



GRNZ  
Animal Welfare  
Quarterly Progress Report

31 July 2024

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## Executive Summary

Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) provides the Minister for Racing with quarterly updates, which detail the greyhound racing industry's ongoing progress in the animal welfare space.

At the outset of this report, it must be noted that our industry has now been under review for approximately three years.

Three years of uncertainty is too long for our participants; the mental toll that it is taking on everyone involved in the industry is significant. This uncertainty is also undermining industry confidence and impacting investment decisions across all areas of the sport.

We urge the Minister to please make a decision at his earliest convenience, so that our industry can focus more on thriving - and not just surviving.

Over the last three years, GRNZ and its participants have worked hard to demonstrate that our sport deserves to maintain its social licence to operate. At the end of every quarter, we have provided the Minister with comprehensive industry updates, containing statistics and evidence which exemplify our ongoing commitment to animal welfare.

GRNZ and the wider greyhound industry have made significant changes since the 2021 Robertson Review, and have put animal welfare at the forefront of all of our activities. Concerns raised in previous reports have been addressed, with greyhound racing leading the way in the racing industry in New Zealand with many of its welfare programmes. Traceability, reducing raceday euthanasias and increasing rehoming are three key areas where GRNZ has listened to concerns and acted to make our programmes and systems industry-leading.

This report details key activities between 1 May 2024 and 31 July 2024, and statistics between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 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 racing at the Wanganui Straight Track;
- Record number of greyhounds rehomed;
- Traceability systems fully implemented;
- Track remedial work undertaken at Addington; and
- Mandatory education programme rolled out for 2024/25 relicensing.

Greyhound racing in New Zealand is responsible for providing full-time equivalent employment for 1,054 people and generated \$159.2 million in total value-added contribution to the economy in FY23, and GRNZ firmly maintains its stance that the sport has a long and sustainable future in our country.

## Rehoming

### Adoption Statistics

A record number of greyhounds were rehomed in the 2023/24 season.

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, 673 greyhounds were adopted, which is an average of 56 greyhounds per month. This total is up 40% on last season, and while it includes greyhounds who were rehomed in America (102), the domestic total is also up by 18.7% on last season.

Between 1 May 2024 and 31 July 2024, 192 greyhounds were adopted through the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme (Great Mates). In addition, 29 greyhounds were privately adopted or rehomed within the industry.

GRNZ remains committed to ensuring every greyhound has the opportunity to be rehomed at the end of its racing career (or earlier, if it does not race). The fact that 513 puppies were born in New Zealand in the 2023/24 season and 673 greyhounds were rehomed in the 2023/24 season is testament to the fact that our industry is operating at a sustainable level, and that our rehoming strategies are delivering positive outcomes.

### GRNZ America Rehoming Project

The GRNZ America Rehoming Project, outlined in our previous Quarterly Report, continued throughout the final quarter of the season, with 88 greyhounds exported as pets to the USA between 1 May 2024 and 31 July 2024.

The Project will continue in the 2024/25 season, although it will not operate during extreme hot or cold weather periods.

### Behavioural Assessments

GRNZ uses a traffic light system to behaviourally assess greyhounds when they first arrive at Great Mates or Rehabilitation to Rehoming (RTR) venues. “Green” greyhounds are virtually ready for adoption immediately, “Amber” greyhounds require limited training to adjust to pet life and “Red” greyhounds require more training prior to being rehomed.

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, 78% of greyhounds were initially assessed as “Green”. This figure is up from 72% in the previous season, and reflects the additional socialisation that trainers have been doing with their greyhounds. Consistently, only around 4% of all greyhounds are assessed as “Red” at their first assessment.

### Community Engagement and Advertising

During the 2023/24 season, GRNZ placed a significant focus on community engagement in relation to rehoming. This was a strong contributing factor to the increased number of adoption applications throughout the season.

Key activities throughout the season included:

- The production of a television commercial promoting Great Mates. This was played on TVNZ and Trackside, and was also used as promotional content in a variety of online platforms.
- A rehoming events calendar was created, which collates Great Mates events and those of our four rehoming partners. During peak months, events were held weekly.

GRNZ views community engagement as an extremely important vehicle for raising awareness around greyhound adoptions, and will continue to explore additional opportunities in this space in the 2024/25 season. GRNZ will also continue to work with and support our four rehoming partners in hosting events and further exposing greyhounds to the wider public.

### **Private Rehoming**

Changes to the recording of data for private rehomes were developed during the 2023/24 season and came into effect on 1 August 2024. This allows for the capture of more information, along with a declaration of where the greyhound is going and its behavioural assessment conducted by the owner or trainer.

