

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee at
TAB Building, 106-110 Jackson Street, Petone from 10am on Tuesday, 18 October 2022**

Present: Jim Edwards, Chair
Malcolm Jansen, Vet
Dave Matheson, Vet from 10.45am
Kat Littlewood, Vet and Massey Lecturer (videoconferencing)
Philip Morrison, Vet (videoconferencing)
Michelle Ledger, Vet, GRNZ Welfare Manager (videoconferencing) from 11.15am
Mairi Stewart, Animal Welfare Consultant, RIB (observer)
Gwyneth Verkerk, NAWAC Observer (videoconferencing)
Paula Lemow, NAWAC Observer (videoconferencing)

In Attendance: Edward Renall, CEO GRNZ from 11.15am
Glenda Hughes, Interim CEO GRNZ from 11.50am
Michael Dore, Racing Manager GRNZ until 10.45am
Colin Hodson, RIB from 1pm
Allen Bryce, Independent Vet Consultant from 1pm
Nick Ydgren, RIB from 1.30pm
Karen Waterreus, Minutes Secretary

Apologies: Sally Cory

1. Welcome and Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed everyone to the October meeting. He noted it was Gwyneth's last meeting and Gwyneth advised that Matt Stone is the new NAWAC Chair. Paula Lemow would be the NAWAC representative on the Committee.

Noted no changes to the members declarations of interest.

Jim Edwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Retired Vet
Malcolm Jansen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Soon-to-be retired Vet● Involvement with greyhounds since early 1980s● Owns and breed greyhounds, but not part of any syndicate racing those dogs
Philip Morrison	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Full-time Vet working mostly with large animals● On-track Veterinarian most Thursdays at Cambridge, and occasionally at Auckland● Has clients who are greyhound owners and trainers, but does not own greyhounds personally
Kat Littlewood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Veterinarian

- Lecturer at Massey University in undergraduate and postgraduate animal welfare, behaviour, ethics, and law
 - Employs the Five Domains Model as a framework for animal welfare assessment and training
- Dave Matheson
- Retired Vet (greyhounds - exams, treatments, surgery and reproduction)
 - Involvement with greyhounds for 45 years
 - Worked on greyhound tracks in Australia, England and America
- Gwyneth Verkerk
- NAWAC Chair
 - Retired Vet
- Paula Lemow
- Senior Advisor Animal Welfare Science MPI
 - Vet Nurse
- Mairi Stewart
- Animal Welfare Consultant, RIB
- Sally Cory
- Head of NZVA Veterinary Services Companion Animals
 - Emergency Vet and Manager of Emergency Vet Clinic in Wellington
 - Currently involved with GAP
- Edward Renall
- GRNZ Chief Executive
 - Former CE Harness Racing New Zealand
 - Former TAB Broadcasting and Operations
- Glenda Hughes
- Interim GRNZ Chief Executive
- Michelle Ledger
- Employed by GRNZ on contract

3. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 7 September 2022

Already circulated. Confirmed as a true and correct record.

4. Matters Arising

Noted items completed, work on-going and other items included on the agenda. Updated Action Register attached as an appendix to the minutes. Committee members updated other items actioned or completed.

5. Chair's Report

Chair reported that there were a number of reports on continuing work on policy development. ML and CR-G will lead these discussions. Consultation was underway and the meeting provides an opportunity for Committee discussion. NY, ML and Colin Hodson from RIB will give insight into their work and findings.

The Chair reported on GRNZ 2022 Animal Welfare Workshop in Christchurch. Programme included

- ML and Scott Robins on risk factors for injuries and track redevelopment
- MJ Advice on return to racing after injuries

- Dr Ares Fang on repair and rehabilitation
- Dr Elena Saltis live demonstration on physiotherapy for dogs

The workshops and roadshows were video'd for training purposes.

The Chair stated that the roadshows were deferred to early 2023 including the promotion of KL's work. KL stated the delay would work well to enable ethics approval and other matters to be sorted.

The Chair stated at the conclusion of the November meeting the Committee should have a clear idea of what the workplan is for 2023.

7. Welfare Report Updates

7.1 Population Management including Registrations, Statistics and Management of Breeding

MD gave an oral report and highlighted two incidents; the accidental mating incident and the missing greyhound, a four-year old racing dog. He added that Richard Wilson had started with GRNZ as a population analyst and is working on a proactive approach to breeding. He concluded by advising that Bill Wilson would take over as GRNZ Racing Safety and Infrastructure from November 2022. He was visiting Whanganui, Palmerston North and Manakau tracks later this week.

7.9 Research Project Updates

KL reported she was working through the contract with GRNZ on the assumption that Ethics Committee approval will be positive. She referred to the SPCA Report about greyhounds. She added that the SPCA Report is linked to the Massey research.

