming, are notable for their lack of direct responsibility. While claiming an “enhanced commitment” to greyhound welfare, the association relies on:

- a volunteer group, Greyhound Rehoming Association NT (GRANT), for rehoming assessments and placements,
- the interstate Greyhound Adoption Western Australia (GAWA) for dogs GRANT can't rehome, emphasising the sole reliance on community rehoming groups, and
- PAWS Darwin to undertake the majority of rehoming.

Recently, Senator Mehreen Faruqi released [disturbing details](#) under parliamentary privilege about PAWS.

Ultimately, the NT Government's lack of transparency surrounding its implementation of recommendations listed in the DGA Report leaves stakeholders and the public in the dark. Despite committing to implementing “all recommendations” in the report, including the rehoming scheme, the NT Government's actions fall very short of its promises.



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AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Greyhound racing was banned in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) in April 2018.

The decision to ban greyhound racing in the ACT was influenced by concerns

regarding animal welfare and the treatment of greyhounds within the racing industry.



Redemption Behind Bars: Tarrengower Prison’s unique greyhound program

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 8:00 am

Staff Writer



GRNSW defrays its socialisation costs yet again by finding [yet another prison](#) to help out in 2023. If GRNSW enforced its own racing rules, greyhounds would be socialised properly as puppies.

Going forward – CPG recommendations

For the greyhound racing industry to genuinely prioritise the welfare of its dogs, several actions can significantly enhance their lives post-racing. Likewise, politicians seeking solutions to greyhound welfare issues can consider these practical and easily implementable recommendations.

1. **Implement breeding caps** - State governments should establish breeding limits to curb excessive breeding. The inquiry into the SA greyhound racing industry recommended breeding rates should be based on GAP's ability to rehome dogs, rather than industry demands.
2. **Implement whole-of-life tracking** - Each jurisdiction should establish a comprehensive tracking system that effectively monitors greyhounds from birth to end-of-life. This should address the current gaps where many dogs go off the radar, especially when homed privately or through unvetted third parties.
3. **Strengthen rehoming policies** - Rehoming rules and their enforcement should be strengthened and formalised. Most urgently, Queensland needs to establish an enforceable rehoming policy, and South Australia should transition from its current lightweight statement of intent to a robust rehoming policy.
4. **Ban unethical practices** - Cease providing retired greyhounds to facilities for experimentation, dissection, or terminal blood donation. Each state's racing industry can adopt this policy promptly and penalise those who don't comply. (While NSW has announced a similar policy, its enforcement remains uncertain.)
5. **Redirect funding** - State governments should stop allocating taxpayers' money to the racing industry and instead channel it towards greyhound rehoming. Research shows that Australians oppose public funds supporting dog racing. Betting revenue could be directed towards funding community greyhound rescue groups and non-industry run sanctuaries.
6. **End euthanasia** - GAPs should abandon euthanasia and focus on genuine rehoming efforts. Safety measures should prevent 'rehome-to-euthanise' loopholes, where dogs are euthanised under the guise of rehoming. Additionally, jurisdictions should follow Queensland's lead by employing a behavioural expert to work with unsocialised greyhounds rather than euthanising them.
7. **Enforce socialisation** - Industry and government regulators should enforce socialisation requirements through regular checks during kennel inspections. Non-compliance by industry participants should be penalised, requiring transparent reporting of both monitoring and infractions.

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- 8. **Regular inspections** - All retired greyhounds across Australia should undergo at least annual inspections by relevant authorities to ensure their well-being. Currently, this practice is only observed in NSW.



