

International group calls for end of dog-racing

Tony Lai | 21/01/2014 | in

Greyhound imports have dropped notably, says ANIMA

Another international animal protection group has called for the end of greyhound racing in Macau when the exclusive concession of Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Co Ltd expires next year.

A press statement released by the Macau Society for the Protection of Animals (ANIMA) yesterday said the Asia for Animals Coalition discussed the issue in its international conference in Singapore last week.

The coalition "approved... a recommendation to the Macau government for the closing of the track when the concession expires in December 2015," the statement said.

The Singapore conference gathered 100 organisations from 25 jurisdictions to advocate animal rights, the coalition website said.

Canidrome, often criticised by animal right campaigners for putting down dogs that can no longer race, has recently come to the spotlight.

The company announced this month on its website it has launched a programme for people to apply for adoption of retired greyhounds.

The company, linked to gaming mogul Stanley Ho Hung Sun's Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau SA, claimed one five-year-old dog has been adopted so far.

But ANIMA says it has some doubts about the programme and claims that a veterinarian working for the Canidrome adopted the greyhound. The group also said yesterday that no special training is needed for the greyhounds to be adopted, contradicting an earlier statement from the Canidrome.

But in a positive note ANIMA highlighted that greyhound imports from Australia have dropped to 10 dogs a month now from 30 before, following many months of campaigns targeting officials here and in Australia.

Revenue from betting on greyhound racing has been falling since 2009 with last year's figure at 178 million patacas (US\$22.25 million), down by 13.2 percent from 2012, official data showed.