



October 21, 2013

Dr. Chui Sai On
Chief Executive
Macau, SAR
China

Dear Dr. Chui Sai On,

We are writing to request your urgent attention to the plight of greyhounds at Macau's dog track, the Canidrome.

Despite the respectful entreaties of ANIMA Director, Albano Martins, and in complete disregard of international calls for change, the track owners have refused to make even the most basic improvements to the treatment of the dogs. Letters from the thirteen-member Asia for Animals Coalition, which includes the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Hong Kong, IFAW, RSPCA and Humane Society International, as well as separate requests from GREY2K USA Worldwide and Animals Australia have all been ignored. In fact, a visiting representative from the RSPCA asked if he could be shown the kennels earlier this year, so as to advise on better humane standards, but he was summarily refused.

Both the *Macau Times* and the *South China Morning Post* reported in 2011 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 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 January 2012 report on the Canidrome at RescueBrooklyn.org.

The decline of greyhound racing has been ongoing for years, and media outlets have long reported the spiraling collapse of this industry. The most recent U.S. figures available from the Association of Racing Commissioners International show that gambling on greyhounds has declined by 67% in the years 2001-2011. This includes both gambling on live racing and simulcast betting, where bettors wager remotely on dog races taking place elsewhere. Not only have humane concerns come to the forefront, but competition from other forms of gambling has forced tracks to close. Since 2001, twenty-seven American tracks have shut down operations, cutting the U.S. industry, the birth ground of greyhound racing, in half.

Similarly, according to the *Economist*, the United Kingdom has suffered a 20% decline on dog race bookmakers bets just since 2008. A member of the House of Lords, Lord Lipsey, described the industry as spiraling downward since the 1960's. Equally, the Irish Greyhound Board has relied on government

subsidies to continue. These totaled more than €11M each year in the last three years, according to Houses of the Oireachtas and the Irish Greyhound Board itself.

In conclusion, it is our understanding that the Canidrome has not only been evasive with animal advocates, but has resisted government directives as well. The arrogance of the track owners, coupled with the continuing killing of greyhounds at the facility, strongly indicate that it is time for a change. We are grateful for the news that there may be an inquiry into humane conditions, but any delay in closing the Canidrome will only cause more greyhounds to suffer needlessly. Perhaps the Canidrome can follow in the footsteps of Wimbledon, one of London's original dog tracks? The facility has recently been sold and its land will soon become a place for parking, housing and community recreational space.

We ask that you intervene in this situation, rescind the Canidrome's racing license, and mandate the end of dog racing in Macau for good.

Respectfully,



Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
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Worldwide



Anne Lloyd-Jones
Australian Director,
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