



# 'The tail had been torn off': Greyhound racing insider lifts lid on animal cruelty

7.30 By Sean Rubinsztein-Dunlop and Caro Meldrum-Hanna

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**A former greyhound racing insider is lifting the lid on horrific animal cruelty and corruption in the sport, saying what he has witnessed shows the sport is incapable of cleaning itself up.**

Former Greyhound Racing NSW on-track vet Dr Greg Bryant has spoken out on the ABC's 7.30 program in support of the shock decision to ban the sport in the state, despite threats to his family from greyhound trainers.

"I was disgusted by what I witnessed. I saw some horrific injuries and I saw some of the worst aspects of human behaviour too," said Dr Bryant, who was an on-track vet in 2014 and 2015.

"When I left Greyhound Racing NSW, my view of the industry was that it was a very cruel and corrupt industry."

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## Key points:

- Former Greyhound Racing NSW vet says he supports the ban on greyhound racing
- Says dog deaths and injuries were covered up
- Says one greyhound's tail was ripped off

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## 'No commitment to animal welfare'

Dr Bryant was on the inside of the industry when the sport was thrown into turmoil by revelations on the ABC's Four Corners program of widespread live baiting in February 2015.

"I can remember there was a lot of nervousness from management of Greyhound Racing NSW," he said.

"They were in a way relieved the program only focused on live baiting because [there were] other issues they were worried about, like money laundering that takes place and the horrific injuries and wastage in the industry.

"'It could have been a lot worse' was the consensus they seemed to be coming to."

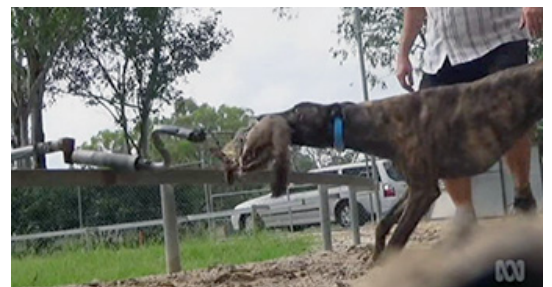
Despite promises of transparency and zero tolerance in response to the live baiting revelations, Greyhound Racing NSW officials engaged in brazen cover-ups of dog deaths and injuries.

"I expected to see changes in the time I was with Greyhound Racing NSW. I didn't see any changes," he said.

"There is no commitment to animal welfare that I witnessed."

In 2015, Dr Bryant started a diary of greyhound deaths and injuries but his records were ignored.

## Four Corners: Making A Killing



Four Corners exposes the use of piglets, possums and rabbits as live bait in secret greyhound training

"Not one of the deaths I recorded in that period between January and August of 2015 was reported in a steward's report," he said.

sessions.

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"Of the injuries, a lot of the injuries were misreported too.

"I asked why a dog that I knew had been euthanased at a race meeting had not been reported in a steward report. I asked why that was so to one of the stewards, and they said they didn't report those things because they didn't want to stir up the greenies, they didn't want to bring the industry into disrepute or under further scrutiny."

## 'Tail had been torn off'

There was one act of cruelty that eventually caused Dr Bryant to quit in disgust.

In December 2014, a dog, Willby Mighty, was referred to him with a tail injury after a race. Dr Bryant instructed the owner to have the tail amputated.

"Later in the meeting one of the track staff came and told me that there was a dog's tail up near the starting boxes," he said.

"There was a lot of evidence that this tail had been torn off. Overwhelming evidence.

"That to me is an extremely cruel act."

The greyhound's trainer was Gareth Miggins from Rockhampton, Queensland. Miggins had already been suspended in 2013 when one of his greyhounds was fed the drug speed.

Dr Bryant said authorities were hesitant to investigate the incident involving the tail.

"I wasn't encouraged in any way. I was very upset about this," he said.

"I pursued and followed up on what action would be taken and to get an outcome because this dog had been under our supervision, if you like, even our care.

"And for this to happen, it meant really no dog was safe. Anything could happen. And if the person who'd torn that tail off was allowed to do such a thing without any penalty then there's no protection for these dogs."

Seven months after the tail was found, Miggins was questioned at an inquiry by the chief steward and head of integrity for Greyhound Racing NSW.

But Dr Bryant said crucial video evidence was not used and other key evidence was lost.

To this date, no finding has been made. Gareth Miggins is still racing in Queensland. He denies any wrongdoing.

Last year, Dr Bryant gave evidence to the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into greyhound racing. The report by retired High Court judge Michael McHugh found overwhelming evidence of animal cruelty, including mass greyhound killings and live baiting.

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## What now for the dogs?



New homes can be found for former racing greyhounds following a ban on the sport in New South Wales, dog welfare advocates say.

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