



GRNZ
Animal Welfare
Quarterly Progress Report

31 January 2024

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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. All previous reports are publicly available on the GRNZ website, under Stakeholder News. We continue to work closely with the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) on a comprehensive work plan.

This report details key activities between 1 November 2023 and 31 January 2024, and statistics between 1 August 2023 and 31 January 2024 where relevant. We have also included an update on our Animal Welfare Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as an Appendix.

The RIB's Quarterly Report will include an update on the 15 Key Focus Areas, as assessed by both the RIB and GRNZ.

Key highlights for the quarter have included:

- The majority of track staff becoming employed by GRNZ instead of individual racing clubs;
- Confirmation of GRNZ's plan around traceability and systems development;
- A marked increase in domestic adoptions on the same quarter last season;
- Undertaking due diligence around the export of pet greyhounds to the United States of America (USA);
- The further expansion of the diagnostic-based track management programme; and
- Production (and delivery) of custom-made first-aid kits for our trainers.

GRNZ acknowledges at the outset that KPI injury rates increased in the 1 November 2023 - 31 January 2024 quarter, with more detail on this provided on Page 6. An injury reduction taskforce has consequently been formed to further the work performed by the Serious Injury Review Committee in investigating potential causes and to initiate actions to reduce injuries.

The current rate of KPI injuries in New Zealand is similar to (and in some cases, lower than) those presently seen in Australian greyhound racing jurisdictions.

An injury review paper was put to the GRNZ Board in February 2024, and its recommendations are being progressed strategically to allow evaluation of their effectiveness in addressing the injury rates across tracks.

We continue to expand our diagnostic-based track management programme and we have also expanded Preferred Box Draw racing, while we simultaneously explore alternative options as a means to mitigate and reduce the risk of injury.

Additionally, a GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy has been drafted, with wider industry consultation to commence in March/April 2024, and implementation scheduled for May 2024. Further details on this Policy are provided on Page 7.

Ongoing uncertainty around the industry's future has presented challenges for our sport and our participants, especially in recent months.

Some of our racetracks require major capital works, and we will act quickly to make significant investment into our tracks and infrastructure, should our sport's future be cemented. However, until there is a level of certainty around greyhound racing's future in New Zealand, it is difficult - and not

fiscally prudent - for us to do so. Such major expenditure in the current uncertain climate may even constitute a breach of our directors' fiduciary obligations.

As mentioned in previous reports, uncertainty has also meant a decline in greyhound breeding numbers. Industry confidence is imperative for our participants to invest in our sport and to commence breeding again at the levels required to ensure that greyhound racing has a long and sustainable future.

Additionally, our industry and our people continue to be, in our view, unfairly targeted both by certain sectors of the media and individuals. In the most recent quarter, a GRNZ complaint to the Broadcasting Standards Authority (BSA) was partially upheld on accuracy grounds, making this our second BSA complaint to be upheld in the past 18 months, with a New Zealand Media Council complaint having been also previously upheld.

GRNZ accepts that everyone has the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest in New Zealand. However, in recent months, our participants have been subjected to threats and, in one instance, actual physical violence from members of anti-greyhound racing groups - and this is unacceptable.

GRNZ spends approximately \$17 million annually on prizemoney and well in excess of \$7.5 million annually on animal welfare. This is the highest welfare to prizemoney ratio spend of the three racing codes in New Zealand – by a significant margin.

Our overall contribution to the New Zealand Economy is significant. The recently completed January 2024 IER Size and Scope of the New Zealand Racing Industry Report found that greyhound racing contributed \$159.2 million in total value-added contribution to the economy in FY23. The report also assessed that greyhound racing is responsible for the full-time equivalent employment of 1,054 people. Further details on this report are outlined on Page 4.

The reality is that greyhound racing has a long and steeped history in New Zealand. It's the racing code that's accessible to everyone to get involved with. Our ownership base continues to grow sharply, as an increasing number of people discover the thrill of racing a greyhound with their friends.

We are hopeful that certainty regarding our industry will soon be provided, so that our people and our sport can move forward in a positive direction, while we continue to put animal welfare at the heart of everything that we do.

Size and Scope of Greyhound Racing in New Zealand

In July 2023, Racing New Zealand (comprising the three racing codes) and TAB NZ commissioned a study into the size and scope of the three racing codes in New Zealand. The resulting January 2024 IER Report is based on racing industry data from the 2022/23 racing season, and represents an update to the previous IER Report completed in 2017.

