

<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Executive Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Terms of Reference</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Transition of structure and culture at GRNZ</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Greyhound Racing New Zealand’s progression on previous reviews’ recommendations</b>	<b>6</b>
5.1 Governance and management of welfare	6
5.2 Welfare standards	7
5.2.1 Enforcement of standards	8
5.2.2 Awareness of welfare standards	8
5.2.2.1 Socialisation	9
5.2.3 Vaccinations	10
5.3 Population management	10
5.3.1 Euthanasia	11
5.3.1.1 Euthanasia Instead of Rehoming	11
5.3.1.2 Track injuries resulting in euthanasia	11
5.3.1.3 Medical Euthanasia	12
5.3.1.4 Rules and record keeping	13
5.3.2 Retirement	13
5.3.2.1 Rehoming programme	14
5.3.2.2 Registration to deregistration (retirement) process	15
5.3.2.3 Retirement data	16
5.3.3 Breeding	16
5.3.4 Racing opportunities	18
5.3.5 Record keeping and audits	18
5.3.5.1 Tracking of all greyhounds	19
5.3.5.2 Audits and follow up of greyhounds	20
5.4 Safety	21
5.4.1 Whanganui Track	22
5.4.2 Pre and post-race injury and illness management	22
5.4.3 Raceday injury data	23
<b>6 Areas in which welfare reform has stalled or regressed or where new issues have emerged</b>	<b>24</b>
6.1 Licensed Person training and education	24
6.2 Elderly trainers	24
6.3 Extended lure arm	25
6.4 Vaccinations	25
6.5 Drug testing	25

<b>7 Recommendations to further improve the welfare of greyhounds</b>	<b>26</b>
7.1 Animal Health and Welfare Committee	26
7.2 Massey University research into racing frequency and injuries	26
7.3 Track design	27
7.4 Stopping ear branding	27
7.5 Research into nutritional benefits	27
<b>8 Is a more fundamental review of the greyhound industry necessary</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>9 Summary</b>	<b>28</b>

# 1 Introduction

We welcome this opportunity to provide Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ) submission to the Review into Greyhound Racing. Our membership base includes owners, trainers and licensed persons as well as the Association's Registered Clubs, Board of Directors, and office and rehoming staff who also welcome and support this review.

This submission is on behalf of our industry and participants, including the Registered Clubs of the Association. Some participants may also make their own submission to the Review.

## 2 Executive Summary

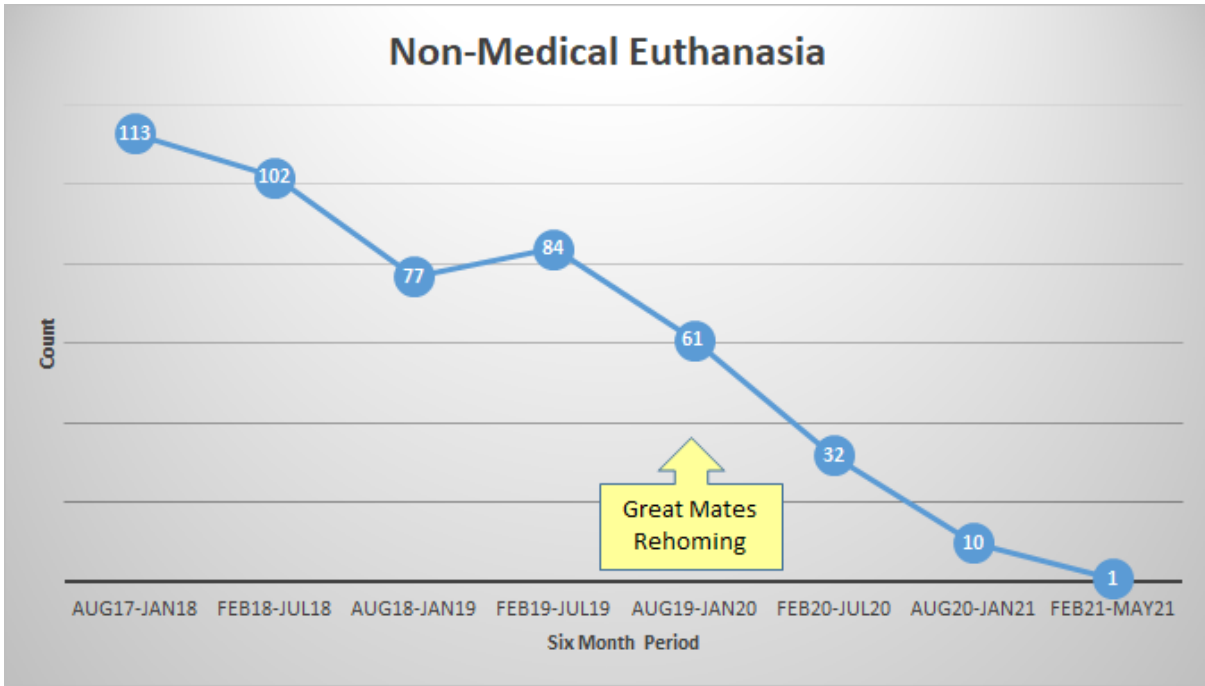
This submission provides substantive information and evidence of the actions taken and the results achieved in relation to the animal welfare recommendations made in the WHK and Hansen Reports. The new management team which took over in August 2019 noted that many of the initiatives identified in the Hansen Report, especially in the development of appropriate policy and regulations, were either completed or near completion.

The recommendations in the Hansen Report required a dual approach, which involved the improvement of record keeping and maintenance of data, and the use of this information to monitor and ensure the adherence to our social licence. Development of policies and regulation is a key to initiating change but not sufficient to make long term sustainable change in a nationwide activity practised by a diverse population. GRNZ has continued to update and develop policies and regulation as and when needed and have increased the focus on implementation and structural change to ensure sufficient resources are in place to manage and support all animal welfare activities.

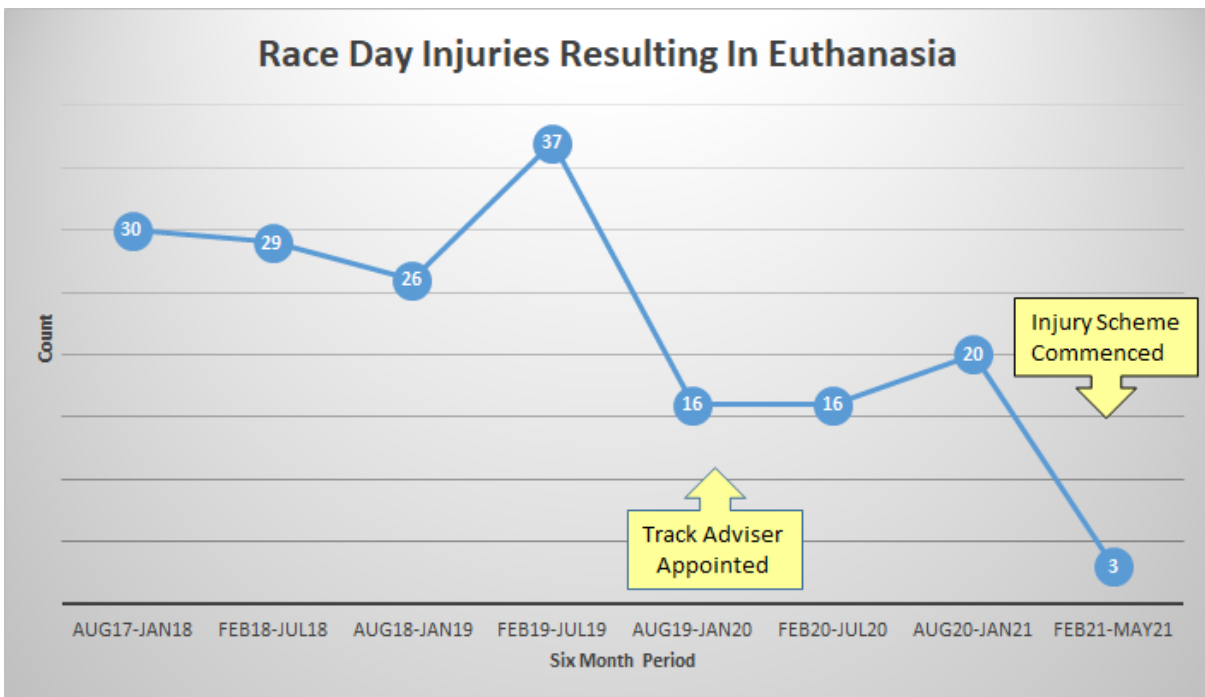
Two key priority areas have been ensuring there is capacity to rehome all dogs that no longer race, and addressing the causes and consequences of race day injuries resulting in euthanasia. These priorities are supplemented by managing breeding numbers, inspection and audit of kennel facilities, continual management and upgrading of tracks, record keeping and ongoing relationship building with our adoption agency partners and our licenced persons.

