



Thursday 13 February 2020

The Commission's response to questions from journalist Paige Cockburn ABC News.

1. Does the GWIC have powers to put greyhounds on the Companion Animals Register? And if dogs come off the Racing Register and do not end up on the CAR does this mean they can easily “disappear”?

The Commission is currently liaising with the Office of Local Government to implement arrangements to register on the NSW Pet Register, greyhounds who are exiting the greyhound racing industry and being rehomed to members of the public. This process will commence shortly once administrative arrangements are finalised and will ensure that greyhounds cannot ‘disappear’ off the industry register and not re-appear on the Pet Register. This system is already in place for greyhounds being retired from the industry through GAP, private rehoming organisations and animal care facilities.

The Commission already has mechanisms in place to investigate any suspicion notifications it receives by participants of greyhounds rehomed to third parties.

2. If a dog is on neither register is the GWIC then unable to inspect those greyhounds?

Greyhounds bred by participants will start off being registered with the Commission and be transferred to the NSW Pet Registry if a greyhound is rehomed to a non-participant. Otherwise, the dog remains on the Commission’s Registry.

Greyhounds registered as pets on the NSW Pet Register are subject to the same arrangements as other dogs and cats. This means that council inspectors, the RSPCA and AWL inspectors can intervene and investigate allegations or concerns in relation to animal welfare in accordance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*. The Commission has arrangements in place with these agencies to collaborate, where necessary, on investigations into greyhound welfare.

3. Is the GWIC only allowed to inspect greyhounds on the properties of industry participants? What does this mean when dogs are given to non-industry participants?

The Commission has jurisdiction over all greyhound racing participants and greyhounds with participants. A greyhound for the purposes of the Commission’s jurisdiction is only a greyhound kept in connection with greyhound racing. It does not extend to any greyhound that is kept by non-industry participants for purposes not connected to greyhound racing i.e pet greyhounds.

The Commission’s inspectors are empowered under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* (GRA) to lawfully enter any premises where greyhounds registered with the Commission are kept.



Greyhounds that are owned and kept by non-industry participants are subject to exactly the same arrangements as other dogs and cats. This means that council inspectors, RSPCA and AWL inspectors can respond to complaints about the welfare of pet greyhounds, as they do for other pets under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*.

4. Does the GWIC feel they have enough power to monitor greyhounds?

The Commission's inspectors have a range of powers under the GRA, including power to enter premises where industry greyhounds are kept, to seize things and to conduct investigations.

Since 1 July 2018 the Commission has undertaken 1058 kennel inspections and has physically sighted over 4500 greyhounds.

The Commission has a number of compliance programs in place to ensure that all greyhounds within the industry are properly cared and accounted for. The Commission recently completed a component of its whereabouts program (called the 'Tracking of Registered Greyhounds' Program), checking the location of the first litters of pups registered with the Commission after the commencement of the Commission in July 2018, with whereabouts of all dogs confirmed. A further program is underway and ongoing, to confirm the status of 'inactive' greyhounds (ie. greyhounds who have not raced or bred recently and have not been notified).

The Commission takes seriously its obligations to monitor the welfare of all greyhounds in the hands of participants and to take action to punish against anyone who does the wrong thing. The Commission is also continually improving its ability to detect any wrong doing by industry participants.