



GRNZ Response to RIB Ministerial Review

July 2023

Executive Summary

On 22 May 2023, GRNZ received a copy of the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) Report that was submitted to the Minister for Racing in December 2022. An accompanying March 2023 report prepared by the RIB on steps to be taken if the industry was to be closed down was also received at the same time.

GRNZ was disappointed with the December RIB report. GRNZ believes that some of the assessments in the RIB report are subjective and open to debate, and that the report we submitted to the Minister in December provides a more balanced and rational view of the state of the industry's animal welfare progress and the strategies underpinning this.

Importantly, the RIB assessments of GRNZ work progress were as at December 2022, and the strong progress made by GRNZ in a number of these areas over the last six months consequently invalidates some of the less favourable assessments. Notably, some of these work areas were always scheduled for conclusion following the end of the December report deadline.

However, there is little to be gained from relitigating these and other contentious points at this time. GRNZ's focus with this response is to constructively address the progress which has been made on the key items identified in the RIB report in the first half of 2023. GRNZ looks forward to continuing to demonstrate to the Minister for Racing the ongoing improvements we have made to greyhound welfare and our commitment to meeting the wider community's expectations of greyhound racing as an industry.

In this document, GRNZ will provide details around a number of areas where we have made, and continue to make, significant progress, including:

- Reducing Greyhound Euthanasia
- Reducing Injuries
- Licensed Persons Education
- Regulatory Framework
- Systems and Traceability

We have also included the 15 focus areas identified in the RIB December report, and we have re-assessed these areas as at 30 June 2023. We requested that the RIB do the same, and their re-assessment is also detailed in Appendix 1.

Pleasingly, the RIB agrees that much progress has been made since their December report, and we are nearly in total alignment with our June assessments, and even more pleasingly, the RIB no longer assesses any of the 15 focus areas as "slow" - with seven now assessed as "good" and eight now assessed as "adequate". Recommendations per the RIB report have and will continue to be addressed as a priority under GRNZ's work programme.

Animal welfare is fundamental to all of GRNZ's business activities. We are committed to continuous improvement and achieving best practice in greyhound welfare across all aspects of the industry to ensure we maintain our social licence to operate. This will be an ongoing focus, along with steps made to provide full transparency and accountability through enhanced reporting.

Reducing Greyhound Euthanasia

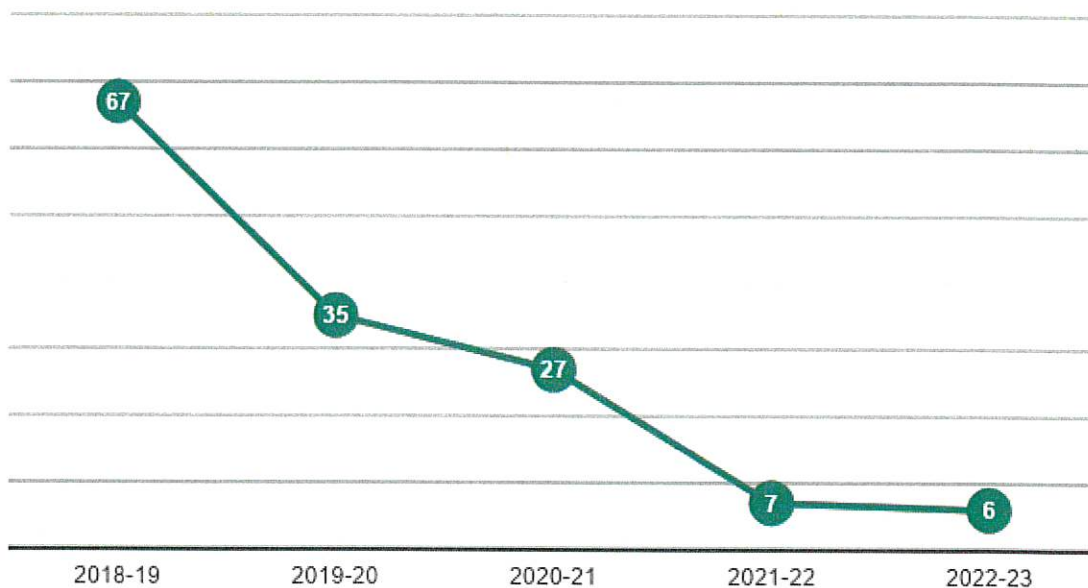
The RIB report accurately reports good progress in this area of concern for greyhound welfare.

Historically, unacceptably high levels of euthanasia of healthy greyhounds in our industry was the primary concern, and this was a significant focus of both the 2013 WHK Report and the 2017 Hansen Report.

In the 2015/16 racing season, there were 280 unnecessary euthanasias of healthy greyhounds. This figure gradually decreased in the following four years, before it dropped significantly to 10 in the 2020/21 season, and 0 in the 2021/22 racing season.

Raceday euthanasias have also vastly decreased in recent seasons, as demonstrated in the graph below, which is up to and including 30 June 2023.