The body of an emaciated greyhound, with ribs clearly visible. (Supplied SA Parliament)

Greens MP Tammy Franks used parliament to table more than a hundred photos of dogs in poor condition, along with kennels covered in faeces, green stagnant water and rotten food. See the full story [here](#) (image - SA Parliament)

Appendix 1 - US rehoming: email correspondence from GRV

Please see below a joint statement from GRV and Racing 2 Rehome in response to your questions regarding the US rehoming program:

Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) is proud to support the volunteer-run charity Racing 2 Rehome in their committed efforts to find homes for greyhounds. As previously communicated, Racing 2 Rehome welcomes the opportunity to arrange a Zoom meeting to further discuss the program and the thorough care taken when sending greyhounds to partner adoption groups in the US.

The financial and business details of this arrangement are commercially confidential. All US Adoption Groups are carefully vetted before any greyhounds are sent, and these groups are well-established, with strong reputations built over 25 to 30 years of successful greyhound rehoming. Flights are organised in close collaboration with the US groups, and only when they have confirmed their capacity to accommodate the greyhounds. It is worth noting that the wait time for a greyhound to be adopted in the US is significantly shorter compared to Australia. Furthermore, the partner adoption groups in the US operate in the same manner as those in Australia, ensuring a consistent standard of care. Additionally, partner groups that use kennels do not use double-stack kennels.

GRV has audited Racing 2 Rehome's US program, reviewing all aspects of travel logistics and financial reporting. RSCPA Victoria, through representation on GRV's Greyhound Welfare sub-committee and through ongoing dialogue between GRV and RSCPA executives, has been regularly appraised of the US adoption program and the protocols in place to ensure the welfare of the greyhounds. GRV and Racing 2 Rehome are satisfied with the high standards maintained throughout the process. The travel conditions for the greyhounds mirror those of any pet flying internationally, meeting government standards both in Australia and the US. Racing 2 Rehome exclusively uses IPATA-certified Pet Transport companies and does not engage Hanrobs.

Racing 2 Rehome has undergone independent audits of its US program to ensure compliance with all relevant standards. These audits have reviewed all aspects of the program, including logistical arrangements, financial management, and welfare practices. The findings confirm that Racing 2 Rehome adheres to the highest standards of care and professionalism when rehoming greyhounds internationally. The independent verification demonstrates the commitment to maintaining the welfare of the greyhounds throughout the entire process.

Since the program began, a total of 655 Victorian greyhounds have been sent to partner adoption groups in the USA for rehoming.

To clarify, greyhounds are not sedated on flights, as veterinarians advise against sedation. GRV is kept informed of any welfare incidents - which are rare - that occur before, during, or after the flights. Additionally, all greyhounds are independently examined by a government-approved veterinarian before departure to ensure they meet export requirements. Should any medical or behavioural concerns arise at any stage, these dogs are rehomed locally within Australia.

GRV continues to support initiatives that enhance rehoming outcomes for greyhounds, and we are confident that Racing 2 Rehome's US program is a valuable contributor to this effort.

Appendix 2 - US rehoming: email correspondence from GWIC

- Do the GAP numbers include greyhounds that have been exported to the US under the US rehoming program? If not, does GWIC intend to include these as a separate category in future reports?
 - Greyhounds sent to the USA under the USA rehoming program are included in the GWIC Lifecycle report in Table 1 as "Accepted by Greyhounds as Pets".
 - GWIC reports the annual total number of greyhounds sent to the USA under the USA rehoming program in the GWIC Annual Report, as GAP provides this information to GWIC annually.
- Will eTrac show which greyhounds have been sent to the US under the US rehoming program?
 - No. Greyhounds sent to the USA under the USA rehoming program are usually retired to GAP prior to being sent to the USA. eTrac records that they have been retired to GAP. GAP supplies GWIC with lists of greyhounds which have been sent to the USA under the USA rehoming program. GWIC uses this list to ensure all those greyhounds are shown as retired in eTrac.
- Are all greyhounds going to guaranteed homes or are they kennelled until a home can be found?
 - GRNSW has advised the majority of the groups to have their arriving greyhounds homed directly into foster homes, or their forever homes. Some of the groups have small kennel operations which the dogs temporarily go to and then go into their foster homes or straight to their forever homes.
- What is the process for rehoming failures?
 - GRNSW has advised all greyhounds are assessed prior to going to the USA. The assessments include temperament, training and personality assessments. GRNSW provides extensive bios on each greyhound and their overseas partners conduct further observations and assessments to ensure their matching processes are thorough.
 - GRNSW's overseas partners enter contractual agreements with their adopters and if for any reason their families can no longer look after them the contracts ensure that the greyhounds are returned to GRNSW's partner groups of origin for rehoming to another owner that has been assessed and matched with the greyhound.

