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Open letter on the rehoming of Greyhounds in Aotearoa

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To the Rt Hon Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand.

We the undersigned commit to assisting the New Zealand greyhound racing industry to rehome greyhounds should the industry finally be closed down.

It is well established the harm that greyhound racing causes, which multiple reviews have called “inherently dangerous.” In addition, the greyhound population within rehoming kennels and on waitlists has increased unsustainably.

In 2021, the industry was put “on notice”, and told it must make improvements or risk closure. The greyhound racing industry is still on notice.

Public opinion firmly supports a ban, with an independent poll commissioned by SPCA showing 74% of New Zealanders would vote to ban greyhound racing.

There is clear bipartisan and public support for closure of the greyhound racing industry, and stakeholders will need certainty and support during this transition.

The greyhound rehoming agencies will play an important role, but they will need support to manage the industry’s population of dogs into loving family homes.

We commit to supporting any rehoming effort, to working with the rehoming agencies and the greyhound racing industry, and to ensure the appropriate care and traceability of the dogs as they exit the industry.

