

GRNZ Greyhound Euthanasia Policy

10 November 2022

1. Purpose and Scope:

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a clear framework to be complied with by Licensed Persons (LPs) regarding greyhound euthanasia and rehoming.

This Policy applies to all greyhounds from their birth or import into New Zealand who are cared for by LPs.

A **greyhound** means a canine of the greyhound breed which:

- (a) is registered pursuant to the Rules of GRNZ;
- (b) is retired but under the care of a registered person;
- (c) includes the offspring conceived from the result of a service between a breeding female and a sire.

GRNZ Rules of Racing, 21 and 22, contain conditions for the care of, and euthanasia of greyhounds, and must be complied with.

Rule 21 requires compliance with the Greyhound Welfare Standards and 21(2) requires LPs to exercise proper care and supervision of greyhounds.

Greyhound Welfare Standard 5 concerns euthanasia; and Rule 22(1) concerns notification of the death of a greyhound.

GRNZ anticipates that all LPs will act in good faith with the requirements of this Policy as they demonstrate care for their greyhounds.

This Policy sets out the expectations which GRNZ has for LPs having responsibility for the care of greyhounds:

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 euthanasia.

2. Immediate Euthanasia

2.1 Euthanasia due to severe illness or injury:

A greyhound may be euthanised where a veterinarian certifies that the greyhound is suffering from a condition or injury that causes significant pain and/or discomfort and/or a marked reduction in quality of life, such that it is inhumane or would otherwise compromise the welfare of the greyhound to delay euthanasia.

Veterinarians must positively identify greyhounds and certify the reason for euthanasia via the prescribed GRNZ Veterinary Certificate of Euthanasia.

2.2 On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines apply (Appendix I):

The On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines are made under the Rules of Racing and apply to the euthanasia of a greyhound during a greyhound race meeting, and include races, post-race trials, qualifying trial meetings, or whenever an On-Track Veterinarian is in attendance.

These Guidelines must be complied with.

A breach of the Guidelines may result in an LPs registration being varied, suspended or revoked and/or an offence being committed.

3. Euthanasia as a last resort

Greyhound Welfare Standards apply:

Standard 5 Euthanasia:

5.6 Unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must only be undertaken as a last resort.

Euthanasia of healthy greyhounds must not be undertaken, unless:

- The greyhound has been behaviourally assessed as “Red” by Great Mates and subsequently, following behavioural retraining, deemed by the independent panel, under the “Red-dog” euthanasia decision tree as having refractory behavioural issues which make it unsuitable for rehoming; or
- The greyhound has been declared a dangerous dog under the Dog Control Act, 1996 and is required to be euthanised by a court; or

	<p>The LP having responsibility for the care of the greyhound notifies GRNZ of an Intent to Euthanise the greyhound in their care, ONLY when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The racing greyhound has completed the mandatory 28-day wind-down period from racing; and • The greyhound has a diagnosed veterinary condition or injury, not requiring immediate euthanasia, but which negatively impacts the greyhound’s welfare and likely requires on-going veterinary treatment; or (The On-Track euthanasia guidelines should be used as a reference for conditions which may or may not require immediate euthanasia.) • The greyhound has a veterinary or qualified canine behaviourist diagnosed behavioural issue (i.e., phobia, aggression, anxiety) negatively impacting the greyhound’s welfare and making the greyhound unsuitable for rehoming. <p>The LP shall complete the GRNZ Notice of Intent to Euthanise form and submit it to GRNZ, with the intended veterinarian’s details, and the reasons/ diagnosis, at least 14 days prior to the intended date of euthanasia.</p> <p>GRNZ shall notify the LP within five (5) business days, should euthanasia not be considered a suitable outcome and shall admit the greyhound into the Great Mates Programme.</p> <p>Veterinarians must positively identify the greyhound and certify the reason for euthanasia via the prescribed GRNZ Veterinary Euthanasia Certificate.</p>
<p>4. Notification of Euthanasia</p>	<p>LPs must ensure that <u>all</u> veterinary euthanasia certificates are submitted to GRNZ in accordance with Rule 22 (1) b -requires notifications within 3 days of the euthanasia.</p>
<p>5. Preparing <u>Racing</u> greyhounds for rehoming</p>	<p>In addition to requirements under Greyhound Welfare Standard 5: Retirements:</p> <p>All LPs having responsibility for the care of a greyhound that is to be retired from racing and/or re-homed; must ensure that the greyhound is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deregistered from racing; and • provided with a ‘wind down’ period from racing of at least 28 days; and • behaviourally assessed prior to rehoming; and • desexed, prior to rehoming.

- During this wind down period, the licensed person must ensure that:
- The greyhound's diet is adjusted to suit new levels of exercise suitable for pet dogs;
 - The greyhound's exercise is adjusted to levels appropriate for a pet dog;
 - The greyhound is prepared for pet life by being exposed to new environments and opportunities to experience situations it may encounter as a pet dog (i.e. stairs, carpets and other surfaces, TV noise/ vacuum cleaners and home routines, leash walks); and
 - The greyhound is desexed, vaccinations are up to date and a dental assessment and/or treatment has been performed by a veterinarian.