GRNZ: Raceday Euthanasia due to Race Injury



These decreases are part of our strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring that every greyhound born in New Zealand or imported into New Zealand is able to enjoy its racing career and transition into a pet in a forever home. Some of our initiatives which have resulted in these significant improvements include the introduction of our GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme, our Rehabilitation to Rehoming (RTR) Programme, our Greyhound Euthanasia Policy and our Greyhound On-Track Euthanasia Guidelines.

Since the introduction of measures to reduce unnecessary euthanasia of healthy greyhounds, the greyhound racing industry has faced criticism that greyhounds are being transported off-track and treated "at all costs" in an attempt to artificially reduce euthanasia numbers at the expense of the welfare of injured greyhounds.

This is not the case. GRNZ financially supports treatment options and rehabilitation of greyhounds with fractures and injuries, in circumstances where private veterinarians provide a good prognosis for these dogs to live out the remainder of their lives as pets. The welfare of the greyhounds is paramount in all veterinary decision-making.

The RTR Programme operates under the supervision of treating veterinarians, with a comprehensive health sign-off process prior to their journey through the GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme.

Additionally, GRNZ has implemented a sub-committee of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee to make decisions regarding the ethical treatment or humane euthanasia of greyhounds within the RTR Programme or GRNZ Great Mates Rehoming Programme, who suffer further complications or require surgery, treatment or interventions. This ensures that all decisions are made considering the highest ethical and welfare-focused processes, and are able to withstand scrutiny.

Reducing Injuries

The RIB report assessed progress in injury reduction as slow.

The RIB reported that raceday injuries are increasing. The manner in which this data has been presented in their December report is misleading, in that it provides no context as to the type or severity of injuries, and the current data is not comparing “like with like” in its analysis over time. Detailed explanatory commentary is lacking in their report.

To highlight this, the RIB's separate report to the Minister in March 2023 reports on a disturbing increase in injuries requiring 42+ days stand down. What this failed to note is a fundamental change in veterinary classification of muscle injuries, which increased the stand down period for these injuries from 28 to 42 days. Accordingly, there was a corresponding decrease in 28-day injuries that was not noted for comparative purposes, nor the fact that 42+ day injuries increased due to the reclassification.

Similarly, over the last year, the RIB has increased the number of post-race veterinary inspections, and by adopting the new veterinary stand down guides, the number of stand downs in the 1 to 10-day category have increased, many of which are minor in nature.

GRNZ fully supports the increase in post-race veterinary inspections, and the cautious approach adopted in conjunction with GRNZ's Injury Reduction Strategy is proving effective in reducing the number of serious injuries.

However, to state that the total number of injuries is increasing, without providing the balanced narrative of how these factors are distorting annual comparisons, is unfairly prejudicial to the code and undermines our commitment to reducing serious injuries. GRNZ proposes that reporting into the future is focused on the KPIs to which GRNZ and the RIB agreed, with classifications of injuries and reporting timeframes agreed and harmonised between the two organisations.

GRNZ's Injury Reduction Strategy has three focus areas:

1. Reducing racing incidents;
2. Assessing and reducing injury risk factors; and
3. Improving track design and maintenance.

Further detail on respective initiatives under each area of this multifaceted programme is outlined in Appendix 1. GRNZ is encouraged by the reduction in serious injuries that this strategy is achieving (KPI: Injuries incurring stand downs of 22 days or more) over the last six months.

Following is a full analysis of injuries from racing for this season to up to and including 30 June 2023:

KPI INJURIES

2022/23		KPI INJURY COUNT & RATE	2021/22	
Count	per 1000	Season to 30 June	per 1000	Count
136	4.1	Major I 22-42 days	4.5	153
66	2.0	Major II more than 42 days	1.8	63
6	0.2	Euthanised by track vet or sudden death	0.2	7
208	6.26	KPI Injury Totals	6.52	223

GRNZ's Injury KPI for this season is to reduce the rate of Major I and above injuries (those resulting in stand downs of 22 days or more, or euthanasia) by 10% on the Benchmark rate of 7.02 per 1000 starts.

On 30 June 2023, the rate was 6.26 per 1000 starts, down 10.8% on Benchmark, so ahead of the KPI with one month to go.

As has previously been noted, the Covid border closure prevented GRNZ arranging on-track visits from Australian experts until Autumn 2022. As soon as practicable, GRNZ recruited our Australian-based Racing Infrastructure & Safety Manager who was able to initiate resurfacing work at Manukau, Addington and Wanganui from mid-December. It is worth noting that on 15 December 2022, our rate stood at 6.81, and has been running at 5.89 in the period since, which is 16.2% below Benchmark.

Further, the Injury KPI Benchmark was taken when Forbury Park, the track with the lowest injury rate, was still in operation. Had Forbury Park statistics been excluded, the Benchmark would have been 7.25, a figure that we are currently bettering by 13.6% season to date, and by 18.8% since mid-December.