The January 2024 IER Report states that the New Zealand Racing Industry generated a total value-added contribution to the New Zealand Economy of \$1.87 billion in FY23. This represents a 14.7% increase on the size of the industry in FY17.

Greyhound racing contributed \$159.2 million of this total figure in FY23, representing a 71.9% increase since FY17. Our relative share of economic output by code has also increased from 5.7% to 8.5% during that six-year period.

The January 2024 IER Report states that while the equine codes saw a large decline in the number of owners over the past six years, greyhound racing has seen ownership increase by 125% over the same period. Further, greyhound racing in New Zealand provides direct full-time equivalent employment for 1,054 people.

Despite the unsettling nature of the industry's current status in being under review, the January 2024 IER report highlights the ongoing and significant contribution greyhound racing makes to the New Zealand economy and employment levels.

Injuries

KPI Injuries 1 August - 31 January

2022/23		KPI INJURY COUNT & RATE	2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 31 January	Count	per 1,000 starters
73	4.1	Major I (22-42 days)	75	4.2
39	2.2	Major II (more than 42 days)	47	2.6
5	0.3	Euthanised due to an injury in a race	5	0.3
117	6.51	KPI Injury Totals	127	7.04

The current rate of KPI injuries in New Zealand is similar to (and in some cases, lower than) those presently seen in Australian greyhound racing jurisdictions.

Last season, GRNZ's injury KPI was to reduce the rate of Major I and above injuries (those incurring stand downs of 22 days or more and euthanasia) by 10%, as measured against the 2020/21 benchmark rate 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.

In our previous quarterly report, the rate of KPI injuries to 31 October 2023 was down 12.1% on last season and down 19.2% on the benchmark of 7.02 per 1,000 starters.

However, subsequent months have seen an increase in KPI injuries, and while this is not atypical during a dry, hot Summer, the reasons for the increase are multi-faceted. The rate of KPI injuries this season to 31 January 2024 is consequently 7.04 per 1,000 starters, which is up 8.1% on the same period last season and up 0.2% on the benchmark of 7.02 per 1,000 starters.

Every serious injury is analysed by GRNZ's Serious Injury Review Committee. While some injuries can be at least partially attributed to the tracks, GRNZ's Track Management Programme and infrastructure improvements to date have ensured that the preparation and consistency of the racing surfaces in New Zealand are the best they have ever been. Other factors considered by the Serious Injury Review Committee include the age and fitness of the dog, training and racing patterns, and pre-existing injuries which become major during racing. There have also been a number of serious collisions during racing and incidents at the lure resulting in injuries.

GRNZ, in conjunction with the Serious Injury Review Committee, a newly appointed injury reduction taskforce, the GRNZ Racing Committee and the full GRNZ Board, continues to explore initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of KPI injuries.

One such idea in the process of being actioned involves changing the default vacant boxes in fields of less than eight greyhounds. Analysis shows that the incidence of KPI injuries is lower when Box 1 is vacant instead of Box 5 (currently the default). Preferred Box Draw Racing (discussed below) has

also now been further expanded to include middle distance races at some tracks, with this form of racing showing a demonstrable reduction in the incidence of collisions, falls and serious injury rates since its inception in April 2022.

Further, a GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy has been drafted, and approved for consultation by the Board in February 2024. Consultation with the wider industry will take place in March/April 2024, with implementation scheduled for May 2024.

The Policy aims to ensure that greyhounds returning to race following a previous injury or significant layoff are fit to race prior to returning, and do not pose a risk to themselves or others by returning to race. The Policy will require trainers to notify GRNZ of serious non-raceday injuries, in addition to the non-raceday injuries that are reported to Raceday Stewards. It also includes additional scrutiny for greyhounds returning following a serious injury sustained at the track, including further reductions on racing frequency for such greyhounds.

Minor and Medium Injuries 1 August - 31 January

2022/23		MINOR AND MEDIUM INJURY COUNT & RATE	2023/24	
Count	per 1,000 starters	Season to 31 January	Count	per 1,000 starters
218	12.1	Minor 1-10 days	251	13.9
111	6.2	Medium 11-21 days	95	5.3
329	18.3	Minor and Medium Injury Totals	346	19.2
841	46.8	Examinations Cleared of Injury	1,251	69.3
1,287	71.6	Total Post-Race Examinations	1,724	95.5

The RIB has continued to increase the rate of post-race screening, with 1,724 post-race examinations in the season to 31 January 2024, an increase of 34% on the 1,287 conducted in the first half of last season.