6. Preparing All other greyhounds for rehoming:

(Breeding greyhounds, pre-racing greyhounds, retired greyhounds kept as pets)

All LPs having care of pre-racing or breeding greyhounds intended for rehoming outside the industry, to persons not holding a licence with GRNZ, must:

- Ensure the greyhound is deregistered on the GRNZ system (greyhounds registered for breeding); and
- Ensure that the greyhound is behaviourally assessed at Great Mates; and
- Provide all health records to Great Mates, including desexing and dental records where applicable; and
- Notify Great Mates if the greyhound has demonstrated evidence of aggression, predatory behaviour, anxiety or other behavioural abnormalities or stereotypes.

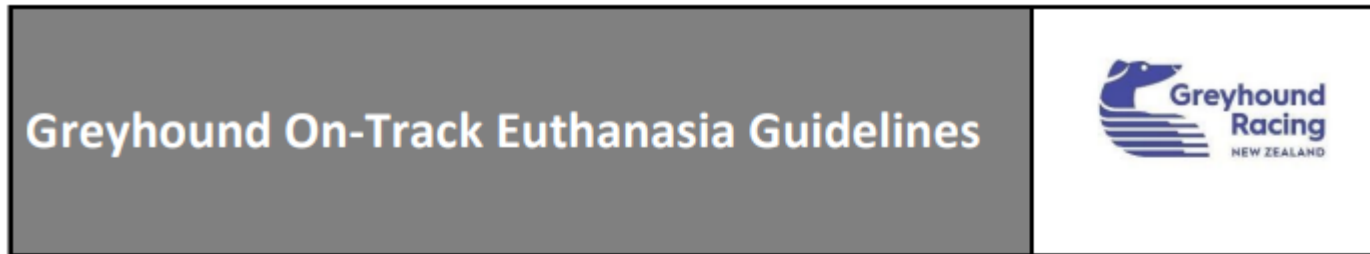
All licensed participants with greyhounds being retired as pets to themselves or another LP must:

- Notify GRNZ of the intended retirement owner at the time of deregistration, and
- Ensure greyhounds are desexed and maintain up to date vaccination status; and
- Ensure greyhounds have a health examination, including a dental examination and/or treatment performed; and
- Notify the retirement owner if the greyhound has demonstrated evidence of aggression, predatory behaviour, anxiety or other behavioural abnormalities or stereotypes.

7. Breach of this Policy

This Policy is made under the GRNZ Rules of Racing. This Policy must be complied with. A breach of this Policy may result in an LP's registration being varied, suspended or revoked and/or an offence being committed under the Rules.

Appendix I: On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines:



Purpose	To provide On-Track Veterinarians (OTVs), Stewards and Participants with clear guidelines on the euthanasia of greyhounds on-track.
Scope	This guideline applies to the euthanasia of a greyhound during a greyhound race meeting including races, post-race trials, qualifying trial meetings, or whenever an OTV is in attendance.
Related policies and documents	<u>Animal Welfare Act – 1999</u> <u>GRNZ Regulations and Rules of Racing</u> <u>GRNZ Welfare Code.</u>

Introduction

Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) is committed to greyhound welfare as its primary objective, including strategies to significantly reduce racing injuries, and has invested heavily in racing safety initiatives. The focus on reducing on-track euthanasia is important to ensure greyhounds have the opportunity for a life beyond racing where appropriate, and this particularly relates to when the extent or seriousness of the injury is uncertain due to diagnostic limitations on-track and/or when decisions are being made in an emotionally charged environment.

The RIB contracts On-Track Veterinarians (OTVs) to officiate at race meetings, post-race trials, qualifying trial meeting. OTVs are contracted through a commercial agreement that requires compliance with the Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) OTV Protocol that states **“OTVs shall not carry out euthanasia on any greyhound that is not seriously injured”**.

However, there is no definition of “**serious**” and some OTVs are uncertain about GRNZ’s expectations as to when euthanasia on-track is reasonable or acceptable, compared to participant’s expectations.

