



MEDIA RELEASE

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Outrage at cruel greyhound experiment conducted at an Australian university

Humane Research Australia has condemned a recent experiment using conscious greyhound dogs as yet another tragic example of the unethical, cruel and pointless research currently being carried out at Australian universities and research facilities.

The experiment was conducted by researchers at the **University of Newcastle**, and funded through a project grant from the **National Health and Medical Research Council** (NHMRC).

The experiment subjected twelve greyhounds to invasive and distressing surgical procedures without general anesthetic or any form of sedative. The researchers were attempting to further explore the body's stabilising mechanisms for maintaining blood pressure in relation to bronchial circulation in the lungs (baroreflex). For comprehensive details of the experiment please see: <http://www.humanerresearch.org.au/case-studies/invasive-surgery-conducted-on-conscious-greyhounds>

The study does not provide any indication as to where the university sourced the greyhounds from, so perhaps it is right to assume they were failed racing dogs? Nor does the study reveal the fate of the dogs used for the experiment.

HRA, CEO, Helen Marston said today *"This experiment clearly highlights the blatant animal cruelty occurring within Australian laboratories under the guise of essential medical research. The time has come to lift the lid on this hidden industry; an industry that routinely sanctions needless suffering upon millions of animals each year, sometimes for nothing more it would appear than the purpose of satisfying the morbid curiosity of certain scientists."*

HRA's scientific adviser Dr Andre Menache, BSc (zoology), BSc (Hons), BVSc, MRCVS, said *"This study is an example of curiosity-driven basic research. In addition to the welfare and cost-benefit concerns in the McIlveen study, there are significant methodological issues that should have alerted the animal ethics committee before approving the study. Such concerns should also have been raised by the funding body (National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia)."*

The research was approved by the Animal Care and Ethics Committee of the University of Newcastle.

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