The Hansen Report shone a light on the lack of rehoming resources available to greyhound trainers in New Zealand. Action taken by GRNZ to develop the Great Mates rehoming programme, and the increase of human resource, facilities, funding, training and medical support, has provided trainers with the resource they needed and they have rapidly made use of it.

This is evidenced by the graph below, which shows the six monthly rate of euthanasia falling from over 100, to 1 in the current period.



In regard to race day injuries resulting in euthanasia, GRNZ has taken action on a number of initiatives supported by research expertise in track safety, and injury treatment. The success of these to date is borne out in the following graph.



We believe that GRNZ has a greater level of scrutiny and transparency than any other organisation that works with animals. In order to respond to all inquiries and monitor all activity in relation to the maintenance of our social licence, we maintain an extensive and

efficient data collection process. This initiative has required operational improvements and increased resourcing including fiscal support, infrastructure and human resource.

### 3 Terms of Reference

A section covering each of the terms of reference has been developed. Areas of note and/or change which relate to each, are reported on under each section.

1. Greyhound Racing New Zealand's progress on previous review's recommendations:
  - Governance and Management of Welfare
  - Welfare Standards
  - Population Management
  - Safety
  
2. Areas in which welfare reform has stalled or regressed or where new issues have emerged;
  - Licensed Person Education
  - Elderly Trainers
  - Extended Lure
  - Vaccinations
  - Drug Testing
  
3. Recommendations to further improves the welfare of greyhounds through all stages of life, including retirement from racing;
  - Animal Health and Welfare Committee
  - Research training, racing, and career longevity of racing greyhounds
  - Track design and innovation
  - Ear Branding
  - Nutritional Benefits
  
4. Is a more fundamental review of the greyhound industry necessary.
  - Economic considerations
  - Non economic considerations
  - Well-being of current participants

This submission is structured in the order of the terms of reference and provides detail in each of these areas.

### 4 Transition of Structure and Culture at GRNZ

With the appointment of a new Chief Executive for GRNZ in the second half of 2019, the organisation has been undergoing a significant organisational and personnel change. The first action taken was to ensure that all GRNZ employees were and continue to be aware of the importance of our social licence, the importance of placing animal welfare at the top of our priorities and the expectations set out in the recommendations of the Hansen Report.

In order to ensure that all areas of the industry are focussed on the recommendations of the Hansen Report, and are responding to all of the reporting requirements and policies that had been developed, animal welfare has been embedded into the roles of all staff.

As we transitioned from the development of welfare policies to implementation across the industry, it was more effective to create a new role of a Racing Operations and Welfare Manager. This ensures strong communication and synergy with the clubs and our licensed persons. Approval for all race meetings licences and the nominating of dogs to race is facilitated by the Racing Operations and Welfare Manager.

This change has enabled GRNZ to focus club management and the participants on the importance of welfare. It also means that all communications across the country are consistent, regular, and underpinned with welfare as a priority and there is a more open and transparent flow of information between GRNZ and its stakeholders. The Racing Operations and Welfare Manager attends all welfare and integrity advisory groups in Australia and New Zealand and has regular contact with the Chief Vet and the Racing Integrity Unit.

We have also appointed a Rehoming Manager who oversees the nationwide rehoming programme which includes three kennel facilities and their staff who prepare all retired dogs for our adoption agencies to rehome. GRNZ taking back this responsibility has led to a major reduction in euthanasia of retired dogs. In the past 12 months, due to the dog training and socialisation that GRNZ now undertakes, not one greyhound in the rehoming programme has been euthanised. This role includes managing the welfare and rehoming activities with the adoption agencies, vet practices and trainers and gives us oversight of the welfare of our dogs prior to racing, during racing and on retirement.

## 5 Greyhound Racing New Zealand's Progression on Previous Reviews' Recommendations

GRNZ provides the following information about our progress on the recommendations from the WHK Independent Welfare Review of 2013, and the Hansen Report to the NZ Racing Board on Welfare Issues of 2017.

Both reviews covered and made recommendations in relation to:

1. Governance and management of welfare
2. Welfare standards
3. Population management
4. Safety

An update on the progress in these areas is below.

### 5.1 Governance and Management of Welfare

The WHK review noted that the GRNZ animal welfare committee at the time did not have the appropriate independence and expertise and recommended that the committee be

restructured to include independent members with specific animal welfare knowledge. This was implemented in 2015 and the Hansen Report noted the achievements of the Committee, and the welfare governance changes that GRNZ implemented. Those changes included:

- A new Constitution so that the Board has the power to amend the Rules by unanimous resolution. This has meant that it is far easier to implement the Rules and policies relating to welfare.
- Appropriate funding available to ensure the welfare strategy can be implemented. Significant increases to budget/spending has helped deliver these improvements.
- All GRNZ employees place animal welfare at the top of our priorities. The WHK report noted the challenge for GRNZ to lead a cultural change within the industry that ensured welfare considerations outweigh any competitive or commercial consequences. A new role of Racing Operations and Welfare Manager was developed and we now have strong communication and synergy with the clubs and our licensed persons. This change has enabled GRNZ to focus club management and participants on the importance of welfare. It also means that all communications across the country are consistent, regular, and underpinned with welfare as a priority. There is consequently a more open and transparent flow of information between GRNZ and its stakeholders.
- GRNZ has no hesitation in putting the welfare of the greyhounds ahead of commercial consequences, as evidenced by the recent abandonment of races at Whanganui when the track was deemed unsafe, the halting of imports from Australia due to an outbreak of Canine Enteric Corona Virus and the quarantining of kennels when there is a disease outbreak.

## 5.2 Welfare Standards

An outcome of the WHK review was a Code of Welfare that was drafted after consultation with NAWAC and the SPCA, and incorporated into the Rules of Racing in 2013. After that, GRNZ drafted new Health and Welfare standards to replace the Code which included new socialisation and rehoming provisions. In 2017 The Hansen Report recommended that those standards be finalised.

The Health and Welfare standards have now been in place since August 2018. They apply to all persons licensed by GRNZ who are responsible for the welfare of GRNZ registered greyhounds through to, but not including, the rehomed greyhounds after their retirement from all GRNZ activities. They apply to all greyhounds, including puppies and those retired from racing for breeding. Many of our standards exceed those prescribed in the 2018 “Code of Welfare: Dogs” issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999. For example, GRNZ minimum standards for kennel size exceed the recommendations in the Code.

Our Health and Welfare standards recognise that greyhounds are sentient beings - below is the relevant extract from the standards:

*“In addition to the animal welfare concepts of the “Five Freedoms” and the more recent “Five Domains”, GRNZ recognizes that dogs are sentient, which means they can feel pain and distress; and experience other emotions, both positive and negative. All those experiences*

*are important to the dogs and it matters to us as a society how animals are treated. GRNZ is working to ensure that all greyhounds do have a good life.”*

The standards cover:

- Food and water
- Greyhound facilities
- Exercise, equipment, training and training devices
- Socialisation and rehoming
- Transportation
- Breeding
- Health, prevention of infectious disease and injury, surgical procedures
- Live/dead baiting (banned)
- Euthanasia
- Fireworks

The standards also include an extract from the Animal Welfare (Care and Procedures) Regulations 2018 and reference information for other documents linked to the standards - for example, the Code of Welfare: Dogs 2018 and the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and where to find this information.

### 5.2.1 Enforcement of Standards

The RIU and in due course the RIB has primary responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of the Health and Welfare standards. As recommended by the WHK review, a new service level agreement was negotiated with the RIU which makes detailed provision for kennel inspections and applying the standards covered in the Health and Welfare standards.

Ten months into the current racing season the RIU has inspected 143 of 156 total kennels at least once, from 200 total inspections being undertaken this season in total. This contrasts with the 85 that were inspected in the 2016/17 season. This results in 92% of our kennels already having been inspected this season. Out of the 156 kennels, three kennels were required to take remedial action and were stood down for 14 days before re-inspection.

The RIU and the race day vets (employed by the RIU), are independent from GRNZ and are present at all race meetings and take responsibility for ensuring that the Rules of Racing and Health and Welfare standards are observed at race meetings. Both GRNZ and the RIU have mechanisms in place including an anonymous 0800 number for any person to make a complaint about welfare or report an issue.

Licensed Persons can be charged by the RIU with an offence under the GRNZ Rules of Racing. Penalties range from fines up \$10,000, and/or suspension, disqualification from holding a licence or warning off. Both disqualification and warning off can be for life.

