



Ms Lisa Ryan  
Animal Liberation

**By email only:**

9 August 2023

Dear Ms Ryan,

**Re: GREYHOUND EXPORTS**

Thank you for your emails of 8 June and 12 July 2023. In your email you posed a number of specific questions, which I address below.

With respect to your questions regarding the greyhound “Turbo Thomas”, I am advised that the greyhound was transferred to a participant registered in Victoria and subsequently exported. The Commission does not have statutory powers in relation to greyhounds in other jurisdictions. The circumstances surrounding the greyhound’s transfer to Victoria will be the subject of an investigation by the Commission; however, the Commission does not provide information about current investigations.

With respect to your queries regarding greyhound exports more generally, the Commission does have access to export data published by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and data published by Greyhounds Australasia, and notifications of exports

provided by participants registered in NSW. The Commission is not routinely notified of individual greyhounds exported from NSW, unless the greyhound is owned by a registered NSW greyhound industry participant. The Commission is therefore unable to provide advice as to the proportion of greyhounds exported from Australia that may have come from NSW.

The Commission is aware of Greyhound Racing NSW's (GRNSW) program to export greyhounds to the US for adoption as companion animals. Inquiries regarding the specific number of greyhounds exported to the USA through this program should be directed to GRNSW.

As you note in your email, the Commission does not have statutory powers in respect of greyhounds registered as companion animals. The Commission reports on the number of greyhounds retired and the destination of those retired greyhounds in its Annual Report. In 2021/2022, the Commission was notified of 301 greyhounds accepted by Greyhounds As Pets (GAP). Once received by GAP these greyhounds are registered as companion animals. Inquiries relating to the subsequent movements of these greyhounds should be directed to GRNSW.

The Commission has been briefed by Greyhound Racing NSW in relation to its US rehoming program in addition to being provided with agreements it has in place with US rehoming organisations designed to ensure quality welfare processes are followed in the rehoming of these greyhounds. In addition to this, in the near future the Commission will be conducting a physical audit of the program to ensure that it complies with guidelines for best practice in greyhound rehoming.

The Commission's Greyhound *Rehoming Policy* requires that a greyhound must be desexed before being rehomed outside the industry, and failure to desex a greyhound before rehoming is a breach of the Rules that may result in disciplinary action. Consequently, most greyhounds are desexed before being transferred to GRNSW's GAP program but where this has not occurred, I am aware that GAP arranges desexing of any greyhound before it is rehomed.

The Commission routinely monitors breeding and rehoming of racing greyhounds in NSW and reports on these statistics each quarter, as well as in its Annual Report. The Commission is currently organising a Rehoming Summit to be held in September 2023. The purpose of this Summit is to develop strategies to increase rehoming opportunities and ensure that rehoming of greyhounds in NSW is consistent with best practice standards.

Unfortunately, I am unable to provide advice about the ownership of specific greyhounds named in your email, due to privacy restrictions. However, information about the ownership and training of racing greyhounds is readily available on popular industry websites such as [The Greyhound Recorder](#), which you may find useful.

Yours sincerely,  


Steve Griffin  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greyhounds Australasia Admin**  
Date: Wed, 16 Aug 2023 at 10:21  
Subject: RE: Australian greyhound export data  
To: Lisa Ryan

Hi Lisa,

Please see attached and below information in relation to your queries. Given several queries relate to third-party data, unfortunately, GA is not able to resolve all of your requested information at this time.

