

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee  
TAB Building 106-110 Jackson Street, Petone  
10am Wednesday 12 April 2023**

**Present:** Allen Bryce, Chair (AB)  
Malcolm Jansen, Vet (MJ) (via videoconferencing)  
Kat Littlewood, Vet and Massey Lecturer (KL) (via videoconferencing)  
Philip Morrison, Vet (PM) (Via video conferencing)  
Dave Matheson, Vet (DM)  
Sally Cory, NZVA (SC) (via videoconferencing)

**In Attendance:** Edward Rennell, CE GRNZ (arrived at 12.15pm)  
Michael Dore, Racing Operations and Welfare Manager, GRNZ (MD) - left at 12pm  
Candice Robbins-Goodman, GRNZ (CRG) (via videoconferencing)  
Nick Ydgren RIB, Observer (NY) (via videoconferencing)  
Paula Lemow, MPI (PL) (via video conferencing)  
Glenda Hughes (GH)  
Bill Wilson, GRNZ (BW) (via video conferencing)

Chantelle Askew, AHCW Secretary (CA)

**Apologies:** Michelle Ledger, Vet, GRNZ Welfare Manager (ML)

**Declarations of Interest**

Noted no changes to the members' declarations of interest as set out below:

Allen Bryce	Retired government veterinarian undertaking occasional consultancy work. Councillor/Director and Honorary Secretary of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists.
Malcolm Jansen	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	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	Veterinarian + FANZCVS Animal Welfare Science 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 EFAB Committee of NZVA
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
Paula Lemow	Senior Advisor Animal Welfare Science MPI

Sally Cory	Vet Nurse Head of NZVA Veterinary Services Companion Animals Emergency Vet and Manager of Emergency Vet Clinic in Wellington Currently involved with GAP
Edward Rennell	GRNZ Chief Executive Former CE Harness Racing New Zealand Former TAB Broadcasting and Operations
Glenda Hughes	Consultant
Michelle Ledger	GRNZ Welfare Manager

## Welcome

The full meeting commenced at 10.00am with the Chair welcoming everyone.

## Minutes of Previous AHC Meeting

The minutes of the AHC Meeting held on 8 February were taken as read and confirmed as a **true** and **correct** record of the meeting.

## Action Register

The Committee noted the status of the actions. Changes will be reflected in the new Action List.

### 1. Chair's Report

The Chair noted the Animal Welfare standards were approved by the GRNZ Board. The Education program was discussed and will be circulated to the committee.

There was discussion around the Wanganui track opening this week. Update on dealings with Minister McAnulty: the government decision is still on hold, RIB's update report will be sent to the Minister this Friday and GRNZ will send a progress report next week (*update from Chair since the meeting: GRNZ intends to submit an update report to the Minister in early May, to cover developments from 12/12/2022 to end April 2023*).

The Chair would like to work with GRNZ to put together a draft Workplan. AB says the AHC should be proactive. GH mentioned a workplan last year was basically just everything we had to do. There was discussion around how the AHC can be proactive rather than reactive. MJ mentioned track maintenance is paramount to injuries. GH suggested to have track management on the workplan. Chair will discuss with CE prior to next meeting. Use the progress report to the Minister as a starting point. KL says the Workplan to link to KPI's.

**Action: Chair with assistance from CE/ML**

### 2. GRNZ Welfare Manager (MD in place of ML)

There was discussion around the paper by Dr D Larratt *The Brutal Reality of Hock Fracture in Racing Greyhounds*. It was decided that a sub-committee should meet in the next week or two to discuss the paper and the proposed Return to Racing Policy, then put forward a paper to the committee at the next meeting. The sub-committee is to be made up of ML, MJ, PM, DM. NY suggested possibly Anna Palmer be part of this discussion. Arrange meeting in a week or two and place on agenda for next meeting.

**Action: Secretary**

### 3. Racing Update + KPI Report (MD)

MD went through the update of injury statistics and PBD race injury comparison. Chair noted reduction of injuries - for more severe (>21 days) injuries from 7.5 to 6.9 per 1000 starts, an 8.0% reduction. Chair stated that AHCW should emphasise to the Board that there are fewer injuries with PBD and all races should be PBD; the data speaks for itself. Big discussion around this. KL suggested a visual representation to possibly present to LP's - cartoon might help to communicate and overcome some resistance. KL to discuss with MD - reduction in fractures and euthanasias and serious injuries.

**Action: KL/MD**

NSW Injury Summit in Bathurst, NSW: MD was invited to this summit to present on PBD racing. The aim of the summit was to prioritise five injury action items for the NSW Industry, which at the conclusion of the two days were:

- Pilots of double arm lures and preferential box draws
- A pilot of GWIC (NSW equivalent to RIB) veterinarians attending trials sessions at racetracks
- Education programs for trainers in relation to injury prevention and treatment
- New procedure of clearance to return to racing following long layoff due to injury
- Research into other race injury causations.

Return to Racing - Scrapping of Mandatory Trial. The new GRNZ Rules that came into effect Feb 1st made it mandatory for any greyhound returning to racing, after a 28 day or longer break, to perform a satisfactory trial first. This rule was suspended after 5 of the first 13 greyhounds to race under this rule were injured in their first race, even after trialling. It's possible there was an inadequate break between trialling and racing. Subsequently 325 dogs have returned to racing after 28 or more days. 30% opted to trial beforehand, with 3 injuries, and 70 % did not trial beforehand, with 3 injuries. MD will continue to collect data on injuries in dogs returning to racing and report back to AHCW. ML's paper, supplemented by MD's statistics, will go on the agenda for next meeting.

