



## **QUARTERLY GREYHOUND RACING HANSEN REPORT UPDATE (Quarter 8, February 2020)**

Please find below our eighth Quarterly Hansen Report which updates and outlines our progress and recommendations to date. The most significant outcome, is our re-homing program which is now fully operational. We have provided a summary of work to date and numbers of Greyhounds adopted this quarter. We anticipate that this will be our final quarterly update as all of our planned outputs are close to being fully operational.

### **RE-HOMING SUMMARY**

Rehoming and welfare is, and will remain, top priority in Greyhound Racing New Zealand's present and future. After substantial investment and a year's project development, GRNZ has officially launched The Great Mates Rehoming Program and we are operational across the country.

We designed and purchased a purpose built kennel base in Levin to be the heart of our rehoming programme, it is fully owned and operated by GRNZ and we are currently operating at a 43 kennel capacity with room to expand to 62 in the future. We also have two contracted satellite kennels, one in Rangiora (20 kennels) and one in Cambridge (18 kennels) to provide rehoming capabilities across the whole country.

This creates 81 spaces available at any one time, this does not include the dogs we have dogs in foster homes around the country and in the prison programme. The fostering network provides additional training and exposure for the dogs as well as increases our capacity and resources. This entire rehoming program is led and managed by a permanent full time Rehoming Manager employed by GRNZ to ensure the success in increasing our rehoming numbers, as well as full time kennel hands and a kennel manager for each site.

GRNZ have developed a new database, to ensure we accurately track every one of our greyhounds from birth, through their racing career and then their progress through the Great Mates Rehoming Programme. This is to ensure every greyhound is accounted for and given everything they need to be rehomed and therefore live a full and happy life.

On entry into the rehoming programme, Great Mates assesses each dog's rehoming requirements and then provides a fully comprehensive programme to prepare each greyhound with everything they need to transition from a racing career into a loving pet home.

Every greyhound receives a 'well-being package' which includes council registrations, vaccinations, a safer temperament assessment, a behaviour modification training plan developed by a trained behaviourist (if applicable), full veterinarian health check, dental scale and polish, additional dental work (if applicable), desexing, any additional medical

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They love to race.**

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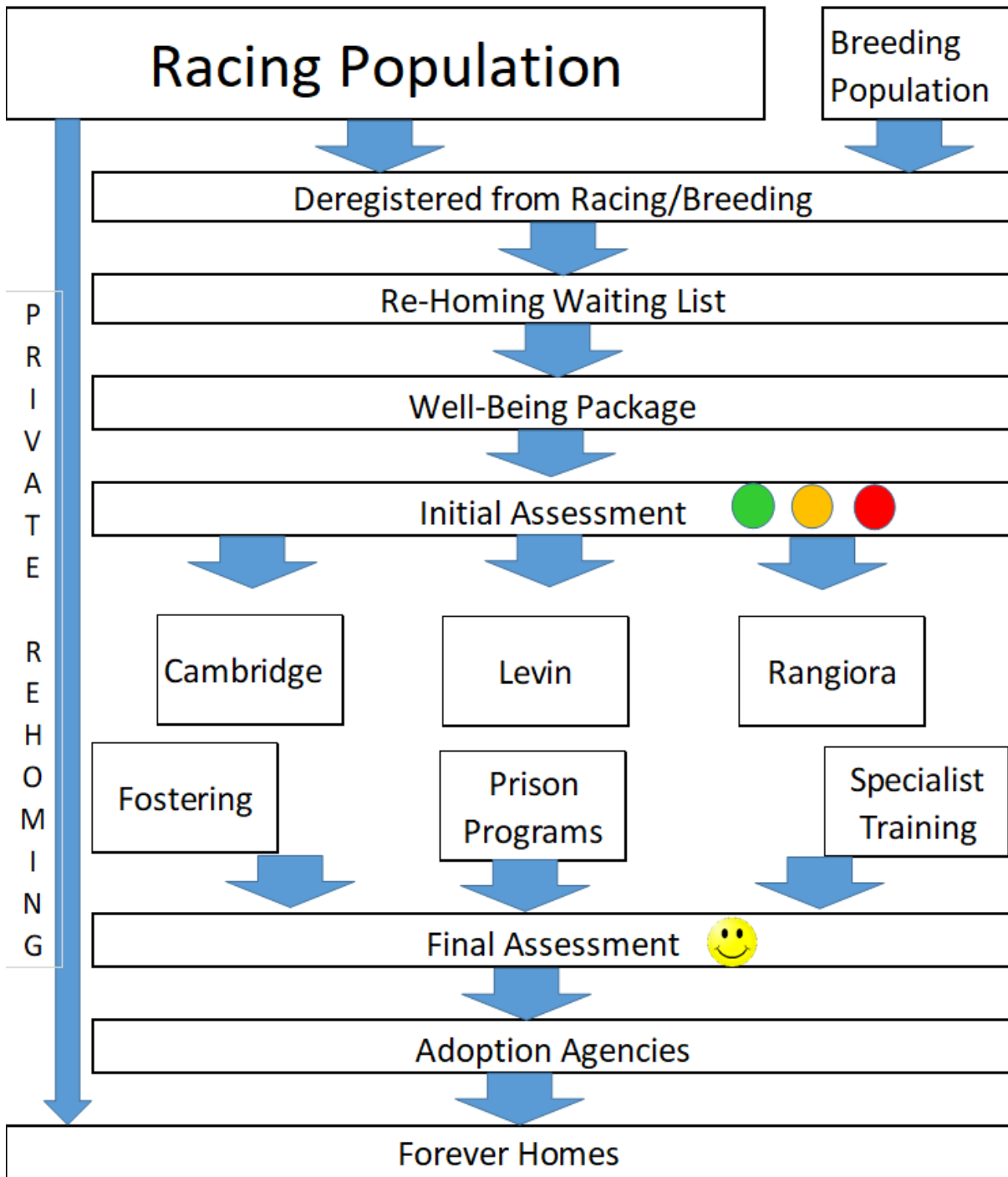
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needs addressed, all grooming, washing, nails etc plus advertising for a suitable family. GRNZ also supplies full care whilst going through this programme including bedding, toys, treats, daily exercise, food, medication and any other needs. This all occurs in our purpose built or contracted kennel bases. Once the greyhound has completed our full process and is ready for rehoming we make the dog available to adoption agencies to place into their forever homes.