### 5.2.2 Awareness of Welfare Standards

Both the WHK review and the Hansen Report identified that trainers were not as aware of the welfare standards in place as they should have been. GRNZ has addressed this issue by:



- Incorporating the standards in the physical Rules of Racing book and sending a physical copy of the standards to all licensed people at licence renewal time in 2018.
- In the process of applying for or renewing a licence, all licensed people are required to declare that they have read and understood the standards. Licences must be renewed annually.
- GRNZ uses its website, publications, posters, social media, conferences and online training to provide ongoing education and information to our trainers on health and welfare.
- At GRNZ annual conferences, sessions are always on the agenda to cover Rules, animal welfare, and track management. Some recent specialist topics have included the Code of Welfare: Dogs, the Animal Welfare Act, track safety, animal injuries, eye problems in dogs, and the rehoming programme.
- Our publications and information cover a range of topics from cutting toenails through to how to administer CPR on dogs and preparing your kennel in case of emergency.
- GRNZ has a specific socialisation policy which sets out the requirements for the provision of appropriate socialisation and environmental referencing for greyhounds. This is available on the GRNZ website.

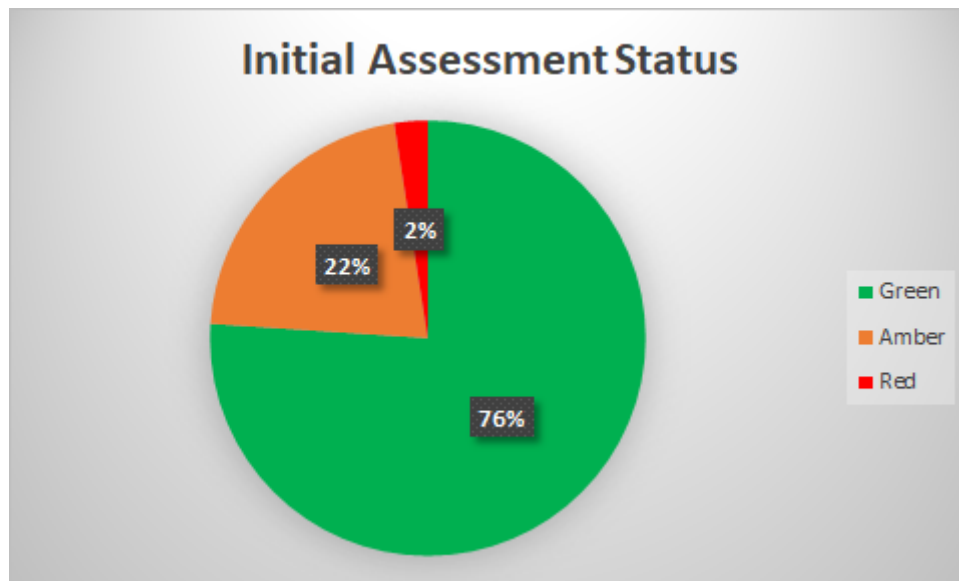
#### 5.2.2.1 Socialisation

The GRNZ socialisation policy is a critical part of ensuring the health and welfare of greyhounds is understood. The policy states:

*“Appropriate socialisation and environmental referencing are now accepted as being essential for good dog welfare. The acceptance of novel stimuli without fear, known as habituation, is most easily achieved in dogs prior to 8 weeks of age. Fear and anxiety due to insufficient or inappropriate socialisation is common and has been identified as a significant issue within the Australian and New Zealand greyhound racing industry; impacting both on racing ability and suitability for rehoming.”*

One way that GRNZ has been able to monitor the socialisation outcomes is through the greyhound assessment process on entrance to the Great Mates rehoming programme. When greyhounds enter the programme, they are assessed using the SAFER assessment tool from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. We operate on a “traffic light” system. When each greyhound is initially assessed, they are given a red, amber or green status. Red is for greyhounds who are needing to be given extra training, care and attention, amber is for greyhounds who are needing minimal extra training (but can be adopted), and green is for greyhounds who are ready to be adopted out immediately.

Our records show that for the season to date (1 August 2020 to 31 May 2021) less than 3% of the greyhounds were initially assessed as red. The vast majority of greyhounds are assessed as green. Green and amber greyhounds are available for adoption. The chart below shows the percentages for the assessments for the period 1 August 2020 to 31 May 2021:



### 5.2.3 Vaccinations

Both reviews made recommendations in relation to vaccinations. In response GRNZ implemented a Vaccination Policy in 2018 which was effective from 1 February 2019. The policy is clear on what vaccinations are required and when, and that proof of vaccinations must be provided to GRNZ on demand. Vaccination proof is required for a litter to be registered and also at 16 months of age when the greyhound is named and registered to race. This proof is sighted by GRNZ staff and copies taken for the greyhound records.

## 5.3 Population Management

The WHK review and Hansen Report focused on population management of greyhounds in the industry, from birth to retirement. The commentary and recommendations covered:

- Euthanasia
- Retirement
- Breeding
- Racing opportunities
- Record keeping and audits

Both reviews expressed concern about unacceptable rates of euthanasia, limited retirement opportunities, the overall population management including lack of breeding controls and poor record keeping. Changes which are detailed in the next sections, have been made to significantly reduce euthanasia, improve retirement opportunities and manage the overall population. We have also made changes to our processes and database to improve our tracking and accounting for greyhounds, and we now have confidence that our current records are up to date.

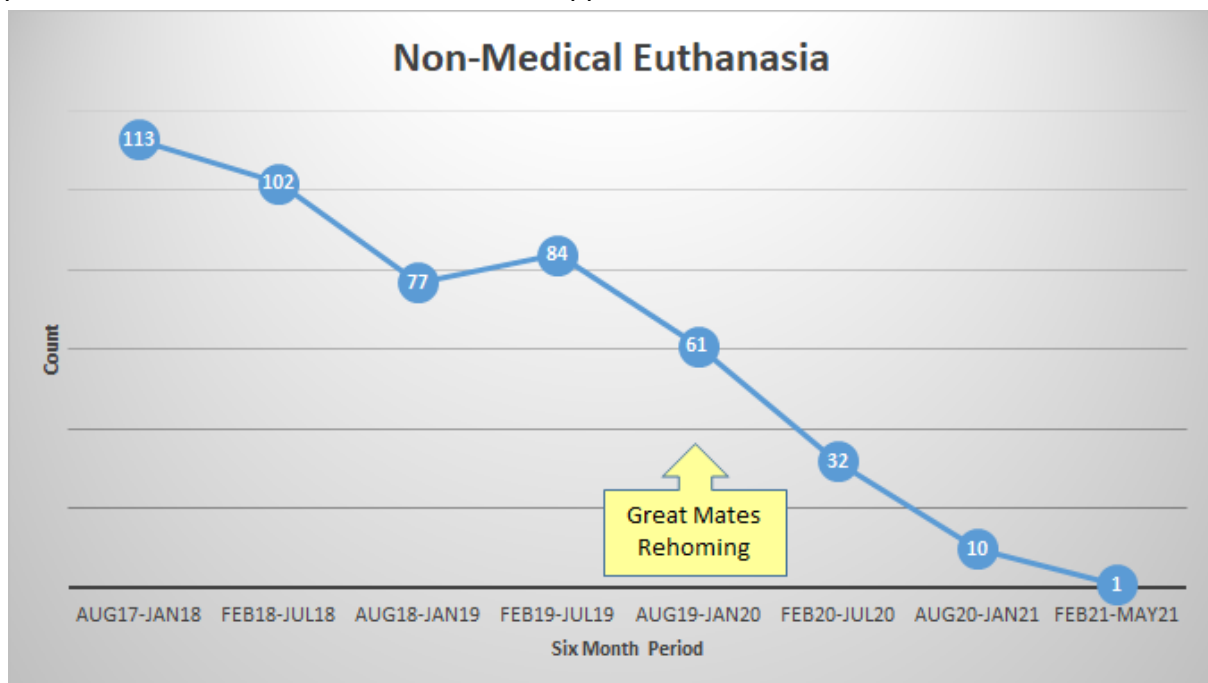
### 5.3.1 Euthanasia

Both the WHK review and Hansen Report rightly highlighted concerns about the number of euthanisations of greyhounds in the sport. The Hansen Report stated that steps taken after the WHK review did not substantially reduce euthanasia or improve record keeping. Subsequent to the Hansen Report, GRNZ has made considerable progress in this area.

#### 5.3.1.1 Euthanasia Instead of Rehoming

In past years, the biggest and arguably most deserved criticism of GRNZ was the euthanasia of dogs simply because that were considered by their owners to be too slow to be competitive. Prior to 2018, every six months over 100 dogs were put down for this reason.

In August 2019, GRNZ's Great Mates Rehoming became fully operational and with this in place, such euthanisations have all but disappeared.