The increase in screening led to a further 33 (+15%) minor injuries being detected. Whilst these may seem trivial in nature, their detection is considered important as a precautionary measure to prevent them from becoming something more serious.

The number of medium injuries detected fell by 16 (14%) compared to the same period last year.

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 2,458 races run in the first half of the 2023/24 racing season, 1,601 were PBD sprints. The KPI injury rate in PBD sprints was 7.2 per 1,000 starters, compared to 8.9 per 1,000 starters in non-PBD sprints.

Since the inception of PBD, fewer collisions have seen the racing traits of the population change over time, with fewer wide runners and more railers. This has seen a number of races run with six, seven or eight railers, which makes them less effective at reducing collisions. The “Vacant Box 1” initiative mentioned above is expected to improve safety in such events, by creating more early space on the rail.

GRNZ continues to gradually expand PBD racing, with the concept extending to maiden, Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 middle distances races at Cambridge and Manukau from 1 February 2024, with a view to further expansion in the future if PBD racing continues to yield positive results.

PBD/Random Sprint (up to 456m) Race Injury Comparison 1 August 2023 to 31 January 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
PBD	11,986	13.8	4.8	4.4	2.6	0.2	25.7	2.4	7.2	4.1
Random	448	13.4	8.9	4.5	4.5	0	31.3	4.5	8.9	8.9

Injuries Reported by Trainers

In addition to the routine scratching of greyhounds for minor issues notified daily in RIB Stewards' reports, a further 29 injuries were notified as required under Rule 122 (of the GRNZ Rules of Racing) by trainers to Stewards, and these were published as “supplementaries” in the Stewards reports.

Six of these injuries were given stand downs. Three were stood down for 5, 10 and 21 days, with the other three all stood down for 42 days.

GRNZ will continue to proactively check with trainers on any racing greyhounds that are absent from racing for two months without a reason being notified to Stewards. The GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy will place additional obligations on trainers to report non-raceday injuries.

Euthanasia and Deaths

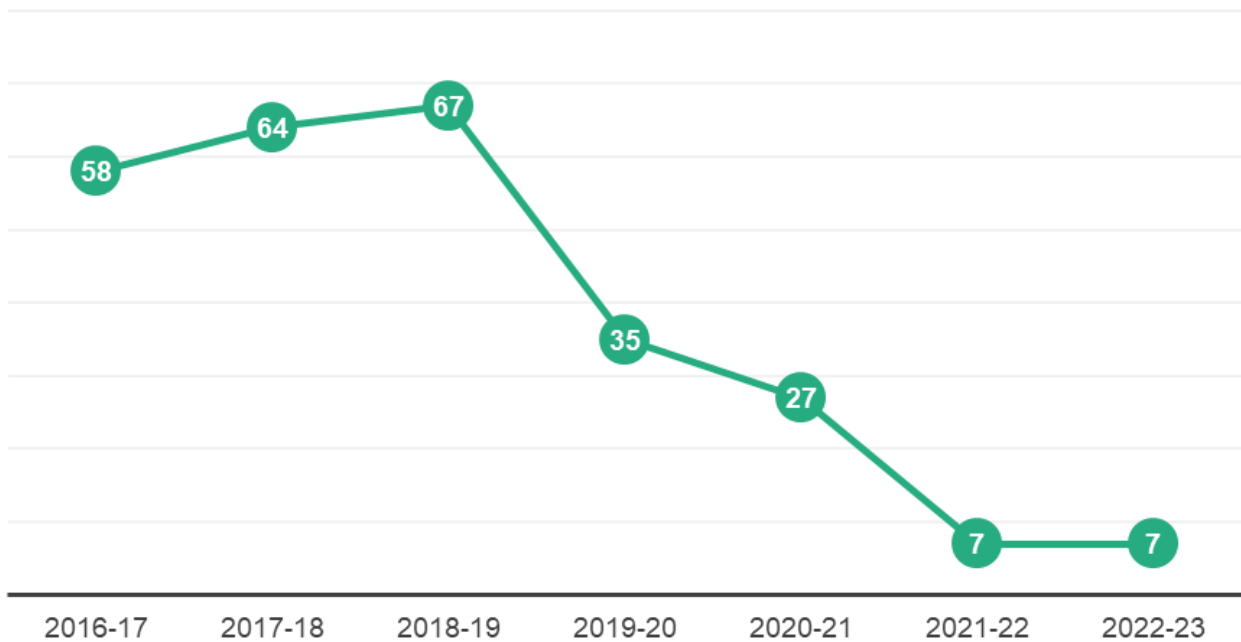
2022/23 and 2023/24 Statistics between 1 August and 31 January