GRNZ has recently developed a new owner's booklet for those who adopt greyhounds via private rehoming. This booklet contains valuable information and resources for people new to greyhound ownership.

## Injuries

### KPI Injuries 1 August - 31 July

2022/23		KPI INJURY COUNT & RATE	2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 31 July	Count	per 1,000 starters
150	4.1	Major I (22-42 days)	131	3.6
73	2.0	Major II (more than 42 days)	93	2.6
7	0.2	Euthanised due to injury in a race	9	0.2
0	0.00	Sudden death	4	0.1
<b>230</b>	<b>6.30</b>	<b>KPI Injury Totals</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>6.57</b>

As detailed in previous quarterly reports, the first three months of the 2023/24 season saw a reduction in KPI injuries.

The KPI injury rate then increased in the second (8.44 per 1,000 starters) and third (6.84 per 1,000 starters) quarters, which resulted in the KPI injury rate between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024 finishing at 6.57 per 1,000 starters.

However, while this represents a 4.3% increase on the previous season (6.30 per 1,000 starters), it is still 6.4% below benchmark (7.02 per 1,000 starters).

Pleasingly, the final quarter of the 2023/24 season saw a downward trend in the rate of KPI injuries, with a rate of 5.46 per 1,000 starters between 1 May 2024 and 31 July 2024.

## Minor and Medium Injuries 1 August - 31 July

2022/23		MINOR AND MEDIUM INJURY COUNT & RATE		2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 31 July		Count	per 1,000 starters
456	12.3	Minor 1-10 days		485	13.5
199	5.9	Medium 11-21 days		187	5.2
<b>655</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>Minor and Medium Injury Totals</b>		<b>672</b>	<b>18.6</b>
<b>2,898</b>		<b>Total Post-Race Examinations</b>		<b>3,317</b>	

During the 2023/24 season, the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) again increased the number of post-race veterinary examinations by 15% to 3,317, and this saw a small rise in the rate of superficial and minor injuries given precautionary stand downs between 1-10 days.

There was simultaneously a small decrease in the rate of 11-21 day injury stand downs issued during the 2023/24 season.

### Changes made throughout the season

GRNZ has made significant investments in the future, with a number of long-term changes made throughout the season under review.

One such change involved GRNZ taking over (from the clubs) the responsibility for the employment of racetrack curators. This created a nationwide curation team, all reporting to the GRNZ Racing Safety & Infrastructure Manager.

Another significant change was the replacement of archaic Bramwich lure systems with SafeChase lures at the majority of our tracks, firstly at Cambridge in August 2023, Manukau in May 2024 and Addington in July 2024. Additionally, the aged wire-rope lure system at Manawatu was superseded by the SafeChase lure in February 2024.

Three other significant track initiatives included:

- The opening of the newly constructed Wanganui Straight Track in June 2024 - arguably the single biggest initiative introduced during the reporting period across all areas;
- The temporary closure of Manukau for remedial work; and
- The temporary closure of Addington for major remedial work.

In addition to these, a list of potential mitigations for specific issues was created for evaluation and development. The first of these to be developed was a change to the default vacant boxes for race fields drawn with seven or fewer starters. Since forever, the default for a field of seven was to leave

Box 5 vacant - purely because it made intuitive sense. However, GRNZ analysis conducted during the 2023/24 season appeared to show that Vacant Box 1 was actually a safer configuration.

This data was provided to the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) for validation, and UTS confirmed that it was statistically significant. This prompted GRNZ to amend the relevant rules to allow its introduction early in the 2024/25 season.

This highlights GRNZ continuing to be proactive and consider all potential strategies that will help mitigate the risk of injuries. This will continue to be an ongoing focus area for GRNZ, and the serious injury analysis and review is now embedded in our business as usual activities.

## Preferred Box Draw (PBD) Racing

### PBD vs Random Box Draw Data for Falls, Fractures and Fatalities

INCIDENTS PER 1,000 STARTERS				
	Starters	Falls C1+	Fracture	Euthanasia
Random Sprints 2022-2024	39,495	5.0	2.2	0.3
PBD Sprints 2022/23	12,834	2.3	1.3	0.1
PBD Sprints 2023/24	23,618	2.9	2.0	0.1
Random Mid-Distance 2022/23	9,518	5.5	1.4	0
Random Mid-Distance 2023/24	9,334	4.2	3.4	0.6

At the start of the 2023/24 season, PBD racing was expanded to cover all non-recognised sprint races. This meant that 67% of all GRNZ races in the season under review were run as PBD. The ability of PBD to reduce the incidence of falls, fractures and euthanasias continued in the 2023/24 season, although not to the extent achieved in the previous season.

