

# Grey2K vows to protect Australian greyhounds exported to Macau

24/12/2013 08:48:00



International lobby group Grey2K has recently released data on the exportation of Australian greyhounds, particularly from New South Wales, showing that hundreds of dogs exported to Macau are facing mistreatment, abuse and even death. According to a report published in the Sydney Morning Herald, the group's president, Christine Dorchak, has already urged the federal government to ban the live export of Australian greyhounds, since they will most likely face mistreatment and death, particularly when they are not considered good enough.

Grey2K USA is a worldwide greyhound protection organization and the largest in the United States. The group's figures show that over 110 greyhounds were exported from Australia in just four months, with most of them aged less than two years. Many are being exported to racetracks in Macau and mainland China. "No Australian dog survives the Canidrome (...) once their usefulness ends due to injury or age; there is no safety net, no adoption program and no way out for these dogs... Clearly, Australian greyhounds need protection and the Chinese policy of summarily killing dogs after racing cannot meet your country's humanitarian standards," Ms. Dorchak told The Sydney Morning Herald.

According to the report, the state parliamentary has received thousands of inquiries on the greyhound industry. The submitted inquiries focused on the animal welfare issues as well as the disappearance of thousands of puppies each year.

In Macau, one of the exported Australian greyhounds, named Brooklyn, who suffered a severe injury last May, has not been seen since. The government of Macau has told the animal welfare group that Brooklyn is alive. Nevertheless, a petition with 28,000 signatures has been presented to Chief Executive Chui Sai On, urging him to help send the dog back to Australia.

Mr. John Kaye, a Greens Party member of parliament in New South Wales, is the deputy chairman of the inquiry. He criticized the Australian government and greyhound authorities, saying that they have "washed their hands of the welfare of dogs exported to Macau, despite overwhelming evidence of brutality there." Furthermore, he believes that "it suits the worst elements of the greyhound industry" in Australia "to maintain an unregulated export trade to Macau." "Not only do they have a market where they can dump dogs that don't win races, but Australian wastage rates are artificially suppressed by outsourcing more than 280 deaths a year to Macau," he added.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald report, Greyhounds Australasia, the peak national body for the

industry, hasn't revealed results on a review conducted last year regarding the live exports. This review was due to introduce the development of a set of standards to be applied to countries importing Australian greyhounds.

A recent report published in the South China Morning Post reveals, however, that the number of greyhounds imported to Macau to race "has fallen dramatically", with some speculating that operations at the dog track might cease.

The Macau Society for the Protection of Animals, also known as Anima, has been discussing measures of cooperation with the government this year. Its president, Mr. Albano Martins, stressed in a meeting with the Chief Executive the importance of creating legislation in this area.

Anima's president suggested the introduction of punishments for those found guilty of animal abuse and neglect, as well as requiring professional qualifications for veterinarians, licenses for pets, vaccination and regulation of pet shops.