



GRNZ
Animal Welfare
Quarterly Progress Report

30 April 2024

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Industry Confidence - The Need for a Decision	4
GRNZ Leading the Way with Animal Welfare in New Zealand	5
Rehoming in New Zealand	6
Rehoming In USA	8
Injuries	9
Euthanasia and Deaths	12
Track Management	14
Systems and Traceability	16
Governance	17
Education	18
Vaccinations	19
Prohibited Substances	20
Stakeholder Engagement	20
Appendix: KPIs	21

Executive Summary

Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) provides an update to the Minister for Racing quarterly, which details the greyhound racing industry's ongoing progress in the animal welfare space.

We continue to work closely with the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) on a comprehensive work plan.

This report details key activities between 1 February 2024 and 30 April 2024, and statistics between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024 where relevant. We have also included an update on our Animal Welfare Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as an Appendix.

Key highlights for the most recent quarter include:

- The commencement of trialling at the Wanganui Straight Track;
- Annual domestic rehoming numbers on target to be higher than last season;
- The first 14 retired greyhounds being successfully transported to America; and
- Remedial work being undertaken on the track at Manukau Stadium.

New Zealand's commercial greyhound racing industry has been under the spotlight for a number of years, with heightened attention since the release of the 2021 Robertson Review.

Under the intense scrutiny that we have faced, our industry has not wavered.

We have solidified our commitment to animal welfare, and we continue to make ongoing progress to ensure that greyhound racing deserves to maintain its social licence to operate in New Zealand. In many ways, greyhound racing is leading the wider racing industry with our commitment to animal welfare.

And we will not slow down in our efforts. GRNZ and our people know that in order to continue racing, we must always put animal welfare at the heart of everything that we do.

But our people need certainty.

It has now been nearly three years since the Robertson Review was published, and GRNZ firmly believes that there are no grounds for industry closure, and this is based on our demonstrable continuous improvement.

However, we need a commitment from the New Zealand Government.

We need assurance that our beloved sport, greyhound racing, which is responsible for providing full-time equivalent employment for 1,054 people and \$159.2 million in total value-added contribution to the economy in FY23, has a long and sustainable future in our country.

Industry Confidence - The Need for a Decision

The ongoing cloud over the industry's future is having a detrimental impact on greyhound racing in New Zealand.

Lack of surety over the sport's future has severely dented industry confidence and participation levels, to the point that it is starting to compromise the contribution greyhound racing makes to the New Zealand economy and wider racing industry.

This uncertainty is affecting our participants' confidence to make investment decisions for the future. Breeding numbers in 2022/23 were 471, as compared to 893 and 744 in the two preceding seasons. A similarly low level is projected for 2023/24. This will bring into question the sustainability of current racing levels in two seasons' time, and the financial contribution that greyhound racing makes to TAB NZ and the broader economy.

The revamped GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards, introduced in May 2023, place additional responsibilities on Licensed Persons (LPs). Investing in upgrading modes of transport, kennels and other facilities is problematic and financially stressful for individuals, while there is that ongoing uncertainty.

GRNZ is in a similar position, with some significant capital decisions pending. The best example of this is the proposal to build a much needed second track for the Canterbury region in Ashburton. GRNZ Board members would be at risk of breaching their fiduciary duties as directors to approve such a major project, until such time as a decision was received on the industry's long-term future.

The ongoing uncertainty is also causing a decline in the mental wellbeing of individuals. Recent studies conducted by the racing industry's tri-code mental health service provider (On Track) emphasise that this is a real and significant issue.

Accordingly, GRNZ looks forward to an early decision on the industry's future, which will give industry participants the confidence required to make positive improvements, and to continue making a meaningful contribution to the New Zealand economy.

GRNZ Leading the Way with Animal Welfare in New Zealand

GRNZ firmly believes that there are no grounds for greyhound racing to be banned, and maintains that the industry has a social licence to operate.

The sport has made significant progress in recent years, especially in the animal welfare space. GRNZ is committed to ongoing improvement, and will continue to put significant time and resources into ensuring that animal welfare is at the heart of everything the industry does.

Primary concerns with the greyhound racing industry from the 2017 Hansen Report and 2021 Robertson Review were:

- The euthanasia of healthy greyhounds upon completion of their racing careers;
- The number of euthanasias of greyhounds due to raceday injuries;
- Breeding numbers exceeding the industry's limited rehoming levels; and
- Deficiencies with GRNZ systems and traceability of the greyhound population.

These concerns are no longer valid, for the following reasons:

- Greyhound racing is the only racing code with a Euthanasia Policy that precludes the unnecessary euthanasia of uncompetitive animals. Every dog is guaranteed the opportunity to find a forever home post-racing career through our adoption programmes.
- Through a number of GRNZ initiatives, the number of raceday euthanasias is down 89% from five years ago.
- GRNZ has implemented the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme and the America Rehoming Project to ensure breeding numbers do not exceed the industry's rehoming capabilities.
- GRNZ has significantly enhanced its systems and processes to ensure 100% traceability of every greyhound within the industry. GRNZ has also addressed concerns with our reporting, with full transparency and accountability through our quarterly and annual reporting processes.

