

## Trainer's greyhounds suspended after police raid property

ANDREW FAULKNER THE AUSTRALIAN APRIL 18, 2015 12:00AM



One of the scenes from the Four Corners program about live baiting in the greyhound industry. Picture: ABC. Source: Supplied

### **All the greyhounds run by a leading South Australian trainer have been suspended after police raided her Two Wells property last month.**

In the latest scandal to hit the greyhound industry after the live-baiting issue erupted in February, all dogs trained by 2014 South Australian trainer and breeder of the year Karen Bearpark were suspended by greyhound racing officials after the March 26 raid north of Adelaide.

The Weekend Australian has been told rabbit and possum cages were found in the kennel inspection but this has not been confirmed by the police, nor by the RSPCA, whose officers attended the raid.

Neither would the RSPCA or the police confirm if drugs used in greyhound doping were found at the raid.

Bearpark is the partner of well-known greyhound veterinarian John Katakasi. Bearpark and Katakasi were contacted for a response yesterday but did not return The Weekend Australian's call.

In a statement, the RSPCA said the matter was "not an investigation under the Animal Welfare Act" and referred further inquiries to the police, which it said was the lead agency.

"RSPCA South Australia staff assisted South Australia Police in searching a property in Two Wells

last month,” the RSPCA said this week.

“We provided animal experts such as veterinarians and inspectors to assist police, who have limited experience in handling animals, during their attendance at the property.

“As this is not an investigation under the Animal Welfare Act we are not able to provide further comment.”

The police said the matter was subject to an ongoing investigation so no further comment would be made.

“Police can confirm that in late March a property in Two Wells was searched by police in conjunction with the RSPCA and the Greyhound (Racing) Association,” a police spokesman said.

Greyhound Racing SA was contacted for comment but did not provide a response.

Since the ABC Four Corners program’s sensational expose of live-baiting aired in February — showing hidden-camera footage of live piglets, rabbits and possums being strapped to lures and mauled by dogs — the greyhound industry has been rocked by a succession of scandals.

In Queensland, a review of the industry was last week escalated to a commission of inquiry — which will give the state government wider powers of investigation.

Four more people were charged last week by the taskforce investigating live baiting in the state.

That followed charges being brought against a trainer after more than 50 dog carcasses were found in bushland near Bundaberg.

In early March, the Greyhound Racing Victoria board stepped down en masse following the release of an interim report into live baiting.

Nationwide, 23 racing identities, among them prominent and decorated names in the greyhound industry, were stood down in the days after the February 16 Four Corners report.