If an Australian greyhound is to be exported as a 'pet', why is there no mandatory requirement for the dog to be desexed, with an independently verified desexing certificate? [See GAR 24](#)

What monetary fees are paid to the Australian Government &/or Customs, GA, or the relevant State/Territory greyhound industry body for a greyhound export 'passport'? [GA Passport is Free](#)

GA's website states: "A Greyhound Passport will only be issued upon receipt of a completed application form". What other checks or due diligence does GA undertake before approving and issuing a greyhound export passport? [Compliance checks with State regulators, including GA Rules and industry regulations](#)

Can you please complete the attached Word document to confirm a) the Australian State/Territory origin of where the greyhound was whelped and b) the Australian State/Territory origin of where the greyhound was exported from, and whether the greyhound was exported for racing, breeding or as a pet? [Despite GA request - GA does not have access to additional DAFF export details](#)

Are you please able to clarify, why when, the number of US greyhound racing tracks have continued to close, and currently the US has only two (2) active commercial tracks, so many Australian greyhounds are still being exported from Australia to the US? [There is a high demand for retired greyhounds in North America](#)

How is GA tracking NSW greyhounds exported to the US under the quick fix GRNSW scheme of rehoming as per the following scheme? [GRNSW is a member of GA](#)

Media statements issued by GRNSW suggest eight (8) greyhounds have already been exported to the US under the above scheme with plans for eight (8) more soon. Are these numbers accurate and since the scheme's inception exactly how many NSW greyhounds have been exported under this same scheme? [GRNSW can provide an update on this data](#)

Kind Regards,

Greyhounds Australasia  
Phone:

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**From:** Lisa Ryan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 15, 2023 5:12 PM  
**To:** Greyhounds Australasia Admin  
**Subject:** Fwd: Australian greyhound export data

Hi

Animal Liberation will (tomorrow) be lodging our submission to the current Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport and the **Customs Legislation Amendment (Commercial Greyhound Export and Import Prohibition) Bill 2021**.

My email of 9 July 2023 has not been answered and I am emailing to inquire whether Greyhounds Australasia (GA) intends to respond.

In the event GA does not respond then we will have no option other than to confirm with the Committee that GA has failed to respond.

Your prompt reply would be appreciated.

Thank you

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lisa Ryan  
**Date:** Sun, 9 Jul 2023 at 13:50  
**Subject:** Re: Australian greyhound export data  
**To:** Greyhounds Australasia Admin >

Thank you for your email reply of 7 July and your referral to the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry (DAFF), Australian greyhound export data.

The DAFF greyhound export data is extremely problematic and includes significant repetition amongst the four (4) publicly available spreadsheets.

[all-greyhound-exports-2017-2022\\_1.xlsx](#)

[all-greyhound-exports-2016-2021.xlsx](#)

[all-greyhound-exports-2018-2023.xlsx](#)  
[All Greyhound Exports 2018 - 2023.xlsx](#)

My email enquiry of 7 July 2023 to Greyhounds Australasia (GA) specifically related to Australian greyhound export data for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2022. The available DAFF data only dates back to 2016.

The DAFF data does not include the Australian State/Territory origin of greyhounds, nor the Australian State/Territory export origin (departure), and these can and do vary. For example, the greyhound 4-year-old greyhound named Turbo Thomas was sold by GRNSW participant Trent Anderson to Victorian disqualified trainer Vice Tullio, and then again re-sold to another Victoria trainer, Damien Senn. Turbo Thomas was transferred from NSW to Victoria and then exported to China from Melbourne in 2021. This was after Turbo Thomas had earned Anderson around \$55,000.

Animal Liberation strongly contends that self-regulation, including by member-based industry bodies such as GA, is a highly conflicted way to manage animal welfare and wellbeing, regardless of species. It is our firm view that the oversight and management of animal welfare lies with government/s and appointed authorised officers such as RSPCA, AWL or Police, to ensure the monitoring, compliance and enforcement of animal welfare. Our views are in line with broad Australian public expectations about how we regard, treat and protect animals.

While GA introduced the Australian greyhound export 'passport' in 2004 and subsequently black listed China as an export destination for Australian greyhounds, this is no more than a member body rule – it is not Australian law and clearly can be and is being manipulated by Australian greyhound racing participants. While GA and greyhound State/Territory bodies are able to respond by issuing suspensions and disqualifications (often alarmingly inadequate), as there are currently no laws restricting the export of greyhounds, it is not possible to criminally charge such individuals. The greyhounds themselves have no protection.