Recently, there has been an uplift in material released by anti-greyhound racing groups, trying to influence the political debate regarding the industry's future. Much of the material circulated and comments made bear no resemblance to the industry's current standards and performance, with numerous comments citing historical items that were rectified by the industry a number of years ago.

Negative comments have been made with respect to the industry, such as "dogs being doped by trainers", "dogs living in poor and cramped conditions", "numerous instances of animal abuse", and the "industry not acting on recommendations from previous reviews". **In short - this is fake news.**

GRNZ's Greyhound Welfare Standards are based on best practice, and LPs must comply with these. These Standards exceed MPI's minimum requirements for the care of dogs, and compliance is ensured through independent kennel audits undertaken by the RIB.

Greyhounds in New Zealand are arguably the most regulated and cared for dog breed in the country. Significant progress has been made in the welfare area and GRNZ is committed to continuing to lead the New Zealand racing industry in many ways in this regard.

Rehoming in New Zealand

Adoption Statistics

Between 1 February 2024 and 30 April 2024, 125 greyhounds were adopted through the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme (Great Mates). In addition, 28 greyhounds were privately adopted or rehomed within the industry.

This takes the total number of greyhounds adopted in the first nine months of this season to 455, an average of over 50 adoptions per month. This compares favourably to last season, where 362 adoptions had taken place during the same period.

The total number of domestic adoptions for the 2022/23 season was 481. At the current adoption rate, GRNZ will not only comfortably exceed last season's total, but it will also significantly surpass the KPI target of 525 adoptions for this season. This is despite a challenging economic climate and other breeds and animal rehoming services reporting a decline in adoptions.

It is estimated that 650 adoptions (550 domestically, 100 internationally) will be achieved this season (1 August 2023 - 31 July 2024). This compares favourably to the 471 greyhounds bred in the 2022/23 season. This refutes the often repeated claims of over-breeding in the industry, and exemplifies that GRNZ's rehoming strategies are delivering positive outcomes.

Community Engagement and Advertising

GRNZ continues to explore options for increased community engagement with greyhounds from an adoption point of view.

As previously reported, GRNZ has created a calendar of all community events. This includes input from all rehoming agencies, as well as the GRNZ-initiated events. This event information is also regularly shared via social media.

Between 1 February 2024 and 30 April 2024, over 50 events were held nationwide. These ranged from walks and "pat and chat" events to more substantial markets and A & P shows.

Major events during the quarter attended by GRNZ and adoption agencies included the Rural Games (a three-day event in Palmerston North), and the A & P shows at Feilding, Kumeu, Pukekohe, Mackenzie Country and Malvern.

Greyhounds As Pets also held an "Adoption Month" throughout April, and hosted a number of events nationwide, which generated new interest in greyhound adoptions.

The television commercial for Great Mates adoptions, previously reported on, continues to play on Trakside Television, and is used wherever viable in social media and events marketing.

An example of this was where the commercial was embedded in the newsletter for the Rural Games prior to the event, and included in their social media: <https://ruralgames.co.nz/event/greatmates-saturday/>

Billboards promoting Great Mates and greyhound adoptions will be resurrected in the last quarter.

Private Rehoming and Behavioural Assessments

Work continues on the changes that GRNZ is making with respect to private rehoming by industry participants.

This includes a declaration around the behaviour of the greyhound and where it is being rehomed to. With regards to the assessment of the behavioural traits of retired greyhounds, there has been continual improvement over the last three years with initial assessments of greyhounds being retired into Great Mates. This clearly demonstrates that the majority of greyhounds are well-behaved, and those needing further training are able to progress quickly.

As detailed in previous reports, GRNZ uses a traffic light system for assessments. Those that are assessed as "Green" are ready for rehoming immediately. Between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024, just over 78% of greyhounds were assessed as "Green" at their initial assessments. This compares favourably with the same period in the previous two seasons, where the percentages were 74% and 71%. This highlights increased socialisation of greyhounds over their lives by LPs.

Greyhounds assessed as "Amber" require some additional time to adjust to pet life, with just over 17% being initially assessed as "Amber" between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024 (compared to 21% and 22% respectively for the same period in the last two seasons).

Those greyhounds initially assessed as "Red", and therefore requiring more training to graduate to "Amber" and "Green" for pet life, remain a very small overall percentage. Between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024, just over 4% were initially assessed as "Red", with the last two seasons over the same period being 4% and 5% respectively.

Rehoming in USA

Following a period of extensive due diligence and planning, as detailed in the previous Quarterly Report, the GRNZ America Rehoming Project officially got underway in April 2024.

On 24 April 2024, 14 retired greyhounds were successfully transported from New Zealand to Chicago to begin their new lives in their American forever homes.

GRNZ has developed detailed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the transport of the dogs. Consultation and input from a number of parties, including the Animal Health and Welfare Committee, the RIB and the SPCA, was taken into account in developing these SOPs to ensure animal welfare is paramount to GRNZ's activities in this area.

Dogs identified for the American Rehoming Project spend their final month in New Zealand at GRNZ's Levin Great Mates site. There, they are assessed for their suitability to travel and receive crate training and necessary vaccinations. They are transported to Auckland the day before their flight, where they are checked by an MPI veterinarian.