The Chair stated the SPCA had started a major campaign. NAWAC have not received a copy. He asked that Committee members share the Report as well as any media they see on this matter.

MJ reported that Chris Rogers has handed back the finished application to GH to look at possible funding from the Equine Foundation. MJ added that GRNZ had approached Chris Rogers about the possibility of independent injury and death reporting to eliminate a perception of bias. Chris Rogers has sent both research proposals to GRNZ. PhD students could be in place by the end of December/early January. However race day Vets cannot be tee'd up until a funding decision is made.

General Business

2023 Workplan Proposals

MS stated that the Committee's work plan will have to align with GRNZ's 2023 plan and priorities that come out of the Greyhound Review.

KL suggested that the Committee needs to look at planning ahead if there is the proposed shut-down for racing and potential rehoming of the dogs as well as what will happen to the dogs. Must work on a strategy to mitigate issues.



DM noted overseas entities were given a 5-year period during which there was no breeding and as dogs retired there was no racing. In New Zealand there will be between 3000 to 5000 greyhounds.

GV stated any political decision comes under the Racing Act rather than the Animal Welfare Act. There is a process that will need to be looked at. It may be useful to look at a 2-year plan rather than a 5-year plan. This may require amendments to the Racing Act. GV added she would expect a longer transition period,

MS stated that there was also a risk to animal welfare as some LP's decide to transition out of the industry.

Chair stated there were a lot of issues which will depend on the outcome of the Review and may include a contingency plan or detailed risk analysis.

MS added the Committee needs more communication with the Serious Injury Review Committee as the Injury Reduction Plan needs to be part of the Committee's work. It was noted that the minutes of the Serious Injury Review Committee are always shared with the AHCW. Injuries are a regular agenda item and there is always opportunity to discuss at each meeting

6. GRNZ Chief Executive Report

ER reported on Bill Wilson's appointment as Racing Safety and Infrastructure Manager. He will be a welcome addition to the team. Overseeing the presentation of tracks with upskilling and monitoring being a key focus of his work. Two other new staff members are Richard Wilson, doing population analysis and Stu Duggan working on business analysis and IT.

ER added the Rule changes will come into effect on 1 December. Prior to this, the Rules will go to the industry in the first week of November for 20-day consultation. Last week met with RIB to work through Rule changes. There was a particular concern about handling the registration and deregistration process as well as some debate about recognising cross breeds which RIB has agreed will not be happening. All approved changes are going out to the industry for consultation. Changes included reducing racing frequency and looking at a percentage variation for weight. A lot of the changes based on RIB findings on injuries.

ER continued that some of the changes would be new to the industry participants. The goal is to get the Rule changes done so that when the Greyhound Review is completed GRNZ will have the appropriate processes in place addressing animal welfare issues. Other Rule changes will be done in 2023.

GRNZ will report to the Minister on 12 December on what has been done including reduction of injuries, track management, the increased use of preferred box draw, the introduction of straight track management, frequency of racing, resumption of racing after a spell, the age of racing dogs, Vet inspections prior to races and education programmes. This will be presented to the Board tomorrow.

ER added once Rule changes are in place Compulsory Professional Development set by GRNZ will be a condition for individual licences. Ideally there would have been more time to communicate the

Rule changes. There will be more Zoom meetings as well as meetings with the larger regional trainers.

KL asked if Zoom meetings could be recorded. This was research to understand how changes are communicated to LPs and others in the industry. It was noted it would be necessary to obtain the agreement of the participants before sharing these meetings.

ER stated the Iso-links tracking system is being looked at and if introduced would be introduced to Christchurch FIRST.

ER concluded that animal welfare is crucial to our business.

7.2 Injuries and deaths & 7.3 Euthanasia

ML reported work was concentrating on the injury minimisation strategy and readiness for the euthanasia policy on 1 November. The Vets survey has been circulated to the Veterinary Council and the Veterinary Association both of whom had provided feedback. Changes take the onus off the Vets and on to the LPs as the clear decision maker when it comes to euthanasia. Changes have been made to the certificates in line with the veterinary feedback. These changes will be circulated back to the Association then come back to the Committee. Moving on to a digital space will make things easier.

ER pointed out that the euthanasia figure in GRNZ quarterly report was different from RIB figures. The GRNZ figure is on the SAFE website. MS suggested it could be a trial on a race day. She would ask CH to clarify this. ML stated that there must be a strict reporting timeframe and clear definition as well as a disclaimer if there was late reporting. This could be reconciled in annual reporting.

7.6 Track Standards

ML reported Bill Wilson will start on track audits and checks. Track standards are well advanced to finalisation. This will set some KPIs for track curators to work towards.

