



GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee (GRNZ-AHWC) Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

To advance the care and wellbeing of racing greyhounds. The Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) is sanctioned by Greyhound Racing NZ (GRNZ) to report back to the GRNZ Board with recommendations supported by evidence, expertise and research focussed on the wellbeing and care of racing greyhounds. This will include recommendations for changes in protocols, rules and standards that will benefit the wellbeing of all racing greyhounds from birth to adoption.

To develop and recommend and collaboratively exchange information to encourage consistent national application to greyhound welfare and breed development including:

- a. Welfare Risk Management
- b. Lifecycle tracking protocols, adoptions and associated welfare management related matters.

Once agreed by the Committee, all research and recommended policies and actions are to be presented to the GRNZ Board with recommendations as to the implementation. Under the GRNZ constitution, the GRNZ Board is to make any final decisions.

Greyhound racing is subject to the Racing Industry Act. The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) is the independent integrity authority under that Act. Other applicable legislation includes the Animal Welfare Act and Dog Control Act. The Committee will liaise and consult as required with all relevant external bodies who have responsibility under those Acts including the MPI and SPCA, noting that both have prosecutorial authority relating to any alleged offenses that may be committed under those Acts. The Committee may seek advice from the MPI and SPCA in relation to any matters that may be pertinent to the ongoing care of racing greyhounds.

2. Authority

The Committee operates within this designated Charter that has been delegated to them by the GRNZ Board.

3. Objectives

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the AHWC is to:

- Ensure the GRNZ Health and Welfare Standards for greyhound industry welfare practices are continually reviewed and updated in line with new understanding and research in relation to world best standard practice.
- Draw on specialists qualified in the areas of veterinary care in relation to health and wellbeing of racing and breeding greyhounds for research and advice as to best practice.
- Develop in consultation with greyhound racing stakeholders including the Racing Integrity Board (RIB), and veterinary experts proven welfare standards and practices which are world best standard.

- Work towards the development of nationally consistent greyhound welfare protocols designed to ensure the wellbeing of both the participants and the greyhounds and that the social licence granted to GRNZ is maintained.
- Maintain a coordinated policy approach to industry managed Greyhound Adoption and Rehoming programmes
- Receive review and consider reports on
 - population management including registrations, statistics and management of breeding.
 - injuries and deaths
 - euthanasia
 - rehoming
 - kennel standards
 - track standards
- Determine any changes needed to the GRNZ Rules and Health and Welfare standards and recommend them to the Board.
- To consider all other relevant business deemed appropriate or as delegated to them by the GRNZ Board and/or the RIB

The Committee shall use its best endeavours to meet together at least 6 times per year.

Meetings shall be held either in person or via electronic means.

4. Membership

Membership of the Committee is limited to a maximum of 6 representatives including the Chairperson. The membership shall be drawn from experts in the care and management of racing greyhounds from birth to adoption and will focus on veterinary and behavioural expertise.

Chairperson - The Independent Chairperson requires skills in managing meetings and ensuring constructive input and enabling all members to contribute.

The Committee will include the Head of Animal Welfare for GRNZ.

An employee of the RIB nominated by the RIB will hold observer status with full speaking rights.

Nominated representatives at the time of their nomination, must demonstrate an expertise in the veterinary care of racing and working dogs, and/or understanding of best practice in the care and wellbeing of racing and working dogs, and/or understanding of the behavioural science.

A representative of NAWAC has an open invitation to attend all meetings as an observer and/or the GRNZ Animal Welfare Manager will brief the Chair of NAWAC as to the progress of the Committee.

The AHWC can delegate or refer operational requests to GRNZ.

The Committee may consult as required with other agencies like the MPI and SPCA.

4.1 Appointment

The power to appoint and remove Committee members rests with the GRNZ Board following consultation with the RIB.

4.2 Chairperson

The Chairperson is a person appointed by GRNZ Board to oversee the running of the Committee and

has full voting rights.

The Chairperson must:

- 1) Guide the Committee in setting goals and objectives, by setting a calendar of meeting times and activities;
- 2) In conjunction with the Secretary, set meeting agendas, run meetings, and encourage equal interaction by members;
- 3) Facilitate the Committee in discussions with the GRNZ Board;
- 4) Facilitate presentations and any Committee recommendations to the GRNZ Board;
- 5) Perform all other such duties and functions as directed by the GRNZ Board; and
- 6) Represent GRNZ in the media as situations arise.

4.3 Secretary

The secretarial service will be provided by GRNZ for administrative support to the Chairperson and will not be an AHCW member. They are specifically responsible for advising Committee members of meetings, formalising agendas in consultation with the Chairperson, preparing and circulating minutes, assisting with Committee correspondence and any associated functions to ensure the smooth running of the Committee.

5. Meetings

5.1 Frequency

The Committee shall use its best endeavours to meet together at least six times per year.

The Committee shall hold its meeting(s) at such place as is determined by the Chairperson, subject to endorsement from the GRNZ Board or via electronic means from time to time if required.

Subject to GRNZ Board approval, the AHCW will conduct an annual face to face stakeholder's meeting, likely to be held over 1 day. This meeting may focus on strategic issues.

The Committee may hold its meeting at more than one place, provided that the technology used enables each member present at all places the meeting is held to clearly and simultaneously communicate with every other member.

5.2 Quorum

A minimum of 4 Committee members excluding the Chairperson and Secretary are required to be present at a meeting for any recommendations to stand.

5.3 Minutes

For transparency and accountability, minutes are to be taken of all Committee meetings (including electronic meetings) and shall be available in draft for members no later than 15 business days following the meeting.

5.4 Other Attendees

The Committee may allow non-members to attend meetings, at the discretion of the Chairperson, subject to receipt of an appropriate business case. This person at the discretion of the Chairperson may contribute to meeting discussion but will not be entitled to vote at the meeting should one occur.

5.5 Voting

All Committee members are entitled to vote on Committee recommendations with each vote counting as one. The result of a vote is based on a simple majority. If all 5 voting members are present, a vote of at least 4 is required. If a vote is tied, the Chairperson can throw a casting vote. When voting, a representative's first responsibility is to the Committee and not to the party that nominated them.

6. Expenditure

The payment of any expenses associated with nominated representatives attending and/or participating in a Committee meeting will be the responsibility of the nominated member. The GRNZ Board will provide a budget to assist with coordination of meetings (i.e. teleconferences, etc as it deems appropriate). Any proposed expenditure must be approved initially by the Committee Chair, and signed off by the GRNZ CEO prior to occurrence.

7. Communication

Any discussion and minutes from an AHCW meeting remain confidential to those members present and the GRNZ Board. Any decision from a meeting is to be initially communicated by the Committee Chair to a respective GRNZ delegate such as the CEO or the GRNZ Board Chairman.