Upon arrival in New York, the dogs are transported to The ARK, an animal quarantine and kennelling facility at JFK Airport. This allows the dogs time to decompress and be assessed overnight to ensure they have travelled appropriately. Veterinary care is also available if required. Adoption agencies collect the greyhounds the next day. Greyhounds that travel to Chicago do this over a two-day period, overnighting at a kennel facility for assessment in Chicago, prior to collection by the adoption agencies.

GRNZ has worked closely on this initiative with Greyhound Pets of America (GPA), the national consultative group for the promotion of greyhound adoptions across the United States of America (USA). Both parties have worked hard to ensure that animal welfare is the foremost priority at every step of the process, and GRNZ only deals with adoption agencies affiliated to GPA with this programme.

GRNZ aims to transport 30 retired greyhounds per month to the USA for rehoming between March and November months. Retired greyhounds will not be exported there between December and February, owing to the cold weather in the USA during that period. Flights during the USA Summer will also be suspended, in the event of predicted hot weather, if appropriate. The 30 greyhounds each month are split between adoption agencies in the Chicago and New York regions.

GRNZ firmly believes rehoming greyhounds to the USA is a positive for the industry, and reaffirms our dedication to ensuring the best possible welfare outcomes for every greyhound. Getting more greyhounds into their loving, forever homes quicker is an excellent welfare outcome. The USA programme is supplementary to our primary focus of domestic adoptions; however, it is quickly becoming a key component in our overall rehoming strategy and population management.

Injuries

GRNZ continues to explore initiatives specifically aimed at reducing injuries, especially KPI injuries.

Key developments in this area since our previous Quarterly Report include:

- Undertaking the process required to implement a change of default vacant box (from Box 5 to Box 1), as our research suggests that this may improve safety outcomes in races
- Exploration of programming additional age restricted races for older greyhounds
- Exploration of programming gender specific grade races, so that smaller female greyhounds have the opportunity to race dogs of similar statures
- Trialling of enhanced warm-ups to mitigate muscle injuries

We will provide further updates on such initiatives in our next Quarterly Report.

KPI Injuries 1 August - 30 April

2022/23		KPI INJURY COUNT & RATE		2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 30 April		Count	per 1,000 starters
107	4.01	Major I (22-42 days)		105	3.85
56	2.10	Major II (more than 42 days)		75	2.75
6	0.22	Euthanised due to injury in a race		7	0.26
0	0.00	Sudden death		2	0.07
169	6.33	KPI Injury Totals		189	6.93

Following an increase in the number of KPI injuries in the 1 November 2023 - 31 January 2024 quarter, the number of KPI injuries decreased in the 1 February 2024 - 30 April 2024 period.

For the season up to and including 31 January 2024, the rate of KPI injuries was 7.04 per 1,000 starters, which was up 8.1 % on the same period last season, and up 0.2% on the benchmark of 7.02 per 1,000 starters.

By comparison, a decline in the number of KPI injuries in the most recent quarter has seen an improvement in these figures. For the season up to and including 30 April 2024, the rate of KPI injuries was 6.93 per 1,000 starters, which was up 9.5% on the same period last season, and down 1.2% on the benchmark of 7.02 per 1,000 starters.

GRNZ's KPI for the 2023/24 season is to achieve a 15% reduction on the benchmark rate, which equates to 5.97 per 1,000 starters. This is aspirational and unlikely to be achieved. GRNZ is, however, confident of a decrease on our benchmark level and ongoing improvement in the future.

Viewed alternatively, the rate of starters who do not incur KPI injuries so far this season is 993.07 per 1,000 starters. GRNZ has not previously reported KPI injuries in this fashion; however, we feel that it is important to make this observation, to provide perspective around our injury statistics.

Our injury statistics are not dissimilar to those of Australian jurisdictions, and generally compare favourably. Despite this, GRNZ will continue to work closely with the RIB to explore initiatives to reduce our injury rate.

The KPI injury rate at Manukau Stadium increased to a concerning level in early 2024, which prompted GRNZ to temporarily close the track on 17 March 2024 to undertake remedial work and to commission a report from overseas track experts. Further details can be found in the Track Management section.

The previous rate of KPI injuries at Manukau Stadium was a contributing factor towards our overall national KPI injury rate, and it is anticipated that the remedial work undertaken will have a positive impact on overall injury count and rate going forward.

Additionally, imminent remediation work is scheduled at Addington Raceway, with further information provided in the Track Management section. GRNZ anticipates that this remedial work will also further improve our overall performance in the injury area.

As detailed in our previous Quarterly Report, GRNZ has drafted a Safe Return to Racing Policy. Following a robust round of stakeholder consultation, this Policy has now been ratified by the GRNZ Board and it will be implemented on 1 August 2024.

