



Joy Burch MLA

MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR DISABILITY
MINISTER FOR RACING AND GAMING
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Minister Rattenbury

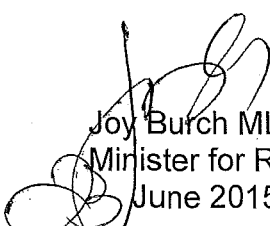
I am writing to you in your capacity as the Minister responsible for animal welfare in the Territory. As you would be aware, I have been working with my Racing Minister colleagues in each state and Territory to ensure the practice of live baiting in the greyhound racing industry is stamped out and that no persons who participate in ACT greyhound racing are implicated.

The Canberra Greyhound Racing Club (CGRC) has recently recommended a range of measures and actions in relation to animal cruelty, animal welfare and racing integrity for consideration by the ACT Government. In particular, I share the concerns of the CGRC that the penalties under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* in relation to animal cruelty may be insufficient to act as a deterrent and could benefit from a review to ensure consistency with other jurisdictions. I would support a review of the penalties associated with animal cruelty in the Act, particularly as they apply to the greyhound live baiting matter.

I also support as a matter of red tape reduction the club's suggestion that as part of the greyhound adoption scheme, where a greyhound has been deemed suitable for a 'green collar' (to be un-muzzled in public) in another jurisdiction, that the Territory provide mutual recognition, rather than requiring the animal to be assessed separately.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters. If you could please keep my office updated on the progress of these changes it would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely


Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Racing and Gaming
June 2015

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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MEMBER FOR BRINDABELLA

Mr Garry Collier
Director
Canberra Greyhound Racing Club Inc.
PO Box 647
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

Dear Mr Collier

Thank you for your time for our recent meeting concerning issues currently facing the national industry and the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club (CGRC) including animal cruelty, animal welfare and racing integrity.

As discussed at our meeting, I share your concerns that the penalties under the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* in relation to animal cruelty appear to be inadequate and would benefit from a review to ensure consistency with other jurisdictions.

I also support as a matter of red tape reduction your proposal that as part of the greyhound adoption scheme, where a greyhound has been deemed suitable for a 'green collar' (to be un-muzzled in public) in another jurisdiction, that the Territory provide mutual recognition, rather than requiring the animal to assessed separately.

I have written to my colleague Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, to raise these matters for his consideration. I have requested Mr Rattenbury keep me updated on the progress of any regulatory and legislative changes in relation to animal welfare.

Thank you again for your time. The ACT Government cares deeply about the safety and welfare of all animals, including those in our racing industry, and I am committed to ensuring that appropriate protection measures are in place.


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Please keep me or my office informed of significant developments and progress in these matters. Continued regular liaison with the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission will also be helpful for all parties.

Yours sincerely



Joy Burch MLA
Minister for Racing and Gaming
June 2015