**Action: MD/Secretary**

### 4. Update on Track Management Programme - Bill Wilson *(This was item 2 in the Agenda but was delayed until BW was online)*

BW gave a summary on track maintenance. Initial focus has been to assess where we are and where we need to get to from an area of responsibility and accountability. There are 16 points contained within the Racing Safety strategic plan incl. remedial track work, diagnostic program, improved training & education for track staff and other industry stakeholders, standardisation & upgrading of infrastructure - strategic plan well into 50% into the 16 points.

Manakau update: BW explained that Tracks aren't always to blame for all injuries.

Addington: serious injuries upward trend currently down there at the moment, a lot of external factors. Track maintenance had not been to the necessary standard. Trial schedule and racing frequency remain as issues at Addington. Overdue scheduled maintenance was completed following Easter.

Hatrick: return to racing soon, happy with the track opening Friday (14th April).

Cambridge: upgraded to Safechase lure - should be operational May/June

Phase II Diagnostic program Going stick update, Addington, Manakau and Hatrick totally on board with Going sticks - still waiting on 3 remaining going sticks to arrive into NZ - Auckland to be introduced on 27 April.

Track staff education and training: GRNZ are establishing a mentor program, with an opportunity for curators to travel to Australia etc. Reciprocal opportunities between Aust curator(s) visiting NZ and selected NZ curators visiting Aust.

Curators' workshop will be held on 26 April in Wellington with all tracks represented. Selected track curators will be offered targeted management and communication courses to focus on improving competency & professionalism levels across all NZ tracks.

Chair impressed and would like an update potentially at every AHCW meeting. BW agreed to attend each meeting and present a track update.

#### **5. Rehoming Update - Candice Robbins-Goodman**

General update, CRG explained the RTR forms have been finalised into digital form and hopefully live next week, this will allow us to collate data when they come into the program. Extended invite to Craig Hunger Webinar on Small animal dentistry and oral surgery on 16 May for all vets associated with GRNZ. CRG will send the link out to the committee.

Focus is to be on marketing - three different markets younger, middle age and older. Facebook, tiktok, instagram. Open day in Chch two weeks ago achieved 20 adoptions.

The Chair raised the wait time for adoptions as lists are getting longer. CRG explained there is a huge demand for cat-trainable greyhounds, huge demand for this. CRG was asked to keep the committee aware when there are adoption events going forward.

**Action: CRG**

#### **6. RIB Update - Nick Ydgren**

NY gave an RIB update on audits. New Standards take effect in May. Order notification time gets sent out now first before the audit visit. Very close to closing out last year's audits. Nick brought up the 28 day rule to return to racing – NY raised concern that the removal of the 28 day rule created a void where there would be no oversight of dogs returning to racing after a layoff which was considered a risk. There are a couple of ongoing welfare investigations with JT McInerney, Waretine, B Cole and McCooks. In general GRNZ is working with the RIB.

#### **CEO's Report - Edward**

Entain deal - The aim is 1st August but still subject to Ministerial sign off. From a Code perspective it is business as usual. The negative is if it doesn't happen would look at a funding decline which could affect welfare.

Ministerial review - RIB update will be sent on Friday (14 April), the GRNZ quarterly report will be lodged next week, focus on progress since last report submitted 12 December (*note from Chair - quarterly report now to cover till end of April - to be submitted early May*).

Education plan - condition of LPs' licences for next year with an online module. Sourced software provider, will function similarly to how TAB does AML with all staff. *Understanding Euthanasia* module will be first, the aim is to be completed by the end of April. Will circulate this to this AHCW, to do this module as a test case and for an example of what it looks like.

Have engaged Bill Colgan to review our systems and registration processes.

Dates for next season similar to this season. Moving Palmerston North and Wanganui to allow an extra day between CD meetings.

Other issues: Rehoming Review by Mauro Barsi is going back to the April Board in terms of implementing the recommendations. There will be a re-structure and we are clearly under-resourced. Working with adoption agencies. Have met the new GM at GAP and have a positive relationship. Board has agreed in principle for dogs on the waiting list to be allowed to race, working through this with the Racing Committee.

Have started reporting KPI's to the Board, we will circulate these to members of this committee so you are aware of progress after each Board meeting. The Board reviews these each meeting. Chair mentions to use PBD more extensively with the stats provided. Discussion around this, what clubs are all sprints are PBDs etc.

Currently reviewing death certificates with the RIB.

Nick bought up the 28 day rule to return to racing. ML is working on this in the white paper. Looking at continuing what we have been doing for the last few months.

Track management maintenance was discussed. More adequate maintenance plan with a lot more involvement from GRNZ.

**Action: Secretary**

#### **7. Research Update**

Massey collaboration: Anthelmintic resistance in hookworm - Prof Ian Scott (KL & MJ)

MJ discussed this collaboration. There were three trainers in the CD who have sent their samples off. Unsure as to when we will hear back these results.

Update on research project exploring opinions of LPs. Had aimed to go to Cambridge first, but lure broke, then Auckland cyclone, she is now trying to go down south. Have had issues with people not keen to be involved in the focus groups. Have switched from focus group to survey design which has helped. Would like to see more participants, have designed poster, seeking permission to advertise this. GH mentioned doing a brief interview on trackside and suggested Liz Whelan to show we are behind the research. CE to communicate this across all three codes, drop in morale.

#### **8. Report on NSW Injury Reduction Summit**

Covered in Item 3.

#### **9. General Business**

MJ asked where are we at for finding a replacement for Malcolm, there are a number of potential candidates being ruled out by RIB - double standard not conflict interest. Edward will talk to Mike Clement on Friday and get back.

**Action: CE**

Close of meeting 2.06pm.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 14 June 2023

**Minutes approved:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**