



The Hon Julia Gillard MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Australia

November 2011

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing on behalf of the Asia for Animals 2011 organising committee members, representing international organisations with extensive knowledge of animal welfare issues. We express our deep concern over the export of greyhounds from Australia to Macau.

A May 2011 article published in the Irish Daily Mail exposed this trade to meet the demands of the greyhound industry in Macau. The article described the suffering, neglect and untimely death of over 380 dogs each year in Macau.

Dr Choi, head of the Macau government's animal control department which oversees the import and destruction of every dog at the Canidrome, describes the plight of the greyhounds as 'terrible' and said every dog imported to Macau from Australia was dead within around three years. 'They euthanise around 30 dogs each month,' says Dr Choi, producing government records showing how the number of dogs put down rose from 322 in 2009 to 383 last year.

In March this year alone, 45 dogs were given lethal injections before being sent to incinerators. 'When they are imported, the dogs are aged around two to three years. The longest they stay in the racing centre is three years. They all die after three years,' says Dr Choi. 'Only a few of them are put to sleep because they are injured. For most of them, it is because they can't run and they can't win.'

Minimum welfare standards for greyhounds are not provided by greyhound racing operators in Macau. We urge you to consider the welfare implications of allowing this trade to continue, leading to many hundreds of dogs breed in Australia being subjected to inadequate care, poor welfare, suffering, neglect and death each year.

On behalf of all of our members globally, we appeal to the Australian Government to end the export of greyhounds to Macau and protect the welfare of dogs breed in Australia.

Sent on behalf of the following organisations:

- Animal Guardians
- Animal People
- Animals Asia Foundation
- Animal Concerns Research & Education Society
- Best Friends Animal Society
- Humane Society International
- International Animal Rescue
- International Fund for Animal Welfare
- Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK)

- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Hong Kong

- World Society for the Protection of Animals

Please respond to David Neale, Animal Welfare Director, Animals Asia Foundation, 10/F, Kai Tak Commercial Building 317-319 Des Voeux Road, Central, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

dneale@animalsasia.org