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Appendix 3 - Tables

Table 1: Australia - National rehoming data - 2022/23

State	GAP	Community rehoming	Third party ⁵⁴	Retained for breeding or as a pet ⁵⁵	Total
VIC	1,082 ⁵⁶	1,606	Not provided	Not provided	2,688
NSW	404 ⁵⁷	314	371	557	1,646
QLD	294 ⁵⁸	190	209	279	972
TAS	72	179	Not provided	Not provided	251
WA	273 ⁵⁹	211	79	82	645
SA	526 ⁶⁰	241	Not provided	Not provided	767
Total	2,651	2,741*	659	918	6,969

Note - The NT Government provides no data and the ACT has banned dog racing. The data in this table has been collated from the following state tables which include footnotes for each data source.

*This includes the 'other' category from SA, which does not provide a more detailed breakdown.

⁵⁴ The RSPCA does not recommend third party rehoming because dogs can end up in fighting rings, can be abandoned and end up in pounds.

⁵⁵ While a small number will enjoy life as a pet, industry codes allow this category of greyhound to be caged for up to 23 out of every 24 hours for the rest of their lives.

⁵⁶ GRV's GAP data is highly suspect because a) it refuses to provide a breakdown of rehoming done by the industry participants and b) greyhounds retained by industry participants. This is because GRV has been allowed to self-regulate by the Victorian Government.

⁵⁷ GWIC reports greyhounds 'accepted by GAP' (not adoptions).

⁵⁸ The 'retired to GAP' figure (rather than adoptions) was used for this table.

⁵⁹ Ditto.

⁶⁰ Greyhound Racing SA's data is highly suspect because a) RSPCA SA has publicly criticised GRSA for its inaccurate welfare data, and, b) it is claiming a rehoming rate via its GAP that is way beyond that achieved by any other GAP, yet GRSA's GAP has a much smaller budget than the big racing states of NSW and Victoria.

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Table 2: GAP vs community-run rehoming - for each jurisdiction

Victoria

Year	Industry rehoming - GAP	Community rehoming	Total
2022/23	1,082	1,606 ⁶¹	2,688
2021/22	1,094	1,862 ⁶²	2,956
2020/21	951	2,032 ⁶³	2,983
2019/20	1,000	1,542 ⁶⁴	2,542
2018/19	987	1,644 ⁶⁵	2,631
2017/18	1,163	1,415 ⁶⁶	2,578
2016/17	1,314 (this number and the one for 2015/16 in the line below were inflated due to documented double-counting) ⁶⁷	1,483 ⁶⁸	2,797
2015/16	798 (not reliable - see line above)	961	1,759 (3,012 were euthanised in this year) ⁶⁹

Note - GRV's data transparency is extremely poor despite the fact that it is a 'non budgeted government entity'. It obtains its funds from the following four main sources:

1. Vic TAB Joint Venture Revenue Racefields Fees
2. Vision Rights Fees
3. Point of Consumption Tax (PoCT)
4. Contributions from the state government's Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF).

In fact, unlike the two other large racing states of NSW and Queensland, GRV has been allowed to self-regulate by the Victorian Government. Because of this, it actively obscures the fact that its GAP rehomes far fewer greyhounds. It does this by taking credit for the rehoming done by:

- industry participants to unidentified third parties,
- industry participants retaining dogs (either for breeding or other purposes).

