



Minister for Education
Minister for Industrial Relations and
Minister for Racing

20 DEC 2021

1 William Street Brisbane 4000
PO Box 15033 City East
Queensland 4002 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3719 7110
Email: education@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Email: industrialrelations@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Email: racing@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Email: tableoffice@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

I refer to Petition 3581–21 tabled on 30 November 2021 in the Legislative Assembly requesting a publicly available system that tracks greyhounds for their entire life including breeding, naming, raising, training, racing, retirement, rehoming and death.

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory body whose main purpose is to: maintain public confidence in the racing of animals for which betting is lawful; ensure the integrity of all persons involved with racing or betting; and to safeguard the welfare of all animals involved in racing.

The Commission's scope and responsibility for the welfare of racing animals is limited to their time as a registered racing animal, with the Commission's functions and powers outlined under section 10 of the *Racing Integrity Act 2016*. The Commission's work is further supported by the respective national and local Rules of Racing for each of the three codes of racing (greyhound, harness, thoroughbred).

In relation to the retirement of a racing greyhound, under the Greyhound Australasia Rules of Racing, a registered owner of a greyhound must notify the Commission when retiring their greyhound. Whilst the Commission does not have legislative responsibility for racing greyhounds after they have been retired, the Commission can undertake audits of registered racing greyhounds that have been inactive in the national OzChase system (i.e. not raced or not yet been named).

The Commission undertook one of these audits in February 2021 and the audit involved contacting greyhound racing owners and trainers with greyhounds that held an inactive status of six months or more, to confirm that their records were true and correct, and ensure that they were aware of their obligations under the Greyhound Australasian Rules of Racing (GAR106(3)). The Commission also publishes quarterly Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement reports on its website, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://qric.qld.gov.au/veterinary-services-animal-welfare/greyhound/greyhound-breeding-race-injury-and-retirement-quarterly-reports/>.

Once a racing animal retires, the welfare of the animal is protected under the *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001* (ACPA). The ACPA is administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in partnership with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Under the ACPA, a person in charge of an animal has a duty of care to that animal to provide it with appropriate food, water, shelter and treatment.

If you require additional information or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Sharon Durham, Chief of Staff in my office on 07 3719 7110.

I would like to thank the petitioners for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely



GRACE GRACE MP
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