

Otago Daily Times

HOMES FOR ALL

January 8, 2025

I was disappointed to read dog racing representative Allen Bryce claim the industry homes every greyhound that finishes racing. (Opinion ODT 3.1.25)

For instance, between 2020-21 and 2022-23, 336 greyhounds were destroyed due to "aggression," illness, or injury and an additional 231 died due to accident, illness, or natural causes.

Further, per a 2023 Racing Integrity Board report, the number of greyhounds entering the industry and awaiting adoption increased between 2019-20 and 2022-23 while the number of adoptions decreased.

In other words, greyhounds have been piling up in kennels and on adoption waitlists because the industry refused to stop overbreeding dogs.

Thankfully, Racing Minister Winston Peters decided to call time on this inhumane industry. Mr Peters launched New Zealand's first Greyhounds as Pets adoption programme in 2006 because he wanted every greyhound bred to be homed.

Nearly two decades later, he had the courage to conclude that far too many dogs were still being injured, and that this industry was incapable of homing every dog it produces.

And just last month, the RIB found greyhound trainer Lisa Cole claimed to privately home eight greyhounds, but instead falsified paperwork so that the whereabouts of these greyhounds is unknown.

We are grateful legislation has been passed to ensure all greyhounds will be protected from harm during the transition.

There is now an opportunity for everyone to work together to find a home for every single greyhound that needs one.

- Patrick Baga

Advocacy and Research Director, grey2k.org