

## Greyhound Retirement Data

For the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018, the following numbers of greyhounds were reported to RWWA by the latest registered owners of persons responsible for the greyhounds at the relevant time, under requirements of greyhound rule of racing LR106, as retired from racing or deceased.

Metric	2016/17*	2017/18*	Variance
Adopted through GAP	245	270	10%
Adopted through other greyhound rehoming organisations	331	225	-32%
Adopted as pet to a third party (non-owner / trainer)	125	84	-33%
Adopted as pet to an owner / trainer	56	30	-46%
Retired for breeding	40	37	-8%
<b>Total number of greyhounds retired</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>-19%</b>
Deceased or euthanasia due to accidental death, natural causes, illness or age	82	55	-33%
Deceased or euthanasia due to racing related injury	83	74	-11%
Euthanasia not suitable for rehoming	53	43	-19%
Euthanasia not suitable for racing	7	0	-100%
<b>Total number of greyhounds deceased</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>-24%</b>
<b>Total number of greyhounds retired or deceased</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>-20%</b>

\* The data for 2017/18 was extracted from OzChase on 4 September 2018 and is correct as of that date whilst the data for 2016/17 was reported in the 2016/17 Annual Report (correct as of 10 October 2017). Minor variances in some data can occur over time as LR106 forms are received and processed on a continuous basis, and the status of individual greyhounds may be updated from time to time with new information received.



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**MINISTER FOR TOURISM; RACING AND GAMING; SMALL BUSINESS;  
DEFENCE ISSUES; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

Ref: 70-09402

Hon David Littleproud MP  
Minister for Agriculture  
PO Box 6002  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

As the responsible Federal Minister, you may be aware the Macau Canidrome, Macau's greyhound racing track, is expected to close next month. I have received correspondence indicating significant concerns for the welfare of the estimated 600 greyhounds residing at the Canidrome, a significant number of which have allegedly been exported from Australia.

The welfare of greyhounds in Western Australia is of paramount importance to the Racing and Wagering Western Australian (RWVA) and myself as Minister for Racing and Gaming (WA). Although RWVA nor the Western Australia Government directly controls exportation of greyhounds, it is of significant concern to me that the greyhounds racing at the Macau Canidrome have originated from Australia.

The national peak body for greyhound racing, Greyhounds Australasia (GA), has implemented the mandatory Greyhound Passport Scheme to control greyhound exports under the Rules of Racing.

As you are likely aware, in 2004 GA established a new rule, GAR124, in an attempt to protect the welfare of Australian greyhounds exported overseas. The rule requires all participants, when exporting a greyhound, to obtain a GA Greyhound Passport before meeting the Department of Agriculture's export requirements.

GA currently does not issue passports for greyhound exports to any country in South East Asia and permanently suspended exports to Macau in 2014, due to their non-compliance with export welfare standards.

If a registered industry participant exports a greyhound without applying for, and being granted a passport through GA, the relevant State greyhound racing authorities have the power to commence an inquiry and, where a breach is established, take appropriate disciplinary action.

However, GA's Passport Scheme is only enforceable under the rules of racing and GA does not have the required statutory or operational powers to prevent greyhound exports done by people unknown, unlicensed or unregistered by GA and the relevant State racing authorities. Consequently, to successfully prevent the export of Australian greyhounds to South East Asia, GA requires the support and cooperation of the Australian Commonwealth Government.

I understand that GA has made representations to the Federal Government to seek the appropriate regulatory and legislative change needed to prevent exporting of greyhounds to Macau; however, I'm informed that this support has not been forthcoming thus far.

I request that you take urgent action to ensure GA is supported by the Federal Government in ensuring no Australian greyhounds are exported to Macau and other countries with unacceptable animal welfare standards.

Additionally, I'm informed that GA and Animals Australia continue to liaise with various organisations on the ground in Macau to try and determine the future of the greyhounds at the Canidrome and offer assistance where possible. However, I'm advised that the Canidrome operators remain uncooperative and therefore efforts to rehome and ensure proper treatment of the remaining greyhounds has been difficult. I would appreciate if you would investigate what assistance the Federal Government could provide to ensure the safety, proper treatment and rehoming of the greyhounds residing at the Canidrome.