Definitions	<p>For the purposes of these guidelines, GRNZ defines a Serious Injury as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● an injury where the greyhound is moribund and is not expected to live longer than 24 hours regardless of treatment; or● an injury where the greyhound’s quality of life will continue to deteriorate regardless of reasonable attempts at veterinary treatment; or● multiple and severe lacerations that involve significant bleeding that cannot be controlled or would require extensive surgery to repair; or● a confirmed complex and/or compound bone (including skull/spine) fracture and/or● significantly displaced fracture of all metacarpals or metatarsals on one foot where the OTV considers that surgical repair would be required to provide a suitable welfare outcome. <p>For the purposes of these guidelines, GRNZ does not consider any of the following to be a Serious Injury unless there are significant exacerbating factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A suspected fracture or suspected dislocation; or● A confirmed simple and/or greenstick and/or un-displaced fracture where the OTV considers that surgical repair would NOT be required to provide a suitable welfare outcome; or● A hock fracture not meeting the definition of a Serious Injury (above) and/or where the severity or classification of the injury is uncertain and requires further diagnostic workup; or● Fractures of metacarpals and/or metatarsals not meeting the definition of a Serious Injury (above); or● Fractures of phalanges and/or sesamoids; or● A tail fracture; or● A non-articular scapula fracture; or● Rib fracture(s) unless accompanied by/with respiratory symptoms. <p>For the purposes of these guidelines, GRNZ defines a Serious Medical Condition as a medical condition (that is not an injury) where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● the greyhound’s prognosis is poor; or● the greyhound is moribund; or● the greyhound is not expected to live longer than 24 hours regardless of treatment; or● the greyhound’s quality of life will continue to deteriorate regardless of reasonable attempts at veterinary treatment. <p>Serious Medical Conditions include collapse or unconsciousness without recovery, Gastric Dilatation-Volvulus (GDV), intestinal torsion, splenic rupture, cardiac failure, severe dyspnoea and/or continued seizing.</p>
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<p>When on-track euthanasia SHOULD be undertaken</p>	<p>In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999, even if it is against the wishes of the owner, immediate euthanasia of a greyhound on-track should be undertaken when the greyhound is moribund or not expected to live longer than 24 hours regardless of treatment. This means that despite attempts made at medical intervention, the greyhound's physical condition and welfare will likely deteriorate. It includes greyhounds with severe skull fractures, severe multi-systemic trauma (including massive soft tissue and/or bone injury) or severe multi-systemic failure.</p>
<p>When on-track euthanasia MAY be considered</p>	<p>It is GRNZ's expectation that euthanasia of a greyhound on-track may only be considered in the following two scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) the greyhound has suffered a Serious Injury or a Serious Medical Condition; or (2) the greyhound has NOT suffered a Serious Injury or a Serious Medical Condition BUT is suffering from a significant injury AND at least one of the following situations apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the greyhound is suffering from significant pain, and all reasonable attempts to alleviate that pain (including injury stabilisation and reasonable/appropriate pain relief as per the OTV minimum standards) have failed or are very likely to fail, and/or moving the greyhound is likely to cause further significant injury and/or pain; or (b) it is the professional opinion of the OTV that the greyhound will be, or is highly likely to be, in significant lifelong pain or suffering, or have a significantly reduced quality of life even if the injury or medical condition is treated; or (c) it is the professional opinion of the OTV that treatment of the greyhound's injury or medical condition is not likely to be successful without extensive rehabilitation, which would be unreasonable to impose on the greyhound; or (d) the greyhound is suffering from significant pain, and while a full clinical determination of the injury is required to ascertain treatment options and prognosis, further veterinary support and treatment cannot be provided within two (2) hours due to the unavailability of emergency veterinary services.
<p>When on-track euthanasia should NOT be undertaken</p>	<p>It is GRNZ's expectation that euthanasia of a greyhound on-track should NOT occur when the greyhound is NOT suffering a Serious Injury or a Serious Medical Condition, and none of the above scenarios (2)(a)-(d), apply.</p> <p>In these cases, the OTV must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provide appropriate veterinary treatment (including, but not limited to, appropriate pain relief and stabilisation of any injury).
<p>General on-track euthanasia requirements:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Euthanasia must only be carried out with written consent of the owner or owner's agent, except where euthanasia is, in the OTV's opinion, justified on humane grounds in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (where delaying euthanasia while waiting for written consent would be inhumane). 2. Euthanasia must only be performed by intravenous overdose of pentobarbitone, and may be preceded by sedation or analgesia, if necessary, to reduce the greyhound's distress prior to euthanasia. 3. Euthanasia should ideally be conducted in the veterinary examination room, out of sight of other greyhounds. Unless approved by the OTV, only one Steward and the Participant(s) in charge of the greyhound may be present during the euthanasia procedure.

4. If euthanasia is required to be performed in a public area, the club will provide adequate screening so that the euthanasia can be conducted with privacy to minimise distress to those involved and the wider public. The OTV must follow safety directions of the Stewards if entering the racetrack and must act in a safe manner at all times. The club will also provide adequate transport and coverings for the deceased greyhound if the deceased greyhound needs to be carried through a public area. The deceased greyhound should be promptly transported to the veterinary examination room.
5. Unless delaying euthanasia is inhumane, a Steward must be present during veterinary examination of all greyhounds suffering from a Serious Injury or a Serious Medical Condition and will be present during any discussion regarding euthanasia of a greyhound on-track. The Steward and OTV must complete standard GRNZ documentation including the Track Death Incident Form, documenting the diagnosis, discussion and decision-making process.
6. Stewards must support the OTV in their decision-making and must ensure that the OTV is not pressured into making any decision in contradiction with these Guidelines. The OTV must notify the Steward in Charge if there is any concern regarding being pressured into making any decision in contradiction with these Guidelines.
7. The decision to euthanise on-track must be based on the welfare considerations and the seriousness of the injury, and not on greyhound's behavioural issues and/or the greyhound's future race career.
8. If euthanasia is performed, the OTV is responsible for providing the body bag but the RIB or GRNZ will arrange and cover the costs of disposal/cremation.
9. If the owner requests home burial or return of the greyhound's ashes, a Steward will need to note this on the form. The return of ashes if requested will be at the owner/trainers' expense.

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