2022/23		Mortality Type & Cause	2023/24	
Count	% All euthanasia / deaths	Euthanasia	Count	% All euthanasia / deaths
5	9.8%	Due to an Injury in a Race	5	15.6%
1	2.0%	Behavioural Euthanasia – Aggression	0	0%
23	45.1%	Medical Euthanasia – Illness	15	46.9%
15	29.4%	Medical Euthanasia – Accident/Injury	6	18.8%
0	0%	Euthanasia (no reason provided)	0	0%
7	13.7%	Aged Euthanasia	6	18.8%
51	100.0%	Total	32	100.0%
		Death		
9	25.7%	Accident/Injury	5	16.7%
26	74.3%	Age or Illness	25	83.3%
35	100.0%	Total	30	100.0%
86		Total Mortality	62	

The number of greyhound euthanasias this season remains low. This is due to a combination of factors, including the GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy, the GRNZ Rehabilitation to Rehoming (RTR) Programme and ongoing education.

As detailed in the KPIs Appendix, there have been no breaches of the GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy this season.

GRNZ: Raceday Euthanasia due to Race Injury



As detailed in previous quarterly reports, the marked decline in raceday euthanasias in recent seasons is attributable to a number of factors, such as track management, PBD racing and the RTR Programme, where GRNZ pays for the surgical care and rehabilitation of greyhounds who suffer career-ending injuries during a race but are given a good long-term prognosis by an independent vet. These greyhounds then enter the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme, where they are matched with their forever home.

In the reporting period, there were five euthanasias due to an injury in a race between 1 August 2023 and 31 January 2024.

Track Management

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

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

Wanganui Straight Track

The straight track at Wanganui is progressing after delays due to weather and sourcing issues. An open day for LPs (also attended by the RIB) was held in December 2023, so that trainers could be updated on progress and become familiar with the track. Trials will commence in March 2024, with final training for both GRNZ and club staff having taken place in the first week of March 2024. The track surface was renovated in line with turf management best practice in mid-February 2024, so as to maximise the remaining growth season.

It is proposed that racing will commence in April/May 2024, subject to construction completion and satisfactory trialling.

Ashburton Track Construction

Planning for the proposed straight track at Ashburton is progressing, with preliminary geotech and survey work completed over summer, enabling the GRNZ Board to agree on a preferred concept design. Experienced Australian track design engineers have been engaged and are working on the detailed design and costings. The concept plan will see the construction of both a straight and sweeping one-turn track as separate tracks, but within a single venue. Long-term certainty as to the industry's future will be required before the GRNZ Board can formally approve such a significant capital investment.

GRNZ Track & Infrastructure Minimum Standards Guidelines

The final draft of the GRNZ Track & Infrastructure Minimum Standards Guidelines was a main focus at the third national track curator workshop held in late February 2024. The document will shortly be finalised, with an aim to provide the draft to the RIB for consultation immediately following Easter.

GRNZ Track Staff and Education

Identifying and retaining quality track management staff is challenging in the current environment. However, in November and December 2023, GRNZ took over the direct employment of Christchurch, Palmerston North and Cambridge track staff. With the changes currently underway at both Invercargill and Auckland, it is expected that all New Zealand track staff will be employed by GRNZ by mid-April 2024.

Given this change in employment structure, GRNZ will engage over the next quarter the services of an independent health and safety professional to ensure that both GRNZ and our Clubs' health and safety policies and practices are fit for purpose.

GRNZ, in partnership with industry suppliers, will be increasing the level of training for track staff on a number of levels. Potential initiatives include an international development scholarship, New Zealand industry accreditation, the ongoing reciprocal track staff exchange opportunity with the Melbourne Greyhound Racing Club (The Meadows) and individual personal development courses. It is envisaged that the employment of all track staff by GRNZ will improve management and performance results across the country and drive improved welfare outcomes.

Track Infrastructure Replacement Programme

Replacement and upgrading of aged infrastructure continues across all tracks. New starting boxes were installed at Addington in late January 2024, with new boxes proposed for installation at Cambridge later in 2024. Addington and Manukau will receive SafeChase lures over the next couple of months, with a unit also scheduled for installation at Hatrick in the second half of 2024. Upgrading of synthetic grass mats, irrigation systems and track implements continue.