⁶¹ GRV [Annual report](#) 2022-23, p. 12 - both figures on this line.

⁶² GRV [Annual report](#) 2021-22, p. 9 - both figures on this line.

⁶³ GRV [Annual report](#) 2020-21, p. 19 - both figures on this line.

⁶⁴ GRV [Annual report](#) 2019-20, p. 18 - both figures on this line.

⁶⁵ GRV [Annual report](#) 2018-19, p. 18 - both figures on this line.

⁶⁶ GRV [Annual report](#) 2017-18, p. 16 - both figures on this line.

⁶⁷ Because the muzzling exemption is only available to greyhounds adopted under contract with GRV, greyhounds adopted out by other groups but subsequently tested by GAP for the green collar [were] counted as GAP adoptions" - p 2, (2015). Also see - Herald-Sun [article](#), (2016).

⁶⁸ GRV [Annual report](#) 2017-17, p. 10 - both figures on this line.

⁶⁹ GRV [Annual report](#) 2015-16, p. 12 - all figures on this line

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New South Wales

Year	Industry rehoming				Community rehoming	Total
	GAP	Third party	Retained for breeding or as a pet	Sub-total		
2022/23	404	371	557	1332	314 ⁷⁰	1646
2021/22	301	245	302	848	365 ⁷¹	1213
2020/21	339	229	403	971	447 ⁷²	1418
2019/20	246	239	547	1032	373 ⁷³	1405
2018/19	249	285	517	1051	390 ⁷⁴	1441
2017/18	Data not collected at this time			415 ⁷⁵	1395 ⁷⁶	1810
2016/17				498 ⁷⁷		
2015/16				324 ⁷⁸		

Note - GWIC reports the number of dogs 'accepted by GAP'. Not all dogs in this category are adopted within the same period, and the count may include dogs that have died while in the GAP program.

⁷⁰ GWIC 2022/23 [Annual Report](#), p. 30 - all figures on this line.

⁷¹ GWIC 2021/22 [Annual Report](#), p. 29 - all figures on this line.

⁷² GWIC 2020/21 [Annual Report](#), p. 28 - all figures on this line.

⁷³ GWIC 2019/20 [Annual Report](#), p. 47 - all figures on this line.

⁷⁴ GWIC 2018/19 [Annual Report](#), p. 43 - all figures on this line.

⁷⁵ **Note** – this figure includes 41 given away in one day at Wentworth Park (GRNSW 2018 Annual Report, p.10.) and no home check was done, as is done by non-industry rescues regarding the sustainability of households, height of fences, etc. CPG checked this via email with the GAP program. **Note** - GAP budget (GRNSW 2018 Annual Report, p. 8.) \$1,639,430 spent in 2018 on re-homing (2017: \$1,189,609).

⁷⁶ GRNSW 2017/18 [Annual Report](#), p. 10 - both figures on this line.

⁷⁷ GRNSW 2016/17 [Annual Report](#), p. 6.

⁷⁸ GRNSW 2015/16 [Annual Report](#), p. 8.

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Queensland

Year	Industry rehoming						Community rehoming	Total
	Retired to GAP*	Adoptions**	Third party	Retained as a pet	Retained for breeding	Sub-total		
2022/23	294	299 ⁷⁹	209	235	44	782	190 ⁸⁰	972
2021/22	259	267 ⁸¹	154	292	47	752	246 ⁸²	998
2020/21	228	228 ⁸³	178	235	86	727	201 ⁸⁴	928
2019/20	173	240 ⁸⁵	137	134	85	529	90 ⁸⁶	619
2018/19	239	274 ⁸⁷	88	160	80	567	67 ⁸⁸	634
2017/18		223 ⁸⁹	Data not collected at this time					
2016/17		318 ⁹⁰						
2015/16		230						

* QRIC now reports the number of dogs 'retired to GAP' alongside adoption figures. However, not all dogs in this category are adopted within the same period, and the count includes dogs that have died while in the GAP program. When both 'retired to GAP' and adoption numbers are provided, only the 'retired to GAP' figure is reflected in the totals.