Australian greyhound racing participants have continued to traffic greyhounds by circumventing racing industry processes, exporting without seeking a GA passport or sending dogs first to countries that are considered 'safe' by the industry, such as England, before having them rerouted elsewhere. In 2017 GA itself temporarily suspended exports of greyhounds to the US after information suggested that dogs from Australian origin were ending up in China after being exported to the US.

We have all witnessed the export (for profit) of many hundreds of Australian greyhounds, the vast majority from NSW, (under the appalling management of GRNSW), to overseas destinations with low or no animal welfare protections, including China. No-one who viewed the ABC's 7:30 Report in December 2016 exposing the ['Slow' Australian greyhounds being exported to Macau, China to go on 'death row'](#) could be in any doubt about the inherent greed and wanton disregard for

the welfare of animals as demonstrated by the Farrugia brothers, and other GRNSW participants.

It would appear obvious that this greed for profit and disregard for the welfare of greyhounds continues as well as the industry's inability to manage and control its own greyhound racing participants. It is also obvious that Australian greyhounds are still being exported to completely high-risk overseas destinations, including China – as the attached list demonstrates. Industry participants continue to circumnavigate, manipulate and abuse any rules, regulations or laws that don't suit their purpose.

The most recent examples of the Australian greyhounds Turbo Thomas and Canya Cruise both exported to China as 'pets' and now both appearing on a Chinese greyhound breeding website, has distressed and appalled Animal Liberation. Turbo Thomas is STILL listed as owned by Damien

Senn: <https://www.thegreyhoundrecorder.com.au/greyhounds/turbo-thomas>

It is abundantly clear that there is no safe export destination for Australian greyhounds excluding those being exported to the UK or the US. That an Australian greyhound can be exported within days of racing or trialling in Australia, as was the case with Canya Cruise, and with a possibly undetected injury or condition, is appalling.

- 1) If an Australian greyhound is to be exported as a 'pet', why is there no mandatory requirement for the dog to be desexed, with an independently verified desexing certificate?
- 2) What monetary fees are paid to the Australian Government &/or Customs, GA, or the relevant State/Territory greyhound industry body for a greyhound export 'passport'?
- 3) Can you please, via return email, provide me with a copy of an approved greyhound export 'passport' for a NSW greyhound. I'm happy for GA to redact any personal/private details – it is only the actual passport and conditions of export I am interested to view.
- 4) GA's website states: "A Greyhound Passport will only be issued upon receipt of a completed application form". What other checks or due diligence does GA undertake before approving and issuing a greyhound export passport?
- 5) Can you please complete the attached Word document to confirm a) the Australian State/Territory origin of where the greyhound was whelped and b) the Australian State/Territory origin of where the greyhound was exported from, and whether the greyhound was exported for racing, breeding or as a pet?
- 6) Are you please able to clarify, why when, the number of US greyhound racing tracks have continued to close, and currently the US has only two (2) active commercial tracks, so many Australian greyhounds are still being exported from Australia to the US?

|                          |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| - 2016                   | 8         |
| - 2017                   | 13        |
| - 2018                   | 8         |
| - 2019                   | 7         |
| - 2020                   | 1         |
| - 2021                   | 1         |
| - 2022                   | 63        |
| - 2023 (Jan to May only) | 166/165 ? |

NB: The following number (Australia greyhound exports to US, including Hawaii), for February 2023 differs between the DAFF website and the attached DAFF spreadsheet (All Greyhound Exports 2018 – 2023). How can anyone have any confidence in GA or indeed the Commonwealth Government’s oversight?