Minor and Medium Injuries 1 August - 30 April

2022/23		MINOR AND MEDIUM INJURY COUNT & RATE	2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 30 April	Count	per 1,000 starters
329	12.3	Minor 1-10 days	371	13.6
158	5.9	Medium 11-21 days	139	5.1
487	18.2	Minor and Medium Injury Totals	510	18.7
2,107		Total Post-Race Examinations	2,500	

GRNZ continues to be pleased with the RIB's more cautious approach to post-race veterinary examinations, with the number of examinations conducted so far this season much greater than in previous seasons (2,500 compared to 2,107).

We consider this precautionary style to be beneficial, as more minor injuries or niggles are likely to be picked up at an early stage, thus preventing them from escalating into something more serious.

Preferred Box Draw Racing

Since 1 August 2023, all sprint races have been Preferred Box Draw (PBD) races, apart from just over 50 recognised (feature) races and their corresponding heats.

Of the 3,712 races run between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024, 2,473 were PBD sprints. During that period, the KPI injury rate in PBD sprints was 6.8 per 1,000 starters, compared to 9.9 per 1,000 starters in non-PBD sprints.

The table below also shows that PBD continues to prove to be an effective tool at reducing the incidence of falls.

GRNZ will continue to explore the further expansion of PBD racing, with the concept continuing to yield positive results.

PBD/Random Sprint (up to 456m) Race Injury Comparison 1 August 2023 to 30 April 2024

INJURIES PER 1,000 STARTERS										
	Starters	1-10 days	11-21 days	22-42 days	43-90 days	Euth/Died	Total	Fracture	>21 days	Falls >c0
PBD	18,033	13.3	5.0	4.1	2.6	0.1	25.0	2.2	6.8	3.0
Random	608	9.9	8.2	3.3	6.6	0	28.0	4.9	9.9	8.4

Injuries Reported by Trainers

In addition to the routine scratching of greyhounds for minor issues notified daily in RIB Stewards' reports, a further 31 injuries were notified by trainers to Stewards post-raceday as required under Rule 122 (of the GRNZ Rules of Racing) between 1 February 2024 and 30 April 2024. These injuries were attributed to a race and were published as supplementaries in the RIB Stewards' reports.

Nine of these injuries were subsequently given stand downs. Five were stood down for 42 days, and one each stood down for 90, 21, 10 and 5 days respectively.

For the same period last season, trainers had reported an additional 25 injuries that were attributed to racing and published as supplementaries in the RIB Stewards' reports.

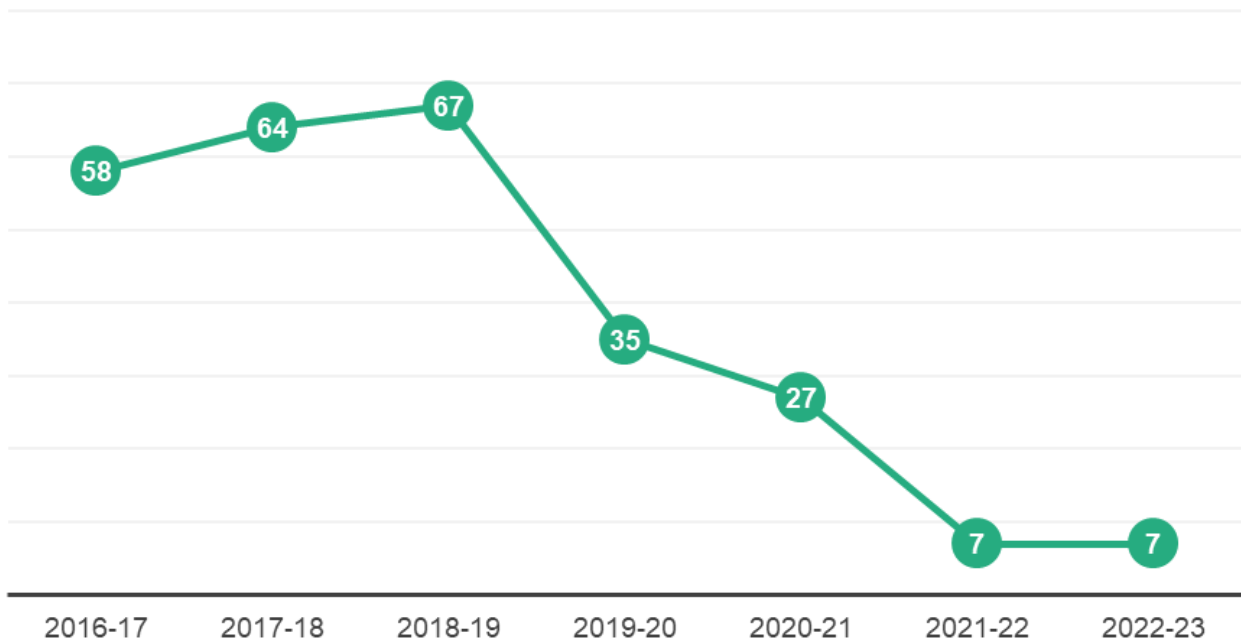
The implementation of the GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy from 1 August 2024 will place additional requirements on trainers to report injuries and reasons for greyhounds being absent from the races for two months or longer. This Policy will be enshrined under the GRNZ Rules of Racing, and breaches may therefore result in sanctions being applied. Given the importance of this Policy, GRNZ is prioritising it in this year's mandatory Education Programme.

