

QUARTERLY GREYHOUND RACING HANSEN REPORT UPDATE (Quarter 4, February 2019)

GRNZ's focus during this quarter has been on completing our project accounting for the 1,271 dogs previously reported as unaccounted for in our database, introducing new track safety initiatives and furthering our review in preparation to implement our new rehoming program. This particular update focuses on these three recommendations.

In addition to this update, we have also published an annual update, as a separate report, showing how we have progressed over the year. This addresses all of the 20 recommendations from the Hansen Report.

The major fourth quarter interventions (as numbered by way of recommendations in the Hansen Report) are recorded below:

Recommendation #8: Update of Unaccounted for Dogs

In the Hansen Report, it was estimated that there were 1,271 greyhounds unaccounted for in our database over the previous four racing seasons. As part of our response to the Report, we undertook the requested audit on these greyhounds' whereabouts and can now report those results below.

This process involved a series of communications with our Licenced Persons regarding these animals, educating them with respect to their obligations and clarifying the rules around deregistering all greyhounds - including puppies, unraced greyhounds and greyhounds they keep as pets. In addition, the RIU undertook a comprehensive nationwide census, where greyhounds at every kennel were microchip scanned.

With respect to our process, we undertook the following steps:

- Every Licensed Person who had greyhounds on the list of unaccounted for dogs was contacted to find out their whereabouts.
- Each Licenced Person was sent a letter outlining the information required for each greyhound, their list of greyhounds with space to enter all the required details, and a declaration that had to be signed; declaring that all information provided to GRNZ regarding the status of each greyhound was true and accurate.
- If the greyhound had been rehomed, details of the rehoming agency was required so that GRNZ could verify the adoption.
- In the case that a greyhound was euthanised, a veterinary certificate was required, as per the GRNZ rule that was introduced 1 February 2014.

As a result of the above, we have determined the whereabouts and outcomes for 89% of the 1,271 greyhounds reported as unaccounted for.

Table 1 (below) presents a breakdown of the status of the 1271 greyhounds.

Status	Number of greyhounds	% of total
Not racing when Hansen Report published - now racing or still planned to race	396	31%
Rehomed	366	29%
Euthanised	220	17%
Accidental or natural death	115	9%
Exported to Australia	23	2%
Kept for breeding	16	1%
Incomplete information/ non-responsive/ non-contactable	135	11%
	1271	

Table 1. Status of 1271 greyhounds.

For the remaining 11%, either:

- the information we received about the greyhound was incomplete, or
- we were unable to get a response, or
- the person was uncontactable.

Of the 11% that remain unaccounted for, approximately half of the people responsible for these greyhounds had left the industry and are no longer licenced, making them difficult to contact for information. We note that the time period for identifying these individuals went back 4+ racing seasons and made identification challenging.

Moving forward

In order to establish closer compliance monitoring for de-registrations and ensure that the status of all greyhounds is tracked accurately, we are currently developing new tracking systems to be implemented into our database. These systems will produce an automated alert identifying greyhounds that have not raced for a determined period of time, and puppies that have not been registered to race once they reach racing age. These greyhounds can then be 'followed up' to confirm their status and whether they need to be de-registered as per the Rules of Racing.

This initiative also addresses the sub-recommendation (within Recommendation #8) that ongoing monitoring of compliance should be undertaken around registration and deregistration obligations, including by follow-up action when non-compliance is suspected.

Recommendation #20: Track Safety Initiatives

By way of background, studies undertaken at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) have shown that greyhounds run in a safer central line (i.e. further off the inside rail, more towards the middle of the track) with the extended arm, and that this usually results in reduced injury rates.

As mentioned in the last quarterly update, we continue to review and consider all possible developments and initiatives to reduce on-track injuries. Our current focus continues to be on rolling out an extended lure arm, with one of our major tracks (Addington in Christchurch) being the first.

The images below, using satellite technology, show the difference in the distance from the rail that greyhounds run during a race - with and without the extended arm. The key point being greyhounds race further away from the rail with the new extended arm.



Image 1. A race using the conventional lure arm.



Image 2. The existing short arm at Christchurch.

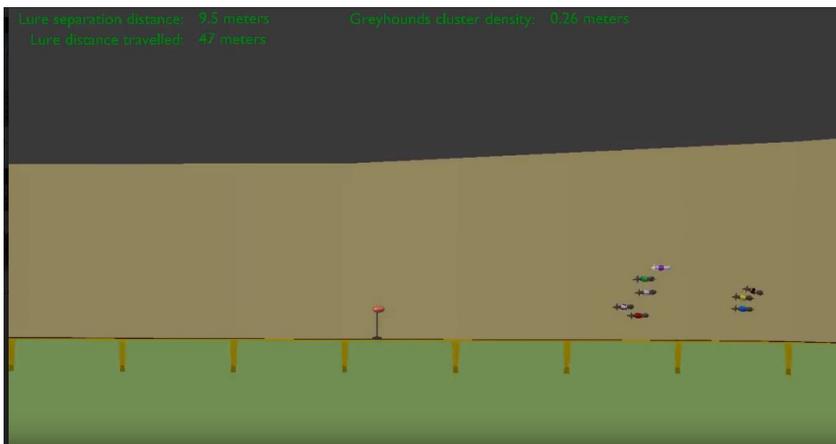


Image 3. A race using the new extended lure arm.



Image 4. The new extended lure arm.

Additionally, we remain on target to trial 6-dog fields at Addington in February 2019. The potential benefit here being tested is a reduction in the amount of congestion (and potential injuries) during a race (a normal race field being 8 dogs, hence less congestion with 6 dogs).

For both of these new initiatives we will be closely assessing changes to injury rates over the coming months.

Finally, we note that an international expert was brought to New Zealand to assist us with track improvement. It was suggested that we trial moving the 375m start to a 410m start at our Manawatu track for a six week trial. The point of this trial was to reduce injuries from the 375m starting position: There was a decrease in sprint injuries and a decrease in injuries going into the first bend. As a result of this intervention and trial we can now confirm that we have made a permanent change for the sprint distance at Manawatu and permanently relocated the starting blocks accordingly.

Recommendation #15: Update on Rehoming

Rehoming of our retired greyhounds continues to be a high priority for GRNZ. The new framework for our national rehoming program is well underway and we are currently investigating the optimum regions across NZ to base kennel facilities. Key aspects of this assessment include proximity to the majority of our trainers and what fits best with our increasing number of rehoming partners. We are also assessing the skills and staff needed nationwide and developing a fit for purpose temperament assessment system that will be used consistently across all of our rehoming kennels. Our aim is to have key elements of this new model being tested as early as April this year, with the entire new model in place for the next racing season beginning 1 August 2019.

Our Great Mates prison program is also proving very successful. This program puts greyhounds in prison and matches them with prisoners who care for them and prepare the dogs for life as a family pet. We are on track to complete the building of a new kennel facility at Rimutaka Prison by March 2019, which will house six greyhounds at a time for the program. For completeness, we note that the Great Mates prison program will be fully integrated into the new rehoming framework.

Finally, discussions with the Department of Corrections to extend the program to other prisons have been positive, and initial discussions with the NZ Howard League indicate that they too may wish to support the program.