



HANSEN REPORT UPDATE - as at November 2018 (Quarter 3)

Animal welfare continues to be of high priority for GRNZ. During this quarter, we have continued on our journey to actively work towards addressing all of the recommendations provided in the Hansen Report. The focus this quarter has been on continuing to communicate our new Health and Welfare Standards to our stakeholders, new track safety initiatives, developing an education programme, further progress reviewing our rehoming program, and tracking and accounting for greyhounds in our database.

The major third quarter interventions (as numbered by way of recommendations in the Hansen Report) are as follows:

Recommendation #1: Welfare Standards: Socialisation

As part of this recommendation regarding the new GRNZ Health and Welfare Standards, it was specified that socialisation of greyhounds should be included in these standards.

As mentioned in the last quarterly report, there is a section included in our new standards requiring greyhounds be socialised to prepare them for rehoming, once they retire from racing. In support of this, we are working on a policy that will provide more detail around what the specific requirements are under this standard and what best practice methods for socialising puppies and adult greyhounds should be.

To assist us with this project, we have contracted an expert greyhound veterinary behaviourist from Australia, Dr Karen Dawson, who is very well qualified to help develop our greyhound socialisation programme. The first draft of what will form our Socialisation Policy has been submitted to our independent Animal Welfare Committee for review. The Socialisation Policy should be finalised and implemented prior to the standards being enforced in February 2019. Finally, we note that ongoing education and training of best practice will also be a part of our overall education program.

Recommendation #3: Education and Awareness of New Welfare Standards

This recommendation is concerned with providing education materials for our licensed people, and specifically emphasised the need to generate awareness of the new Health and Welfare Standards.

Our educational campaign continues to generate awareness of the new standards through monthly articles in our OnTrack Magazine and industry workshops. Our recent focus has been communicating the new MPI regulations for all dogs in NZ effective 1 October 2018. We have worked closely with MPI to ensure a consistent message is sent to our licenced people regarding the regulations. We also held our GRNZ National Conference in October where we ran a workshop dedicated to communicating the key changes to our welfare standards. A similar workshop was held at the Annual Racing Integrity Unit (RIU) Conference in October, to ensure all RIU staff are up-to-date with the key changes that will be enforced from 1 February 2019.

As mentioned in the previous quarterly update, we are committed to developing an overarching education and training program that will provide a high standard of learning and associated qualifications for our industry. This program will link to licencing and education to specific industry roles such as Trainers, Breeders, Handlers etc. QED Associates have been contracted by GRNZ to undertake the initial stages of this project and commenced a scoping project in September. The aim of the scoping project is to investigate how GRNZ might best develop and implement such a formal education and training program. QED are currently reviewing all greyhound training materials from Australia and the training and qualification structures used by the two equine codes.

It is possible that newly introduced NZQA micro-credentials could be a feasible option to explore for rolling out our program. This kind of NZQA model would mean increased industry skills, licenced persons gaining the benefits of nationally recognised training and qualifications, and creating better career pathways for participants. There may also be elements of training that go beyond greyhound racing such as literacy and numeracy, and possibly life and/or career planning, as well as some that are valid across all three racing codes.

QED will provide a draft report outlining the training needs for GRNZ, as well as design and delivery options for standards and qualifications with recommendations by the end of January 2019.

Recommendation #5: Ear Branding Update

This recommendation is for GRNZ to consider whether it is necessary to ear brand puppies as a form of identification and, if so, to require ear branding to be done under local anaesthetic to reduce any pain associated with this procedure.

NZ is part of Greyhounds Australasia, who control all naming, breeding and identification data in Australia and NZ. Any move to change branding / identification needs to be a collaborative move across the jurisdiction and we are continuing to work closely with Greyhounds Australasia on alternatives to ear branding.

We are also closely following the progress of some newly developed facial recognition technology that the NZ Companion Animal Register have been trialling for their online Lost Pets initiative.

While we continue to look into alternatives, we can now confirm that we have completed trials undertaken by our GRNZ Chief Veterinary Advisor to test a topical local anaesthetic cream for ear branding. As a result of this trial, all GRNZ ear branders are now using this cream routinely as part of the ear branding procedure.

Recommendation #8: Update of Unaccounted for Dogs

In the Hansen Report, it was estimated that there were 1271 greyhounds unaccounted for in our database over the previous four racing seasons. As outlined previously, a large project has been undertaken to account for each of these greyhounds.

Our work has revealed that many of these greyhounds were still on licenced person properties. Some were microchip scanned during the census undertaken by the RIU, others were registered as puppies but were not actively found in the database as they had not started racing at the time that the Hansen Report data was collated.

We can now confirm that we have accounted for 86% of the 1271 dogs reported as unaccounted for. We continue to follow up on the remaining dogs.

