

# GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



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November 4, 2013

The Honorable Barnaby Joyce  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
P.O Box 6022  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Mr. Minister,

I am writing to ask for your public support a prohibition on the export of Australian greyhounds to the Chinese peninsula of Macau.

Both the *Macau Times*<sup>i</sup> and the *South China Morning Post*<sup>ii</sup> reported in 2011 and 2012 that dogs are killed at the rate of one per day, with new dogs arriving monthly from Australia. Figures recently obtained by the SPCA Hong Kong show the number of imports ranged from 290 in 2010, 348 in 2011, and 378 in 2012. While early indications predict a decline for 2013, this does not change the fact that no Australian dog survives the Canidrome. Once their usefulness subsides to injury or age, there is no safety net, no adoption program, and no way out for these dogs. Over twenty-eight thousand people to date have petitioned for the release of one dog in particular, a red brindle-colored greyhound named Brooklyn. You may read this petition and a report on the Canidrome at [RescueBrooklyn.org](http://RescueBrooklyn.org).

As you may know, a draft animal cruelty law was presented to the Macau public for consideration in 2007, but thus far the government has not taken it up. In the absence of such a law, and in the interests of putting an immediate stop to the senseless killing of greyhounds, we ask that you implement a restriction on trade in greyhounds to Macau. As you know, this is permissible under Article XX "General Exceptions" of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Specifically, GATT Article XX(b) authorizes Member States to deviate from their WTO commitments for trade liberalization where "necessary to protect, human, animal, or plant life or health."<sup>iii</sup>

Clearly, Australian greyhounds need protection and the Chinese policy of summarily killing dogs after racing can not meet your country's humane standards. Similarly, when Irish greyhound breeders petitioned government to begin importing greyhounds to China for racing, the Department of Agriculture issued a refusal, stating that the proposal "does not provide sufficient assurance that adequate provision would be made to safeguard the health and welfare of greyhounds in China at the end of their racing life."<sup>iv</sup>

We would be happy to work with your office to develop the least restrictive means of accomplishing this goal. At a minimum, a temporary restriction is in order to spare Australian dogs from certain death at the Canidrome.

As long as greyhound racing continues in China, greyhounds will suffer. Please help end the unnecessary killing of Australian greyhounds in Macau.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. A. Dorchak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "D" and a stylized "R".

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.

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<sup>i</sup> Alexandra lages, *US animal group vows to help local greyhounds*, *Macau Daily Times*, July 11, 2011 available at <http://tinyurl.com/79kuh3a>

<sup>ii</sup> Simon Parry, *Owners angrey as Macau Canidrome fails to stop euthanising retired dogs*, *South China Morning Post*, December 16, 2012 available at <http://tinyurl.com/q2a7kcn>.

<sup>iii</sup> See, e.g. World Trade Organization, UNDERSTANDING THE WTO (2011), Chapter 4; [http://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/whatis\\_e/tif\\_e/understanding\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/understanding_e.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Gordon Deegan, *Animal welfare concerns stall greyhound board's China plan*, *The Independent*, March 30, 2012 available at <http://tinyurl.com/ny5dvn4>.