



## **GREYHOUND RACING NZ IN FULL SUPPORT OF NZRB ANIMAL WELFARE INITIATIVE**

Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) was today informed of the new animal welfare initiative announced by New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB) Chair, Glenda Hughes at the NZRB Annual General Meeting in Petone.

NZRB stated that the NZ Greyhound Racing Inquiry will entail a review of the systems and process relating to the breeding, racing and life cycle tracking of Greyhounds bred in NZ and imported into NZ, as well as best practice management of retiring greyhounds.

Phil Holden, CEO of GRNZ, states, "We welcome this new initiative by the NZRB. We're very pleased with the progress we have made since the last independent review in 2013 and look forward to seeing the results of this inquiry."

GRNZ operates at 100% compliance with the Greyhound Code of Welfare and the Animal Welfare Act 1999; however the GRNZ Dog Welfare Programme continues to be the key focus for GRNZ in 2016/17. A driving component of this programme is the guidance of the Animal Welfare Committee which is made up of representatives from RNZSPCA, RIU, MPI, NZ Vets Association, and the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

"There will always be areas and opportunities for improvement and we will always be striving to further enhance our own animal welfare and rehoming programmes." says Greg Kerr, Head of Animal Welfare at GRNZ.

The latest addition to GRNZ's rehoming programme was the November 2016 signing of an agreement between GRNZ and Nightrave Greyhounds Limited. "The Nightrave Greyhounds facility will help provide more options for trainers looking to retire their greyhounds, meaning more homes for more dogs," says Kerr. The agreement with Nightrave Greyhounds is the first step in widening GRNZ's adoption options, and just one of the many future initiatives being looked at by the GRNZ Animal Welfare Committee.

**ENDS**