In total, over the past three seasons, Random Box Draw sprints have resulted in fall, fracture and euthanasia rates of 5.0, 2.2 and 0.3 per 1,000 starters respectively. PBD clearly bettered this in 2022/23, with rates of 2.3, 1.3 and 0.1 respectively, and also in 2023/24, with rates of 2.9, 2.0 and 0.1.

As a control, equivalent data for Random Box Draw Middle Distance races is provided. This shows a deterioration from rates of 5.5, 1.4 and 0 for falls, fractures and euthanasias in 2022/23 to 4.2, 3.4 and 0.6 in 2023/24.

During the season, the change in the racing traits of the greyhound population, as PBD became mainstream, was identified. The incidence of natural Wide runners was decreasing, whilst the incidence of natural Railers was increasing, and in effect, this increase in Railers was steadily turning PBD races back into close to Random Box Draw events.



## **Injuries Reported by Trainers**

In addition to the routine scratching of greyhounds for minor issues notified daily in RIB Stewards' reports, a further 34 injuries were notified by trainers to Stewards post-raceday, as required under Rule 122 of the GRNZ Rules of Racing (obligation to report a matter affecting performance or health or welfare). These injuries were attributed to a race and were published as supplementaries in the RIB Stewards' reports.

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

In the previous season (2022/23), trainers also notified 34 injuries under Rule 122, which were also published as supplementaries in Stewards' reports.

## Euthanasia and Deaths

GRNZ has changed two aspects of reporting euthanasia and deaths, as compared to previous Annual Reports.

Firstly, in those previous reports, euthanasia due to an injury in a race and sudden deaths on raceday, were reported in a separate section and not included in this section. The separate, specific reporting of these continues, but now they are also included within the tables below.

Secondly, euthanasia of aged pets is now reported under euthanasia, where previously it was reported under death due to age or illness.

The GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy adopted during the previous season continues to be effective in reducing the rate of euthanasia on pre-Policy levels.

Neonatal mortality rates in the New Zealand greyhound population continues to be significantly lower than the levels reported for other dog breeds in published academic research.

### 2022/23 and 2023/24 Statistics between 1 August and 31 July

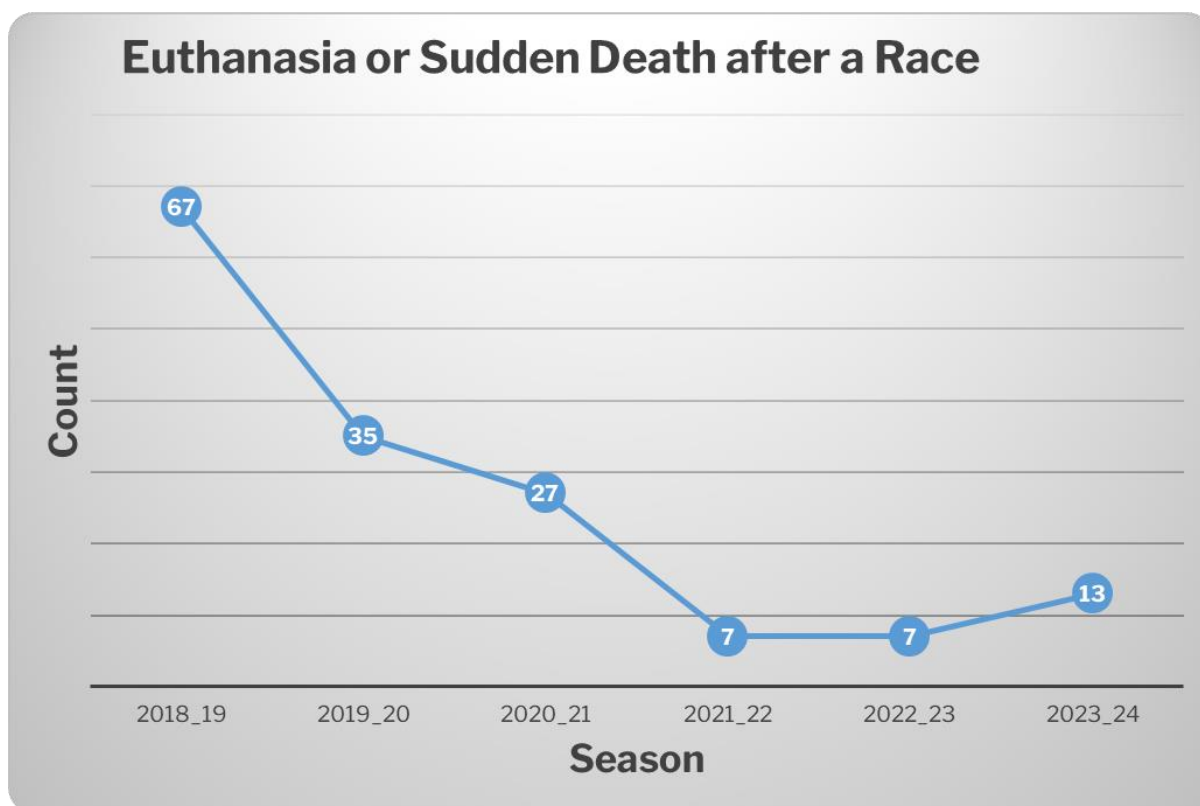
2022/23		Mortality Type & Cause	2023/24	
Count	% All euthanasia / deaths	Euthanasia	Count	% All euthanasia / deaths
7	7.6%	Due to an Injury in a Race	9	11.1%
7	7.6%	Behavioural Euthanasia – Aggression	4	5.0%
33	35.9%	Medical Euthanasia – Illness	38	46.9%
28	30.4%	Medical Euthanasia – Accident/Injury	15	18.5%
0	0%	Euthanasia (no reason provided)	0	0%
17	18.5%	Aged Euthanasia	15	18.5%
<b>92</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
		<b>Death</b>		
11	20.4%	Accident/Injury	15	23.4%
43	79.6%	Age or Illness	49	76.6%
<b>54</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>146</b>		<b>Total Mortality</b>	<b>145</b>	