Establishment of the Racing Safety Advisory Group

Unfortunately, time constraints have not yet permitted the formation of this industry advisory group. However, it is intended that the Racing Safety Advisory Group will be established in April 2024.

An update will be provided in the next quarterly report.

Rehoming in New Zealand

Adoption Statistics

Between 1 November 2023 and 31 January 2024, 131 greyhounds were adopted through the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme (Great Mates). An additional 47 greyhounds were privately rehomed or rehomed within the industry.

These figures are significant, in that they represent the highest adoption totals for a quarter since the Covid 2020/21 season. The quarter total of 178 is a sharp increase on the same period last season, when 98 greyhounds were rehomed.

At the current average adoption rate for the first six months of the season (1 August 2023 - 31 January 2024), GRNZ is well placed to comfortably exceed last season's adoption levels of 481.

Community Engagement and Advertising

GRNZ continues to work closely with all four adoption agencies, whilst also running its own events, adoptions and foster network through Great Mates venues across the country. The volume of events continues to grow, and consequently, GRNZ will create an events calendar for promotional purposes.

Community engagement at events is strong, and they directly result in applications and adoptions. Feedback from the general public at events is also extremely positive; when a member of the public meets a greyhound in "real life", they turn their mind to the possibility of adopting one. Having Great Mates or rehoming agency staff present at such events also aids with answering any questions and informing the public about why greyhounds make great pets.

During the period 1 November 2023 - 31 January 2024, GRNZ worked with Trackside (New Zealand's dedicated racing television channels owned by Entain) to produce a television commercial promoting Great Mates. During this time, GRNZ also entered into a commercial agreement with TVNZ, and the television commercial has been playing on their linear and digital platforms since mid-January. It is also broadcast regularly on Trackside.

Additionally, the commercial can easily be embedded into newsletters, such as that of the Wellington Racing Club and the New Zealand Rural Games, with whom GRNZ has positive relationships.

This advertising campaign has resulted in an increase in adoption applications, and has also been well-received by people within the industry.

You can view the commercial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsT1CkLuW2k>

Private Rehoming

The work signalled in the last quarterly report for private rehoming has now advanced considerably. GRNZ sought expert advice from Australia with regards to the process of private rehoming, which has assisted us in this area.

All private rehomes of deregistered greyhounds will be done so through GRNZ's online system. The online system will firstly require the greyhound to be desexed, have its dental and have a health check. It will also require the participant to make an online declaration as to the suitability for the greyhound to be rehomed. The online system will also allow for the collection of information around where the greyhound is being rehomed and to whom.

Where greyhounds are privately rehomed, Great Mates staff contact the new owners to ensure the veracity of the adoption, and also to provide new adopters with more comprehensive information about owning a greyhound, and a contact point should they have additional questions post-adoption.

GRNZ is also in the process of creating additional resources to support the private rehome process. These include a new owner's booklet, behavioural traits check sheets, matching information for the greyhound and adoptee and other helpful information sheets.

It is expected that this entire body of work will be completed by 31 July 2024.

Additional Education

GRNZ continues to make advances with additional training and education of its rehoming staff and its participants.

The 17 education modules for staff at Great Mates venues signalled in the last quarterly report are now complete. These have been transferred to the online platform and will be rolled out to all Great Mates staff this year.

Staff will be required to complete these online modules, in addition to having a practical hands-on learning experience with a greyhound based on each module. Additionally, aspects of these modules will be incorporated into the general education modules for LPs as part of relicensing in June/July 2024. Increasing greyhounds' socialisation is a key aspect of this training.

Behavioural Assessment Review

The behavioural assessment review was carried out for GRNZ by K9 Fundamentals at all Great Mates venues in January 2024, and it has been peer-reviewed by Dr Michelle Ledger, GRNZ Animal Welfare Manager.

The review highlights different approaches taken by assessors in different parts of the country and recommends some changes. However, while some inconsistencies in approach by assessors have been identified, the report also states that this does not affect the overall outcomes for greyhound

adoptions, with high customer satisfaction scores and a very low return rate for greyhounds adopted.

GRNZ is currently considering options as a result of the report, such as using an Australian greyhound assessor to run a workshop in New Zealand for all GRNZ assessors. The aim of this would be to achieve the following outcomes:

- To develop more stringent guidelines for the process of assessing greyhounds in New Zealand under the Great Mates management; and
- To develop a behavioural assessment system specific to greyhounds.

Rehoming in USA

GRNZ has spent the past several months conducting extensive research and due diligence around the possibility of rehoming retired greyhounds to the USA.