MINOR INJURIES

2022/23		MINOR INJURY COUNT & RATE		2021/22	
Count	per 1000	Season to 30 June	per 1000	Count	
33	1.0	Superficial 1-3 days	0.0	1	
378	11.4	Minor 4-10 days	9.5	326	
184	5.5	Medium 11-21 days	5.5	189	
595	17.9	Minor Injury Totals	15.1	516	
1850		Examinations Cleared of Injury		1244	
2653	79.9	Total Post-Race Vet Examinations	58.0	1983	

This season has seen the RIB increase their rate of post-race veterinary examinations by 38%, from just under 60 examinations per 1000 starters to just under 80 per 1000 starters.

This additional screening has paid dividends, with 84 more minor injuries (incurring 1-10 day stand downs) being detected than in the same period last year. Included in this are 33 superficial injuries (less than four days stand down) - compared with just one at the same time last season.

Detection of these injuries leads to appropriate treatment and rest, thus preventing them from potentially developing into something more serious.

Minimising injuries will continue to be an ongoing focus for the GRNZ and the industry. GRNZ is confident that the initiatives taken over the last six months will continue to deliver real and discernible improvements in serious injury outcomes in future racing seasons.

As we are on track to achieve the KPI result of a 10% reduction against Benchmark, GRNZ considers current progress in this area to be adequate. We look forward to achieving a good assessment in the near future.

Licensed Persons Education

The December RIB report assessed progress in this area as slow, notwithstanding the fact that as part of the joint RIB work plan which commenced in 2022, GRNZ had always committed to the roll-out of a continuous professional development education programme at 2023/24 licence renewal time both for new participants and existing licence holders.

This has now been introduced and implemented. It comprises online education modules based on animal welfare rules, standards and policies, that Licensed Persons (LPs) are required to undertake in order to be relicensed for the 2023/24 season. All trainers and breeders are required to complete the modules, with a view to expanding this to other licence category holders in future years.

Prior to launching the programme, GRNZ engaged with a focus group of LPs, the Animal Health and

Welfare Committee, the RIB and the GRNZ Board for feedback, which helped to fine-tune the structure and content of the final education modules.

The constructive support and embracing of the need for this from LPs has been hugely encouraging. The development of this framework will also provide a great platform for further enhancement in subsequent seasons.

GRNZ is the first racing controlling body in Australasia to introduce this as a requirement of licence holders as a condition of relicensing, demonstrating our commitment to uplifting standards within our industry. The equine codes in NZ and various Australian state greyhound controlling bodies have enquired on the approach adopted and expressed an interest in utilising the GRNZ programme in the future.

GRNZ has additionally embarked on further educational resource development to support the implementation and understanding of the new GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards, including templates and fact sheets on completing the Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment Plan.

We have committed to further engagement with the industry by providing updates in welfare focus areas, including track safety and injury reduction initiatives, via bi-annual face-to-face roadshows with LPs. We will also be distributing a GRNZ Kennel Handbook to industry participants in the next quarter, which will contain a series of key templates and fact sheets, along with the full GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards.

The RIB is now supportive that our progress in this area can now be reclassified as "good".

Regulatory Framework

The December RIB report assessed progress in the area of Rules, Standards, and Policies as slow. Since then, GRNZ has introduced and implemented two new key governing documents, which are both primary subjects of the continuous professional development education programme.

The new GRNZ Rules of Racing came into effect on 1 February 2023, following an extensive consultation period with key stakeholders. This was a large project, with GRNZ working strenuously to have the new GRNZ Rules of Racing approved by 1 December 2022. These rule changes prioritised animal welfare.

GRNZ considers the RIB assessment of "slow" progress in this area as over-critical, when they were afforded every opportunity to consult and engage in this process. By comparison, the process for the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) rule changes to be adopted by Australian jurisdictions took over 24 months.

A key change to the Rules is that they apply to all greyhounds within the industry, including puppies, racing greyhounds and pet greyhounds retired within the industry. The effect of this is that pet greyhounds living at registered addresses are also subject to the requirements of the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards and the GRNZ Rules of Racing, meaning, among other things, that they must have up-to-date vaccinations and live in housing which meets the requirements of the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards. It also means that pet greyhounds are now inspected during RIB kennel audits for both welfare and traceability purposes.

The new Rules of Racing are largely in line with the revamped GA Rules. However, in some places, our Rules go further, especially with regards to animal welfare. For example:

- The Rule requiring all greyhounds to be ear branded has been removed from the new Rules of Racing.
- Rule 101A(1) requires a greyhound to be scratched where its weight varies by more than 4 percent from the weight recorded in its last event or satisfactory trial.
- Rule LR39A places limitations on frequency of racing; namely, a greyhound is only permitted to start in: (a) no more than a combined total of two races, satisfactory trials or event starts in any 7-day period; and (b) no more than a combined total of seven races, satisfactory trials or event starts in any 28-day period.

GRNZ has also made changes to its systems to support these rule changes. For example, RIB Stewards are provided with pre-race meeting reports which stipulate the minimum and maximum weights every greyhound may race at, according to the 4% rule. Additionally, the system prevents trainers from nominating greyhounds who breach LR39A, meaning that we are not relying on trainers to manually keep track of all of their greyhounds' race starts.