The number of greyhounds euthanised due to injury in a race increased slightly in the 2023/24 season, with nine such euthanasias (up from seven in the 2022/23 season). However, the rate of raceday euthanasia due to injury remains constant, at 0.2 per 1,000 starters.

The number of raceday euthanasias has exponentially decreased in recent years, due to a combination of measures that GRNZ has introduced, including the establishment of rehoming pathways via Great Mates, RTR support for injured greyhounds and the Greyhound Euthanasia Policy. We understand that GRNZ's results compare more than favourably to other racing jurisdictions across Australia and New Zealand in this area.

In addition to the nine raceday euthanasias, four greyhounds died suddenly following racing, which are included in the graph below. The rate of sudden death was 0.1 per 1,000 starters. Post-mortems were conducted in all cases, and revealed that one had an undiagnosed congenital heart defect, one suffered from blood clots following a spinal thromboembolism and died overnight while in the care of emergency vets, one had a burst abdominal artery, and no clear cause could be established for the fourth greyhound.

Sudden death events are a rare but devastating loss in all athletic pursuits, both human and animal. One publication quotes the rate of sudden death in over four million thoroughbred race starters in North America at 0.13 per 1,000 starters<sup>1</sup>. GRNZ will continue to investigate all sudden death events, ensuring post-mortems are conducted and risk factors are considered.



<sup>1</sup>Fifteen risk factors associated with sudden death in Thoroughbred racehorses in North America (2009–2021): <https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.22.08.0358>.

## Track Management

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

Key developments in the final quarter of the 2023/24 racing season are detailed below, with the major highlight being the commencement of racing at the Wanganui Straight Track.

### **Wanganui Straight Track**

Totalisator racing commenced at the Wanganui Straight Track in July, following two "dress rehearsals" there in June.

The track has been performing extremely well, and the general presentation of the track is a reflection on the time and commitment shown by the track curator and support staff.

It is anticipated that Wanganui Straight Track racing will become an important fixture in the 2024/25 racing calendar and beyond with at least fortnightly race meetings.

### **Addington Raceway**

Remedial works were carried out at Addington Raceway throughout June and July. There were a number of inconsistencies and variations identified within the basecourse layer, which would have contributed to some of the inconsistencies found on the track surface.

The scope of the works were expanded once the project commenced, including the removal of the 645m start at the Christchurch Greyhound Racing Club's request, as well as the adjustment of the 520m start to 525m. The fourth SafeChase lure was also installed and commissioned during the remediation period.

Racing successfully recommenced at Addington Raceway on 1 August.

### **Manukau Stadium**

The Auckland track has been performing well following the most recent suspension of racing (so as to allow remedial works to be completed). GRNZ has appointed a new Senior Curator, who commenced in late-July.

### **Cambridge Raceway**

The consistency in track presentation at Cambridge for a long period is a credit to the two young track staff members employed. The Cambridge track will receive a scheduled track renovation over coming months, which will include grading.

The upgrade of the irrigation system is also programmed in the next few months, to ensure that the maintenance and management of water content is not compromised through Summer months.

