

Millions for racetracks, but what about the dogs? *RSPCA South Australia seeks answers*

RSPCA South Australia is seeking answers from Greyhound Racing South Australia after plans were revealed for a new \$6 million race track planned in Murray Bridge.

Last year, RSPCA South Australia publicly called for urgent welfare reforms in the Greyhound Industry, including an independent regulatory body, funding for a comprehensive rehoming program, and publicly released data around greyhound births, deaths and rehoming rates.

RSPCA South Australia is still waiting for any meaningful response from Greyhound Racing SA on these reforms. In the meantime, Greyhound Racing SA has recently announced millions of dollars will be invested in a new racing facility.

Mr Tim Vasudeva, RSPCA South Australia Chief Executive Officer, said that while Greyhound Racing SA has made public statements regarding their desire to improve the welfare of racing greyhounds and reduce fatal outcomes, they have declined to provide any information on how they plan to do this.

“GRSA have declined information requested by RSPCA South Australia about how much money they plan to invest in order to improve animal outcomes, and the timeframes or targets associated with these plans,” Mr Vasudeva said.

“They have also refused to release historical data regarding the number of greyhounds born, raced, rehomed, retired, euthanised or killed over recent years.

“In the absence of any detail about their intention to significantly improve the outcomes for greyhounds, we consider it highly inappropriate for the industry to be investing millions of dollars in a new racing facility.”

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An internal memo between Greyhound Racing SA and Greyhound Racing Australasia, published by the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into Greyhound Racing and dated April 2015, acknowledged:

- The industry is responsible for the unnecessary deaths of between 13,000 and 17,000 healthy greyhounds each year
- Rehoming programs sponsored by the industry (inclusive of the Greyhound Racing SA GAP program) rehome only 6% of pre-raced and retired greyhounds
- 7,000 greyhounds per year do not make it to the track (40% of all greyhounds whelped)
- It was noted that *“The culture of the industry is defined by animal deaths being acceptable and necessary and where profits come before welfare.”*

“Greyhound Racing SA’s priority needs to be investing millions in improving the welfare of dogs to whom the industry owes a duty of care, not continuing the culture of profits over welfare,” Mr Vasudeva said.

RSPCA South Australia has submitted an objection to Murray Bridge Council regarding the proposed new greyhound racing site.

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