#### 5.3.1.2 Track Injuries Resulting in Euthanasia

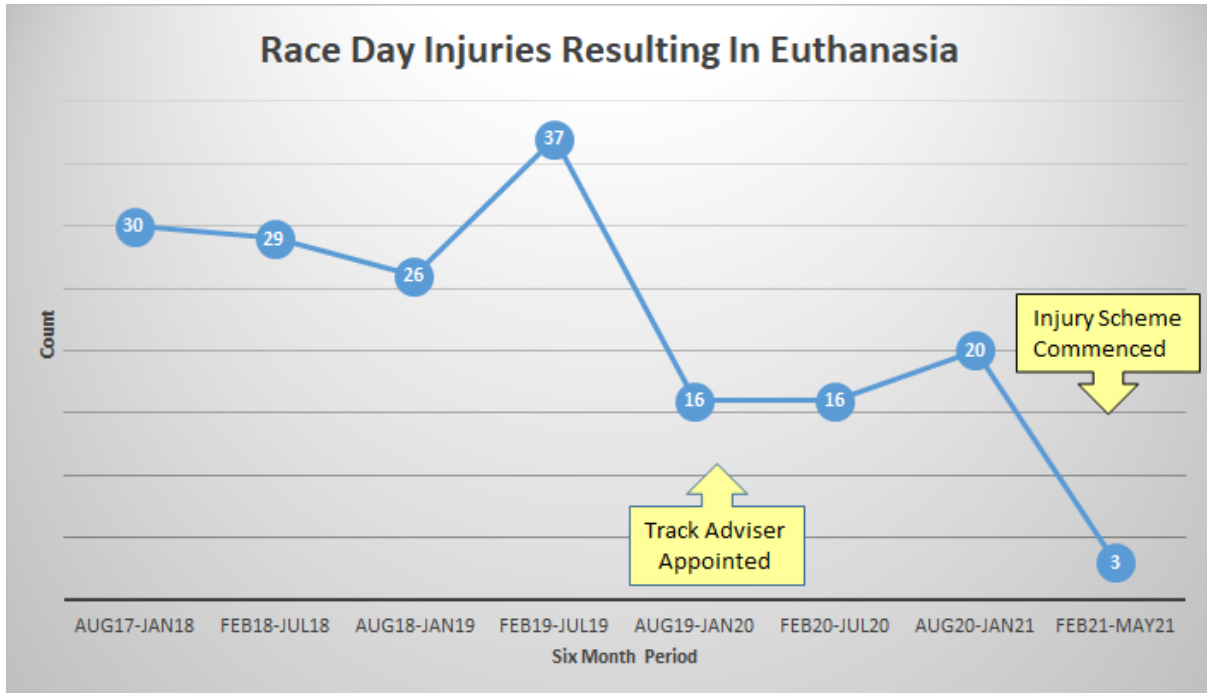
GRNZ wants to eliminate euthanasia resulting from race day injuries. This goal drives initiatives around track safety, research, and the injury scheme.

GRNZ appointed a Track Adviser in October 2019 to oversee the safe preparation of our seven racing surfaces. He immediately made a number of recommendations and changes including the manufacture and deployment of new track groomers.

By the end of the 2019/20 racing season, his impact reduced euthanasia due to raceday injury by 40%. This reduction, together with the advice from trainers who were adamant that euthanasia should not have happened for many of the raceday injuries saw GRNZ introduce an injury scheme in January 2021.

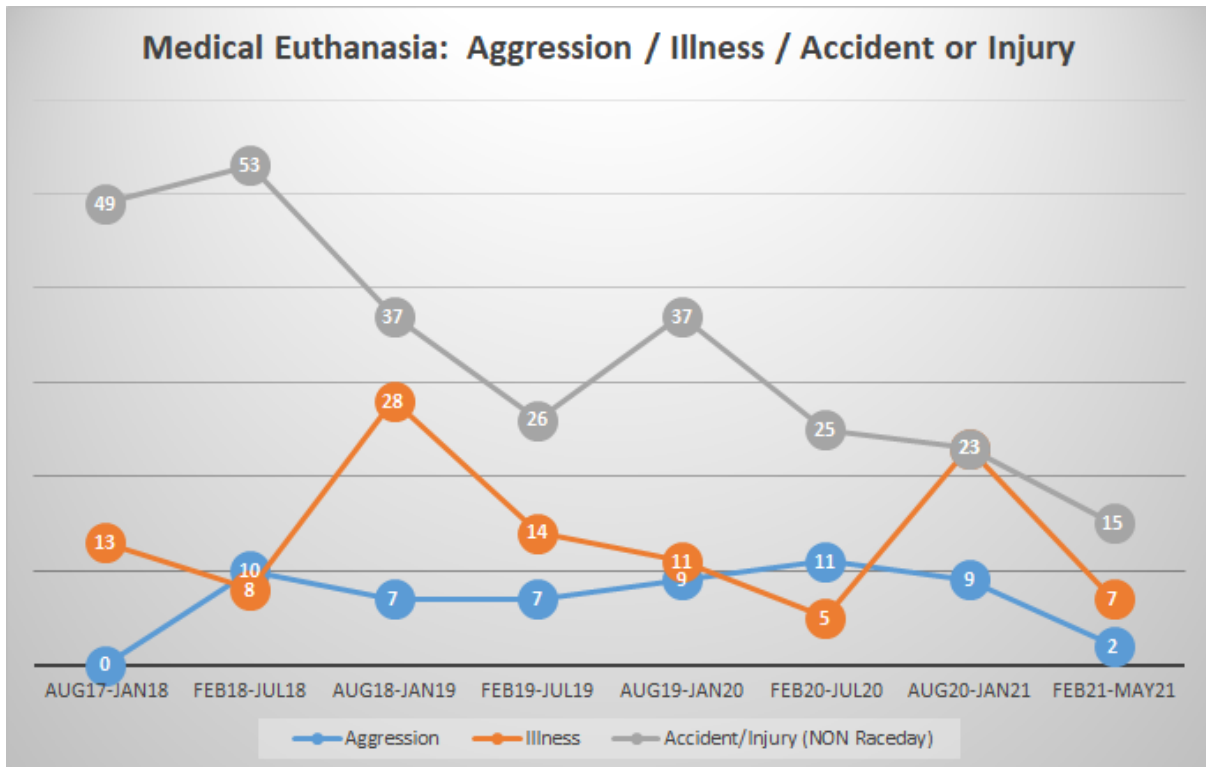
The scheme saw GRNZ take responsibility for the treatment and rehabilitation of raceday injuries that otherwise may have resulted in euthanasia. As expected it proved to be an instant success and was immediately expanded to include injuries during official trials.

In the four months since the start of the scheme there have been three dogs put down on raceday, whereas pre-Hansen that number would have been twenty.



### 5.3.1.3 Medical Euthanasia

The trend in the number of medical euthanasias for 'Aggression', 'Illness' or 'Accident/Injury' outside of raceday, are also trending well and GRNZ believe would be similar to other dog populations of similar size. It is difficult to find comparative data in New Zealand.



#### 5.3.1.4 Rules and Record Keeping

In addition to the steps described above to reduce euthanasia, GRNZ has also:

- Included in the Rules of Racing, the Health and Welfare Standards, the Veterinary Certificate of Death Policy and the On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines regarding the expectations around the process and documentation required if a greyhound dies or is euthanised. This includes the requirements that euthanasia is only acceptable as a last resort and can only be done by a vet, unless it is an emergency.
- Required vets to document the reason a greyhound was euthanised on the Certificate of Death. This information is recorded in the database.
- Publicly reported every euthanasia at a race meeting in the Stewards Report on the GRNZ website.
- Ensured the reasons recorded in the database relating to euthanasia or the death of a greyhound carry a full explanation so that reports can identify reasons such as illness, injury, accident or dangerous dog as well as if euthanasia was recommended by a vet, and who has made the euthanasiation request.
- Improved reporting so that the information on the veterinary certificate of death is included in the relevant reports.

#### 5.3.2 Retirement

Most greyhounds on retirement from their racing career are retired to become a pet. The information in the next two sections covers the rehoming programme and the wider deregistration (retirement) process.

### 5.3.2.1 Rehoming Programme

The review and improvements to the rehoming programme was by far the most significant outcome from the Hansen Report.

The Hansen Report was concerned, based on the trends at the time, that GRNZ would fall well short of the target of 500 adoptions per year recommended in the WHK report. This concern was based on the assumption that the rehoming model at that time which used GAP and Nightrave would continue. As described below, GRNZ invested substantially in a new rehoming model which has seen 600 greyhounds adopted through the rehoming programme in the period 1 May 2020 to 31 May 2021.

Recommendations from the Hansen Report included that a stronger emphasis on rehoming was needed as well as better tracking of deregistered (retired) greyhounds. In 2018, our GRNZ “Great Mates” rehoming programme (“rehoming programme”) was born.

GRNZ wanted to ensure it took responsibility for each greyhound and increased its rehoming efforts without putting too much of a strain on our adoption partners, who at the time, were doing both the preparation for each greyhound as well as the adoption for each greyhound.