### Greyhound exports - January to May 2023

| Country                  | Jan       | Feb       | Mar       | Apr       | May       | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Canada                   |           | 12        | 4         | 10        | 25        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Cayman Islands           |           |           |           |           | 1         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| China                    | 1         | 1         |           | 1         |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Germany                  |           |           |           |           | 1         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Ireland                  |           |           |           |           | 1         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| New Zealand              | 7         | 5         | 7         | 1         | 5         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Singapore                |           | 1         |           |           | 2         |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Sweden                   | 1         |           |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| Thailand                 | 1         |           |           |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| United Arab Emirates     |           |           | 1         |           |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| United Kingdom           | 1         |           | 1         | 2         |           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| United States of America | 12        | 15        | 56        | 43        | 40        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>23</b> | <b>34</b> | <b>69</b> | <b>57</b> | <b>75</b> |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |       |

7) How is GA tracking NSW greyhounds exported to the US under the quick fix GRNSW scheme of rehoming as per the following scheme?

#### US Fraternal Order of Police



*RETIRED Australian greyhounds are bound for American service under a historic allied partnership with a United States law enforcement body, signed in Washington DC overnight. Now Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) has followed suit, sending eight greyhounds to the US at the end of January, with plans to send eight more soon. <https://www.grnsw.com.au/news/2023-05-16/us-police-australian-greyhound-industry-form-historic-allied-partnership>*

8) Media statements issued by GRNSW suggest eight (8) greyhounds have already been exported to the US under the above scheme with plans for eight (8) more soon. Are these numbers accurate and since the scheme's inception exactly how many NSW greyhounds have been exported under this same scheme?

I would appreciate GA's response/s at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you and regards

On Fri, 7 Jul 2023 at 12:58, Greyhounds Australasia Admin wrote:  
Hi Lisa,

Thank you for your email.

Greyhounds Australasia and its member control bodies are engaged in ongoing discussion with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) for greyhound regulators to be embedded as part of the export process and facilitate the comprehensive collection of greyhound export information.

Currently, greyhound control bodies are limited in their regulatory powers, under their respective state legislation, to registered industry personnel only. Meaning that unregistered persons in the control of greyhounds, are not encumbered by the greyhound industry rules and are therefore not required to engage in the GA export process.

As a result, the DAFF export data is best placed for your query <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/export>

**Kind Regards,**

**Greyhounds Australasia  
Phone:**

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**From:** Lisa Ryan  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Greyhounds Australasia Admin  
**Subject:** Australian greyhound export data

Can you please confirm, where on the Greyhound Australasia website I can obtain information relating to the export of greyhounds.

Specifically, I am seeking the following information for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2022:

- 1) Total number of greyhounds exported from Australia (year by year) and a breakdown between states/territories of origin;
- 2) Destinations (country exported to) and year by year.

Thank you and regards

[Updated GA Policy Greyhound Passport for Export 1 August 2023.pdf](#)

(101K)



**Lisa Ryan**  
Regional Campaigns Manager



I acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which I work and pay my respects to Indigenous Elders past and present. Aboriginal sovereignty was never ceded.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Ryan**

Date: Fri, 28 Jul 2023 at 10:55

Subject: Fwd: Inquiry - Australian greyhound exports to the US

To:

Hi and I am referring to my email dated 11 July.

When can I expect a reply please ?

Thank you and regards

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Ryan**

Date: Tue, 11 Jul 2023 at 13:24

Subject: Inquiry - Australian greyhound exports to the US

To:

Hello

I am wanting to obtain some specific information in relation to the export of Australian greyhounds to the US and any subsequent exports.

As per attached, we have noted an increase in the number of Australian greyhounds being exported to the US in recent years.

Greyhounds Australasia (who issue the Australian greyhound passports), temporarily suspended (2017) exports of greyhounds to the US after information was revealed that suggested that dogs from Australian origin were ending up in China after being exported to the US.

Are you please able to advise if from the US end these Australian greyhounds are tracked and traced, and if so, how ?

Is there any publicly available export data from the US records to confirm how many greyhounds are exported from the US and to which destinations over what months and years?

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and regards

[all-greyhound-exports-2018-2023.xlsx](#) (56K)

[Greyhound exports - January to May 2023.docx](#) (17K)



**Lisa Ryan**  
Regional Campaigns Manager



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