The primary reasoning behind this is the fact that the length of our waiting lists for greyhounds to enter Great Mates has been gradually increasing in recent years. This impacts negatively on the industry in a variety of ways, such as:

- Racing kennels can contain a number of non-earning retired greyhounds, resulting in increased costs and reduced stake earning capacity for participants
- A decline in breeding numbers, partially due to increased waiting list times and kennel availability
- Young greyhounds being brought into the kennels later than usual, which can increase the risk of dog fighting amongst young dogs in paddock runs, and can also result in greyhounds beginning their racing careers later, thus reducing their number of active racing years
- Reduced availability of dogs for racing, which by corollary can cause smaller fields and less wagering, compromising the commercial viability of the industry

GRNZ is committed to every greyhound having the opportunity to find its forever home at the end of its racing career. While GRNZ continues to put considerable time and resource into rehoming dogs in New Zealand, the fact is that we must find a way of increasing adoption numbers, and evidence shows that this can be successfully achieved via rehoming to the USA. We have already seen retired greyhounds from Australia and Ireland be successfully rehomed in the USA, with Greyhound Racing New South Wales recently celebrating their 500th greyhound being rehomed in the USA.

GRNZ has developed a positive working relationship with Greyhound Pets of America (GPA), which is the national consultative group for the promotion of greyhound adoptions across the USA. It has affiliated chapters and adoption agencies throughout the country. In January 2024, the GRNZ CEO and GRNZ Welfare Strategy and Operations Manager travelled to the USA for two weeks to meet with GPA and their affiliated rehoming groups to ensure the welfare of the dogs was front of mind.

Animal welfare is the most important aspect of this project, at every step of the process. GRNZ's Animal Welfare Manager has, in collaboration with the GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee, developed a comprehensive set of Welfare Guidelines for the project. These protocols have been reviewed and confirmed by the GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee.

GRNZ has briefed a number of parties during the due diligence process, including:

- Minister for Racing's officials
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Racing Integrity Board
- Entain and TAB NZ
- NAWAC

Additionally, GRNZ has sought feedback from the SPCA on this project, but at the time of submitting this report, is awaiting a response.

GRNZ intends to commence the rehoming project in April/May 2024, with the intention to send “ready to adopt” greyhounds from around the country.

GRNZ firmly believes that rehoming greyhounds to the USA is a positive for the industry, reflective of the fact that we are committed to ensuring the best possible welfare outcomes for every greyhound. Having greyhounds adopted into their forever home earlier is a very positive welfare outcome.

More specific details on this initiative will be provided in our next quarterly report.

Systems and Traceability

1 November 2023 - 31 January 2024 Summary

Due diligence for the proposal to implement the Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission's (GWIC) eTrac system is complete. The outcome of the due diligence is that GRNZ will instead implement scanning and improved traceability functions within its existing system.

Greyhounds are currently scanned at race meetings and RIB kennel audits using a Gallagher scanner, with the scan information integrated with the Gallagher scales at race meetings. The output of the scans and recorded weight of the greyhound are stored as files in the Gallagher cloud.

GRNZ records the same "check-in" information as GWIC's eTrac system, and this information can be collated from the GRNZ system in a way that provides a complete history of a greyhound's interactions with GRNZ, which then provides traceability of the greyhound over its time in the industry.

GRNZ will incorporate the scanning files into the GRNZ system which, along with the check-in activities, will be available to the RIB and GRNZ staff through system dashboards and reports. Requirements for this work have been provided to GRNZ's software vendor.

Future quarterly updates will refer to Gallagher scanning and traceability, rather than eTrac.

Assessing traceability based on GWIC's "check-in principles", as at 31 January 2024, 94.3% of racing dogs and 99.6% of non-racing dogs had had a check-in process in the previous six months. Plans are in place to follow up outstanding greyhounds in the next six months to ensure by season's end, there is 100% confirmation with respect to both registered racing and non-racing greyhounds, as per GRNZ's KPI target.

Governance

Rules and Policies

Tranche 2 of the GRNZ Rules of the Racing will be given greater emphasis in Quarter 3 of the season, and included within this will be a review of RIB powers and ensuring these are fit for purpose.

Key priorities for the next quarter (1 February 2024 - 30 April 2024) include making minor amendments to the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards, to improve clarity for audit purposes, and also to the GRNZ Euthanasia Policy and the creation of a standalone GRNZ Rehoming Policy.

A GRNZ Breeding Exemption Policy will also be developed to ensure that rigorous scrutiny of exemption decisions under the Rules of Racing continues in a consistent manner according to defined policy settings.