** When adoption figures exceed the number of dogs retired to GAP, it is likely due to a carryover of dogs from the previous financial year and possibly re-adoptions of returned greyhounds.

Note - QRIC also provides data on greyhounds given to labs, research facilities, etc., in a category named - Surrendered to other agency - [908 greyhounds were discarded in this grisly way over the last five years](#).

⁷⁹ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2022-23, p. 5.

⁸⁰ QRIC [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Q1-Q4 reports](#), 2022-2023 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

⁸¹ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2021-22, p. 11. **Note** – 14 of these dogs were returned, fate unknown.

⁸² QRIC [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Q4 report April-June 2022](#), p. 8 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

⁸³ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2020-21, p 11. **Note** – four of these dogs were returned, fate unknown.

⁸⁴ QRIC [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Q4 report April-June 2021](#), p. 9 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

⁸⁵ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2019-20, p. 20. **Note** – 15 of these dogs were returned, fate unknown.

⁸⁶ QRIC [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Q4 report April-June 2020](#), p. 9 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

⁸⁷ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2018-19, p. 27.

⁸⁸ QRIC [Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement Quarterly report April-June 2019](#), p. 8 - all figures on this line (except adoptions)

⁸⁹ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2017-18, p. 6.

⁹⁰ QRIC [Annual Report](#) 2016-17, p. 20.



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Tasmania

Year	GAP	Community rehoming	Total
2022/23	72 ⁹¹	179	251 ⁹²
2021/22	81 ⁹³	138	219 ⁹⁴
2020/21	98 ⁹⁵	161	259 ⁹⁶
2019/20	138 ⁹⁷	95	233
2018/19	89 ⁹⁸	128	217 ⁹⁹
2017/18	102 ¹⁰⁰	110	212 ¹⁰¹
2016/17	111 ¹⁰²	163	274 ¹⁰³
2015/16	85 ¹⁰⁴	Data not collected at this time	
2014/15	63 ¹⁰⁵		
2013/14	35 ¹⁰⁶		

Note - The figures for community rehoming were calculated by deducting the number of dogs rehomed by GAP from the total number of dogs rehomed.

⁹¹ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2022-23, p. 15

⁹² Tasracing Report 2023, p. 17.

⁹³ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2021-22, p. 15.

⁹⁴ Tasracing Report 2022, p. 16.

⁹⁵ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2020-21, p. 15.

⁹⁶ Tasracing Report 2021, p. 16.

⁹⁷ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2019-20, p. 8 - both the GAP figure and the total figure on this line.

⁹⁸ Tasracing Report 2020, p. 8. **Note** - this was inaccurately reported as 96 in the Tasracing 2019 annual report.

⁹⁹ The actual figure may be slightly less if GAP rehomed greyhounds in the final two weeks of the FY.

¹⁰⁰ 102 is the total reported on Tasracing's website (14 June 2019), but 116 is the total reported in Tasracing's [Annual Report](#) 2018, p. 8.

¹⁰¹ The number of dogs rehomed by non-GAP organisations in 2016/17 and 2017/18 was determined by deducting the number of dogs rehomed by GAP (stated in the Tasracing Report 2018) from the total rehomed (stated in the Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2018-19).

¹⁰² Tasracing Report 2018, p. 8.

¹⁰³ Tasracing Report 2019, p. 9.

¹⁰⁴ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2015-16, p. 30.

¹⁰⁵ Tasracing [Annual Report](#) 2014-15, p. 19.

¹⁰⁶ Tasracing Report 2015, p. 19.