Euthanasia and Deaths

2022/23 and 2023/24 Statistics between 1 August and 30 April

2022/23		Mortality Type & Cause	2023/24	
Count	% All euthanasia / deaths	Euthanasia	Count	% All euthanasia / deaths
6	10.0%	Due to an Injury in a Race	7	12.3%
3	5.0%	Behavioural Euthanasia – Aggression	1	1.7%
20	33.3%	Medical Euthanasia – Illness	28	49.1%
22	36.7%	Medical Euthanasia – Accident/Injury	12	21.1%
0	0%	Euthanasia (no reason provided)	0	0%
9	15.0%	Aged Euthanasia	9	15.8%
60	100.0%	Total	57	100.0%
		Death		
7	18.9%	Accident/Injury	8	17.0%
30	81.1%	Age or Illness	39	83.0%
37	100.0%	Total	47	100.0%
97		Total Mortality	104	

GRNZ: Raceday Euthanasia due to Race Injury



In the reporting period, there were seven euthanasias due to an injury in a race between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024. In the interests of full disclosure, at the time of submitting this report, there have now been a total of nine raceday euthanasias so far in the 2023/24 racing season.

While GRNZ is disappointed by the marginal increase on last season, the graph above provides a fuller picture for some context. Five-plus years ago, there were consistently in excess of 60 raceday euthanasias per season. Further, it should be noted that our code's level of raceday euthanasia over the last three years compares favourably to that of other racing codes.

The overall figure this season still remains low. GRNZ has worked hard to reduce this figure in recent years, and the resulting decrease is due to a combination of factors, such as the GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy, the GRNZ Rehabilitation to Rehoming Programme, the Great Mates Rehoming Programme, track management improvements, PBD racing and ongoing education.

Track Management

GRNZ's multifaceted track management programme continues, under the expert guidance of our Racing Safety & Infrastructure Manager.

Key developments in the third quarter of the 2023/24 racing season are detailed below.

Manukau Stadium

The KPI injury rate at Manukau Stadium increased to a concerning level in early 2024, which prompted GRNZ to temporarily close the track on 17 March 2024 to undertake remedial work and to commission a report from overseas track experts.

Following the track closure, the following work was undertaken:

- Consultation with overseas experts
- Track resurveyed
- Design and grading to revised crossfalls
- Removal of excess track sand
- Power harrowing
- Drain adjacent to 318m start upgraded
- Bramich lure decommissioned and removed
- Safechase lure installed and commissioned

Subsequently, a trial session (with 75 greyhounds) was successfully held at Manukau Stadium on 7 May 2024.

Racing at Manukau Stadium then resumed with a 12-race programme on 12 May 2024, where no KPI injuries were incurred.

GRNZ continues to closely monitor the performance of the track at Manukau Stadium; however, their injury statistics have improved significantly since the above work was undertaken.

Addington Raceway

Scheduled remedial work will take place at Addington Raceway between 24 June 2024 and 31 July 2024. During this time, racing will not take place at Addington Raceway, and GRNZ will hold additional race meetings at Ascot Park (Invercargill). Travel subsidies will be offered to Canterbury trainers while remedial work is undertaken at Addington.

The general scope of works comprises:

- Geotechnical investigation and track sand analysis
- Removal of existing track sand
- Contaminated track sand and bidim fabric to be removed off-site
- Remediate base layer in specified areas
- Regrade base, ensuring minimum of 150mm below surface design levels
- Remediation and reinstatement of internal perimeter subsurface drain
- Placement of new bidim fabric
- Reinstatement of track sand from stockpile
- Inclusion of new track sand to replace lost contaminated material
- Power harrowing, final grading and consolidation
- Replacement of 645m synthetic grass mat
- Installation of "future-proofing" electrical conduits to starting boxes

Additionally, a Safechase lure will be introduced at Addington during this period. That will see four tracks operating this lure system, with Hatrick Raceway due to receive it in the first half of the 2024/25 racing season.

Wanganui Straight Track

Trials successfully commenced at Wanganui in April 2024. The project construction team still has some remaining objectives to complete and achieve prior to racing; however, it is anticipated that following a number of trial sessions and non-totalisator racing in June 2024, totalisator racing will commence at the Wanganui Straight Track in July.

Ashburton Track Construction

As detailed in our previous Quarterly Report, industry certainty is required before this project can progress to any significant degree due to the level of capital expenditure required. Once long-term certainty of the industry's future is provided, this project will be able to be progressed further. Initial planning and design has been completed for a straight track and one-turn track inside the harness track at this venue.

GRNZ Track & Infrastructure Minimum Standards Guidelines

The first draft copy of the GRNZ Track & Infrastructure Guidelines and Standards has now been presented to the RIB.

It is intended to present this document to Clubs next, specifically with regards to trial session management.

GRNZ Track Staff and Education

GRNZ has been recruiting for track staff at Auckland and Wanganui. However, the uncertainty surrounding the industry and its future should not be underplayed in part of the challenge in attracting potential staff, just as retaining them will also become a factor without a decision.