Your early advice and support on this matter would be appreciated.

Kind regards,



**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA  
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING**

19 JUN 2018



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Federal Member for Maranoa

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23 JUL 2018

MINISTERIAL OFFICE

Ref: MC18-019134

14 JUL 2018

The Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA  
Minister for Racing and Gaming  
Level 10, Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

Thank you for your correspondence of 19 June 2018 regarding the export of greyhounds.

I am aware of concerns about the welfare of Australian racing greyhounds exported to overseas markets. The Australian Government does not condone animal cruelty and takes this issue very seriously. Since 2013 there has been a significant reduction in greyhounds exported to China. During 2017–18, no greyhounds have been exported to China. I am also aware of the impending closure of the greyhound racing facility in Macau. These greyhounds may be able to be returned to Australia but will need to meet the import process for dogs which requires testing, treatments and examinations to manage biosecurity risks.

The government's role in relation to the regulation of the export of dogs is limited to issuing export permits and health certificates that assures the animal meets importing country requirements under the *Export Control (Animals) Order 2004*. Once exported dogs reach their destination, they come under the jurisdiction of the importing country.

As you would be aware, the greyhound racing industry in Australia is regulated by the state and territory governments. Greyhounds Australasia's passport scheme does not form part of the compulsory quarantine and export regulation requirements of the Order. Under national rules of greyhound racing, I understand that Greyhounds Australasia considers the proposed export destination when assessing passport applications and approves passports to allow registered greyhound participants to export greyhounds to jurisdictions that meet Australian animal welfare standards.

I am advised that directly linking the 'passport system' to the Order by itself would not guarantee good animal welfare outcomes upon arrival at their destination. For a greyhound specific export arrangement to be effective, a nationally coordinated approach is required. In 2016, at the request of Greyhounds Australasia, the government proposed regulating greyhound exports by enabling the states and territories to recognise a greyhound passport scheme which would then become a requirement for export. Greyhounds Australasia also recognised that the industry would pay the cost of administering any new system to regulate greyhound exports.

My predecessor presented this proposal to the Agriculture Ministers' Forum in May 2016. Unfortunately the states and territories did not support the proposal at that time. Despite this, the government has made amendments to the Order to allow sharing of information with state and territory regulators to ensure compliance on animal welfare issues. This will allow sharing of information about greyhound exports with jurisdictions that can be used to verify compliance with the greyhound passport scheme operated by Greyhounds Australasia.

The government's proposal remains on the table. If you would like this proposal to be adopted by the states and territories and then adopted nationally, I would encourage you to engage with the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC.

Thank you again for raising your concerns about this important issue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Littleproud', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP**

**C237**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question Without Notice**

**Wednesday 20 March 2019**

**Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Regional Development representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming**

I refer to the Greyhound Racing industry in WA, and I ask:

1. Since coming to office what measures has the Government undertaken to improve animal welfare standards in the greyhound racing industry?
2. In particular, what steps are being taken to reduce the numbers of greyhounds being euthanased if they are not suitable for racing?
3. Are greyhounds continuing to be exported from WA to Macau, Vietnam or any other countries without animal welfare laws?
4. If yes to 3), does the Government intend to stop this practice?

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**Answer**

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of this question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Racing and Gaming.

1. The Minister for Racing and Gaming commissioned a working group, the Greyhound Welfare Working Group (GWWC), facilitated by Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA) to explore initiatives to improve the welfare of a greyhound's lifecycle in WA in 2017.

For the first time in WA, the greyhound racing industry and the major greyhound welfare and adoption groups collaborated in a bid to improve the treatment and welfare of greyhounds in WA racing by discussing what initiatives are currently in place and work towards solutions and common goals.

