

# Australian group to adopt local greyhound

by Alexandra Lages

**T**he animal welfare protection advocacy group GREY2K USA sent a letter last week to the Macau Canidrome proposing to adopt a greyhound named Brooklyn.

'Rescue Brooklyn' is the name of the adoption campaign launched by the association jointly with Greyhound Rescue, a non-profit organisation in Australia that rehomes greyhounds.

"We have identified a specific dog, named Brooklyn, that we will try to help. We will try to send the dog back to Australia for adoption first, but if that does not work we can bring the dog back to the United States or the United Kingdom," said GREY2K executive director, Carey Theil.

"I expect this will not be an easy task, but for us it is a test case to find out what logistical challenges humane advocates would face in helping these dogs on a more permanent basis," Theil told the Macau Daily Times.

"I don't know if the [Macau] Canidrome will agree to work with us, but our letter clearly states that their refusal to cooperate with us would send a troubling message to the rest of the world," Theil added.

Charmaine Settle from the Board of Directors of GREY2K USA visited the territory recently to better understand what happens inside the Macau Canidrome. She also met with the director of the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA).

The two organisations agreed to join together find a second life for greyhounds that are exported from Australia to the local Canidrome, where they are put to sleep once they are unable to race.



*Greyhound Rescue, from Australia, is proposing to adopt Brooklyn with the help of GREY2K USA, in a test case to help Macau Canidrome's greyhounds*

According to estimates, a total of 383 healthy greyhounds were put to death at the Canidrome last year. Race dogs are not given a chance to live a second life beyond racing. Choi U Fai, head of the Municipal and Civic Affairs Bureau's animal control division, had said that the Canidrome euthanises some 30 dogs each month.

Settle left Macau with the promise to contact other animal welfare protection groups in order to increase awareness of what happens in the Macau Canidrome. It didn't take long to produce some results.

## 'Unacceptable'

In the letter sent to the Canidrome director based in Hong Kong, Ng Chi Sing, GREY2K USA

criticises the company's "policy of killing a reported thirty dogs each month," labelling such procedure as "unacceptable".

"The way greyhounds are treated in Macau, as part of the civilized world, goes against mainstream animal protection values shared across the globe," the animal welfare association says in the letter sent last Wednesday.

The largest greyhound protection organisation in the US will cover all the logistics expenses, including the quarantine in Hong Kong. There are no laws on infectious diseases in Macau and the greyhounds would have to stay in quarantine for 40 days in the neighbouring SAR before leaving for another country, which makes it an expensive exercise.

"We recognise it will not be

easy to help Brooklyn, and we are ready to address the logistics needed to return him to his home country. Because greyhounds are imported from Australia, that is the natural place for them to return," the letter points out.

"We view this attempt to help Brooklyn as a test case of cooperation between us."

A refusal to partner with the organisation "would send a troubling message to the rest of the world," GREY2K USA warned.

"Brooklyn does not deserve to be destroyed when he is injured or is no longer profitable. Like all of the Canidrome greyhounds, he deserves to find a loving home," it adds.

The organisation expects to receive "good news" within one month's time.

# Court approves use of suspects to bust drug ring

The Court of Second Instance (TSI) has reversed a Lower Court (TJB) decision which had previously acquitted two suspects of drug dealing because they had been persuaded to commit the crime by police.

The TSI decision, which was not unanimous, makes it possible for local security forces to use suspects to lure drug dealers into criminal acts.

On April 2008 the Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested a suspect for drug use and on the same day he, "under police persuasion," scheduled a meeting with one of his suppliers. The PJ arrested the second man, which in turn helped the police catch a woman who had brought drugs across the Border Gate.

However the TJB acquitted the two suppliers of drug trafficking, claiming the illegal transactions "were provoked by police inter-

vention" and as such were not admissible as court evidence.

The Public Prosecutions Office appealed to TSI and the court reversed the initial verdict, saying the police intervention was "legally admissible".

"This plan was set up primarily to prevent a crime of abstract danger against public health on both a physical and moral point of view," the judges wrote. In order for such a crime to take place "the existence of a real and actual harm is not mandatory".

The measures used by the PJ "were not liable to place the defendants in a coercion situation," the court said. The defendants were "always willing to distribute this substance [ketamine] to other people, by a similar method".

Ketamine was originally created as an anaesthetic and is still legally used in veterinary medicine. It's widely used as an illegal party

drug in Asia and can cause dream-like states and hallucinations.

"As such it's not reasonable to say the defendants were 'spurred' to commit a crime he would have never committed if it wasn't for the police plan," Chan Kuong Seng and José Maria Dias Azedo wrote.

In the end the second man was sentenced to a jail term of one year and a half while the woman received a combined prison term of one year, eight months and nine days for drug trafficking and drug use.

But a third judge, Tam Hio Wa, disagreed with the verdict. "The two defendants' illegal intent to sell drugs (...) was provoked by police conduct banned by the Penal Procedural Code," she wrote.

"The appeal should not have been accepted and the acquittal from the lower court should have stood," the judge wrote.

## Suspicious transactions rise 71 pct in first half

In the first half of 2011 local companies filed 746 suspicious transaction reports (STRs) with the Financial Intelligence Office (GIF), up by 71 percent from the same period of last year.

The STRs were created as a tool to prevent money laundering. But, according to official GIF data quoted by Portuguese news agency Lusa, only 31 cases were sent to the Public Prosecutions Office.

This is a marked drop from the whole of 2010, when the GIF earmarked around 100 STRs for investigation.

Casinos remain the biggest source of reports, accounting for 69 percent of the total with 519 STRs. The number of gaming reports grew by 239 in the initial half of 2011.

The financial business, which includes banks and insurance companies, filed 30 percent of all STRs. But this sector saw its number of reports soar from 131 to 223 in the first six-months of this year.

The number of STRs is likely to hit a new record in the whole of 2011 after rising non-stop since the anti-money laundering law came into effect in 2006. Reports climbed from 725 the following year to 1,220 in 2010.

## Tours climb 60 pct in September

Visitor arrivals on package tours soared by 60.6 percent year-on-year to 597,903 in September this year, the Statistics and Census Service indicated yesterday.

The great majority came from Mainland China (422,292), an increase of 88.9 percent over September last year. Taiwan comes in second place, with 45,138 people, up 54.7 percent, and Hong Kong in third place with 32,106 visitors, an increase of 38.7 percent.

Package tours from Korea registered an increase of 78.7 percent in the reported month, with 26,206 visitors. In contrast, visitors from Japan (19,085) decreased by 31.7 percent, still showing the impact of the earthquake that hit the country in March this year.

In the first nine months of the year, visitor arrivals on package tours increased by 16.8 percent year-on-year to over five million.

As of September 30, the number of available guest rooms in hotels and guesthouses totalled 22,407, up by 2,561 rooms (more 12.9 percent) year-on-year, with that of 5-star hotels accounting for 63.8 percent of the total.