

Draft GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy

June 2024

1. Purpose and Scope:

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a clear framework to be complied with by Licensed Persons (LPs) regarding greyhound euthanasia.

This Policy applies to all greyhounds from their birth or import into New Zealand who are cared for by LPs.

A **greyhound** means a canine of the greyhound breed which:

- (a) is registered pursuant to the Rules of GRNZ;
- (b) is retired but under the care of a registered person;
- (c) includes the offspring conceived from the result of a service between a breeding female and a sire.

GRNZ Rules of Racing, Rule 21, contains conditions for the care and welfare of greyhounds; and Rule 22 concerns the retirement, euthanasia, or other death of a greyhound, and must be complied with.

Rule 21 requires compliance with the Greyhound Welfare Standards and Rule 21(2) requires LPs to exercise proper care and supervision of greyhounds. Rule 22(1) concerns notification to GRNZ of the euthanasia or death of a greyhound.

Greyhound Welfare Standard 5 concerns euthanasia and GRNZ anticipates that all LPs will act in good faith with the requirements of this Policy as they demonstrate care for their greyhounds.

This Policy sets out the expectations which GRNZ has for LPs having responsibility for the care of greyhounds:

1. All greyhounds bred in New Zealand or imported into New Zealand should be retired at the end of their racing or breeding careers, or if found unsuitable for racing, and have an opportunity to live the balance of their lives as pets.
2. LPs in charge of a greyhound's care must provide for the retirement and/or rehoming of all healthy greyhounds.
3. Unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must be eliminated wherever possible.
4. Where euthanasia is necessary, it must be performed in a humane manner by a registered veterinarian who certifies the reason for euthanasia.
5. GRNZ must be notified of all euthanasia.

2. Immediate Euthanasia

2.1 Euthanasia due to severe illness or injury

A greyhound may be euthanised where a veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is suffering from a condition or injury that causes significant pain and/or discomfort and/or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia.

Veterinarians must positively identify greyhounds and certify the reason for euthanasia via Option 1 on the prescribed GRNZ Certificate of Euthanasia by a Veterinarian.

2.2 On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines apply (Appendix I)

The On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines are made under the Rules of Racing and apply to the euthanasia of a greyhound during a greyhound race meeting, and include races, post-race trials, qualifying trial meetings, or whenever an On-Track Veterinarian attends an Event.

These Guidelines must be complied with. A breach of the Guidelines may result in an LP's registration being varied, suspended, or revoked and/or an offence being committed.

2.3 A serious dog bite injury to a person has occurred

Where a greyhound causes, or significantly contributes to the death, or serious injury of a person, or has caused a significant bite injury to a person, where the injury requires medical treatment for:

- a bone fracture; and, or
- tearing of body tissues requiring surgery to heal; and, or
- partial or complete loss of function of a part of the body; and, or
- multiple puncture wounds from a sustained attack; and, or
- psychological or emotional trauma.

Evidence of medical treatments is required to be provided.

2.4 The greyhound has been declared a dangerous dog

Where a greyhound has been declared a dangerous dog under the Dog Control Act 1996 and is required to be euthanised by a court.

3. Notice of Intent to Euthanise a Greyhound (NOI)

Greyhound Welfare Standards apply:

Standard 5.6 Unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must only be undertaken as a last resort.

Euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must not be undertaken, unless:

3.1 An NOI is submitted

LPs having responsibility for the care of the greyhound notify GRNZ of an Intent to Euthanise the greyhound in their care, at least 14 days prior to the intended date of euthanasia.

This may only occur when:

- The racing greyhound has completed the mandatory 28-day wind down period from racing.
- The greyhound has been behaviourally assessed as “Red” by Great Mates and subsequently, following behavioural retraining, deemed by the independent panel, under the “Red-dog” euthanasia decision tree (Appendix II) as having refractory behavioural issues which make it unsuitable for rehoming.
- The greyhound has a diagnosed veterinary condition or injury, not requiring immediate euthanasia, but which negatively impacts the greyhound’s welfare (quality of life) and likely requires on-going veterinary treatment.

Note: The On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines should be used as a reference for conditions which may or may not require immediate euthanasia.

The LP shall complete the GRNZ Notice of Intent to Euthanise form and submit it to GRNZ, with the intended veterinarian’s details, and the reasons/diagnosis, at least 14 days prior to the intended date of euthanasia.

GRNZ shall notify the LP within five (5) business days, should euthanasia not be considered a suitable outcome and shall admit the greyhound into the Great Mates Programme.

3.2 A veterinarian or canine behaviourist diagnoses a behavioural condition which is unsuitable for rehoming

The greyhound has a veterinary, or qualified canine behaviourist diagnosed behavioural issue (e.g. phobia, aggression, anxiety) negatively impacting the greyhound’s welfare (quality of life) and making the greyhound unsuitable for rehoming.

GRNZ shall consider the advice of the veterinarian, or

	<p>canine behaviourist detailed on the NOI application form and provide approval for euthanasia within five (5) business days.</p> <p>3.3 A dog-dog attack of a serious nature: unsuitable for rehoming</p> <p>The LP having the responsibility for the care of the greyhound notifies GRNZ of an imminent intent to euthanise a greyhound who has caused, or significantly contributed to the death, or serious injury of another dog (dog attack) such that the injury requires veterinary attention for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A bone fracture; and, or ● Tearing of body tissues requiring surgery to heal; and, or ● Partial or complete loss of function of a part of the body; and, or ● Multiple puncture wounds from a sustained attack. <p>Information regarding the circumstances of the dog attack and evidence of the injuries sustained, and veterinary treatment and/opinion must be provided on the NOI form.</p> <p>GRNZ shall assess the context of the attack, and the likelihood of safe rehoming of the greyhound and provide approval for the euthanasia within three (3) business days.</p> <p>Should GRNZ not approve the NOI for a dog attack, a behavioural assessment of the greyhound will be arranged as soon as possible.</p>
<p>4. Notification of Euthanasia</p>	<p>LPs must ensure that <u>all</u> certificates of euthanasia by a veterinarian are submitted to GRNZ in accordance with Rule 22(1)b which requires notifications within three (3) business days of the euthanasia.</p>
<p>5. Breach of this Policy</p>	<p>This Policy is made under the GRNZ Rules of Racing. This Policy must be complied with. A breach of this Policy may result in an LP's registration being varied, suspended, or revoked and/or an offence being committed under the Rules.</p>

Appendix I: Greyhound On-track Euthanasia [Guidelines](#)

Appendix II: GRNZ Red-dog Decision Tree