The concept for Great Mates was simple: GRNZ would take on the preparation for each greyhound allowing our adoption partners to solely focus on adoptions, expand our kennel bases to increase our rehoming capacity, and create an easy-to-use online deregistration system for trainers to ensure each deregistered greyhound was accounted for. The programme was rolled out nationwide in August 2019.

As part of the programme GRNZ covers the cost of any veterinary requirements, desexing, teeth etc, as well as any specialist re-training that a retired greyhound may need prior to its allocation to a rehoming agency. GRNZ endeavours to meet any requirements our greyhounds may have in order to be rehomed successfully without any limit placed on cost or time taken. GRNZ has not euthanised any greyhounds in the Great Mates rehoming programme because of lack of economic resources or time limit.

The programme is supported by software for the management of the rehoming waiting list and the greyhounds in the rehoming kennels. This software is also used by our adoption agency partners. The software was implemented in May 2020.

For trainers, it is now ‘business as usual’ to retire their greyhounds to the Great Mates rehoming programme. We have been tracking the number of greyhounds that are euthanised at “owner or trainer request” and this number has reduced from 219 in the 2017/18 season (before the rehoming programme started) to 11 in the current season as of May 2021. Our goal is to have these euthanisations eliminated.

We have also appointed a Rehoming Manager who oversees the nationwide rehoming programme which includes three kennel facilities and their staff. This role includes managing the welfare and rehoming activities with the adoption agencies, vet practices and trainers.

Bringing the preparation for adoption back under GRNZ’s responsibility has enabled GRNZ to ensure the treatment/lifestyle and training is in line with best practice. It also enables us to consistently assess the dogs that enter the programme and identify any potential issues or problems quickly and efficiently and take remedial action immediately.

With the implementation of the rehoming software in May 2020 GRNZ has recorded the adoptions of greyhounds done by the adoption agency partners we work with. The table below shows the adoptions by agency for the current season to date (1 August 2020 to 31 May 2021) and the last 3 months of the previous season.

<b>Adoption Agency</b>	<b>1 August 2020 - 31 May 2021</b>	<b>1 May 2020 - 31 July 2020</b>
GAP	308	67
Nightrave	136	48
Mayhounds	23	2
KiwiKiwi Hounds	11	2
Great Mates direct adoption	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>120</b>

In total, 600 greyhounds have gone through the Great Mates programme and been adopted to forever homes in the period 1 May 2020 to 31 May 2021.

#### 5.3.2.2 Registration to deregistration (retirement) process

Greyhounds are registered in the GRNZ system within 14 days of the puppies being born (whelped) and remain registered until they are fully retired. Once the puppies are born, GRNZ Rules state that the breeder must, within 14 days, advise the number of puppies born, the sex of them, whelping date whether the birth was natural or caesarean, the vet, breeder and litter master, and if any of the puppies were stillborn.

Records are retained in the database of all greyhounds including those that have been fully deregistered. Trainers and owners of greyhounds are required to deregister their greyhounds at the end of their racing career or when they are no longer a broodbitch or stud dog. Any greyhounds that do not have a racing career are also required to be deregistered. The WHK review and Hansen Report both suggested that Rules, policies and enforcement of deregistration requirements were poor and that there were instances where greyhounds were not being properly deregistered.

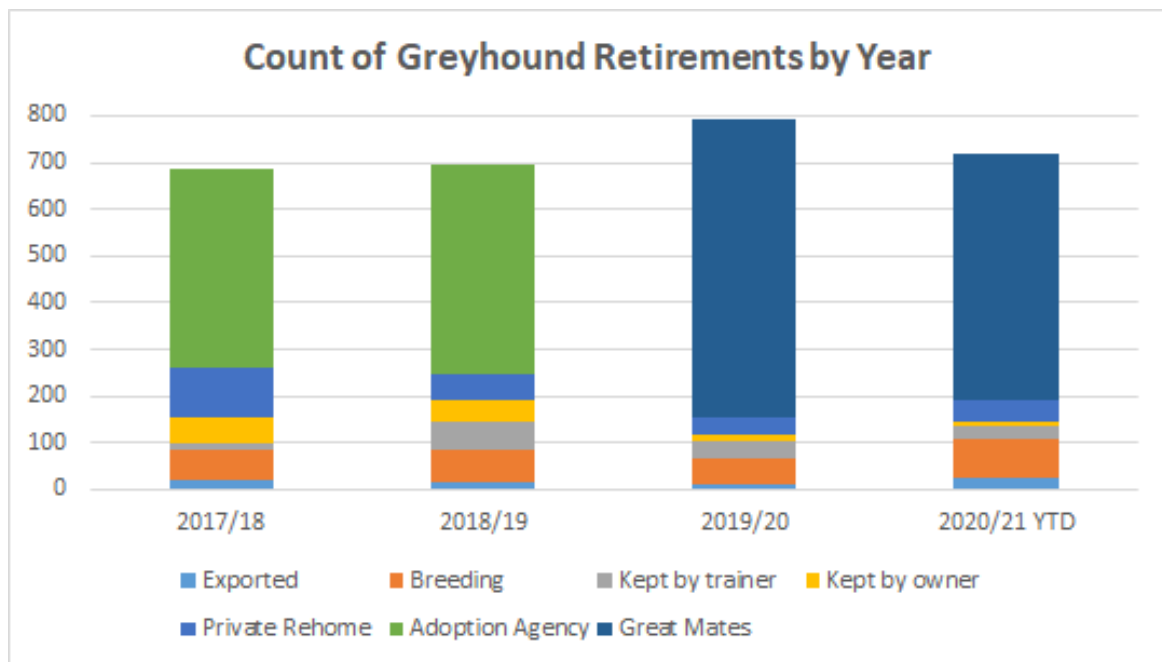
GRNZ has implemented recommendations relating to retirements from the two reports as follows:

- Deregistration Rules updated and enforced

- Follow-up on greyhounds that are registered but have not raced for a set period of time
- Registration as Stud Dog or Broodbitch added
- Reports identifying trends of the outcomes of greyhounds leaving the industry
- Verification check with owner of greyhounds privately rehomed
- Comprehensive animal status report for greyhounds whelped in a period of time which shows current status (e.g. retired as a pet), ownership, trialled and raced dates etc
- Ability for trainers to deregister greyhounds online which automatically updates the database - this includes being able to deregister unraced puppies and breeding stock
- All greyhounds that are retired from racing or breeding as a pet are desexed
- Significant changes to the rehoming programme, with GRNZ establishing three (soon to be four) rehoming centres. Detail about the rehoming programme is below

### 5.3.2.3 Retirement Data

The graph below shows the retirement data for the period 2017/18 to date (31 May 2021)



### 5.3.3 Breeding

In 2018 GRNZ established a separate register of breeding stock - this includes broodbitches and stud dogs. The “Registering a Breeding Female” policy was published on 1 August 2018 and amended 1 March 2019. The policy sets out that a breeding female (broodbitch) must be registered and the criteria for registration. The policy also sets out when a broodbitch becomes inactive, and under what circumstances approval may be given for her to have more than 3 litters, or be serviced over seven years of age. A broodbitch has a special registration card that must be provided on demand to the vet and/or stud master.

Changes to the GRNZ database were made to support the policy including:

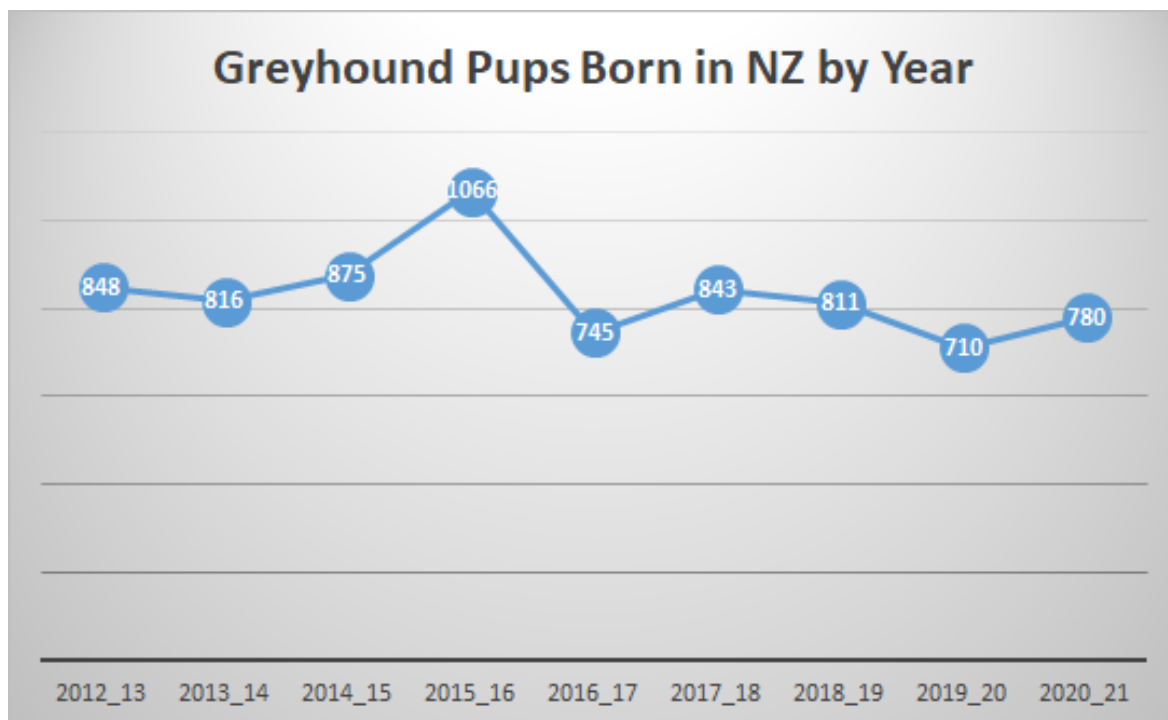


- A separate register of broodbitches and stud dogs
- Maintenance of broodbitch registration and deregistration
- Ensuring the breeder has the correct licences and automatic assigning of ownership of the puppies to the breeder at the time they are whelped
- Automatic maintenance of the broodbitch as active or inactive depending on criteria
- Recording the service method and whelping method in the database
- Information available in reports - e.g. whelping reports

A breeder can retire a broodbitch or stud dog as a pet when the time is ready.

These initiatives have supported the health and welfare of our broodbitches and assist in producing a managed and consistent breeding volume that fluctuates slightly but is otherwise aligned to the racing volumes and rehoming capacity.

Apart from 2016 where 1066 pups were born, the number of greyhounds born each season has been between 800 and 900 from 2013 through 2019. This matches the number of dogs required to maintain the industry at its current level. The capacity of the rehoming programme was scoped to cope with this number of dogs entering the industry.



As demonstrated in the graph above by the consistent number of pups born each year there is no basis for any suggestion of overbreeding. Also as seen on the Retirements by Year graph in the section above, breeding and retirement numbers are in balance.

GRNZ has oversight of every step of the breeding process and outcomes so we can react should breeding numbers vary from the current consistent trend.

GRNZ notes that the husbandry practices of our breeders have achieved a very low neonatal canine mortality rate compared with averages identified in the general dog population. Studies show that the neonatal mortality rate for puppies is between 15% and 20% in the general dog population<sup>1</sup>. Our data shows that the neonatal mortality rate of greyhound pups whelped is around 3% - this has been consistent over recent seasons.

### 5.3.4 Racing Opportunities

The consistent breeding numbers has allowed GRNZ to schedule a consistent volume of meetings in the racing calendar year on year. This calendar contains the flexibility to alter the number of races run at each meeting based on demand. This demand is quantified by the number of dogs nominated to race at any meeting.

Post the Hansen Report recommendation to increase racing opportunities, a number of 15 race cards were programmed to accommodate this. Post Covid there has been a significant reduction in dogs imported from Australia and the demand for additional races has fallen.

### 5.3.5 Record Keeping and Audits

Both the WHK review and the Hansen Report found that it was difficult to extract some data from the GRNZ database to obtain information about the greyhound population. This particularly related to whole of life tracking, and there were also findings such as no distinction in the database made between studmaster, litter master and breeder licences.

The reviews also noted that the RIU should use the kennel inspections to reconcile the database records with the dogs at the kennel, and there was a lack of follow up by GRNZ on exception reports of dogs not racing but not deregistered.

Recommendations from the reviews included:

- The GRNZ database should track all greyhounds from birth to adoption
- All dogs, not just racing dogs, must be tracked in the GRNZ database and kept in the care and control of a licensed person
- Improved database management and reporting

Significant progress has been made in improving the data in the database and ensuring that the reliable information is available to GRNZ staff, RIU and other stakeholders. This includes the separation of stud master, litter master and breeder licences as well as the changes detailed below.

GRNZ has started a project to upgrade its database from its current infrastructure. As part of this upgrade, changes have been made to data capture and reporting. GRNZ now has a dedicated inhouse IT resource who works with the software vendor and stakeholders to

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<sup>1</sup> Gill, MA. Perinatal and late neonatal mortality in the dog [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265355140\\_Perinatal\\_and\\_late\\_neonatal\\_mortality\\_in\\_the\\_dog](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265355140_Perinatal_and_late_neonatal_mortality_in_the_dog) ; Mugnier A, et al. Low and very low birth weight in puppies: definitions, risk factors and survival in a large-scale population, <https://bmcvetres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12917-020-02577-z> ; Mila H, et al. Monitoring of the newborn dog and prediction of neonatal mortality, May 2017, <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/preventive-veterinary-medicine>

ensure that the database is managed properly and enhancements to the system relating to welfare and reporting are done.

#### 5.3.5.1 Tracking of all Greyhounds

GRNZ maintains a register of greyhounds and we have continued to enhance the tracking of greyhounds from birth to adoption in our database. Greyhounds are recorded in our database within fourteen days of being born (whelped), and from that point on the records about them are constantly updated. This includes deregistration and adoption information.

GRNZ keeps records of current and historical owners, trainers, partnerships, breeders, lessees and custodians of the greyhound. We also send details about greyhounds and the trainers to the National Data Repository that is managed by Greyhounds Australasia.

GRNZ has continued to improve the tracking of greyhounds from birth to adoption in our database. In detail:

- In 2018 we made changes so that it was easier for trainers to deregister their greyhounds from racing by providing the capability to do this themselves online rather than filling in a paper form, though that is still an option for them.
- At any point, we can look up a greyhound and determine information about it - e.g. who its owner is, or which rehoming kennel it is currently at.
- From birth, GRNZ require a return of whelping form that details how many puppies and of what sex are born. This is required within 14 days of whelping and the information is recorded in the database. At this point the puppies are registered as an animal in the GRNZ database, have a unique identifier assigned to them and the owner is recorded against the puppy. Earbrand numbers are generated for the puppies in the litter so that when they are ear branded, the earbrander knows which IDs to use.
- Prior to 16 weeks of age the information in the database is updated with details on the colour of the greyhound, markings, its confirmed earbrand and microchip number. Records are also kept of the vaccinations.
- Puppies can be registered for naming prior to 16 months old. Names are approved by Greyhound Australasia. The information is updated in the GRNZ database. At any time after 16 months old the greyhound can be registered for racing.
- At all points along this process from birth to adoption, the GRNZ database is updated with the information and this information is available in a number of reports.
- GRNZ keeps records of current and historical owners, trainers, partnerships, breeders, lessees and custodians of the greyhound.
- When a greyhound is retired it can be retired as a pet, or retired for breeding (or exported). GRNZ keeps records of all of this information and records the details of the new owner if the greyhound is privately rehomed. Information is recorded and reported on that includes which adoption agency has rehomed the greyhound after it has been through the GRNZ rehoming programme.
- GRNZ maintains injury, euthanasia and circumstances of death information for each greyhound.

New Rules were introduced in August 2018 (Rule 85.1) to require that all dogs are kept in the care and control of a licensed person. GRNZ also has introduced the concept of a custodian and parent custodian - for example, if a trainer has retired a greyhound as a pet to the GRNZ Great Mates rehoming programme, while the dog is on the waiting list and still living with the trainer, the trainer is classed as the Custodian of the dog (as they aren't training it anymore).

When the dog goes to the Great Mates kennel facility, the kennel is listed as the parent custodian and if it changes location (e.g. goes to a different Great Mates kennel) the changed kennel is listed as the custodian. The managers of the GRNZ Great Mates rehoming kennels are licensed people.

### 5.3.5.2 Audits and Follow up of Greyhounds

GRNZ has continued to improve its capability to track greyhounds through their career and to retirement. A new audit report has been developed that simply lists all greyhounds born in a season and then reports on the current status of each of them.

Summary output from this report covering the last five seasons is shown below. The report shows that the total number of dogs born, balances with the total number of dogs whose current status is listed. Both totals are highlighted in yellow.

To ensure that the status of dogs is up to date, every six months an audit is carried out on dogs with the default status of "Racing Dog & Young Dog", if they did not race in that period.

#### GREYHOUND AUDIT BY BREEDING SEASON @31 May 2021

Dogs Born / Imported	2016_17	2017_18	2018_19	2019_20	2020_21
NZ	745	843	811	710	780
AUS	148	128	81	12	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>780</b>

#### Current Status

Racing Dogs & Young Dogs	234	532	707	678	771
Retired for Breeding	36	13	2	0	0
Retired as Pets	392	232	92	14	0
Exported	6	4	5	0	0
Died	38	58	41	22	6
Euthanised	187	132	45	8	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>780</b>

#### Died/Euthanised Under the Age of

4 months	12	28	25	20	8
% of Births	1.6%	3.3%	3.1%	2.8%	1.6%
1 year	26	47	40	22	9
% of Births	3.5%	5.6%	4.9%	3.1%	1.2%

These Audits commenced in March 2021 and have been instrumental in validating GRNZ tracking data.

