

## Surge in greyhound adoption interest after shock NSW racing ban



By Courtney Robinson | 7:40am Jul 9, 2016



The fallout from the Baird government's decision to outlaw greyhound racing has turned to the fate of the thousands of dogs who now face an uncertain future.

Lisa White, who founded the Murwillumbah-based greyhound rescue and adoption group Friends of the Hound in 2003, said she has already seen a surge in adoption interest since the news broke yesterday.

"We've already had emails from people saying they've been considering adopting, and [asking] 'how do we go about getting a greyhound?'" Ms White told 9news.com.au.





“I think there will be a really big push by Australians to help the dogs, whether that’s fostering, adopting or donating.”

Ms White was moved to start the organisation after she was told to ignore a greyhound she noticed in a pound.

“They said, ‘oh don’t look at that one, that’s a greyhound, they only come here to be destroyed’,” she said.

9RAW: Mike Baird announces ban of greyhound racing in NSW

---

She adopted the dog and named her Zada, who then lived out her days with Ms White.

---

## **RELATED ARTICLES**

**Serena Williams steps out in 'Wakanda' uniform at French Open**

**Darling keeping it simple to beat MCG hoodoo**

**Scheme to underpay MCG cleaners exposed**

---

But she says despite the “sweet, placid and quiet” nature of the dogs, making them suitable companion and house pets, there has always been an overbreeding problem.

“Unfortunately there will be dogs that don’t make it – but it’s been the reality for decades.

“I think it’s going to be a struggle. There’s obviously going to be far too many dogs without a purpose, there’s never going to be enough companion homes for the greyhounds out there.

“There never has been. When you breed 20,000 dogs every year in this country, there’s absolutely no other outcome than an early death for most of these dogs.

“What we’re excited about is that cycle of overbreeding and killing will be over.”

Ms White said her organisation would keep working to re-home the dogs following the “ecstatic” news the sport will be made illegal.

Sydney-based non-profit organisation Greyhound Rescue also praised the shutdown, but similarly warned of challenges ahead.

There are almost 7,000 registered greyhounds in New South Wales.

“While we are all very excited by the wonderful news, there is much work that we need to do and we will need to pull together to do it,” Greyhound Rescue posted [on their Facebook page](#).

“The welfare of the hounds is our top priority”.



Greyhounds As Pets, another group working to re-home the dogs, asked for people to share their stories online of their adopted pooches.

“This is our beautiful boy Humphrey,” Facebook user Emily Townsend wrote.

“He is a gentle soul, although doesn’t mind having a wrestle with a bone. He loves to run and chase (after all, that’s what they’re bred for) but in the same breath he doesn’t require a lot of exercise.

“He hardly ever barks and he never smells bad. We love our Humphrey!!”.

A massive adoption push for the animals has already begun, with a “[Greyhounds As Pets](#)” adoption day planned for July 16 at Sydney’s Wentworth Park already gaining traction on social media.



**Emily Townsend** This is our beautiful boy Humphrey. Although we didn't adopt through GAP, the work they do for these dogs is amazing.

He is a gentle soul, although doesn't mind having a wrestle with a bone. He loves to run and chase (after all, that's what they're bred for) but in the same breath he doesn't require a lot of exercise. He hardly ever barks and he never smells bad. We love our Humphrey!!!



Like - Reply - 16 - 5 July at 16:55



**ralph horowitz** @rtralphy

Jul 6, 2016

Slabbing as much crap content on as possible in a betting sport with dogs or horses involved, don't be surprised if animal cruelty occurs



**Ed Healey**

@emptycab

no thought given to what will happen to the thousands of jobs and also the many unwanted dogs

10:14 PM - Jul 6, 2016

1 See Ed Healey's other Tweets



**Allana Burns**

@allanaburns

Feeling for all involved in greyhound racing in NSW, a huge knock for the industry. What will happen to the dogs? Dodgy underground racing?

10:52 PM - Jul 6, 2016

11 See Allana Burns's other Tweets



**sweetroy**  
@sweeroy\_

not to mention if someone's willing to kill their dogs because they can't make a profit, they probably weren't treating them well anyway

9:48 AM - Jul 7, 2016

1 See sweetroy's other Tweets



**Adam**  
@kels\_316

Why will greyhounds need to be "rehomed"? Aren't greyhound trainers/racers animal lovers just in it because they love the dogs so much?

6:15 PM - Jul 7, 2016

6 See Adam's other Tweets

Yesterday, social media users weighed in with mixed opinions on the fate of greyhounds.

Others joined in the campaign to encourage people to consider adoption.

The government said for dogs unable to be rehomed or who belong to owners who don't want to keep them, they will be put down.

Appearing on the TODAY Show this morning, NSW RSPCA CEO Steve Coleman said a taskforce had been set up to assist industry participants and greyhound owners with the next steps.

"Our focus right now is obviously the animals.

"We're going to work with industry, we're going to work with greyhound owners, if they find themselves in a position where they can't sustain that animal, talk to the RSPCA," Mr Coleman said.

Mr Baird announced the decision on Facebook yesterday, citing the "widespread slaughter" of greyhounds deemed unfit for competition.

A damning report commissioned by the NSW government found between 48,000 and 68,000 dogs had been killed in the past 12 years.

The report also concluded the sport could not reform.

In response, the ACT also announced they would ban the sport.

© Nine Digital Pty Ltd 2018

Sport Politics

✉ CONTACT US

Send your photos, videos and stories to 9News [contact@9news.com.au](mailto:contact@9news.com.au)