There have been a number of initiatives organised, both internally and with external partners. A clear indication on the long-term future of the industry is required prior to the implementation of the two major programmes, namely:

- NZSTI National Greyhound Track Management Accreditation
- Turftrax UK Education Scholarship

Track Infrastructure Replacement Programme

It is proposed that Hatrick will receive the fifth Safechase lure in the first half of the new season. It is also proposed to replace the aged starting boxes at Cambridge with new Steriline boxes in late 2024. The replacement and upgrade programme implemented by GRNZ will continue, to ensure that greyhound welfare is not compromised.

Establishment of the Racing Safety Advisory Group

The Racing Safety Advisory Group is a work in progress, with priority over the most recent quarter having been given to the Manukau and Addington tracks.

Systems and Traceability

Gallagher Scanning and Traceability

As noted in the previous Quarterly Report, GRNZ decided to implement scanning and improved traceability of greyhounds within its existing system, rather than implement GWIC's eTrac system. This work is now largely complete, as described below.

Two traceability reports have been implemented that provide information on racing greyhounds who have not had a six-monthly check-in, and non-racing greyhounds (such as puppies and greyhounds retired within the industry) that have not checked-in in the last 12 months. The reports provide:

- Information on all greyhounds that are overdue for their check-ins, greyhounds' last check-in dates and events (e.g. race starts) and when greyhounds' next check-ins are due; and
- A full lifetime history of the check-in events and dates checked-in for a selected greyhound.

An online dashboard and map, which provides visual information of greyhounds' check-in statuses, locations and vaccination information, is currently in beta testing in the GRNZ production system.

The information in the reports and the dashboard and map includes the microchip scanning data from the scans conducted at racetracks and RIB kennel audits.

With these developments, GRNZ will be able to confirm that **every** greyhound within the industry on our database will have had an independent "check-in" to confirm their existence within the season.

Rehoming in USA

Software to support the processing and tracking of greyhounds that are exported to the USA as pets has been implemented.

When a greyhound goes to the USA, its status is set as "retired outside industry" and it is fully deregistered in the database. Records are updated with the USA agency which the greyhound went to, and the date. The relevant rehoming and other reports include the USA information.

GRNZ Website

GRNZ has refreshed its website content, and completed a review of the site structure. Work included:

- Content review and new main menu structure
- New welfare section
- Updated contacts page
- New track maps and club information
- Removal of a number of old images, which has made many pages now fully responsive
- All links checked to ensure they are current, and open in new windows
- Business owners engaged to check their respective sections, including forms
- Reviewed page load speed
- Reviewed Javascript/handling errors

Governance

Rules and Policies

Key developments between 1 February 2024 and 30 April 2024 included:

- Stakeholder consultation for the GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy
- Stakeholder consultation for the GRNZ Breeding Exemption Policy
- Stakeholder consultation for some minor amendments to the GRNZ Rules of Racing
- Stakeholder consultation for some minor amendments to the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards

The GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy and the GRNZ Breeding Exemption Policy have now been ratified by the GRNZ Board, and will be implemented on 1 August 2024.

In the next quarter, key policies which will be distributed for stakeholder consultation include:

- GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy
- GRNZ Rehoming Policy

At present, euthanasia and rehoming requirements are detailed in the existing GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy. These two policies will encapsulate existing requirements around euthanasia and rehoming, but in two separately focused policies for clarity.

GRNZ has been in ongoing discussions with the RIB around certain aspects of the GRNZ Rules of Racing for several months. A particular bone of contention has been RIB powers, and the RIB's desire to have greater powers than those currently extended under the GRNZ Rules of Racing.

GRNZ's position is that there is nothing missing from the GRNZ Rules of Racing which currently inhibits the RIB's ability to do its job, including in the area of investigations. GRNZ further contends that to allocate the RIB greater powers - namely, search and seizure - would likely constitute a breach of the Bill of Rights Act 1990.

Accordingly, GRNZ was disappointed by the RIB's advice on assessing this focus area as "Slow" in their latest Quarterly Report. We believe this is unjustified, given it does not directly relate to animal welfare, and the RIB has not clearly outlined what they cannot do under the existing rules framework.

GRNZ believes that this matter would be best addressed as part of a tri-code review to ensure consistency across the three codes. However, in the interests of progressing this, GRNZ will continue to engage and seek to resolve this issue with the RIB.

By way of update, since 30 April 2024, GRNZ and the RIB have held several constructive discussions around this area, and both parties are motivated to reach a mutually agreeable compromise. An update will be provided in the next Quarterly Report.

Animal Health and Welfare Committee

The GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) continues to convene bi-monthly, with the Committee having met twice during the reporting period (1 February 2024 - 30 April 2024).

GRNZ is grateful for the independent expert advice that it continues to receive from the AHCW. Minutes from all AHCW meetings are published on the GRNZ website when they become available, in the interests of transparency.

Education

GRNZ held the first regional roadshows for 2024 in late-May around the country. These were attended by the GRNZ CEO, Racing Manager, Welfare Manager and Board members.

During the reporting period, GRNZ also finalised the content for the formal education programme, which will again be linked to relicensing in June and July 2024. The programme comprises a number of online education modules, and participation is mandatory for all trainers, breeders and littermasters.

