

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

25/1/2012

Hon'ble Senator Ludwig,

I am a member of Parliament in India and the ex Minister for Environment and Forests .
My name is Maneka Gandhi.

I am writing to you on a very serious matter.

Three months ago an Australian citizen of Indian origin brought a Greyhound into India. He did not seem to be the owner and ,when questioned by the authorities, he dumped the dog at the airport and fled. The dog , named Ash , spent 40 days in the cargo section of left luggage until the newspapers got hold of the story. I, as head of India's largest animal welfare group, People for Animals took the dog to my hospital where we found it was in chronic kidney failure because of growth steroids given to it earlier. The dog is stil with me , undergoing treatment. The man turned up and was willing to pay any amount to retrieve the dog – he said he had brought it for clandestine greyhound racing in Punjab (It is illegal in our country) . The dog was not expected to live more than a month , but in that time , he would have earned money for this man's relatives in illegal betting.

Many of your dogs are coming this way – both directly from Australia and being smuggled in from Pakistan. They are kept locked up in small village rooms , injected with steroids and other drugs, made to race in small village races and then , when that stops they are made to fight each other till they die. It is an extremely cruel set of sports

In India , it is legal to bring in dogs as pets and many “runners” who come from Australia are pretending that these are their pets and are bringing them in for breeders and for racing/fighting. The law to ban the import of dogs should be done in our country since this is becoming an menace with the Russians and Uzbekis bringing in dogs with each air trip. However this letter is to urge you to ban the export of greyhounds.

The racing of greyhounds in Australia leads to hundreds of dogs being killed. But much worse is the export trade. Many of our Indians who have gone to Macau speak of the terrible conditions of the Canidrome racing stadium. All these dogs come from your country – and I am sure that anyone with humanity would consider them Australian citizens and protect them from such terrible conditions.

Over 500 dogs were killed last year at the Canidrome , all young dogs under 5 years. Any dog that loses a few races is killed and replaced immediately with another dog from Australia.

As a politician in India who has been Minister several times, I know that executive decisions are not too difficult and can change the quality of lives for better or worse. You have the ability to make a moral decision that will stop enormous suffering for no reason except illegal sport and betting. Why not ban the export.

We in India believe that if you do good, it brings a lot of luck. I wish you the very best.

With regards

(Maneka Gandhi)

Member of Parliament

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