

Sections

- MACAU
- CHINA
- ASIA-PACIFIC
- WORLD
- BUSINESS
- CULTURE
- SPORTS
- INTERVIEW
- ON ASSIGNMENT
- FEATURES
- EDITORIAL
- OUR DESK
- TIMES LAB
- INSIGHT
- OPINION
- DAILY EDITION

Newsletter

Email:

[Home](#) | [Macau](#) | Animal groups seek to ban greyhound exports to Macau

Animal groups seek to ban greyhound exports to Macau

06/06/2011 09:39:00

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Chinese animal welfare groups have urged the Australia Prime Minister Julia Gillard to ban the export of greyhounds for Macau racetracks. They accuse the Canidrome of destroying healthy dogs after they are found unable to compete, South China Morning Post reported yesterday. Local animal welfare association Society for the Protection of

Animals (ANIMA) is aware of the culling, but admitted there is little to halt the process without an official law on animal welfare protection.

The alliance of animal welfare groups from across China said in the petition to Gillard that healthy dogs are being destroyed in Macau at a rate of more than one a day. The greyhounds are imported to Macau at the age of two or three years old.

At the Canidrome they race four times a week. If they finish outside the top three in five races in a row, though still no more than five years old, they are allegedly given lethal injections.

According to Hong Kong's daily investigation, last year, 383 dogs imported from Australia were culled at the Canidrome. In March alone 45 greyhounds were given the lethal injection. Not only do track rules disallow the dogs to be taken on as pets, but it is also difficult to send them away to other countries because of anti-rabies quarantine restrictions. Macau lacks legislation on transmittable diseases, thus other country authorities don't consider MSAR laboratories as qualified. As a result, animals have to undergo quarantine in Hong Kong in order to travel out of Macau.

The director of ANIMA, Albano Martins, told the Macau Daily Times that preliminary discussions on this situation have been held between the association and the Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IACM) animal shelter.

"The government-run animal shelter is concerned over the culling of healthy dogs after they are not able to race anymore. We are trying to find a way to send them to other countries to be adopted as pets, but that's not an easy task, without a law on animal protection," he said. Macau SAR's first animal rights protection bill was draft in 2008, but is still on hold. In the meantime, several provisions from legislations dating from the 19th-century are regulating animal welfare in Macau.

Martins said that currently Macau is also trying to cope with the plight of abandoned animals, and it would be very difficult to keep the greyhounds in the SAR. Nevertheless, he suggested Macau make contact with other animal welfare groups in China to try to allow these race dogs a chance to have a second life.

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Clive Ellis on 06/06/2011 16:54:12



There is one very obvious solution; terminate greyhound racing. A major issue with the Canidrome in not just the fact ex-racers are killed but the conditions and treatment these gentle creatures have to endure. Greyhound racing and the humane treatment of greyhounds and are simple incompatible; a fact applicable to the 'sport' across the world. And whilst governments are unlikely to ever implement a ban the public have the power to end it through never watching the racing or betting on the dogs.

👍 🗨️ 22 !

christine davies on 06/06/2011 19:37:16



Why would anyone in their right mind export any living creature to this God forsaken place...where animal welfare and human rights are non existent??? ? We are campaigning, not only to ban exports to this country, but BAN IMPORTS also and stop the major companies getting their manufacturing done 'on the cheap' in this hellhole...until they get their act together and learn to show compassion to animals and humans alike. The best thing to do with china is BYPASS IT ALTOGETHER.

👍 🗨️ 15 !

marta falco ainley on 06/06/2011 22:05:57



Greyhound racing is a dying industry in the United Kingdom and the USA. One of the main reasons is that, with the internet and with protests held frequently outside dog tracks, people have been made aware of the cruelties inflicted upon these gentle and beautiful dogs. Even in the UK the greyhound rescue orgs struggle to take in and re-home the large numbers of greyhounds who've become rejects to this terrible industry. Latest research tells us that over 15,000 greyhounds disappear, presumed killed, in the UK every year.

Any person or Government that sanctions and allows the exportation of greyhounds to China is responsible for the most horrific animal welfare crimes.

With the figure of 383 greyhounds killed last year, just at one dog track, should this industry expand the numbers would rapidly reach the thousands. This would make any country/government guilty of the most shameful and horrific crime against greyhounds and their reputation would be very seriously damaged.

Thanks to Albano Martins of ANIMA, this dog racing industry is being shown up for what it really is.

Dogs are routinely skinned alive for meat and this does not exclude greyhounds. Photographic evidence is there for all to see.

THE BANNING OF GREYHOUND RACING ALL OVER THE WORLD IS VITAL AND SENDING THESE DOGS TO CHINA MUST END NOW.

👍 🗨️ 13 !

Trudy Baker on 06/06/2011 22:48:13



Very sad situation for these dogs kept in abysmal conditions away from the public's glare. Puppies culled because they don't make the grade - destroyed because injuries are uneconomical to treat and those who survive are destroyed in their thousands...deemed of no further use as a betting unit.

However - greyhound racing WORLDWIDE depends on these inherent cruel practices for its very existence.

👍 🗨️ 12 !

Billie Deane on 06/06/2011 23:02:21



If the puppy farms were kept under total control & fined huge fines for breaching acts of inhumane cruelty to all dogs/cats then the problem is solved as they are stopped from making money from innocent living beings. Mans best friend is spelt GOD backwards. ITS TIME TO STOP ABUSE TO



ALL OTHER LIVING BEINGS & STEP UP & DO GODS WORK AGAINST
THE EVILNESS OF ABUSIVE DESTRUCTIVE GREEDY HUMANS AMEN

  7 

Eric_NM on 07/06/2011 01:12:59



Greyhounds live up to 14 years, and to see them "culled*****; at less than five years of age is an abomination. If the breeders truly loved their dogs, they would not send them to a death sentence in Macau. Face it, every dog is going to slow down at some point, and in Macau, that means they will be killed. Stop dog racing, stop the export of animals to Macau.

  9 

Dorothy Giblin on 07/06/2011 04:46:48



I can't believe this, China protesting against the destruction of healthy dog? What about the thousands of healthy dogs they skin or boil alive in China an Korea, not to mention the cats and the bear cruelty on bile farms. I have seen many videos of this activity. Who are they to complain, I think they should attend to their own animal mistreatment first, although I agree it's wrong to export animals then destroying them without need and over-breeding should stop.

  4 

Tanya on 07/06/2011 05:08:49



Who is regulating this culling, to put a dog down you must first put them to sleep, they are then overdosed stopping the heart. I can't see the chinese bothering their arse to spend that kind of money on them to peacefully put them down. My guess is they will send them to the meat trade, in south Korea the government encourages their people to torture the dogs to death, so they can sell the meat at a higher price claiming it works for midisimal purposes. Who will over see the culling and who will pay for it?

  7 

mrs cheryl bush on 07/06/2011 21:53:19



I applaud the Macau Times for running this story. Take note too, that Greyhounds are being sent from AUSTRALIA and here in Britain, the IRISH Greyhound racing board, are trying to get their Greyhounds, sent to CHINA.

  3 

John Carmody on 07/06/2011 21:59:27



Greyhound racing is disgusting and this 'sport' should be ended in whatever country is currently exists. Here in Ireland we are campaigning to get rid of this cruel, exploitive 'sport'.

  4 

total: 17 | displaying: 1 - 10

1 2 >

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