### **Manawatu Raceway**

As with Cambridge, the consistency being presented at Manawatu has been exceptional over the past few months.

This track is earmarked for a surface replacement in October. It should be noted this project is being carried out in line with a maintenance programme agreed on by GRNZ and the Palmerston North Greyhound Racing Club, as opposed to any urgent need.

### **Hatrick Raceway**

Hatrick has been performing well, and rail infrastructure will be prepared for the introduction of a SafeChase lure in the coming months. The cable system and electric motor will remain as the back-up system, as is the case at Manawatu Raceway.

### **Ascot Park Raceway**

Surveyors have been engaged to provide a current up-to-date picture of the track and lure rail levels. The current lure rail at Invercargill will not support the proposed SafeChase lure, and the data gained from the survey will provide the ability to prepare a transitional programme.

# Systems and Traceability

## 1 May 2024 - 31 July 2024 Key Activities

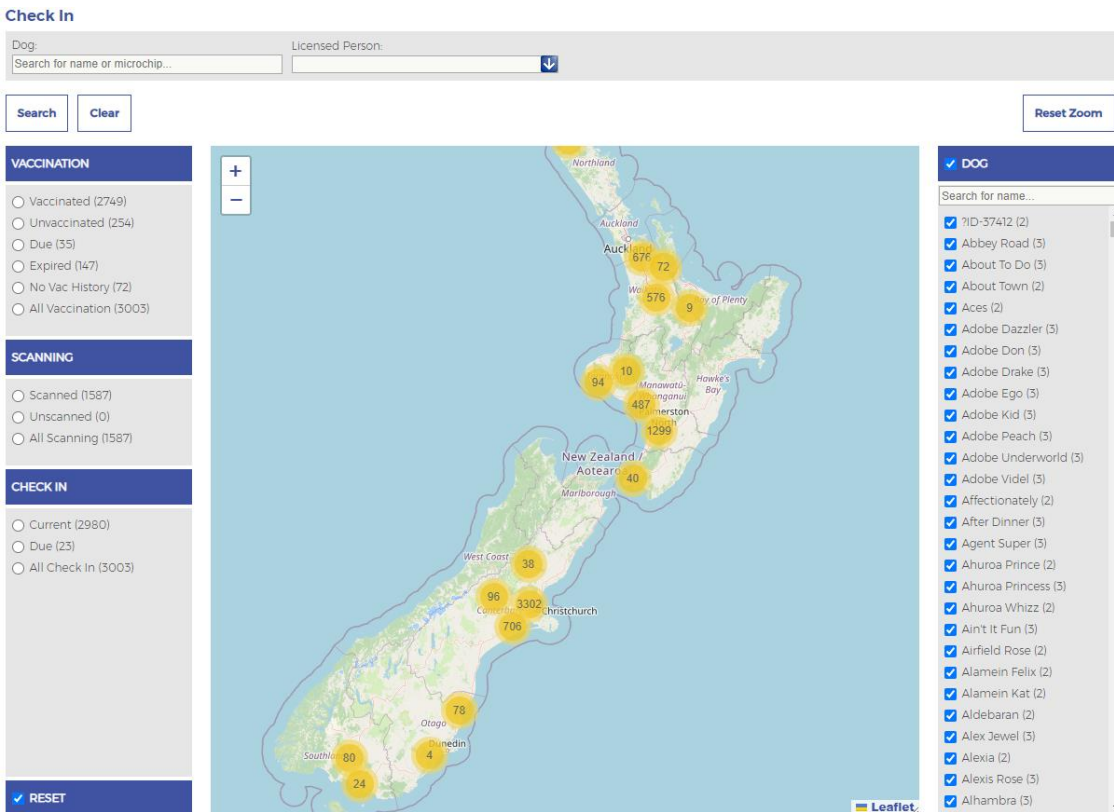
### Gallagher Scanning and Traceability

As noted in the previous Quarterly Report, an online dashboard and map was being beta-tested in the GRNZ system. This map, which provides visual information of a greyhound's check-in status, location and vaccination information, has now been fully implemented in the GRNZ system and is available for use by the RIB and GRNZ staff. The map (and traceability reports noted in the previous Quarterly Report) are updated in real time. For example, as soon as a vaccination is entered into the GRNZ database for a greyhound, it is updated on the map and in the reports.