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Western Australia

Year	Industry rehoming						Community rehoming	Total
	Retired to GAP*	Adopted**	Retained as a pet	Third party	Retained for breeding	Sub-total		
2022/23	273	258	40	79	42	434	211 ¹⁰⁷	645
2021/22	331	337	7	115	41	494	223 ¹⁰⁸	717
2020/21	355	335	16	75	56	502	217 ¹⁰⁹	719
2019/20	350	304 ¹¹⁰	12	74	45	481	184 ¹¹¹	534
2018/19	Data not collected at this time	204 ¹¹²	17	39	47	307	190 ¹¹³	497
2017/18		270	30	84	37	421	225 ¹¹⁴	646
2016/17		245	56	125	40	466	331 ¹¹⁵	797
2015/16		121	49	75	38	283	260 ¹¹⁶	543

* RWWA now reports the number of dogs 'retired to GAP' alongside adoption figures. However, not all dogs in this category are adopted within the same period, and the count includes dogs that have died while in RWWA's GAP/GIFRs programs. When both 'retired to GAP' and adoption numbers are provided, only the 'retired to GAP' figure is reflected in the totals.

** When adoption figures exceed the number of dogs retired to GAP, it is likely due to a carryover of dogs from the previous financial year.

¹⁰⁷ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2022-23, p. 52 - all figures on this line.

¹⁰⁸ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2021-22, p. 36 - all figures on this line.

¹⁰⁹ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2020-21, p. 37 - all figures on this line.

¹¹⁰ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2019-20, p. 38.

¹¹¹ RWWA Report 2020, p. 40 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

¹¹² RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2018-19, p. 33.

¹¹³ RWWA Report 2019, p. 34 - all figures on this line (except adoptions).

¹¹⁴ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2017-18, p. 33 - all figures on this line.

¹¹⁵ RWWA [Annual Report](#) 2016-17, p. 30 - all figures on this line.

¹¹⁶ RWWA Report 2017, p. 30 - all figures on this line.



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South Australia

Year	Industry rehoming - GAP*	Other rehoming*	Total
2022/23	526	241 ¹¹⁷	767
2021/22	489	214 ¹¹⁸	703
2020/21	403 ¹¹⁹	263 ¹²⁰	666
2019/20	358 ¹²¹	227 ¹²²	585
2018/19	344 ¹²³	N/A ¹²⁴	344
2017/18	389 ¹²⁵	Data not collected at this time	
2016/17	430 ¹²⁶		
2015/16	307 ¹²⁷	332 ¹²⁸	639

Note - GRSA's lack of data transparency has been [condemned](#) by the RSPCA.

¹¹⁷ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2022-23, p. 12 - both figures on this line.

¹¹⁸ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2021-22, p. 15 - both figures on this line. **Note** - the figure of 214 here includes 'rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs, or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet)'. Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FQI.

¹¹⁹ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2020-21, p. 12.

¹²⁰ GRSA Report 2021, p. 13. **Note** - per the report, this figure includes 'rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs, or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet)'. Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FQI.

¹²¹ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2019-20, p. 15.

¹²² GRSA Report 2020, p. 12. **Note** - per the report, this figure includes 'rehomed by participants, adopted out through other rehoming programs, or taken up by their owners (either for breeding or as a pet)'. Unfortunately, a more detailed breakdown is not available from GRSA which is not subject to FQI.

¹²³ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2018-19, p. 14.

¹²⁴ 721 greyhounds retired and all are apparently accounted for by industry rehoming/retaining or euthanasia in the GRSA report (p. 17). However, this is extremely doubtful, and the RSPCA has publicly slammed GRSA for the lack of transparency on two occasions.

¹²⁵ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2017-18, p. 10.

¹²⁶ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2016-17, p. 11.

¹²⁷ GRSA [Annual Report](#) 2015-16, p. 3.

¹²⁸ GRSA Report 2016., p. 12. **Note** - this figure includes those retired for breeding purposes and rehomed through external agencies or industry participants.

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Northern Territory

No data is published by the Territory government or by the only commercial dog racing body in the jurisdiction, the Darwin Greyhound Association.