

Know the GRNZ Welfare Policies



Since November 2022, GRNZ has published three policies addressing various aspects of greyhound welfare. It is important that licensed persons (LPs) know how these policies apply to them and what their responsibilities are under the policies.

All GRNZ policies can be found on the website under [About GRNZ/Rules and Policies](#)

GREYHOUND EUTHANASIA POLICY

The [GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy](#) came into effect 10 November 2022 and sets out the expectations that GRNZ has for all LPs regarding greyhounds in their care. This includes all registered greyhounds, retired greyhounds kept as pets by LPs, and puppies from birth to registration.

1. All greyhounds bred in New Zealand or imported into New Zealand should be retired at the end of their racing or breeding careers, or if found unsuitable for racing, and have an opportunity to live the balance of their lives as pets;
2. LPs in charge of a greyhound's care must provide for the retirement and/or rehoming of all healthy greyhounds;
3. Unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must be eliminated wherever possible;
4. Where euthanasia is necessary, it must be performed in a humane manner by a registered veterinarian who certifies the reason for euthanasia;
5. GRNZ must be notified of all euthanasias.

HOT WEATHER RACING AND TRAVEL POLICY

The [GRNZ Hot Weather Racing and Travel Policy](#) came into effect 1 January 2023. The Policy provides for the welfare of greyhounds travelling and racing in hot weather in New Zealand to ensure they are not exposed to the unnecessary risk of heat stress and are provided with sufficient drinking water and opportunities to drink that enable them to always maintain good hydration.

- The Policy is activated if the forecast (MetService) temperature on the day of the race meeting, or trial session in question is expected to reach, or reaches, 30°C, or above.
- The Policy provides for the cancellation or rescheduling of race meetings where the temperature reaches, or is expected to reach 35°C or more.
- The Policy prevents scheduling of trials where the temperature is expected to reach, or reaches, 35°C or more.
- The Policy ensures that the temperature in the kennel room is maintained between 18-22°C and provides actions to take when the temperature rises above this range.
- Following their race, LPs must return any greyhound, not undergoing swabbing, to their air-conditioned race kennel for a minimum of 30 minutes. The greyhound must be provided with a drinking bucket, containing at least 300ml of cool water, to allow it to rehydrate and recover normal core temperature (ideally, they will remain here until they

leave the racetrack) UNLESS they have an air-conditioned mode of transport to return the greyhound to which can be maintained between 18-22°C. The provisions of Regulation 14 (Dogs left in vehicles) of the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 always apply.

- Greyhounds must be actively cooled following their race by cold water hosing or submersion in cold water baths.
- Greyhounds must always be offered water to drink post race.

REHABILITATION TO REHOMING POLICY

The **GRNZ Rehabilitation to Rehoming (RtR) Policy** came into effect 1 February 2023 and was amended 10 May 2023. The Policy covers treatment and rehabilitation for all eligible injuries in greyhounds racing and trialling at tracks licensed by GRNZ. It also provides for the cost of initial veterinary assessment for injuries which are suspected to be eligible, but which may be confirmed to be non-eligible following diagnostic tests.

- *Eligible injuries* under the Policy are:
 - Any bone fracture except a single metacarpal or metatarsal fracture, a toe (phalangeal and/or sesamoid) fracture or a tail fracture; or
 - Any joint dislocation above and including the wrist or hock so does not include a metacarpal-phalangeal or metatarsal-phalangeal dislocation, a toe dislocation or a tail dislocation; or
 - A complete Achilles tendon rupture or severe ligament rupture; or
 - Any other injury or medical condition where on-track euthanasia may otherwise be considered appropriate in accordance with the **On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines**.
 - Once the treatment options are known and prognosis is established, all surgical treatments to the value of \$5,000 (incl. GST) per greyhound, will be automatically covered under the Policy.
- *Non-eligible injuries* – Injuries not eligible for treatment and rehabilitation under this Policy will still be eligible for funding towards the cost of initial veterinary diagnostics, to confirm a diagnosis and ensure the welfare of injured greyhounds is protected. GRNZ will cover the cost of initial veterinary treatments, diagnostics and stabilisation up to \$2,000 (incl. GST) and will not cover the costs of further treatment for non-eligible injuries/conditions.
- The on-track veterinarians (OTVs) will advise the LP of their greyhound's eligibility under the scheme at the time of diagnosing and stabilising the injury.
- The Club Official will notify the relevant RtR co-ordinator for that track to facilitate immediate treatment of the injured greyhound off-track.
- A copy of the RtR Programme Admission Form and Veterinary Examination Details Form, listing all treatments administered to the greyhound by the OTV, must accompany the greyhound to the treatin