

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF RACING			
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent	<input type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine
Title	2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme - Racing Integrity Board update		
Date	14 September 2023	Ref	N/A

Recommendations

The Racing Integrity Board (RIB) recommends the Minister for Racing:

- a) **Note** Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) has updated the Greyhound Review Work Programme plan, covering July 2023 to January 2024.
- b) **Note** progress against areas of the work programme.
- c) **Note** GRNZ met 3 of its 8 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets for the 2022/23 racing season, with the KPI for injury reduction only 1 injury short of meeting the 10% reduction target.
- d) **Note** GRNZ's commitment to injury reduction initiatives, including implementing a Racing Safety Strategic Action Plan and development of a Return to Racing Fitness Policy.
- e) **Note** Rehoming is a key risk area for GRNZ, due to low adoption demand and an increasing number of greyhounds on the waiting list.
- f) **Agree** this briefing is shared with the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare).
- g) **Agree** this briefing is shared with Greyhound Racing New Zealand.

Minister's comments and signature

..... / / 2023

Hon Minister for Racing

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2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme – Racing Integrity Board update

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with an update on the 2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme and Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ's) progress since the last briefing.

Background

2. On 12 December 2022, the RIB submitted its Greyhound Review Final Report updating you on the work programme across a 15-month period, as requested by the Minister for Racing in September 2021.
3. In accordance with your letter of expectation on 26 January 2023, the RIB has continued to work with GRNZ on the work programme until a final decision is made by Cabinet.
4. As agreed, following your second letter on 12 June 2023, the RIB has continued to monitor GRNZ's progress at a level consistent with that undertaken in 2022.
5. This is the second briefing provided to you on the Greyhound Review programme (refer to briefing 14 April 2023) since the December RIB final report. This briefing provides an update on the 15 focus areas and GRNZ's progress against its 2022/23 KPIs.
6. During the 2022/23 work programme, GRNZ developed eight KPI measures against which progress has been monitored and included in this quarterly update to the Minister.
7. In GRNZ's FY2024 to FY2026 Statement of Intent, it signalled an intention to review its KPIs during the 2023/24 season.
8. GRNZ received a copy of the RIB's final report from you on 22 May 2023.
9. The next quarterly briefing will be provided in November 2023.

2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme

10. GRNZ has developed a programme work plan for the period July 2023 to January 2024.
11. Progress against the plan is being monitored through joint fortnightly meetings, with a deep dive into five of the 15 focus areas undertaken at each meeting. GRNZ and RIB Chief Executives (CEs) also meet on alternate fortnights as do the programme leads.
12. In June 2023, the RIB and GRNZ independently updated the assessment of progress against each of the 15 focus areas for the six-month period since the RIB's final report.
13. In the RIB's final report, of the five focus areas assessed as slow, three have been reassessed as adequate progress and two as good progress.
14. In the reassessment of the 15 focus areas, seven are now considered to have made good progress and eight are adequate (Table 1). This largely aligns with GRNZ's assessment. Refer to Appendix One.

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Table 1: RIB June 2023 reassessment of GRNZ's progress against the 15 focus areas.

Focus Area	Scope	June 2023
Population management	Implement a model that accurately forecasts the number of greyhounds required to meet the needs of the industry and ensure the number of greyhounds bred and / or imported does not exceed those requirements	Adequate
Injuries	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise injuries to greyhounds.	Adequate
Euthanasia / deaths	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise unnecessary euthanasia.	Good
Track standards	Improve track safety to lower rates of death and injury.	Good
Rehoming	By ensuring supply and demand aligns with capacity and adoption of socialisation standards, greyhounds will be successfully rehomed.	Adequate
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.	Adequate
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.	Adequate
Inform and educate the industry	Implement education programmes that ensure all licensed persons understand their obligations under the standards, rules and policies.	Good
GRNZ information systems	Ensure comprehensive, accurate and accessible data and insights are available to support transparent reporting and evidence-based policy development.	Adequate
Governance	An independent animal welfare committee ensures science-based advice, combined with strengthened animal welfare capability, drives a best practice animal welfare agenda.	Good
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
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 noncompliance	Adequate
Information management	GRNZ holds accurate, accessible information on greyhounds from whelping to retirement, that the public has confidence in.	Good
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 license to operate.	Adequate
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.	Good

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15. The RIB will continue to monitor GRNZ's progress towards implementing and embedding changes.
16. The RIB acknowledges GRNZ only received its final report in May 2023. In early August 2023, GRNZ provided the RIB with its initial review of progress against the RIB's 78 recommendations, which showed good progress has been made across a range of areas.
17. The RIB is undertaking its own assessment of the status of each recommendation by considering to what extent a recommendation has been planned, implemented, embedded, evaluated or closed. The RIB's assessment will be provided in the next Ministerial update in November.
18. Between October 2022 and August 2023, GRNZ added five people to new operational roles and intends to add a further four roles by October 2023. The RIB has consistently raised concerns about resourcing since monitoring commenced in 2021, and will continue to assess whether there is sufficient resource, including the area of programme management.

