

GREY2K USA WORLDWIDE



Hello, my name is Christine Dorchak and I am the president and general counsel of GREY2K USA Worldwide. We work to pass laws to protect greyhounds and promote the adoption of ex-racers. Over the last twenty years, we have had the honor to work on many campaigns, primarily in the United States but also in other countries. But the most rewarding experience we have had was to work with ANIMA Macau and Pet Levrieri to Close the Canidrome and help bring hundreds of surviving dogs to safety.

The campaign started in 2011 when our California board member Charmaine Settle agreed to fly to Macau and investigate a track that I had read a story about in the *South China Morning Post*. The story was by Simon Parry and was called the *Finishing Line*. I learned that over 400 dogs were shipped from Australia each year to a terrible place where no dog every got out alive. I decided that we had to do something about it! This was quite a tall order but there was no way we could ignore these dogs.

Charmaine went to Macau, saw the track, went to ANIMA and met with Albano and the rest is history. She asked me to read this message to all of you today:

"I traveled to Macau in October 2011 to investigate the atrocities at the Canidrome racetrack. I wanted to go and bear witness to the conditions at the track and help create an awareness effort worldwide. Of most importance, I was hoping to establish a collaborative relationship between GREY2K USA Worldwide and Albano Martins of ANIMA, the Macau organization for the protection of animals.

I remember when I arrived at the track I felt so heartbroken looking at the dogs as they passed me by, knowing every one of them would be killed because of an injury or because they weren't profitable anymore. I began taking pictures to memorialize these helpless hounds. The Canidrome had no adoption policy, so it was clearly a one-way death sentence when the dogs were sent from Australia to Macau to be exploited, suffer and die for the sake of a bet. When I asked one of the handlers if I could adopt a greyhound, he just laughed at me.

One of the dogs I photographed was named Brooklyn. He was so beautiful! I sent the picture to Christine and told her that he, like the other greyhounds I saw that night, would soon be dead unless something was done.

Today the Canidrome is closed due to the tireless determination of Albano, Christine, Stefania and Massimo. Brooklyn has been adopted by Christine and was brought to the USA along with more than 300 other lucky dogs. The transports all went smoothly due to the dedicated efforts of our volunteer Caryn Wood who coordinated with the wonderful people at the National Greyhound Adoption Program of Philadelphia, the Greyhound Adoption Center of California and rescue groups across the country. Finally, I would like to offer my thanks to all of you for supporting their efforts every step of the way. Now the dogs are finally beginning to understand what it feels like to love and be loved."

Thank you all for being a part of the successful "Macau Airlift" and thank you for having the faith to work with all of us to save the greyhounds. You are living proof that change is possible!

Christine A. Dorchak, Esq.
Milan, September 8, 2019