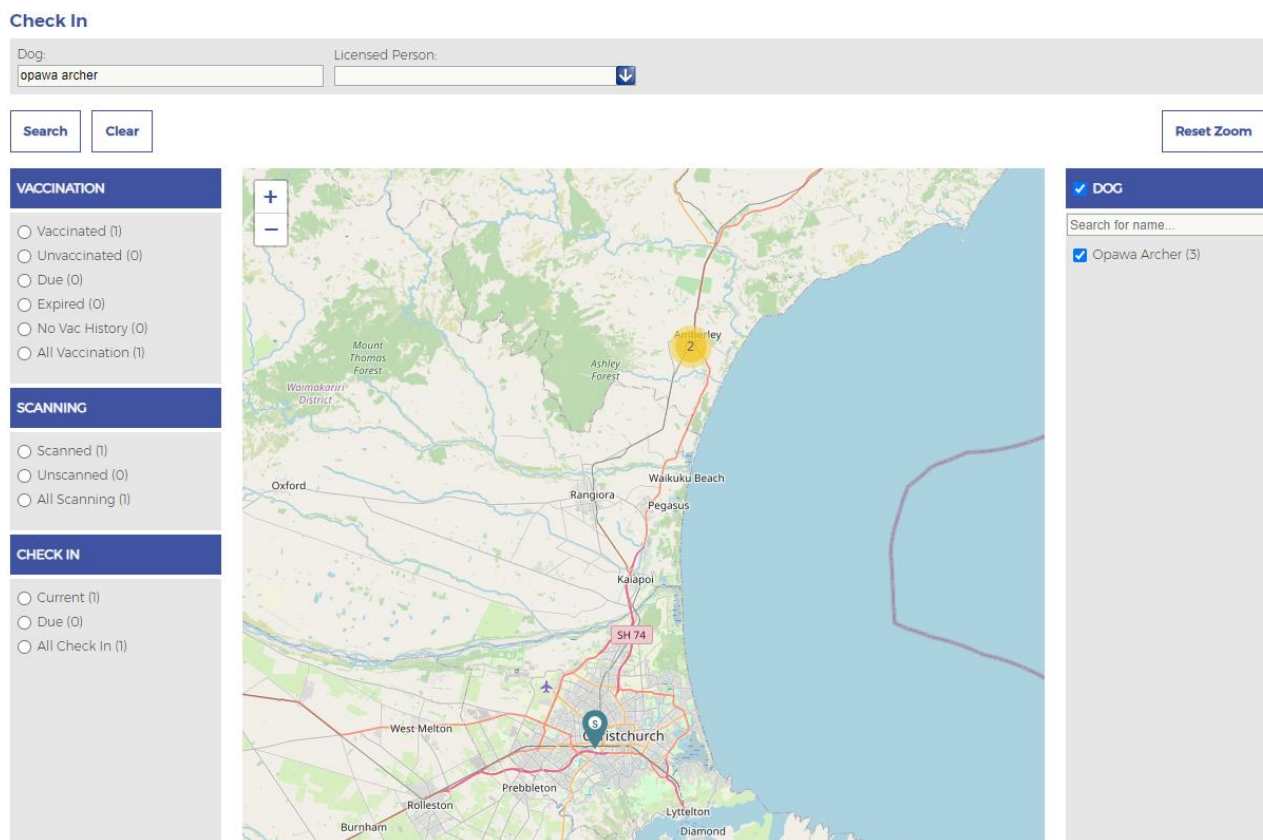
All registered greyhounds are displayed on the map. This includes racing greyhounds, greyhounds that are not racing yet, and greyhounds that are retired in the industry (for example, those retired for breeding or those kept as pets by the trainers). It also includes greyhounds located at Great Mates venues up until they are fully adopted by their new owners.

The information on the map includes the microchip scanning data from the scans conducted at racetracks and RIB kennel audits, as well as vaccination and the last "check-in" event for the greyhound. An event includes a range of different interactions with GRNZ processes, such as a trial scan, a trainer change, vaccination etc (as detailed in the KPIs).

The picture below is a screenshot of the map. The yellow dots indicate check-in events of the greyhounds, with greyhounds having their two or three most recent events recorded against them.



The image below shows a scanning event at Addington Raceway and check-in events for the greyhound Opawa Archer, by way of example. Drilling into the location pins displays the details of the event, such as a vaccination or race, as well as the trainer or custodian of the greyhound.



As a result of the recorded check-in processes and this system, GRNZ can have confidence in the integrity of our database and the status of all dogs within it. Concerns around “missing” dogs are no longer valid.

### Software Enhancements to support Policies and Operational Changes

Software to support the requirements of the Safe Return to Racing Policy has been developed. This includes having the system preventing nomination for races unless Policy conditions are met, and information on the stand down reports for trainers reminding them of their obligations.

Software enhancements relating to the private rehoming requirements for trainers have been developed. This includes changes to the online forms used by trainers.