We fully fund and work with numerous adoption agencies across the country and are in the process of recruiting even more to further extend our reach and continuously increase our rehoming numbers. Our rehoming agencies help match each greyhound into the most appropriate home for the individual greyhound's needs and then continue giving support to adopters during the transition. We also work hard on marketing the breed to the general public at events to bring breed awareness and increase interest in adopting one of our retired athletes.

GRNZ have also employed a new head of marketing who is helping to promote Great Mates and all the great work we do to increase the demand to adopt a greyhound . An all inclusive website is being developed as a one stop shop for all public Greyhound Adoption needs.

Diagram: Snapshot of the GRNZ Re-homing Process Now in place



## **Last Quarter Statistics**

### **November 1st - January 31st across all 3 Great Mates Rehoming Kennels**

In the last quarter there 112 greyhounds adopted through our rehoming program.

As of January 31 2020 there were 132 greyhounds on our waiting list, 107 under our care; 75 in rehoming centres 25 in foster homes (25) and 8 in the Prison program.

Unfortunately due to an accident, after running into a fence during exercise/play time, one greyhound in our care sustained a life-threatening injury and had to be euthanised on site by a vet.

NOTE: These figures only include greyhounds that have gone through the Great Mates Rehoming Program. In addition to this at the time of writing there have been another 73 greyhounds that were privately rehomed by trainers or owners.

## **PRISON PROGRAM SUMMARY**

GRNZ organised and fully funded 6 permanent & purpose designed kennels to be built on site at Rimutaka men's prison. We also set up movable living areas for 2 dogs in Arohata women's prison for the Great Mates Prison Programme. Over the the last year GRNZ have launched 2 Great Mates Prison Programme official intakes (after several successful pilot intakes) in Rimutaka Prison, and a pilot intake at Arohata in the self care units has commenced. A qualified veterinarian/trainer has been contracted by GRNZ to take the inmates through a Canine Good Basic's certificate twice a week for 8 weeks in both locations.

Once a greyhound has been through Great Mates, received their well-being package plus assessment and it is deemed they may need some additional intensive one on one training they will then be nominated to go through the prison programme to learn those additional social and life skills. This provides the extra training, resources and exposure not possible at the rehoming kennels so that these greyhounds become ready to be adopted after they complete the programme. It also increases our kennel capacity by 8 at any one time.

Naturally this is mutually beneficial for the inmates specially selected to take part in this programme. The inmates have reported that the impact the greyhounds have on them in this programme is invaluable. They learn compassion, empathy, care, to take instruction and responsibility/accountability for another living thing. The bond that is built between inmate and dog is life changing. There are plans to expand in the future as other prisons have expressed their interest in becoming part of the Great Mates Prison Programme after hearing of its success. We have also applied for the provincial growth fund to be able to launch in other prisons around the country.

## **RACE TRACK IMPROVEMENTS**

The Palmerston North greyhound track has been remodelled to change the 375m start point to 410m giving greyhounds a better flow into the first corner.

An extended arm lure, which keeps the greyhound's focus further out from the rail has been successfully implemented at Addington in Christchurch. Unfortunately the roll to Cambridge has been delayed due to insufficient power to propel the heavier lure. So the new lure is now being trialled at Manukau.

GRNZ appointed a Track Advisor in October last year to oversee and report on the preparation of safe and consistent racing surfaces across the country. He has already made recommendations to change the sand used at Manukau as well as recommending the manufacture of purpose built track groomers. Both recommendations have been actioned with the new sand in place for the Auckland Cup carnival and the first groomer to be operational in early March.

These changes together with greater emphasis on treating injuries has seen euthanasia due to racetrack injuries fall from 25 in the first six months of the last racing season to 16 so far this season. This equates to less than 0.8 greyhounds euthanized per 1000 starters. GRNZ will continue to work with clubs and the industry to bring this number down even further.

## **Conclusion**

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to write to the Minister and set out the real and meaningful steps our industry is taking in the welfare space.

As always, should the Minister wish, we are happy to attend his offices and speak to any of the matters contained in this update or wider issues of animal welfare in our sport.

We thank you for your time and support of the industry.

Yours faithfully,



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**Glenda Hughes**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Greyhound Racing New Zealand**