The final 14% are proving to be the most difficult to obtain information about, due predominantly to difficulties associated with making contact with the correct people and finding records that go back as far as 2012. Additionally, for some of the 14% we are still verifying the rehoming information provided to us and for others we are waiting to receive veterinary certificates.

For completeness, we include here a summary of the actions we have been (and are continuing) to undertake in order to resolve the status of these 1271 dogs.

We have contacted each licensed person who had greyhounds on this list of unaccounted for dogs 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, followed by 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. In cases where no veterinary certificate was retained, they were asked to contact the veterinary clinic to obtain a copy to attach to the declaration.

Obviously GRNZ is taking this matter very seriously. The process is taking slightly longer than we had initially anticipated but we now expect making a detailed report on this matter at our end of year report to the Minister.

Recommendation #20: Track Safety Initiatives

This recommendation is for GRNZ to continue with efforts around improving track safety, including research into causes of injuries and investment into new safety initiatives such as implementing extended lure arms and straight tracks.

Please see below a number of interventions made in this space.

Injury Reporting:

A new reporting software package has been developed by our IT experts to enhance visibility and provide 'live' data over all of our tracks, greyhounds and individual trainer injury statistics.

The new software has now completed testing, and is being used to monitor injuries as injuries occur. The software will continue to evolve as it is used more, which will further enhance its capabilities and functionality by providing more in depth / real time data.

We anticipate that this will help with track monitoring, participant awareness and that we will see positive results from this monitoring over the coming 12-24 months.

Extended lure arm:

Over the past year, there has been a substantial body of work undertaken investigating the benefits of the extended lure arm system. This research has been undertaken by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS). Data was collected on tracks across several Australian States investigating track design, injuries and kinetic forces, using state of the art technology. Kinetic measurement devices were attached to greyhounds while they were racing to measure a number of variables including kinetic forces on limbs, stride frequency and vertical acceleration, and the results were analysed using a specially designed modelling tool. The studies 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 this has resulted in reduced injuries.

Now that we have these results, we will be rolling this system out at all of our tracks, starting with the Addington track in Christchurch. The goal is to have the extended arm fully functional at Addington by the end of December and then roll it out nationally. We have contracted an engineer to make the required modifications to the lure systems and to ensure consistency of implementation across all tracks.

Track inspections:

At our recent GRNZ National Conference in October, we brought Scott Robins (Director of Safe Racing and Sustainable Breeding Greyhound Racing Victoria) over from Melbourne to run a workshop on track preparation and maintenance. This was followed by a number of track visits where Scott worked with Professor David Eagar from UTS to undertake track inspections at a number of our tracks and provide

GRNZ with recommendations for further improvements.

Overall, they were impressed with the condition and preparation of New Zealand tracks. They did make a series of recommendations that GRNZ will be implementing. As part of their advice, each track will now be surveyed to accurately measure camber. Once this data is collected it can be put through a UTS modelling tool to assess if any adjustments are needed to the camber at each track - which will then be made as needed. Another recommendation, at our Manawatu track, was to change the box position. This would be to help reduce injuries over the sprint distance in the first turn. We have implemented this as a trial as of 30 October. Potential sites for a straight track were also discussed and recommended during the site visits.

Another initiative we are exploring is running 6 dog fields to reduce the amount of congestion during a race. The UTS study reported 6 dog fields reduced euthanasia outcomes compared to 7 and 8 dog fields by 0.8% per 1000 starts. The sample data was taken across New South Wales tracks and showed a decrease in euthanasia rates per 1000 starts from (1.4%) 8 dog fields, to (0.6%) 6 dog fields. A 6 dog trial is to be undertaken at our Addington track in February 2019.

In summary, we will continue to review and consider all possible developments and initiatives to reduce track injuries, with our current focus being on the extended lure arm as our priority in the short term.

Recommendation #15: Update on Rehoming

Rehoming of our retired greyhounds continues to be of the highest priority for GRNZ. We continue to support our rehoming partners GAP and Nightrave to rehome as many greyhounds as possible. We can confirm that in the 2017/2018 season we rehomed 517 greyhounds, which is a 25% increase from the previous season. However, we plan to increase this number significantly.

In order to work towards this goal the two key activities that we have focussed on this quarter are as follows:

1. We have employed a Rehoming Manager to develop a new and more effective rehoming framework, and to oversee the operational implementation of that new GRNZ rehoming program nationwide.
2. We continue to make good progress upgrading our kennel facilities at Levin. Stage two of the project is on track, to be finished in early November and will result in the facility having the capacity to house up to 60 greyhounds at a time.

In addition, we continue to progress our Great Mates Prison Program at Rimutaka. We are pleased to confirm that the Department of Corrections have agreed to this as a permanent program and we are currently in discussions with them regarding possible opportunities to extend it to other prisons.