



## **HANSEN REPORT UPDATE - as at August 2018 (Quarter 2)**

Animal Welfare continues to be of high priority for GRNZ. We continue to be committed and working actively to address the recommendations provided in the Hansen Report. We recognise that addressing these concerns is key to retaining our social licence to operate greyhound racing in NZ.

We have addressed a number of concerns from the Hansen Report during this quarter, by implementing a number of new processes, rules and policies as outlined in this update. The focus has been on communicating the new Health and Welfare Standards to our stakeholders, creating and implementing a register for breeding females, passing a vaccinations policy, and further work rehoming, tracking and accounting for greyhounds in our database.

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

### *Recommendation #1: Introduce New Health and Welfare Standards*

This recommendation sought to have GRNZ complete revising our Code of Welfare and specified that socialisation and habituation of greyhounds be included in these new standards.

We can now confirm that the Code has been revised/replaced with the new GRNZ Health and Welfare Standards ("the Standards"), and that socialisation and habituation have been enhanced in the standards.

This major undertaking both simplifies and modernises our industry practices and harmonises them with the new Animal Welfare Regulations issued under the Animal Welfare Act, effective 1 October 2018. Our new standards also exceed the NAWAC Code of Welfare for all dogs.

In terms of communicating them within the industry, we can confirm that they have been published on our website and a physical copy has been distributed with the GRNZ Rules of Racing by post to every licensed person along with the NAWAC Animal Welfare (Dogs) Code of Welfare 2010. The Health and Welfare standards include an Appendix outlining the new MPI Animal Welfare Regulations that are relevant to our industry and will be updated as new regulations are developed. We have worked closely with MPI to ensure that communications to our licenced persons align with their key messages regarding the new regulations. Additionally, the new standards provide the foundation for us to implement a number of the recommendations from the Hansen Report (eg vaccinations, health records, breeding).

There is a section requiring greyhounds to be socialised from an early age to improve their rehoming prospects following their retirement from racing and for retired greyhounds to be habituated to the home environment to prepare for rehoming. We plan to develop a detailed socialisation program to align with these standards in the coming season.

Effective from the 1 August 2018, we plan to use the first six months of the standards as a transitional and educational period. We believe this is a fair period of time to complete an education campaign around the key changes and provide our licensed persons with time to prepare and change some of their husbandry management systems accordingly. For example, the new

breeding standards will require some changes in plans around breeding programs, due to the more restricted limits on the number of litters a breeding female can whelp (three litters) as well as the maximum age (7yrs of age) she can be bred from. These changes reflect veterinary best practice for responsible dog breeding, in order to provide the best care for breeding females and reduce the risk of health issues.

We have also liaised with the RIU and agreed that during kennel inspections over this transitional period they will take an educational approach.

*Recommendation #3: Provide education and awareness of new 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 aimed to generate awareness of the new standards commenced on 1 July. This campaign is planned to run until December and consists of various publications (articles and posters) and presentations via our website, clubs and OnTrack magazine. Each month we cover a particular section of the standards and communicate the key changes in that area, with a focus on new MPI regulations, breeding, socialisation, vaccinations and health.

In July, we covered key changes regarding breeding, new limits on the number of litters a breeding female can whelp, and the new age restriction of seven years for breeding. August communications are focused on socialisation and habituation.

At our GRNZ National conference this coming October, we are running two workshops. One will cover the new standards and key changes, and a second will cover socialisation, with guest speaker and expert greyhound veterinary behaviourist Dr Karen Dawson. In addition, we will visit our clubs to ensure all licenced persons are aware and understand the changes, and oversee two additional workshops on the new standards to our RIU and On Track Veterinarians in August and September respectively.

We acknowledge this is only one part of the picture for educating our licenced people and over the next 1-2 years we are committed to developing an overarching education program that will provide a high standard of learning and associated qualifications for our industry that will link to licencing (Trainers, Breeders, Handlers etc). We have therefore contracted the services of QED Associates to assist us to reach this goal and a scoping project is scheduled for September.

*Recommendation #6: Requirement for registering a breeding female*

We can confirm that this recommendation to establish a separate register for all female greyhounds used for breeding purposes, and the requirement for all breeding females to be registered, has now been addressed. From the 1 August, all current and new breeding females are required to be registered using the prescribed form and entered into our new registry.

In addition, a new policy (GRNZ Registering a Breeding Female Policy) has been implemented. This policy supports the breeding standards under the new Health and Welfare Standards and outlines a number of conditions for approval to register a female for breeding and criteria around retaining this registration, for example age, number of litters, number of caesareans, up-to-date vaccinations, DNA analysis and licencing etc. We are currently implementing enhancements in our database to capture all of this data in the system so that the registration of a breeding female may be automatically inactivated when appropriate.

Under the new standards, applications can be made to breed from a female one more time after a she has reached seven years of age or to breed a fourth litter. The policy also outlines a number of criteria that will be considered for approval to breed a fourth litter or to breed from a greyhound over seven years of age, including a full veterinarian health check and certificate.

#### *Recommendation #4: Annual vaccination requirements*

This recommendation is concerned with the requirements around annual vaccinations and suggested that proof of current vaccinations should be a condition for permission to race a greyhound.

