

Sydney greyhounds find new homes after racing banned in NSW

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Racing greyhounds put up for adoption

A record number of former and unwanted racing dogs have been re-homed at a greyhound adoption day in Sydney.

Hundreds of people poured through the gates at Wentworth Park today to meet and greet the animals, as tensions continue to simmer over a landmark decision to ban greyhound racing in NSW.

Of the 40 greyhounds up for grabs, 39 were adopted and one fostered out, with another 100-odd people registering interest for dogs further down the track.

"We've never had 40 (dogs) before and usually when we do have 30 we generally struggle to find them all homes," Greyhounds as Pets spokesman Michael East said.

"We had a heap of people register their interest so we'll be following them up on Monday."

The adoption day came after the NSW government this week refused to back down on its decision to ban greyhound racing after meeting industry leaders.

Premier Mike Baird and his deputy Troy Grant will pump an estimated \$30 million into helping the industry through the ban after meeting with owners and breeders.

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Mr Baird said he had no choice but to scrap the sport after an inquiry found up to 68,000 "uncompetitive" greyhounds had been slaughtered in the past 12 years and nearly one-in-five trainers used live animal baits.

NSW natural resources commissioner Dr John Keniry will co-ordinate the end of the industry and guide the distribution of funds.

However, NSW Greyhounds Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association chief executive Brenton Scott insists legal options to fight the ban are still being explored.

Meanwhile, community members and their canine companions are preparing to rally in Sydney tomorrow in support of the greyhound racing ban.

Another Sydney greyhound adoption day has been scheduled for next month.

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