7.7 Animal Welfare and Education

ML stated good feedback had been received from RIB. Currently Animal Health and Welfare Standards are in consultation until the end of October. There's a 2 week period to make changes followed by a second abbreviated consultation period in November. The Board will then approve the new Rules for introduction by 1 December.

Feedback has been requested from the Committee on the first draft of the RtR policy. It's important this goes to wider consultation shortly. MS stated RIB have provided their comments. DM stated that the list in the RtR paper is very useful for Vets.

ML added the Committee can also add value for the education modules.

GV congratulated ML on the quality and quantity of her work for GRNZ.

GH explained that ML together with Bill Wilson and Professor Eager have been contracted for 2 years.

7.8 KPIs

ER reported that some changes would be made as a result of feedback received. The KPI categories are: 1. Injury; 2 Euthanasia; 3. Education; 4. Rehoming and 5. Traceability.

Additional Item: Greyhounds Australia Vet conference

ML, MJ and PM reported on their attendance at the 2-day Melbourne conference. Committee agreed it was valuable to send representatives to future conferences.

7.5 RIB Update

CH spoke to his presentation on data insights and explained the population model that was developed to address some of the Hansen Report recommendations. He stated he was expecting GRNZ feedback on the model by the end of the month. CH concluded the model can be used to answer the “what ifs”. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes.

ER stated Richard Wilson would work with CH’s model.

GV stated reiterated her earlier feedback that there is a need to look at pups earlier. The Committee discussed whether a Rule change is necessary to relate to puppies to end of life covering the mortality and pups dropping out before they are registered.

ER stated more work would be done for further discussion at the Committee’s next meeting.

In response to Allen Bryce, CH stated he was not aware of a similar model for horse racing.

NY spoke to his presentation on kennel audits. He explained audits have been reviewed with GRNZ and LPs. The response to the survey has been about 50 percent. The survey sent was out to those involved in the kennel audits. An analysis of the responses is not yet complete and can be brought to the Committee when it is complete. Cycle 2 audits will start in November/December.

ER stated GRNZ is looking at incentivising compliance with kennel audits as part of the licencing process.

NY demonstrated i-Leader and explained all questions are discussed with each LP on site. The preference is to provide the written report the next day to give time for review and reconciling with GRNZ records. A copy of the i-Leader presentation is attached to these minutes.

NY explained for every non-compliance issue is raised before RIB leaves the property. This enables options to be discussed with the LP on the day. A draft report is not provided to the person in charge before it is finalised. It is, however, reviewed by one of the audit staff and NY and sent to the LP. Only rarely is the report changed based on the LP response.

To close off non-compliance issues either photos are provided or there is proof of compliance at the next meeting. As well the audit team can go back and check. To mitigate against bias, staff are



shifted around the country and there are revisits for quality control purposes. NY stated RIB photos could be provided to GRNZ for a photo library.

RIB is looking at a risk-based audit system rather than auditing every LP. NY added he did not see RIB shifting from an educative approach to judicial. Minor infringements go before the Director of Animal Welfare NY where a penalty may be imposed. He added around 10 LPs have left the industry through timeframe of the audits. GRNZ has been asked to provide information for a full reconciliation.

NY continued that by the middle of 2023 RIB will be auditing all three codes. Noted NY has taken on the role of RIB Director of Animal Welfare.

KL asked if RIB was around significant non-compliance with the Animal Welfare Act. NY responded the appropriate lead agency varies on a case-by-case basis including SPCA and MPI.

Chair stated it was good to hear from CH and NY. While Standards were put in place in 2018, the audits had only started relatively recently. Information from the audits is passed to GRNZ and there is now continuous improvement of the standards with the work being led by ML.

7.4 Rehoming

GH briefed the Committee on the rehoming promotion for adopting greyhounds around New Zealand. Noted that there has been a slowdown in all animal adoptions. GRNZ has opened another 17 kennels in Christchurch to relieve the pressure as well as supporting those trainers who are having to keep dogs longer than normal. An independent research company has interviewed 550 people who have adopted greyhounds and found that 99.2 percent were happy. Only one adopted greyhound has been returned due to a change in family circumstances. 38 percent had some form of sickness or illness. The research company have been asked for a comparison with other breeds adopted and whether it can be traced back to racing. Results will be available next week.

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Closure

Chair thanked everyone for their participation and acknowledged GV for her contribution which has been very much appreciated. There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.45pm

Minutes approved:

Signed:

Date:



Attachments

1. Action Register at 21 October 2022
 2. Data Insights and Population Model (Colin Hodson)
 3. RIB Kennel Audits (Nick Ydgren)
 4. i-Leader report (Nick Ydgren) – to be arranged
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