An update will be provided in the next quarterly report.

Vaccinations

Below is the report on vaccination figures for the first nine months of the 2023/24 racing season. Vaccination rates at the end of April improved markedly on last quarter, with 93.6% of greyhounds having current vaccinations (compared to 87.8% after the first six months of the season). Overall vaccination levels continue to considerably exceed those of the general domestic dog population.

The figures in the pre-racing category are actually better than they appear. This is because one litter comprising six puppies showed as having no vaccination history; however, they were actually vaccinated, but proof of such wasn't received by GRNZ until May 2024. Additionally, a litter of eight puppies, showing below as "Expired", were vaccinated on 1 May 2024.

The improvement on last quarter is not the result of many more greyhounds being vaccinated this quarter, but rather proof of vaccination being received from Great Mates and others. Reminders have been issued to trainers that they need to provide Great Mates with vaccination proofs when their greyhounds enter the rehoming programme.

VACCINATION STATUS AS AT 30 APRIL 2024

Registration Type	Current		Expired		No Vacs History		Total
Pre-racing Whelped between 30Oct21-5Mar24; >8 weeks old In NZ & no De-reg Dates	790	(95.2%)	34	(4.1%)	6	(0.7%)	830
Racing Whelped since 30Oct18, In NZ, Has Racing Reg Date	1232	(98.3%)	21	(1.7%)	0	(0.0%)	1253
Retired for Breeding (B) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Females	106	(97.2%)	3	(2.8%)	0	(0.0%)	109
Retired for Breeding (D) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Males	8	(100.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	8
Retired In Industry (Not Breeding) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Retired In Industry	704	(84.5%)	125	(15.0%)	4	(0.5%)	833
Great Mates or other Rehoming Agency as Custodian	(303)	(84.6%)	(54)	(15.1%)	(1)	(0.3%)	358
Retired in Industry less Great Mates	(401)	(84.4%)	(71)	(14.9%)	(3)	(0.6%)	475
TOTALS	2,840	(93.6%)	183	(6.0%)	10	(0.3%)	3033

Prohibited Substances

Between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024, 2,784 greyhounds were routinely tested for prohibited substances at the direction of the RIB, which equates to 10.2% of starters (27,260). This number includes raceday tests (2,680), out-of-competition tests (100) and greyhounds who were tested at the trials (four).

During that period, there were four positive swabs for arsenic above the threshold limit, including those discussed in our previous Quarterly Report. In addition, during the first nine months of the season, there were two positives for cobalt above the threshold limit, with RIB investigations ongoing at the time of submitting this report.

There is no suggestion that any kind of deliberate administration was involved in the positives for arsenic or cobalt.

GRNZ has again published a caution to LPs around arsenic, and the fact that greyhounds can breach the threshold limit to the substance as a result of chewing or licking treated timber, and also advised LPs to be cautious around using vitamin supplements containing arsenic close to racing, as they could also inadvertently lead to a rise in urinary arsenic levels.

As previously stated, GRNZ continues to support the RIB in all investigations and ensuing outcomes in relation to positives for prohibited substances. The welfare of our greyhounds is paramount, and the integrity of our sport must be upheld to the highest possible standard.

Stakeholder Engagement

GRNZ continues to place a focus on transparent stakeholder engagement. We have a strong focus on open and honest communication, and ensure that all key documents, including our Quarterly Reports, are published on our website. GRNZ also continues to maintain a close working relationship with the RIB.

Appendix: Key Performance Indicators

GRNZ continues to report on these KPIs monthly to the GRNZ Board, and quarterly in these reports. Following is an update report for the period 1 August 2023 - 30 April 2024.

GRNZ KPIs - Animal Welfare - Performance between 1 August 2023 and 30 April 2024

Category	Description	2023/24 season to 30 April 2024	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
<p>Background: GRNZ has implemented a Policy to ensure any euthanasia of registered greyhounds is carried out in line with GRNZ's Greyhound Euthanasia Policy.</p>					
1	Euthanasia Euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Greyhound Euthanasia Policy	1.8%	<4% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias
<p><i>Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 1: One greyhound with injuries that were not life-threatening has been euthanised without submitting a NOI first, in the season to 30 April. Trainer issued with a warning to remind him of his obligations.</i></p>					
<p>Background: Reducing raceday injuries will be an ongoing focus for GRNZ through providing a world-class racing environment. This will be enhanced through a number of new initiatives, including track management, increased preferred box draw races, possible introduction of GPS technology to monitor racing incidents and introduction of straight track racing.</p>					
2	Injuries Reduce the number of Category D injuries in races as per GA classifications (22+ days). Measured as rate per 1000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 7.02	6.93 per 1,000 starters = 1.2% decrease on benchmark (7.02)	15% reduction (5.97 per 1,000 starters)	17.5% reduction (5.79 per 1,000 starters)	20% reduction (5.62 per 1,000 starters)
<p><i>Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 2: After a promising first quarter with injuries down 19% on benchmark, six months later we are just 1.2% below benchmark (7.02) and 16.1% over target (5.97). To mitigate this, further interventions will be rolled out over the final quarter of the season. Some improvements were noted in March and April; however, further improvement is required in the last quarter.</i></p>					