The new GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy is scheduled to be consulted on with the wider industry in March/April 2024.

Animal Health and Welfare Committee and Serious Injury Review Committee

The GRNZ Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) continues to convene bi-monthly, with minutes for every meeting published on the GRNZ website once they become ratified. A minor amendment to the AHWC December 2023 minutes was made post-publication to fix a typographical error.

The AHWC met on 13 December 2023 during this reporting period. The Committee has produced an initial draft of Greyhound Best Practice International Travel Guidelines, which will provide certainty that the best animal welfare outcomes will be achieved in exporting greyhounds to the USA.

The Committee also agreed to revise two Standards (2.31 and 2.33) in the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards, based on unintended outcomes during the first round of kennel audits against the new Standards. While the intent of changing these Standards is to achieve a practical outcome for the industry in terms of audits, the highest welfare Standards must be maintained and the changes do not represent a softening in requirements or a diminishing of Standards.

The RIB had provided feedback to the AHWC regarding its work plan and focus areas for future research into greyhound welfare, specifically risk factors for injury. The Committee has opened discussions with Massey University regarding injury research options. The Committee has already developed a research proposal into intestinal worms in Great Mates greyhounds. GRNZ is collaborating with Greyhounds Australasia (GA) on an epidemiology of injuries study looking at risk factors for hock fractures.

Further, the AHWC has commenced planning, in collaboration with GWIC, for qualitative research and survey design for an upcoming project which examines the effects of nutrition, training and

exercise and race preparation practices or “training effects” between trainers with the highest and lowest injury rates.

During the reporting period, the Serious Injury Review Committee held their 10th meeting on 14 December 2023, with the key document coming out of this period being the GRNZ Safe Return to Racing Policy, which has now been endorsed by the GRNZ Board, and is scheduled for wider consultation and then implementation in the next quarter.

Education

GRNZ will spend the next quarter planning content for the next formal education programme, which will again be linked to re-licensing in June and July 2024. Notably, other racing codes in New Zealand have now followed GRNZ's lead, and have introduced their own Continuous Professional Development Programmes for their participants.

Initial planning is for the programme this year to include content on injury prevention and awareness, socialisation, the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards, the GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy and vaccinations requirements.

GRNZ is currently in the process of planning the first regional roadshows for 2024, which we have committed to holding bi-annually around the country. These roadshows are important for providing LPs with in-person industry updates, and also for giving them the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback in-person to GRNZ management.

In line with our increased focus on education, GRNZ has also organised a series of Greyhound First-Aid Training Courses for our trainers at tracks around the country in March and April 2024. In advance of these courses, we have distributed first-aid kits (for free and valued at over \$120 each) to all licensed trainers.

This is an important deliverable for GRNZ, and a requirement for all clubs to safely hold trials in the future is to have access to suitably qualified persons and first-aid kits in the event of an incident during unofficial trials. The courses will comprise practical training in first-aid for greyhounds, including vital signs, CPR, wound management, fracture stabilisation and limb bandaging, and will also include a focus on when to take a greyhound to a vet. RIB on-track veterinarians will also be present at these sessions to demonstrate post-race checking of greyhounds for injury, a topic previously expressed as desirable by LPs.

Vaccinations

Below is the report on vaccination figures for the first half of the 2023/24 racing season, noting that as per previous quarterly reports, GRNZ continues with its quality control measures, which includes the GRNZ Racing and Population Analyst regularly following up on outstanding vaccinations. Additionally, GRNZ's Registrar and Racing Department ensure that greyhounds cannot be named or be nominated to race without current vaccinations, while GRNZ's systems prevent nomination if a greyhound's vaccination has expired.

GRNZ is presently in the process of tightening internal procedures around vaccinations and issuing reminders to LPs of their obligations to ensure compliance.

Vaccination rates decreased slightly at the end of January 2024, due to a combination of factors. One key challenge encountered was vet availability for microchipping and vaccinating young litters.

Additionally, breeding females whose kennel cough vaccination expired after service or whelping was problematic, as such greyhounds cannot be vaccinated until they have finished nursing. Consequently, this resulted in a spike in expired breeding females.

Finally, the process of updating the vaccination status of retired greyhounds who are sent to Great Mates commenced in the last week of January 2024, so sharp improvement can be expected in those figures in the next quarterly report.

