



## **QUARTERLY GREYHOUND RACING HANSEN REPORT UPDATE (Quarter 7, November 2019)**

Please find below our Seventh Quarterly Hansen Report update outlining our progress addressing opportunities and recommendations for this quarter. As always, we continue to focus on all recommendations, but report here on the more substantial developments for the completed period.

Our focus during this quarter has been on the introduction and staged implementation of our new rehoming program, as well as our improved lure roll out, ongoing greyhound population management and prison program development.

This particular update focuses on these four recommendations.

### **Recommendation #15: REHOMING PROGRAMME**

Rehoming remains top priority at Greyhound Racing New Zealand. GRNZ has employed a permanent full time Rehoming Manager to ensure the success in increasing our rehoming numbers as an ongoing necessity. We also have a full time facility manager and 6 kennel hands at the main Great Mates rehoming kennel in Levin plus contracted facility managers and kennel hands in both ends of the country to manage the satellite Great Mates rehoming kennels in those areas too.

All three Great Mates Rehoming Kennels are open and operational across the country. Levin is the heart of our rehoming and fully GRNZ owned and operated, we are currently operating at a 43 kennel capacity there with room to expand to 62 in the future. We have also contracted on two satellite kennels, one in Rangiora (20 kennels) and one in Cambridge (18 kennels) to provide rehoming capabilities across the whole country.

We have implemented a system to ensure all greyhounds are accounted for and every dog gets the best possible chance to live out their retirement in a loving home. A greyhound that is deregistered from racing is added to a kennel waiting list, and when a kennel is available then GRNZ provides a fully comprehensive programme to prepare them for life as a pet after racing. Our rehoming programme includes council registrations, vaccinations, a safer temperament assessment, a 12 week behaviour modification training plan (if applicable), full veterinarian health check, dental scale and polish and additional work (if applicable), desexing, any medical needs addressed, grooming and advertising for a suitable family. We also supply full care whilst going through this programme including bedding, toys, treats, daily exercise, food, medication, etc in our owned purpose built or contracted kennel bases. Once the greyhound has completed our full package and are ready for rehoming we make these dogs available to rehoming agencies to place into their forever homes.

We have brought on numerous rehoming agencies to help match each greyhound into adoptive families and then continue giving support to adopters in this transition. They also

work hard on marketing the breed to the general public at events to bring breed awareness and increase interest in adopting one of our retired athletes.

Our software provider Sandfield has been contracted to develop a rehoming database which will automate the kennel waiting list process and provide accurate tracking of every greyhound from birth, through its racing career. Tracking will include the progress through the Great Mates Rehoming Programme, the rehoming agencies and until they are in their retirement home with their new family. This ensures every greyhound is accounted for and given everything they need to be rehomed to live a full and happy life.

### **Recommendation #15: Rehoming / Great Mates Prison program**

We have officially launched the Great Mates Prison Programme in Rimutaka Prison on 14th October after several successful pilot intakes. GRNZ built 6 purpose kennels onsite and contracted a qualified vet/trainer to take the inmates through a Canine Good Basic's certificate twice a week for 8 weeks. This helps prepare the greyhounds for life as a pet and teaches inmates some valuable life skills, communication, care, empathy, holds them accountable for something and provides them with a qualification at the end of the programme.

We have just set up the first pilot intake at Arohata Prison in the self-care units to start end of this year as well.

We have also applied for the provincial growth fund to be able to launch in other prisons around the country in the near future as many other prisons have expressed their interest in becoming part of the Great Mates Prison Programme too after hearing of its success.

### **Recommendation #20: Safety / Improved Lure Roll Out**

New extended arm lures for Cambridge & Manukau have been manufactured. The designer was booked to travel to Cambridge in late november to fit the new lure to the Cambridge rail, make any required adjustments and to brief the Cambridge lure drivers in its operation.

The new lure will be used at trial meetings until the drivers are comfortable with its operation and then it will be deployed on raceday. The same process will follow at Manukau.

GRNZ have also contracted a Track Advisor to oversee and report on the safe preparation of racing surfaces throughout New Zealand. The Track Advisor has recently returned from Australia where he was a highly regarded curator with a passion for delivering consistent surfaces, an essential for safe racing.

Based in the Waikato, the Track Advisor will begin with a hands-on, training approach at both Manukau and Cambridge before inviting other curators North for training, and then visiting and reporting on the preparation of New Zealand's other five racing surfaces.

The Track Advisor's work complements the ongoing research by the New Zealand Sports Turf Institute who have been contracted by GRNZ to monitor and make recommendations on the sand quality and make up of our racing surfaces.

NZSTI have been engaged since 2015 and have overseen a 'softening' of the Wanganui racing surface by recommending changes to the particle size density of the sand used during surface replenishment. A report tracking injury rates at Wanganui against average track firmness will be available for the next quarterly report.

## **Recommendation #15 and #16: Population Management**

In our update of 29 August 2019 we proposed that all Australian imports would attract a \$2,000 "Visa fee". However just the discussion of the fee brought a dip in the number of Australian imports, so the fee has been put on hold, to be reviewed in February 2020.

Introducing a Quota Management System to regulate Greyhound breeding in New Zealand is still a possibility however the number of greyhounds bred in New Zealand decreased last year so we will maintain a watch on this.