3	Serious Injuries	Reduce the number of Category F injuries as per GA classifications Measured as rate per 1,000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 2.44	2.93 per 1000 starters (+20.3%)	15% reduction (2.07 per 1,000 starters)	17.5% reduction (2.01 per 1,000 starters)	20% reduction (1.95 per 1,000 starters)
---	-------------------------	---	--	---	---	---

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 3: GA's "Category F" is designed to remove inter-seasonal quantitative issues by qualitatively listing the types of injuries that apply:

- death or euthanasia on track;
- any skull or spine fracture or paralysis (partial or complete);
- any long bone fracture (i.e. humerus, radius/ulna, femur or tibia);
- a hock fracture/dislocation where the stand down period is 60 or 90 days;
- metacarpal/metatarsal fracture where the stand down period is 60 or 90 days;
- any other joint injury where the stand down period is 60 or 90 days;
- a skin injury where the stand down period is 60 or 90 days;
- a soft tissue injury (including muscle injury) where the stand down period is 90 days.

See comments above with respect to KPI 2. There were 102 such injuries in the Benchmark year (some were only given 28-day stand downs) at a rate of 2.44 per 1000 starters.

Up to 30 April 2024, there have been 80 such injuries - a rate of 2.93. For comparative purposes, at the same time in the 2022/23 season, there were 41 Category F injuries, at a rate of 2.28. Note that this figure includes two "sudden deaths" this season, which have been classified under this category, and have not occurred in recent seasons.

4	Injuries	Number of races on straight tracks	0	150	300	600
---	-----------------	------------------------------------	----------	-----	-----	-----

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 4: Trialling commenced on Wanganui Straight Track in April, with racing likely to commence in June. Timing and officials' facilities being completed in May-June.

5	Injuries	Percentage of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBD)	66%	60%	65%	70%
---	-----------------	--	------------	-----	-----	-----

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 5: From 1 August 2023, all sprint races (excluding features) have been agreed by the GRNZ Board to be PBD.

Up to 30 April 2024, 2473 out of 3712 races in the 2023/24 season were PBD.

Background: GRNZ is to increase education of its trainers in relation to their obligations and best practice with animal welfare. Education will focus on increasing trainers' awareness and professionalism, with training being mandatory as a condition of licensing.

6	Education	Registered persons participate in GRNZ continuous professional development and animal welfare training as a condition of their licence renewal	100%	100%	100%	100%
---	-----------	--	------	------	------	------

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 6: As a condition of licensing, all LPs are required to undertake this training.

This KPI will be addressed as a condition of relicensing in 2024 and was done for 2023. Programme for 2024 being finalised in May, for relicensing in June/July.

Background: An increased focus will be placed on GRNZ systems on knowing the status and location of registered greyhounds (up to adoption).

7	Traceability	All greyhounds within the industry are subject to at least an annual independent "check-in". Note racing dogs subject to a check-in in the last 6 months and non-racing greyhounds 12 months.	Racing Dogs 99% Non-Racing 97.5%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 95%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 100%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 100%
---	--------------	---	-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 7: The target for 2023/24 is based on the full year. Performance in this area is an assessment on 30 April based on check-ins to confirm details of the dogs concerned. The greyhounds included are all those whelped between 1 August 2009 and 30 April 2024. Check-ins include racing, trialling, vaccinations, breeding, animal registration, whelping, a service, change or trainer/owner, retirement and processing through rehoming processes. This confirms the existence of the dogs at the time of those interactions with GRNZ processes. By the end of the year, GRNZ systems will confirm all such dogs, along with matching to RIB kennel audits.

Background: Ensuring dogs have a life after racing will be an ongoing focus with GRNZ rehoming schemes, along with having effective working relationships with adoption agencies.

8	Rehoming	Retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion (as measured by the percentage of greyhounds on the waiting list for less than 90 days at the end of the month being report on)	38% within 90 days	70% within 90 days	80% within 90 days	90% within 90 days
---	----------	--	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 8: The actual rate for the first nine months of the season reflects the longer waiting times, as adoption rates have not matched retirement numbers. Recent movement in the adoption levels in the last six months has seen some positive movement in this area, with further improvement expected across the year. The America project, introduced late April, along with at least maintaining domestic adoption numbers, will see a significant improvement in waiting lists over the balance of the 2024 calendar year.

9	Rehoming	Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of:	208	210	215	220
----------	-----------------	---	------------	-----	-----	-----

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 9: Great Mates kennel capacity is being maintained at a level consistent with 2022/23 - with emphasis being given to rehoming and improving throughput, rather than just increasing capacity awaiting adoption.

10	Rehoming	Increase greyhound adoptions	454	525	575	600
-----------	-----------------	------------------------------	------------	-----	-----	-----

Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 10: See comments in KPI 8 above. For the first nine months of the season, adoption results have been: Industry/Private Rehoming 102, Adoption Agencies 352. With increased activity with public events and the exploration of new adoption initiatives (eg USA), it is expected that adoption rates will increase over the season and achieve a total season result in excess of the annual target.