The box at the bottom of the audit summary shows the mortality rate for pups under the age of 4 months (in red) and 1 year (in black). As stated in the section on breeding these rates are much lower than the researched rates of other dog breeds in New Zealand.

GRNZ also made changes to the database to provide information to the RIU about licensed persons and greyhounds which assists with the kennel inspections. For example, they access a report from the database which shows all the information about the trainer, including their current and historical licences, judicial information and every greyhound currently owned, trained or administered by them that should be on the property they are inspecting. This includes puppies. The RIU are able to enter the microchip of a dog they have scanned into the database to find out the details, including ownership, of the greyhound.

## 5.4 Safety

GRNZ is investing in improving track safety to reduce track injuries. As noted in the 30 April 2021 report to the Minister for Racing, GRNZ has appointed an experienced Track Advisor responsible for overseeing the track curators at each track with a mandate to improve track safety.

A number of initial recommendations have already been identified and actioned, including the building of six track groomers, modifying the roll out of extended arm lures and establishing best practice schedules for track preparation and maintenance. Further recommendations will continue to be identified and actioned across all greyhound racing tracks.

Track Curator contracts for each racing club are in the process of being renegotiated to include an obligation for the Track Curator to prepare the track in line with the requirements of the GRNZ Track Advisor.

Where track surfaces are deemed unsafe to race on, both GRNZ and the RIU are taking immediate action to either cancel racing prior to the meeting or in the case of damage during racing cancel immediately. Racing does not restart until the track condition has been approved as safe. The current season has demonstrated that GRNZ and RIU have enforced this action.

GRNZ has engaged with a track and sand expert to assess the sand properties across the greyhound tracks. Sand is a critical factor in ensuring track injuries are minimised. As a result the recommendation to completely replace the racing surface at one track in order to reduce race day injuries has recently been implemented. GRNZ will maintain this initiative to continue to assess each of the track surfaces and take necessary action when recommended.

### 5.4.1 Whanganui Track

Earlier this year we had specific track issues in Whanganui. A number of actions have been taken including:

- New track preparation equipment and training in its use has been supplied to Whanganui
- A new staff member has been promoted to lead the track preparation
- The GRNZ Track Advisor continues to monitor the maintenance of the track
- Track Penetrometer readings are in line with the parameters set by the Track Advisor
- The issues at Whanganui were the catalyst to renegotiate the track curator contracts requiring them to carry out the instructions of the GRNZ track advisor as noted in section 5.4 above.
- The race injury scheme as noted in section 5.3.1.2 above has been introduced earlier this year to Whanganui and all other NZ tracks.

### 5.4.2 Pre and Post-Race Injury and Illness Management

At a race meeting, every greyhound is examined by a vet before the race to check that it is fit to compete, and not in season. Greyhounds are also checked for illness, skin conditions and parasites. Greyhounds with illnesses or other conditions are immediately removed from the track kennels and are not allowed to race. They are stood down for a period of time and in some circumstances require a vet certificate in order to be able to resume racing.

Greyhounds that the RIU suspect have sustained an injury in a race are directed to undergo an inspection by the vet after the race. A certificate of incapacitation may be issued which stipulates the time period that the greyhound cannot be raced - i.e. stood down. At the end of the stand down period, a greyhound must meet fitness and other criteria before being allowed to resume racing. GRNZ's computer system will not allow a greyhound that is stood down from being nominated to take part in a race.

All stand downs of greyhounds are publicly reported on the GRNZ website.

These rules and their application mean that greyhounds are fit and healthy when they race - they are not allowed to compete when injured, in season or ill.

GRNZ are aware that not all working dogs have the benefit of being examined by a vet every time they 'go to work' and that many working dogs carry injuries and skin conditions, and suffer from chronic or inherited disorders. A recent study<sup>2</sup> into NZ farm dogs reported that clinical abnormalities were found in 74% of the dogs studied. Common abnormalities involved the musculoskeletal system (43%, 273 of 641), skin (including scars and callouses; 42%, 272 of 641), and oral cavity (including worn and broken teeth; 35%, 227 of 641). The study results expanded on earlier studies and indicate that musculoskeletal illness and injury, and skin trauma are the most commonly seen clinical abnormalities in working farm dogs.

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<sup>2</sup> Isaksen al. TeamMate: a longitudinal study of New Zealand working farm dogs. 1. Methods, population characteristics and health on enrolment <https://bmcvetres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12917-020-2273-2> February 2020

What is evident from this study is that these dogs were all still working on the farm, and may be expected to work while carrying these injuries.

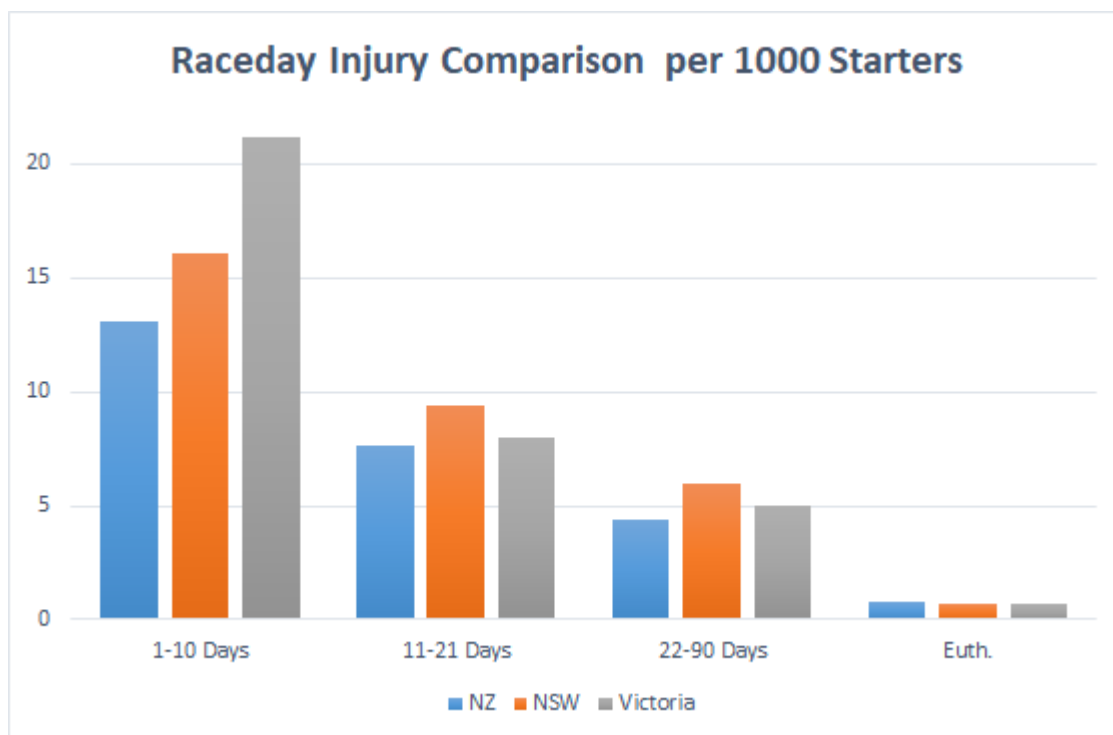
GRNZ have put in place a system to prevent this from occurring in racing.

### 5.4.3 Raceday Injury Data

Each racing season, Greyhounds Australasia compiles injury data from all members. The table below reports this data from the 2019\_20 season and shows New Zealand's injury rates are comparable with those in NSW and Victoria. The table also shows that around half of all injuries are for superficial injuries that incur a stand down of up to 10 days.

The stewards across Australia and New Zealand have a consistent approach to injuries and stand downs imposed. The stand down time reflects the likely recuperation period. The guidelines used by the stewards and vets that correlate to the stand down days in the chart are:

- 1 - 10 days Typically mild muscle soreness or other minor injuries
- 11 - 21 days Typically lacerations, sprains and muscle injuries
- 22 - 90 days Typically more significant muscle tears, fractures or other injuries



## 6 Areas in which Welfare Reform has Stalled or Regressed or where new Issues have Emerged

### 6.1 Licensed Person Training and Education

A key area that now needs to be addressed is the formal training and education of the licensed people in the industry. Currently, Licensed People generally progress 'through the ranks' rising from being a Handler, to Owner/Trainer and then onto being a Public Trainer if desired. Certain standards, including inspection of premises by the RIU must be met before being licensed. They also have regular updates from veterinary welfare specialists and trends in both Australia and New Zealand.

