



Dear Timothy,

I write to update you on the initiatives Greyhound Racing NSW is undertaking to improve animal welfare and maintain the integrity of the sport of greyhound racing in this state.

As you may be aware, veterinarian Dr Ted Humphries has given a series of interviews to the ABC where he has claimed licensed trainers in NSW have been killing greyhounds in inhumane ways including hanging, gassing and drowning.

In short, GRNSW has zero tolerance for trainers who do not meet our animal welfare standards.

As I am sure you will agree, any trainer found ending the life of a greyhound in an inhumane manner or mistreating the greyhounds in their care in some other way is not welcome in our sport. They would not only be violating the rules of greyhound racing and our code of practice, but would also be committing a criminal offence under the NSW *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

Dr Humphries also told the ABC that he sees an average of one greyhound a month with blood samples that strongly suggests it has been given the banned substance Erythropoietin, commonly known as EPO.

To date, GRNSW does not have any credible evidence of EPO use in greyhound racing. Over the past two years we have carried out more than 400 tests for EPO, these being 'out of competition' tests, but have yet to record one positive for the substance. No positive sample has been detected in greyhound racing throughout Australia. The leading racing analytical laboratories throughout the world continue to advise GRNSW that the preferred means for testing for EPO use in greyhounds is via a urine sample.

GRNSW has repeatedly invited Dr Humphries to discuss his concerns with our Integrity Department, however, he has not even had the decency to reply.

As an individual who has built a successful business empire on the back of the greyhound racing industry, GRNSW believes Dr Humphries has a moral obligation to bring any information he may have about EPO use and acts of cruelty towards greyhounds not only to the attention of GRNSW but other regulatory authorities given the serious nature of his allegations.

Despite his lack of cooperation, I have today asked our Integrity team to investigate Dr Humphries allegations and inquire into all aspects of his allegations.

Moving forward, I want to assure all greyhound racing participants in this state that

GRNSW is committed to improving the welfare of greyhounds in NSW.

We recognise the number of greyhounds euthanised in NSW is too high, as it is across all companion animals in general.

Some of the initiatives already underway or about to be launched include:

- Promoting better breeding practices. It is important that owners/breeders understand all the outcomes that can occur when they breed greyhounds and GRNSW is committed to educating participants about these outcomes;
- Expanding the re-homing opportunities for retired racing greyhounds through programs such as Greyhounds As Pets, the Corrective Services NSW Dogs in Prisons Program and most recently the NSW Greenhounds program, which allows pet greyhounds to become exempt from muzzle laws;
- The establishment of the GRNSW Greyhound Welfare and Veterinary Services Unit, which is dedicated to the welfare of greyhounds in NSW;
- Next month, in association with Hunter TAFE, GRNSW will launch the Certificate II in Greyhound Racing which will teach participants, among other things, about the opportunities greyhounds have once they finish their racing careers as well as important welfare aspects;
- Continuing to build GRNSW's working relationship with the NSW RSPCA to improve outcomes for former racing greyhounds and regulatory monitoring of participants with the RSPCA;
- The lifetime tracking of all greyhounds registered with GRNSW; and
- Creating the first Code of Practice for Greyhounds In Training, which ensures minimum standards of care for former racing greyhounds and to monitor participants for regulatory compliance.

In addition, GRNSW is working with Greyhounds Australasia and the other State bodies to holistically ensure its approach to ensuring the welfare of greyhounds meets best practice.

Community attitudes to animal welfare matters have progressed over time and we need to continue to improve standards within our sport so that we reflect those contemporary community attitudes.

By encouraging smarter breeding practices, ensuring safer racing and providing greater re-homing opportunities, GRNSW is confident it will provide a greater life for greyhounds after racing.

In terms of the integrity of greyhound racing, as I have previously written, protecting the integrity of our sport is at the heart of what Greyhound Racing NSW does, it is a core function of the organisation.

GRNSW is dedicated to ensuring its integrity services are at the forefront of the wagering industry - not just in Australia, but across the world.

It is for this reason that GRNSW has nearly doubled its swabbing budget in the 2012/13 financial year. This increase has allowed the number of swabs in the TAB sector to increase to 7.5 swabs per meeting. It has also resulted in the swabs to starter ratio rising by more than 2.5 times, setting a new benchmark for greyhound racing in Australia. There will be an extensive out-of-competition testing regime in addition to this.

As always, I would encourage any participant who has concerns about animal welfare or the integrity of the sport of greyhound racing to get in touch immediately with GRNSW's Integrity Department so that the matter can be investigated and dealt with in an appropriate and timely manner.

Yours faithfully



Brent Hogan
Chief Executive



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