GRNZ is working closely with the RIB on Tranche 2 of the GRNZ Rules of Racing, whereby we are prioritising any rules which may need further amending. Included within this will be a review of RIB powers in conjunction with the RIB and equine codes. Any proposed rule amendments will follow the process outlined in the Constitution and the Racing Industry Act 2020.

The new GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards were initially planned to come into effect in early 2023. However, their implementation was delayed until 1 May 2023.

This delay was intentional. We wanted to avoid information overload to LPs and the missing of important changes which may have occurred had both regulatory instruments, being the new Rules and Welfare Standards, come into effect at the same time. Additionally, we wanted to provide all stakeholders, including the Animal Health and Welfare Committee, the RIB, the GRNZ Board, the Racing Committee, LPs and the SPCA, with the opportunity to provide meaningful feedback and to allow GRNZ sufficient time to fully evaluate all submissions.

Consequently, there were several iterations of the new GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards before the final version was approved. It is important to note that these Standards go beyond MPI requirements; we consider that doing the bare minimum is not enough in our industry.

Key focus areas include:

- Greyhound Health and Care
- Greyhound Housing and Training Facilities
- Exercise, Socialisation and Enrichment
- Greyhound Breeding Standards
- End of Career Management, Rehoming and Euthanasia
- Transporting Greyhounds within New Zealand

In the next quarter, all trainers will be sent the new GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards as part of a larger kennel handbook to aid with education and assist trainers with understanding their obligations under rules and policies. This will complement the continuous professional development education programme. GRNZ is confident that when full audits against the new GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards resume, LPs should understand what is required of them to comply.

Given that GRNZ has achieved the roll-out of contemporary new Rules of Racing and new Greyhound Welfare Standards promoting the highest standards of welfare and the provision of positive experiences for greyhounds, along with new welfare policies (including the Greyhound Euthanasia Policy, the Hot Weather Racing and Travel Policy and the RTR Policy), GRNZ is confident that progress in this area can now be assessed as good.

Systems and Traceability

Priority over the last few months has been afforded to system changes required to support the recent rule changes and new welfare standards. Key areas here have been the new weight variation and racing frequency rules, update of all registered addresses, administration of vaccination and microchipping requirements and support for the RIB kennel audits.

Increased automatic alerts have been established to update LPs on pending administration deadlines and requirements. Work has now been completed on GRNZ's data cleansing project, and GRNZ has created, in consultation with the RIB, two new reports for the RIB that they use during their kennel audits.

GRNZ has also engaged experienced racing administrator, Bill Colgan (former Acting CEO NZ Racing Board), to undertake an independent review of GRNZ's registration systems. Mr Colgan was the author of the 2013 WHK Report, which was the precursor to the 2017 Hansen Report, and consequently he has a good understanding of the issues involved and the need for robust, accurate and transparent systems. His review will provide further assurance and recommendations on GRNZ's recording and traceability of the greyhound population. His findings will be presented to the GRNZ Board at their August meeting.

Additionally, GRNZ is actively investigating options to electronically track greyhounds at all stages of their life cycles, and is looking to implement the eTrac system, which is currently utilised in New South Wales. GRNZ has approved in principle the adoption of this system, subject to final due diligence and the development of an implementation plan with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC).

Our new Rules of Racing have allowed GRNZ to expand the tracking of greyhounds, as greyhounds retired and rehomed within the industry are now subject to the Rules and Welfare Standards, and therefore must be accounted for during RIB kennel audits.

GRNZ is currently developing the use of Power BI to assist with reporting its data. This new capability will help create meaningful information, dashboards and reports to inform decisions in the future and monitor and track progress across KPIs. As this is very new technology for GRNZ, the first step is to bring staff up to speed with using Power BI, so that GRNZ can consider how to direct and prioritise its application.

Conclusion

GRNZ firmly believes that industry closure is not the appropriate course of action.

The Minister for Racing has often said that “the status quo is no longer an option.” We strongly contend that we are no longer operating under the status quo. Rather, we have made exponential progress in the areas of euthanasia, injuries, rules and regulations, track safety, animal welfare, systems, stakeholder engagement, transparency and education, in the last 18 months alone.

Our people have willingly come on the journey with us, as we strive towards world-class, best-practice animal welfare standards - and it is a journey which we will continue on.

Every year, we spend approximately \$15 million on prizemoney, and \$6 million on animal welfare, with both figures set to increase in the new season. These distribution levels exemplify our commitment to animal welfare, especially when compared with other codes who annually contribute in the vicinity of 1-2% of their total annual prizemoney to the cause.

Greyhound racing also receives significantly less in funding under the current tri-code funding agreement than it generates for TAB NZ/Entain. If the code was funded on a true performance-based percentage (which it will be seeking when this agreement is re-negotiated in 2024), it would be in an even better position to address animal welfare challenges.