At this stage GRNZ does not have a formal qualification and is looking at the potential of aligning with the training programmes in Australia or developing a formal training and education programme in New Zealand. In 2019 GRNZ approached NZQA providers with a view to developing qualifications within the New Zealand Qualifications Framework however this work has stalled. GRNZ will continue to work on the development of a training programme which is appropriate for its participants. At a high level we anticipate the training could cover:

- Business administration and management
- Workplace health and safety
- Communication
- Socialisation of greyhounds
- Greyhound body systems (skeletal, digestive, circulatory etc)
- Greyhound training to race
- Use of medications
- Prohibited substances and cross-contamination risks
- Rules of Racing

Our online communications and workshops we run covering these topics has revealed that there is definitely an appetite for this information.

### 6.2 Elderly Trainers

Care and welfare of pets owned by elderly people sometimes becomes an issue when they are struggling to look after them, or the owner dies. This is a societal problem and GRNZ has had two instances of this in the last twelve months. In these two cases, GRNZ worked with the RIU to uplift the greyhounds from the training facility. They were then assessed by the RIU vets and either placed into the rehoming programme or transferred to another trainer.

To date due to the communal nature of greyhound licensed persons we have been notified of the situation very early and have been able to ensure these dogs are uplifted and receive any treatment required. We are working through the two recent cases to ascertain if there is a system we can put in place to deal with this issue.



## 6.3 Extended Lure Arm

Australian data had shown that having the lure arm extend further out from the rail helped to reduce injuries by diminishing the tendency for chasing dogs to bunch together close to the rail.

The lures were commissioned to be designed and built in Christchurch where they were deployed to Addington Raceway in late 2019. Their next deployment to Cambridge and Manukau was not successful as the lure failed to work on the Northern tracks.

A Waikato company was then engaged to complete the Northern part of the project and their design should be ready to test at Cambridge trials in early June 2021.

## 6.4 Vaccinations

Although GRNZ requires proof of vaccination of greyhounds and the documentation that is sighted is maintained in our systems, further work to automate this process has stalled. A system has been scoped so that vaccinations are recorded directly in the database and linked to the eligibility of the greyhound to be nominated or for a broodbitch to be active. For example, a greyhound could not be nominated if its vaccinations were not up to date. We plan on progressing this in the first half of the new season.

## 6.5 Drug Testing

As noted in the report to the Minister for Racing, with the recent publicity in relation to a positive drug test in our sport it is important to provide some context on the RIU's processes and results to date. All drug testing is conducted by the RIU independent of GRNZ.

Testing Results provided by Racing Integrity Unit:

<b>Season</b>	<b>Tests</b>	<b>Positives</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
2018/19	3,721	8	0.21%
2019/20	3,127	0	0%
2020/21	2,521	3	0.12%
<b>3 year totals</b>	<b>9,369</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.12%</b>

One of the issues which arises in drug testing in both horse and dog racing is the ease with which environmental contamination can occur with chemicals such as methamphetamine and codeine.

There is no evidence here of administration of a prohibited substance for performance enhancement to date. Environmental factors have been indicated as the source of the contaminations.

An issue we are also aware of, and are educating our trainers about is the rise of topical application medicines such as Voltaren Emulgel and Ibuprofen dermal patches. As these are applied using hands, trainers need to be very aware of the risks of cross contamination if they have used these products on themselves.

## 7 Recommendations to further Improve the Welfare of Greyhounds

GRNZ works with vets, researchers and Australian counterparts to assist us in ensuring that greyhound welfare continues to be improved. Below are some of these initiatives.

### 7.1 Animal Health and Welfare Committee

Covid-19 saw the suspension of in-person meetings of the Animal Welfare Committee. Instead, during that time and for the last 12 months and ongoing, a weekly conference call has been held between the GRNZ CEO and the Chair and Chief Vet of the Committee. The recent focus of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee has been on ensuring that animal welfare is embedded in the culture of the sport. The relationship with the Chair and Chief Vet means we are able to obtain up to date expert advice for the health and wellbeing of the dogs.

Topics discussed and then shared with the trainers and owners were related mainly to injury prevention, disease control and management of highly infectious and/or transmittable diseases. The Chair of the committee and the Chief vet are also currently working with a Massey University PhD student doing a research project in relation to greyhounds injuries. A further study in relation to parasites and eye infections in greyhounds is in progress. Both these research projects are funded by GRNZ.

With the transition of the TAB and the independent structure of the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) we will continue these teleconferences and will reassess the ongoing structure and support we need once we understand the new animal welfare role of the new RIB and its priorities. GRNZ has a number of recommendations on the new role of the RIB, including as discussed with the Minister, the establishment of a dedicated animal welfare committee within the RIB and the employment of animal welfare inspectors.

### 7.2 Massey University Research into Racing Frequency and Injuries

GRNZ has supported Anna Palmer, a PhD candidate at Massey University who is studying training, racing and career longevity of racing greyhounds.

This research will be invaluable in guiding GRNZ policies on racing frequency and providing information to trainers on racing and their greyhounds' welfare. It will also inform track safety and veterinary practices. Several papers from the study have already been published, and Anna expects her PhD to be completed this year.

## 7.3 Track Design

GRNZ is in regular contact with Greyhounds Australasia's other partners and track design specialists so that we are able to access resources and research about optimum track design. This knowledge, together with analysis of our statistics will assist us with assessment of future track improvements in New Zealand to continue to reduce injuries.

## 7.4 Stopping Ear Branding

GRNZ cannot unilaterally stop using earbrands because of the identification data that is maintained between New Zealand and the Australian States about the greyhounds. GRNZ requires that a topical anaesthetic (numbing gel) is used on the ear prior to the ear branding being done. Technology advances in microchip reading has led to Greyhounds Australasia (of which GRNZ is a member) investigating stopping the practice of ear branding (tattooing) as a form of identification. If Greyhounds Australasia mandates the change then GRNZ will cease using earbrands.

## 7.5 Research into Nutritional Benefits

Adding calcium supplements to the diet of growing pups has been proven to be beneficial to bone strength in dogs, particularly those on a meat based diet.

GRNZ will consult with breeders to evaluate current practice and assist them with veterinary advice and access to supplement providers in an effort to ensure that we develop greyhounds with optimum bone strength.

# 8 Is a more fundamental Review of the Greyhound Industry Necessary?

GRNZ does not consider that a more fundamental review of the greyhound industry is necessary as:

- Following the Hansen Reports GRNZ has either developed new and/or updated all policies relating to animal welfare
- GRNZ has developed a structure which enables the implementation and monitoring of the adherence to both policies and best practice,
- GRNZ has upgraded data collection which has enabled regular auditing of GRNZ participants
- Records of euthanasia numbers are published in our annual report which is publicly available on our website
- The RIU stewards reports carry race by race injury data. These are publicly available on the GRNZ website.
- The establishment of the RIB Under the new legislation will bring an independent monitoring lens to the running of Greyhound Racing in New Zealand

Greyhound racing is one of the most transparent and regulated dog activities in New Zealand. In contrast to some animal industries or welfare entities in New Zealand, GRNZ publishes its injury, euthanasia and retirement numbers. GRNZ has demonstrated its progress against the WHK review and Hansen Report, and also reviews conducted by the [then] New Zealand Racing Board. GRNZ is committed to continuing to improve on the steps we have already taken on welfare of the greyhounds.

GRNZ are keen to continue productive relationships with regulators and will continue to report on health and welfare statistics and any other measures required by the Government. We are happy to continue to report on progress, new initiatives and agreed metrics

## 9 Summary

GRNZ acknowledges the importance of all organisations who have animals in their care being held to account. As a breed Greyhounds have been racing in New Zealand since the first greyhound clubs were founded in Southland in 1876. The first Waterloo Cup was run in 1879 near Oamaru.

In New Zealand and overseas there have been some anti-greyhound racing groups calling for a ban of Greyhound Racing. The focus of these groups was not on the racing itself but on the number of dogs euthanised if they didn't do well at the track. This issue was highlighted by the Hansen Report which GRNZ accepted and has taken effective action.

The current participants in Greyhound racing are extremely aware of the importance of their social licence, and have prioritised animal welfare. They have also taken action and invested heavily in the life and wellbeing of their dogs. Actions taken and the resulting changes are evidenced in this report including the major reduction in the number euthanised.

This submission contains information that not only evidences the changes implemented following the WHK and Hansen reviews but also demonstrates the success of these changes.

As in every sport and/or activity there will always be things that can be done better and we will continue to research, investigate and implement best practice. GRNZ are keen to continue productive relationships with regulators and to report on health and welfare statistics and any other measures required by the Government.

Our industry is determined to pursue world best standards of animal welfare because we know that is both the right thing to do and it is essential for the sustainability of the industry

### **NOTE**

Given your earlier advice to stay within the Terms of Reference as described in your correspondence we have not addressed the economic impact of greyhound racing on the racing industry and the greater community. Should you wish us to provide this detail we will be happy to supply.