This group was formed to enhance communication and partnership between the racing industry bodies, the racing authority and the welfare advocacy and adoption groups, all of which bring a wealth of knowledge on the welfare and treatment of greyhounds across the state.

The GWWG achieved some significant improvements to welfare standards across several key areas, including transparency, oversight mechanisms, adoptions and foster care. Some of these key achievements are listed below.

- Review of the Code of Practice - with participation from welfare experts and advocacy groups to include the highest national standards of welfare. The Code, enforceable under the Rules of Racing, has been adopted and is being communicated to industry.
  - Development of a Foster Carer Workshop and Program – first workshop took place on 4 November 2018, the next one is planned for June 2019.
  - Pilot Program commenced with Greyhound Angels for Second Chance Greyhound as Pets (GAP) greyhounds.
  - Additional funding secured for Greyhound Angels (through RWWA) to support veterinary care and rehoming expenses.
  - Injury Track Rebate Scheme was commenced and valuable feedback was provided through the GWWG leading to a further expansion of the scheme which is now well underway.
  - The long-term publication of stewards reports on RWWA's website to improve transparency.
  - Provision of extensive industry data by RWWA as requested by the group with related information as recommended by the group included in RWWA annual and other corporate, reports.
  - RWWA to review the green collar assessment when the statutory review of the relevant legislation commences.
2. No greyhound in the WA greyhound racing industry should be euthanised if they are deemed not suitable to race. RWWA have implemented several oversight and tracking measures, including penalties such as disqualification periods applied for any breaches, to ensure that each individual greyhound in the racing industry is tracked from birth and also to ensure every effort is made to rehome greyhounds no matter what age they depart the racing industry.

Several of the initiatives more recently implemented to improve the welfare standards in WA that directly relate to the Member's question include:

- ensuring greyhounds are tracked through their full life cycle by means such as compulsory microchipping;
- installing hoop lures at Cannington and Mandurah tracks to decrease racing injuries;
- stricter breeding controls;
- mandatory assessments for retiring greyhounds; and
- ongoing control/surveillance of trial tracks and venues.

Furthermore, in 2018/19 RWWA committed to making additional investments in animal welfare, including the following key elements:

- \$200,000 for rehoming initiatives through GAP;
- \$250,000 for an expanded track injury rebate scheme to help pay for the costs of surgery, and associated treatment and rehabilitation;
- \$75,000 for marketing of Greyhound as Pets; and

- \$23,000 sterilisation subsidy to assist in the costs of mandatory sterilisation.

The re-homing of greyhounds through GAP continues to increase, with the number of greyhounds successfully rehomed for the 2016/17 financial year increasing 102 per cent from the previous financial year, and a further 10 per cent increase the following year.

See tabled paper no # from the *2018 RWWA Annual Report* which shows a year on year reduction in euthanasia from the previous year.

3. No greyhounds are being exported from WA to Macau, Vietnam or any other countries without animal welfare laws. Western Australia is unique for both geographical reasons and also the nature of our industry, resulting in WA being an importer and not an exporter of greyhounds. We breed only some 400 to 500 per year and yet have some 1,444 individual starters.

RWWA rigorously enforces rules regarding notifying the movement of greyhounds and there is no evidence that WA greyhounds are being exported overseas in any organised or systemic way, and no greyhound exports to any country in South East Asia has occurred since 2013 from WA.

4. Despite no greyhounds being exported from WA to Macau, Vietnam or any other countries without animal welfare laws, in mid-2018 Minister Papalia took the lead and formally wrote to the Hon. David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, seeking the Federal Government's support to take urgent action to commence the appropriate regulatory and legislative change needed to prevent exporting greyhounds to South East Asia.

I table the attached letter from Minister Papalia and the response from Minister Littleproud.

I understand further support was requested by Greyhounds Australasia (GA) and the greyhound racing industry nationally for investigation into any assistance the Federal Government could provide to ensure the safety, proper treatment and rehoming of the greyhounds residing at the Canidrome in Macau.

To date there has been no progress in these matters from the Federal Government despite continued lobbying.