Greyhound racing in New Zealand is a vital part of the New Zealand economy, contributing \$92.6m in GDP per annum, and providing direct full-time employment for 840 people. There is also a large volunteer base of 710 people.¹

Last season alone, the sport generated \$118 million of domestic turnover with TAB NZ, and a further \$145 million with Australian state TABs and \$349 million with other overseas bookmakers. Interestingly, greyhound racing contributed 21% of total TAB NZ turnover in 2021/22, compared to 62% for the thoroughbred code and 17% for harness.

The reality is, the racing greyhound is the most highly regulated canine in New Zealand. And under our new GRNZ Rules of Racing, retired greyhounds kept within the industry now also fall under this category.

We accept that ongoing monitoring is now a necessary reality of maintaining our social licence to operate, but we are confident that we can continue to demonstrate that greyhound racing deserves its place in modern-day New Zealand society. Industry closure would represent a risk to the welfare of all greyhounds in New Zealand and all those who derive an income from greyhound racing currently, in what is a strained economic environment where recovery may not be possible.

¹ 2018 IER Report on size and scope of the racing industry.

Appendix 1: Focus Areas as identified by the RIB


The RIB report identified 15 focus areas of the joint review work plan and summarised the industry's progress into three categories: Good, Adequate, Slow.


From GRNZ's perspective, some of the assessments in the RIB report fell short of duly acknowledging the progress as at December 2022, and future strategies GRNZ had put in place. Nevertheless, GRNZ is in a different position in June 2023 and is now able to demonstrate marked improvements in all areas assessed as slow.

Accordingly, this report addresses the 15 focus areas identified by the RIB and summarises developments and progress made by GRNZ since the RIB report was submitted. A self-assessment is then made by GRNZ into each area based on Good, Adequate and Slow categories.

GRNZ also asked the RIB to provide an updated assessment of the industry's progress in the 15 focus areas. Pleasingly, their updated assessments as at 20 June 2023 recognise the significant progress that has been made since their December report and are noted in the following tables.

PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE WELFARE OF GREYHOUNDS

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Population Management	Implement a model that accurately forecasts the number of greyhounds required to meet the needs of the industry and ensures the number of greyhounds bred and/or imported does not exceed those requirements.	Good	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>GRNZ continues to review future greyhound population trends and factors this into its dates and budgeting processes. Proactive contact with breeders by our Population Analyst has given GRNZ an understanding of future breeding plans. GRNZ has seen a decline in breeding levels, and anticipates that this will continue in the immediate future, largely due to uncertainty and a lack of confidence in the industry due to the ongoing Ministerial reviews.</p> <p>The Population Model developed and provided by the RIB has been of limited benefit to date. The model, as presented to GRNZ in April 2023, was a concept of the model, rather than the model itself. The model was updated to the end of the third quarter of the current season by the RIB in June. Further testing, trialling and tweaking is required before the model is operational and fundamental to GRNZ's population management going forward.</p> <p>Further development to take into account economic viability and increased automation are areas GRNZ looks forward to further developing in conjunction with the RIB.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT </p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Injuries	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise injuries to greyhounds.	Slow	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>GRNZ's Injury Reduction Strategy has three focus areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing racing incidents; 2. Assessing and reducing injury risk factors; and 3. Improving track design and maintenance <p>In terms of reducing racing incidents, expansion of Preferred Box Draw (PBD) racing continues to deliver encouraging results in reducing contact in races and the number of serious injuries. Up to 30 June 2023, 32.7% of races this season have been PBD races, with further expansion planned on 1 August 2023, whereby all sprint races (excepting feature races) at all venues will be PBD races. The rate of KPI injuries per 1000 starts in PBD sprints this season is 6.5, compared to 6.9 in random box draw sprints. The pending introduction of straight track racing (Wanganui in October 2023) is another key strategy to reduce racing incidents.</p> <p>The implementation of the new GRNZ Rules on 1 February 2023 took into account injury risk factors and sought to minimise these. Key areas here were increased restriction on the frequency a greyhound can race, and unacceptable (4%) weight variations between starts. The next key workstream in this area is the introduction of Return to Racing Guidelines in the next quarter.</p> <p>Presentation of consistent and acceptable track surfaces is crucial to providing a safer environment for racing. Significant progress has been made over the last six months, with the implementation of GRNZ's Racing Safety Strategic Plan - with a particular focus on track management and monitoring. The introduction of new Going Sticks to measure track consistency and water content has seen an increased focus on diagnostic data in the management of track surfaces. Increased liaison with track staff and working together is also delivering increased professionalism across the track network.</p> <p>The multifaceted approach GRNZ is taking to reducing injuries is delivering significantly improved results. Up to 30 June 2023, KPI injuries have reduced from 6.52 per 1000 starters in the 2021/22 season to 6.26 in the current season. Most of this improvement has occurred in the last four months, highlighting GRNZ's injury reduction strategies are delivering real and improved outcomes.</p> <p>Further detail on GRNZ's injury monitoring is outlined above in the section "Reducing Injuries". Minimising injuries will continue to be an ongoing focus for GRNZ and the industry.</p> <p>GRNZ contends that the assertion in the RIB report that non-raceday injuries are seldom reported is incorrect. Since the introduction of the RIB in July 2021, over 1000 non-raceday injuries have been reported up to 30 June 2023. This number also includes illnesses and incapacitation for being in season. These are advised to the RIB when scratching from engagements.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT </p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Euthanasia/ Deaths	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise unnecessary euthanasia.	Good	Good	Good
<p>The industry continues to embrace the principle that every greyhound has a life beyond racing. GRNZ's new Greyhound Euthanasia Policy, which came into effect in November 2022, outlines expectations of LPs, with potential breaches of this referred to the RIB for investigation and action. GRNZ's education programme further reinforces to LPs the requirements of the Policy and the process to be adopted in seeking approval for euthanasia on welfare or humane grounds.</p> <p>In the season to 30 June 2023, there have been six euthanasias due to a raceday injury, compared to seven for the same period in 2021/22 and 27 in 2020/21. Work in improving track standards, addressing injury risk factors and the ongoing merit of the RTR Programme are seen as key in this improved statistic in recent years.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Track Standards	Improve track safety to lower rates of death and injury. Provide a framework for standardising track infrastructure, maintenance and preparation via a data driven track diagnostic programme.	Slow	Good	Good
<p>See comments above in the "Injuries" section above. Considerable progress has been made over the last six months, with the recently appointed Racing Safety & Infrastructure Manager instrumental in driving increased standards and more proactive diagnostic management across the track network.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Rehoming	By ensuring supply and demand aligns with capacity and adoption of socialisation standards, greyhounds will be successfully rehomed.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate (with further details below on rating)