Changes to the way the system allocates default vacant boxes have also been made to support the injury reduction initiatives around the use of vacant boxes in races.

## Governance

### Rules and Policies

Key developments between 1 May 2024 and 31 July 2024 included:

- Stakeholder consultation for amendments to the GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy
- Stakeholder consultation for the GRNZ Rehoming Policy
- Stakeholder consultation for some minor amendments to the GRNZ Rules of Racing
- Implementation of minor changes to the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards

The GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy came into effect on 1 August 2024. This Policy prescribes the requirements for greyhounds returning to racing after serious injuries or extended breaks.

GRNZ and the RIB have held constructive conversations around the GRNZ Rules of Racing. These discussions will progress into the first quarter of 2024/25, with positive progress being made by both parties in this area, and a mutual desire to reach an agreeable compromise. As noted in our last Quarterly Report, the area under review relates to the general powers of the RIB, and does not impact materially on animal welfare, where GRNZ had already acted to address rule-related issues.

### Animal Health and Welfare Committee

The GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) continues to convene bi-monthly.

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



## Education

GRNZ introduced its mandatory education programme for Licensed Persons in 2023, as a condition of relicensing. This was again a condition of relicensing for the 2024/25 season, and this year, was expanded to include littermasters (as well as breeders and trainers). The completion rate prior to 31 July was 98.13%, with the five outstanding people completing the modules in early August.

The education modules for the 2024/25 season covered animal welfare rule requirements, socialisation best practice, Rehoming Policy, Safe Return to Racing Policy, Greyhound Euthanasia Policy and Rehabilitation to Rehoming Policy.

All new trainers, breeders and littermasters must also complete the modules prior to obtaining a licence.

GRNZ is proud to have been the first racing jurisdiction in Australasia across the three codes to introduce a mandatory education programme linked to licensing.

## Vaccinations

Below is the report on vaccination figures between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024.

There was further improvement in the vaccination rates in the last quarter of the season, with 96.2% of greyhounds having current vaccinations, compared to 93.6% at the end of the third quarter. The biggest increase was in the retired greyhounds category, as can be seen below.

Registered greyhounds are the only canine breed in New Zealand required to maintain current vaccinations.

### VACCINATION STATUS AS AT 31 JULY 2024

Registration Type	Current		Expired		No Vacs History		Total
<b>Pre-racing</b>  Whelped between 30Oct21-5Mar24; >8 weeks old In NZ & no De-reg Dates	692	(97.5%)	18	(2.5%)	0	(0.0%)	710
<b>Racing</b>  Whelped since 30Oct18, In NZ, Has Racing Reg Date	1276	(98.8%)	16	(1.2%)	0	(0.0%)	1292
<b>Retired for Breeding (B)</b>  Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Females	107	(97.2%)	1	(0.9%)	0	(0.0%)	108
<b>Retired for Breeding (D)</b>  Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Males	9	(100.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	9
<b>Retired In Industry (Not Breeding)</b>  Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Retired In Industry	722	(90.6%)	73	(9.2%)	2	(0.3%)	797
Great Mates or other Rehoming Agency as Custodian	(296)	(91.4%)	(28)	(8.6%)	(0)	(0.0%)	324
Retired in Industry less Great Mates	(426)	(90.1%)	(45)	(9.5%)	(2)	(0.4%)	473
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>(96.2%)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>(3.7%)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>(0.1%)</b>	<b>2916</b>

## Prohibited Substances

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024, 3,858 greyhounds were routinely tested for prohibited substances at the direction of the RIB, which equates to 10.7% of starters (36,063). This number includes raceday tests (3,648, including six official trials) and out-of-competition tests (210, comprising 79 samples from greyhounds completing training trials and 131 from property visits).

During that period, there were five positive swabs for arsenic above the threshold limit, including those discussed in our previous Quarterly Reports. In addition, as discussed in our previous Quarterly Report, there were two positives for cobalt above the threshold limit.

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

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 and regularly consults the SPCA, NAWAC via membership of our AHWC, and the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA). Additionally, GRNZ's Welfare Manager delivered a talk at the NZVA Conference on Welfare of Greyhounds: Working with veterinarians towards a sustainable future, which was well received by veterinarians who attended.

