

## Greyhound live baiting not in Perth: WA Racing and Gaming

Date February 17, 2015

Widespread investigations into the greyhound racing industry are underway after ABC airs secret footage of live animals mauled during training on *Four Corners*.

Racing and Gaming WA says the horrific practice of live baiting is dead in WA, after *Four Corners* revealed on Monday night [systematic and widespread illegal bleeding in the greyhound industry in the eastern states](#).

The ABC current affairs program showed footage of piglets, possums and rabbits strapped down on mechanical lures, then hurled around a track several times before being chased down by dogs and in some cases torn apart.

Live baiting has been banned in Australia for years but rumours were rife in the industry that some trainers were using the method to give dogs an edge before racing.



A screenshot of the *Four Corners* program on the greyhound racing industry. *Photo: ABC*

Racing and Gaming WA general manager of racing integrity, Denis Borovica, told Radio 6PR there had never been any complaints about live baiting in WA.

"It was certainly very disturbing footage and we can understand why people would want to be asking questions this morning, because no one can condone or say that anything that was seen last night is acceptable to any industry," he said.

"We haven't had any direct complaints or indirect complaints in relation to that footage we all watched last night, which was taken on the eastern seaboard and didn't involve and Western Australian tracks.



A photo from an RSPCA raid in Queensland. *Photo: Christian Bowman*

"Our industry is a lot smaller than it is in the eastern states and we have three tracks where predominantly the training takes place.

"And they are well regulated venues."

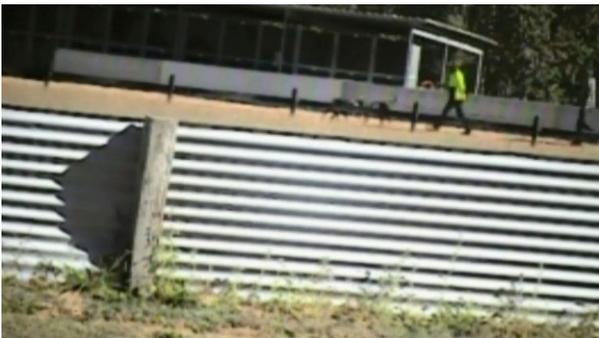


Greyhound racing is in the spotlight amid allegation of live baiting. *Photo: Max Mason-Hubers*

Mr Borovica said WA Racing and Gaming didn't allow live or dead animals anywhere near training tracks.

But the WA Greens have called for an urgent inquiry into WA's greyhound racing industry in the wake of the scandal.

"The government needs to issue a clear statement that the funding supplied by Royalties for Regions is not tainted by the barbaric behaviour; it is not good enough to simply state it is not condoned," Greens MLC Robin Chapple said.



A screenshot of the *Four Corners* program on greyhound racing industry, allegedly filmed at trainer Tom Noble's property in Queensland. *Photo: ABC*

"Secondly, Racing and Wagering Western Australia needs to advise that none of the 70 individuals named in this investigation have any operations in Western Australia.

"RWWA must be able to state that live baiting practices do not occur in this state.

"If the state government and RWWA are unable to immediately provide these statements then there is no other option but for an independent inquiry."

But Mr Borovica said the WA industry was a long way from what was shown on *Four Corners*.

"We have our three tracks in Western Australia and they are regulated by us," he said.

"The clubs run the race meeting but we are - for a better term - the umpire or policeman over those things.

"We have a person present any time that lure is spinning around the tracks.

"There are very few private facilities here and we know where they are and we monitor those activities."

He Borovica said the industry in WA was miniscule compared to over east.

"We don't have the scale of industry that has a rearing or breaking or breeding industry as they do in the eastern states," he said.

"We breed some 500 greyhounds in a year compared to many thousands in the eastern states."

He said if the public had any knowledge of live baiting it should contact the RSPCA.

"We have a record of being very tough and very hard in relation to integrity in Western Australia and I think that's a reputation that precedes us in the industry throughout Australia," he said.

Mr Borovica said the trainers captured on camera using live animals for training should be banned from the industry for life.

"I think that's what the expectation is and I don't think it's an unreasonable expectation, in light of what we saw," he said.

Animals Australia boss Lyn White said she was worried the practice of live baiting was widespread in the industry across Australia and feared the scope of the problem could widen.