REGISTRATION STATUS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2024

Registration Type	Current		Expired		No Vacs History		Total
Pre-racing Whelped between 31Jul21-6Dec23; >8 weeks old In NZ & no De-reg Dates	815	(95.3%)	21	(2.5%)	19	(2.2%)	855
Racing Whelped since 31Jul18, In NZ, Has Racing Reg Date	1264	(98.8%)	15	(1.2%)	0	(0.0%)	1279
Retired for Breeding (B) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Females	106	(91.4%)	10	(8.6%)	0	(0.0%)	116
Retired for Breeding (D) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Has Status "Retired for Breeding", Males	10	(100.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	10
Retired In Industry (Not Breeding) Whelped since 1Jan10, In NZ, Retired In Industry	519	(62.5%)	302	(36.4%)	9	(1.1%)	830

Great Mates as either Custodian or sent to Great Mates	(407)		(277)		(6)		690
Retired in Industry less Great Mates	(112)	(80.0%)	(25)	(17.9%)	(3)	(2.1%)	140
TOTALS	2,714	(87.8%)	348	(11.3%)	28	(0.9%)	3090

Prohibited Substances

Between 1 August 2023 and 31 January 2024, 1,991 greyhounds were routinely tested for prohibited substances at the direction of the RIB, which equates to 11.03% of starters (18,050). This number includes raceday tests (1,896), out-of-competition tests (91) and greyhounds who were tested at the trials (four).

In our previous quarterly report, we mentioned that there had been two positive swabs for arsenic above the threshold limit in the first quarter of the season, which came from the same greyhound on two separate occasions. Paragraph 71 of the subsequent RIB Adjudicative Committee decision dated 19 December 2023 stated:

“Based on the available evidence, it is more probable than not, the elevated Arsenic levels of 908ng/mL (Charge 1) and 1600ng/mL (Charge 2), may have arisen from CLIFF TOP DELTA chewing wood in her kennel. The RIB investigation, which included testing of the kennel timber and water, could not establish any other source. Consequently, no other reasonable cause has been advanced. The RIB also supports the notion that the most likely source is from the Copper Chromium Arsenate (CCA) treated timber located in the kennel in which CLIFF TOP DELTA was housed and was chewing.”

Following the publication of this decision, GRNZ issued 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.

In addition, there was one positive for cobalt above the threshold limit during this period, with an RIB investigation ongoing at the time of submitting this report.

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. In addition to making all key documents publicly available on its website, GRNZ has also recently employed a full-time digital marketer.

Importantly, GRNZ also maintains 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 - January 2024.

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

Category	Description	2023/24 season to 31 January 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	0%	<4% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias
<p><i>Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 1: In the first six months of the season, no unapproved euthanasia has been noted.</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	7.04 per 1,000 starters = 0.2% increase 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, the last quarter unfortunately has seen a spike in injuries to an extent where injuries are up 0.2% on benchmark. The management team is considering all options to improve performance in this area.</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	2.88 per 1000 starters (+17.9%)	15% reduction (2.04 per 1,000 starters)	17.5% reduction (1.98 per 1,000 starters)	20% reduction (1.92 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.

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 31 January 2024, there have been 52 such injuries - a rate of 2.88. For comparative purposes, at the same time in the 2022/23 season, there were 41 Category F injuries, at a rate of 2.28..

4	Injuries	Number of races on straight tracks	0	150	300	600
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Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 4: Wanganui straight track to commence racing in April/May 2024; and a new straight track being introduced in the South Island for the 2025/26 season.

5	Injuries	Percentage of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBD)	65%	60%	65%	70%
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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 31 January 2024, 1,601 out of 2,458 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	100%	100%	100%	100%
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		condition of their licence renewal				
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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.

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"	Racing Dogs 94.3% Non-Racing 99.6%	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 January based on check-ins to confirm details of the dogs concerned. Check-ins include racing, trialling, breeding, animal registration, retirement and processing through rehoming processes. This confirms the existence of the dogs at the time of those interactions with GRNZ processes. The 5.7% of racing dogs not checked in reflects dogs that have not raced in that period. 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)	45% within 90 days	70% within 90 days	80% within 90 days	90% within 90 days
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Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 8: The actual rate for the first six 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 three months has seen some positive movement in this area, with further improvement expected across the year. The America project, if introduced, will significantly address this problem.

9	Rehoming	Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of:	208	210	215	220
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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	304	525	575	600
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Commentary on the status of Welfare KPI 10: For the first six months of the season, adoption results have been: Industry/Private Rehoming 75, Adoption Agencies 229. 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 close to or in excess of the annual target.