Over the last six months, adoption rates have slowed, representing an ongoing and increasing challenge for GRNZ and our adoption partners. This is consistent with that being experienced with other dog breeds, reflecting the challenging economic environment within New Zealand. As a result, waiting lists for the entry of deregistered dogs into our Great Mates Rehoming Programme have lengthened. GRNZ has extended its Great Mates kennel capacity to cater for some of the increased demand in this area.

GRNZ is applying additional resources to give greater emphasis to improving performance in this area, and has recently recruited a new Welfare Strategy & Operations Manager who will have responsibility for this area. Increased promotion, community engagement and coordinated strategies with adoption agencies are seen as crucial to improving performance in this area. This will be a major focus in the months ahead.

GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE; HOWEVER, WITH POTENTIAL TO DECLINE DUE TO ECONOMIC FACTORS, HENCE NEEDS ACTIVE AND PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT ●

STRENGTHEN GREYHOUND RACING GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Licensed Persons and Greyhound Registrations	GRNZ holds accurate registration data on all greyhounds, from birth to deregistration and these dogs are in the care of a competent licensed person.	Slow	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement

GRNZ continues to improve its systems to ensure traceability of greyhounds up to the point they are rehomed outside the industry. RIB kennel audits in 2023 report GRNZ system accuracy of 92% with racing dogs and 72% with non-racing dogs. This highlights improvement in LPs' compliance in notifying details to GRNZ and ensuring traceability of the greyhound population is materially accurate.

GRNZ is continually looking at steps to further improve its systems and processes. A full data cleanse process was undertaken in March/April 2023 to address system legacy issues. Two new reports for the RIB are now available to further assist the RIB in their kennel audits and provide assurance on traceability. In January 2023, system changes were made to automatically associate the littermaster to breeding females and puppies at the times of service registration and result of whelping.

GRNZ is also evaluating the merits of the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission's (GWIC) eTrac system, with a view to whole life traceability and the ability to know where registered greyhounds are at all times. A decision in principle has been made to implement this, subject to a full due diligence review, final cost details being determined with GWIC, and an implementation plan being developed.

GRNZ has also engaged experienced racing administrator Bill Colgan to undertake an independent review of our processes and provide recommendations on how controls can be strengthened and systems improved. This review is currently being undertaken, with a report due to the GRNZ Board meeting in August.

GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT ●

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Standards, Rules and Policies	By ensuring animal welfare policies, standards and rules are understood, fit for purpose and enforceable, greyhounds have a good quality of life.	Slow	Adequate	Good
<p>New Rules of Racing prioritising animal welfare were approved in December 2022 and implemented in February 2023. New Greyhound Welfare Standards were approved in March 2023 following extensive industry consultation, and took effect from May 2023. These place additional requirements on greyhound participants over and above the MPI Code of Welfare for Dogs under the Animal Welfare Act 1999.</p> <p>The new Rules of Racing provide for the enforcement of the new Greyhound Welfare Standards, with at least annual kennel audits undertaken by the RIB to ensure compliance and that greyhounds in licence holders' care are receiving a good quality of life.</p> <p>The mandatory education programme as part of 2023/24 relicensing in June/July is another effective tool to ensure all LPs are aware of their requirements and responsibilities.</p> <p>GRNZ and the RIB are currently reviewing Tranche 2 of the Rules, with future amendments unlikely to impact materially from a welfare perspective, since priority was given to welfare aspects in the Rules of Racing implemented on 1 February 2023.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Inform and Educate the Industry	Implement education programmes that ensure all licensed persons understand their obligations under the standards, rules and policies.	Slow	Good	Good
<p>GRNZ has introduced a compulsory continuous professional development education programme for all trainers and breeders as a condition of renewal of their 2023/24 licences. This is consistent with the work plan detailed to the Minister in December and is based on online modules that individuals review and then complete an online assessment. In 2023, the education module is based on key animal welfare requirements - further increasing participants' awareness of the rules, welfare standards, policies and rehoming requirements. Participants are required to complete this programme prior to 31 July 2023 in order to be relicensed for the next season. As at 30 June 2023, 10 individuals have not completed this process, highlighting a resounding overall response from LPs in undertaking this training.</p>				

GRNZ is the first racing authority in Australasia to introduce this as a requirement of all licence holders as a condition of relicensing. GRNZ sees our 2023 approach as great progress and will look to further develop and consolidate on this in future periods.

GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
GRNZ Information Systems	Ensure comprehensive, accurate and accessible data and insights are available to support transparent reporting and evidence-based policy development.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>See comments above re traceability. The potential introduction of the eTrac system would further improve GRNZ's systems and transition these to a modern, digital-based operating environment.</p> <p>GRNZ systems also provide for timely and accurate monitoring of injury data. All serious injuries continue to be reviewed by the Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC) to determine potential risk factors that are then taken into account in subsequent policy development. GRNZ adopts a fluid and proactive approach to change, based on meaningful data and insights.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Governance	An independent animal welfare committee ensures science-based advice, combined with strengthened animal welfare capability, drives a best practice animal welfare agenda.	Good	Good	Good
<p>The new independent Chair of the Animal Health & Welfare Committee (AHWC), Dr Allen Bryce, was appointed in January 2023. The AHWC meets bi-monthly to monitor and provide independent advice to the GRNZ Board on ongoing improvements that can be made to the industry's welfare programmes. The AHWC is currently looking to establish a forward work plan to bring a greater strategic focus to its operations as part of an ongoing improvement plan.</p> <p>SIRC continues to meet bi-monthly to review all serious injuries, trends and risk factors.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

INFLUENCE AND MONITOR PROGRESS AGAINST THE GREYHOUND REVIEW

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Kennel Standards	Through RIB kennel audits, ensure registered greyhounds are being kept and cared for according to required industry animal welfare standards and policies.	Good	Good	Good
<p>See comments above re systems traceability.</p> <p>New Greyhound Welfare Standards effective 1 May 2023 are what the RIB will measure future kennel audits against. These are now also supported by a regulatory regime in the new Rules of Racing to ensure timely compliance with addressing any resulting improvement notices. All registered addresses are subject to at least one RIB kennel audit per season.</p> <p>Trainers and breeders have also been reminded of their obligations and best practice through GRNZ's education programme.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Investigate and Adjudicate on Animal Welfare Breaches	Investigate compliance with the rules, policies and standards, ensuring there is a well-publicised complaints system so that people can speak out about non-compliance.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>The new Rules of Racing and revamped Greyhound Welfare Standards provide an appropriate framework for GRNZ administration and RIB enforcement of animal welfare requirements. Areas of concern or potential non-compliance are referred to the RIB for investigation as they arise. RIB kennel audits also provide a valuable assurance tool in maintaining appropriate industry standards, with any resulting improvement notices issued followed up and actioned.</p> <p>We note that the RIB continues to maintain an integrity hotline, where people can also make complaints where appropriate.</p> <p>GRNZ maintains a close and effective working relationship with the newly appointed RIB Animal Welfare team.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Information Management	GRNZ holds accurate, accessible information on greyhounds from whelping to retirement, that the public has confidence in.	Good	Good	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>Continued emphasis has been placed over the last two years on improving GRNZ's systems. See comments above re traceability, in particular the recent data cleanse project to improve the accuracy of GRNZ's data and also the potential adoption of GWIC's eTrac system.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
GRNZ/RIB Engagement	The RIB's clear communication of the standards for successful reform will provide a sound basis for (reporting progress and) future consideration of GRNZ's social licence to operate.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
<p>See comments below re stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>GRNZ continues to maintain constructive and effective working relationships with the RIB's racing and animal welfare staff from an operational perspective. While GRNZ has and continues to cooperate fully with the RIB review team, this Ministerial review role at times can compromise and undermine the ongoing operational relationship with the RIB as regulator.</p> <p>GRNZ accepts ongoing monitoring is likely to be an ongoing requirement for the code to maintain its social licence to operate. GRNZ has no issue with this, but strongly believes this should be the responsibility of another agency (e.g. the Ministry for Primary Industries) rather than the RIB, given the inherent conflict with the RIB's role as industry regulator and MPI's greater experience in this area.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: ADEQUATE, WITH ONGOING IMPROVEMENT ●</p>				