Proof of vaccinations have always been required at the time of naming a greyhound, but we can now confirm that proof vaccinations are current must now be provided on an annual basis. Under the new Health and Welfare Standards greyhounds must be vaccinated against distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus and infectious canine cough.

We have developed a new GRNZ Vaccination Policy that outlines when core and booster vaccinations are required, with proof of puppy vaccinations being at the time of registering of a litter. It will not be possible to nominate greyhounds to race or register them to breed if they do not have up-to-date vaccinations.

Trainers and Owners will also now be required to keep detailed records (including date, time, person prescribing, person administering, dosage) of all treatments administered to a greyhound, including vaccinations.

We are also currently implementing enhancements in our database so that automated alerts will be sent out to Owners and Trainers to warn them that vaccinations are due to expire and that they will be unable to nominate the greyhound for racing unless updated. The system will, eventually, be able to automatically inactivate the greyhound as eligible for nomination until proof of current vaccinations are provided.

#### *Recommendation #8: Update on Census and Unaccounted Dogs*

Earlier this year, our RIU were tasked with undertaking a comprehensive nationwide census for GRNZ, where greyhounds at every kennel were microchip scanned. The census has now been completed and the data is currently being collated, assessed and aligned with our registration and de-registration records.

In the Hansen Report, it was estimated that there were 1271 dogs unaccounted for over the previous four seasons. Three main actions we have undertaken in response to these concerns have resulted in a large percentage of these dogs now being accounted for in our database including:

1. Undertaking a comprehensive series of communications with our licenced people regarding obligations and rules around deregistering all greyhounds (see Recommendation #12 below).
2. Aligning the census data with the file of unaccounted for dogs that were not deregistered in our database.
3. Employing personnel who have been tasked with following up directly with Trainers and Owners regarding every greyhound on their list deemed unaccounted for in the Hansen Report and not accounted for during the census, to determine whether they have been rehomed, euthanised or are still planned to race.

Many of the greyhounds were still on properties and were microchip scanned during the census. Many were registered as puppies but had not started racing at the time the Hansen Report was collated.

We can now confirm that, as of 1 August 2018, we have accounted for approximately 80% of the 1271 dogs estimated as unaccounted for. We are still following up on the remaining dogs.

#### *Recommendation #12: Tracking of greyhounds and de-registrations*

This recommendation is related to Recommendation #8 concerning the need to track every greyhound throughout their lifecycle from puppies through to retirement, as well as increasing compliance around deregistering a greyhound and making it clear that the deregistration rules apply to all greyhounds. It was also recommended that we introduce a rule to ensure greyhounds are in the care of a licenced person at all times. We can report a number of activities this quarter relevant to addressing these concerns.

A rule has now been implemented, as of 1 August, that states that all greyhounds must remain in the care and control of a licenced person at all times and must not be kept at the premises of, or trained by those who are not licenced persons. Owners and Trainers must now apply for permission to leave greyhounds in the care of an unlicensed person. This may be approved in certain circumstances, such as when greyhounds are being put into the care of registered boarding kennels.

We have undertaken a series of communications with our licenced people throughout the year, including articles in our OnTrack magazine and website, reiterating that the current rules around deregistering a greyhound applies to all greyhounds including puppies, non-raced greyhounds and greyhounds they keep as pets. These communications have resulted in increased awareness and more deregistrations being processed through the office.

In July, we also implemented an improved process and new forms that require more detail when deregistering a greyhound. In response to the Hansen Recommendation #9, the Owner or Trainer is now required to provide contact details of the new owners details when greyhounds have been privately rehomed. This now enables us to capture this information and allows us to follow up on rehomed greyhounds as well as validate the accuracy of the reporting from Owners and Trainers as recommended (Rec #9).

#### *Recommendation #15: Update on rehoming*

Since the 1st Quarter update, we have made substantial progress upgrading our kennel facilities at Levin. In May, we employed a Project Manager who has been overseeing this project and the first stages are nearly complete. The facility will have capacity to house up to 60 greyhounds and will provide a meet and greet area where the public can come and meet greyhounds and where we can increase the awareness of greyhounds as great pets. We are working closely with our rehoming partners Nightrave and GAP to review our rehoming program and we are currently recruiting a Rehoming Manager to develop our new rehoming strategy and framework, and to oversee the operational implementation of the new program nationwide.

In May, we launched our Great Mates Prison Pilot Program within the Special Treatment Unit at Rimutaka Prison. Two retired greyhounds were brought into the prison where we have set up kenneling, exercise yards and an area that simulates a home setting where the prisoners can spend time with the greyhounds. The prisoners undertook an eight week training program with our

dog trainer (two training sessions per week) with the goal of teaching the men how to train the greyhounds. The men then teach the greyhounds the skills they need to transition from racing to pet life before being rehomed.

Feedback from the Department of Corrections staff has been extremely positive. They have been pleased with the results and benefits of the program, specifically around how it closely aligns with their therapy and rehabilitation project. We are currently undertaking Stage Two of the Pilot Program with four retired greyhounds. A decision will be made jointly by GRNZ and the Department of Corrections at the end of the pilot regarding the further roll out of the program.