## Appendix: Key Performance Indicators

### GRNZ KPIs - Animal Welfare - Performance between 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024

Category	Description	2023/24 season to 31 July 2024	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target	
<p><b>Background: GRNZ has implemented a Policy to ensure any euthanasia of registered greyhounds is carried out in line with GRNZ's Greyhound Euthanasia Policy.</b></p>						
1	<b>Euthanasia</b>	Euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Greyhound Euthanasia Policy	1.23%	<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 was euthanised without submitting a NOI first, out of 81 euthanasias to 31 July. Trainer issued with a warning to remind him of his obligations.</i></p>						
<p><b>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.</b></p>						
2	<b>Injuries</b>	Reduce the number of Category D injuries in races as per GA classifications (22+ days). Measured as rate per 1,000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 7.02	6.57 per 1,000 starters = 6.4% decrease on benchmark of 7.02  (6.30 in 2022/23)	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: Final result for season down 6.4% on benchmark year, but did not achieve aspirational target of a 15% reduction. GRNZ monitored this closely over the year, and took steps to mitigate injury levels where possible. The Injury Reduction Task Force initiated the Manukau and Addington tracks being closed for remedial work, as well as created a Plan on a Page list of other potential mitigations, including a change to the default Vacant Box for fields of less than eight, which commenced early in the new 2024/25 season. In addition to these initiatives, racing has now commenced on the Wanganui Straight Track.</i></p>						

3	<b>Serious Injuries</b>	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	<b>2.86 per 1,000 starters</b>	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)
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*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.*

*In the 2023/24 season, there were 103 such injuries - a rate of 2.86. This is 17.1% above the Benchmark and 37.7% above Target. For comparative purposes, in the 2022/23 season, there were 73 Category F injuries, at a rate of 2.00. While disappointing, to put GRNZ's results into perspective, our statistics compare favourably in this area to those of some major Australian jurisdictions.*

4	<b>Injuries</b>	Number of races on straight tracks	<b>29</b>	150	300	600
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*Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 4: Measure not achieved with delays in the construction of the Wanganui Straight Track. GRNZ's approach was to take time and get this right, rather than rush it to achieve this target. Non-tote "Dress Rehearsal" meetings were conducted with four, then six races in June. The first two Tote meetings were held in July, with 10 and nine-race cards. Racing at this venue will be a key component of Central Districts racing programmes in future seasons.*

5	<b>Injuries</b>	Percentage of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBD)	<b>67%</b>	60%	65%	70%
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*Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 5: From 1 August 2023, all sprint races (excluding features) were agreed by the GRNZ Board to be PBD.*

*Up to 31 July 2024, 3,299 out of 4,899 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	98.13%	100%	100%	100%
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*Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 6: As a condition of licensing, all Licensed Persons are required to undertake this training.*

*This KPI was addressed as a condition of relicensing in 2024 and was done for 2023. In 2024, the education modules covered animal welfare rule requirements, socialisation best practice, Rehoming Policy, Safe Return to Racing Policy, Greyhound Euthanasia Policy and Rehabilitation to Rehoming Policy. Due to some software issues with the online modules, five individuals were relicensed without completing this training. These were followed up and completed early in the new season.*

**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 99.9% Non-Racing 98.5%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 95%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 100%	Racing dogs 100% Non-racing 100%
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*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 31 July, based on check-ins to confirm details of the dogs concerned. Check-ins include racing, trialling, vaccinations, breeding, animal registration, whelping, a service, change of trainer/owner, retirement and processing through rehoming processes. This confirms the existence of the dogs at the time of those interactions with GRNZ processes. As at 31 July, one racing dog had not checked in within the last six months, and 17 non-racing dogs had not checked in within the last year. GRNZ has initiated follow-up in relation to these dogs to confirm their statuses.*

**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	43% within 90 days	70% within 90 days	80% within 90 days	90% within 90 days
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		the end of the month being reported on)				
<p><i>Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 8: This measure reflects the longer waiting times as adoption rates have not matched retirement numbers over the last three years. Recent movement in the adoption levels in the last six months has seen some small positive movement in this area, with further improvement expected across the next year. The America Project, introduced late April, along with at least maintaining domestic adoption numbers, will see a general improvement in waiting lists over the balance of the 2024 calendar year. A full year of the America Project will have a material impact on waiting lists.</i></p>						
<b>9</b>	<b>Rehoming</b>	Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of:	<b>208</b>	210	215	220
<p><i>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 adoptions and improving throughput, rather than just increasing capacity awaiting adoption.</i></p>						
<b>10</b>	<b>Rehoming</b>	Increase greyhound adoptions	<b>673</b>	525	575	600
<p><i>Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 10: See comments in KPI 8 above. For the 2023/24 season, adoption results have been: Industry/Private Rehoming 132, Adoption Agencies (NZ/USA) 541. With increased activity with public events and the introduction of new adoption initiatives (eg USA), adoption rates increased over the season, with a record level of adoptions by season's end. Domestic adoptions for the season were 571 (compared to 481 in the 2022/23 season), with 102 American adoptions.</i></p>						