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment of Progress - Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - June 2023	GRNZ Assessment - June 2023
Stakeholder Engagement	By understanding stakeholders' engagement needs and with an unfailing commitment to transparency (of information), improve trust and confidence in the greyhound racing industry.	Adequate	Good	Good
<p>GRNZ continues to adopt complete transparency with the industry and wider public. Our December 2022 report to the Minister and 30 April 2023 quarterly report have been made available directly to LPs and the public through our website. Newsletter and advisory notes are distributed fortnightly-monthly to ensure LPs are fully informed of industry developments and news, along with regular social media updates. Improving communication to the industry is seen as crucial to maintaining confidence with participants, given the uncertain current environment.</p> <p>GRNZ has also introduced bi-annual regional forums with stakeholders, with these held in January 2023 at Cambridge, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Invercargill. The next round in September 2023 will focus on the Greyhound Welfare Standards, return to racing best practice, our Track Management Programme and an update relative to the Ministerial Review and other industry issues.</p> <p>GRNZ Assessment of Progress June 2023: GOOD ●</p>				

Appendix 2: Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

GRNZ KPIS - ANIMAL WELFARE

Category	Description	2022/23 YTD to 30 June 2023	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
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Background: GRNZ has implemented a Policy to ensure any euthanasia of registered greyhounds is carried out in line with GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy.

1	Euthanasia	No (zero) euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy	3	0	0	0
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 1: Two euthanasias for aggressive dogs, and one 12.8yo pet. Reasons were legitimate (emergency / elderly LP) in both aggression cases; however, were outside the policy in that GRNZ approval was not obtained prior to euthanasia. Investigated and LPs reminded of obligations.

Background: Reducing raceday injuries will be an ongoing focus for GRNZ through providing a world class racing environment. This will be enhanced through a number of new initiatives including track management, increased preferred box draw races, possible introduction of GPS technology to monitor racing incidents, and introduction of straight track racing.

2	Injuries	Reduce the number of injuries in races incurring stand downs of 22+ days. Measured as rate per 1,000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 7.02	6.26 per 1,000 starters = 10.8% reduction	10% reduction	15% reduction	20% reduction
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 2: NOTE: Our lowest injury track Forbury Park raced during the KPI Benchmark Season - without Forbury, the 2020/21 Benchmark would have been 7.25 which at 30 June we are bettering by 13.6%.

3	Injuries	Number of sprint races on straight tracks	0	96	390	702
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 3: With the expected opening of the Wanganui straight track being deferred to October due to construction delays, the 2022/23 target will not be met. Conservative approach being adopted to get this project right before introduction. Contractor delays with Cyclone Gabrielle impacted on construction in Autumn.

4	Injuries	Percent of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws	32.7%	25%	35%	40%
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 4: 1461 PBD races out of 4474 in total. From 11 July, all sprints at both Cambridge and Palmerston North will be PBD, with all sprints in the South Island PBD from 1 August (excepting features).

Category	Description	2022/23 YTD to 30 June 2023	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
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Background: GRNZ is to increase education of its trainers in relation to their obligations and best practice with animal welfare. Education will focus on increasing trainers' awareness and professionalism, with training being mandatory as a condition of licensing.

5 Education	Registered persons participate in GRNZ continuous professional development and animal welfare training as a condition of their licence renewal	94.63%	100%	100%	100%
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 5: Education programme launched on 14 June as a mandatory requirement for 23/24 relicensing. Very good response by LPs with only 10 individuals remaining to complete this programme by 31 July.

Background: An increased focus will be placed on GRNZ systems on knowing the status and location of registered greyhounds (up to adoption).

6 Traceability	GRNZ knows where all registered greyhounds are domiciled	Racing Dogs 92% Non-Racing 72%	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 85%	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 95%	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 100%
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 6: Results to date based on 73 RIB kennel audits. These provide an indicative measure of performance, noting that they reflect details at the time of the kennel visit and not overall industry compliance at a single point in time. GRNZ approval in principle (subject to final due diligence) to adopt the GWIC eTrac system will enhance traceability capabilities in the future.

Background: Ensuring dogs have a life after racing will be an ongoing focus with GRNZ rehoming schemes along with having effective working relationships with adoption agencies.

7 Rehoming	All retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion	77% within 90 days	85% within 90 days	90% within 60 days	95% within 60 days
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Commentary on status of welfare KPI 7: Calculated based on greyhounds adopted 1 Aug-30 June and their waiting time to get into Great Mates. This is a national average and individual centres will have varying lengths of waiting list times. Ongoing challenges around rehoming due to economical environmental factors impacting on adoption rates. Additional focus being directed to this area with appointment of new Welfare Strategy & Operations Manager.

Category	Description	2022/23 YTD to 30 June 2023	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target
8 Rehoming	Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of	212	150	175	200

Commentary on status of welfare KPI 8: 2022/23 target met with the current capacity of GRNZ kennels.