Population Management Model

19. The concept for the population management model was developed by the RIB and endorsed by GRNZ in early 2022. This included consideration of all phases of the lifecycle (birth, pre-racing, racing, adoption, injury and death) and considers capacity factors such as rehoming facilities and adoption demand.
20. The working model is based on actual industry activity over the past four seasons and forecasts for the next five seasons.
21. GRNZ is updating data as at the end of the 2022/23 racing season, following which industry conditions will be assessed and used to adjust the model's parameters / tolerances to reflect current conditions, such as lower breeding and lower adoption rates.
22. The RIB has offered GRNZ support for the data upload process and recalibration of the model's parameters.
23. The working model was constructed within the current limitations of GRNZ databases and reports, which require analysis and consolidation to be in a usable format.
24. The RIB recognises the complexities of the model and opportunities for enhancements, such as automating data feeds, standardising data formats and developing an economic viability lens.

Injuries

25. Injuries have been an area of key focus for GRNZ with further data analysis and insights being used to inform new initiatives. Recent investment in external research also demonstrates a strong commitment in this area.
26. Similarly, greyhound racing jurisdictions in Australia are also highly committed to injury reduction, with continuing collaboration across Australasia both in terms of insights and research.

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GRNZ injury KPI targets

27. GRNZ had mixed results in meeting its three injury KPI targets for the 2022/23 racing season (Table 2).

Table 2: GRNZ's performance against its injury KPIs.

KPI Description	KPI Target	2022/23 Actual
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.	10%	9.8%
Number of sprint races on straight tracks.	96	0
Percentage of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBDs).	25%	35%

28. A 9.8% reduction in the number of injuries incurring stand downs of 22 days or more (6.33 per 1000 starts compared to GRNZ's benchmark rate 7.02 per 1000 starts in the 2020/21 season), which was only one serious injury away from meeting the 10% target. It is acknowledged good progress has been made.
29. The target for 96 sprint races to be run on straight tracks in the 2022/23 racing season was not met, due to construction delays at Wanganui (refer to Track Standards below).
30. 35% of races used Preferred Box Draws (PBDs), which exceeds the target of 25% (refer to Track Standards below).

Race day injuries

31. Given this review of greyhound racing commenced in the 2020/21 season and it is the benchmark season for GRNZ's injury reduction KPI, it is appropriate to move to a new view of injuries over a shorter time frame than previously presented (started 2017/18).
32. Overall, race day injuries incurring a stand down period of 22 days or more have decreased 9.8% since 2020/21 (Table 3).

Table 3: Injuries with 22 days and over stand down, for the last 3 seasons.

	STAND DOWN	INJURIES PER 1,000 STARTS			VARIANCE
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2020/21 and 2022/23
Serious injuries per 1,000 starts, target 10% reduction	22 days and over	7.02	6.67	6.33	-9.8%

33. Stand downs are based on a race day veterinary assessment, or a subsequent update to a stand down for a greyhound re-presented to a veterinarian at the race track.
34. It is acknowledged this is not a perfect measure, as over time and with more detailed assessment, the nature of some injuries will change, however for the time being it is the only credible means of measuring race day injury.

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35. Although injuries 22 days and over have declined, there has been no noticeable impact on the most serious injuries incurring a stand down of 43 days and over.
36. Further work is required to understand why the 43 days and over injuries are not responding to the injury reduction initiatives, compared to other categories.

Non-race day injuries

37. The reporting on non-race day injuries remains an industry challenge and it is the RIB's view that more can be done to close the gap.
38. On 1 February 2022, GRNZ implemented system changes to allow stewards to record injuries sustained at race day trials, with further system changes being progressed to allow the licenced person to report the injury as having occurred outside of race day.
39. Included in GRNZ's workplan is activity to gain a better understanding about serious non-race day injuries, beginning in October.
40. The New South Wales Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commission's (GWIC) eTrac system, currently being evaluated by GRNZ, may offer a longer-term solution, as it has functionality for veterinarians to enter relevant health information.
41. The RIB recommended in its final report that GRNZ consider employing veterinary oversight at non-race day trials to capture and manage injuries. GRNZ considered, due to the current shortage of veterinarians in New Zealand, this was not feasible and instead, plan to provide licenced persons and club staff with canine first aid training and ensure a qualified first aider is present at all trial days.
42. In GRNZ's response to the RIB's final report, it suggested information about greyhounds scratched from a race, as recorded by stewards, offered a substantial understanding of non-race day injuries. The RIB's view is, that in the absence of a veterinary assessment, it is of limited use as a reliable indicator of non-race day injuries.

GRNZ's Return to Racing Fitness Policy

43. GRNZ has drafted a Return to Racing Fitness Policy, which was presented to the Animal Health and Welfare Committee in August and will be considered by the GRNZ Board at its September meeting.
44. The policy is intended to ensure greyhounds returning to racing following a rest period due to injury, illness, or other reasons are fit to do so. It will apply to greyhounds with a serious injury stand down of 42 days or more, and those not raced for 6 months or more.
45. GRNZ has also developed guidelines for licenced persons about the fitness work a greyhound should complete prior to racing after a lay off period of 21 days or more.
46. The RIB acknowledge development of this policy is a positive step towards reducing the risk of injuries and will monitor GRNZ's progress on implementation and any impact on return to racing injury rates.

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Increase in RIB post-race veterinary examinations

47. In August 2022, a revised classification of race day injuries and stand down periods was introduced to improve consistency and alignment with Greyhounds Australasia and included consultation with on-track veterinarians.
48. Since implementation of the changes to stand down periods, GRNZ's analysis suggests there was an increase in the number of post-race veterinary examinations in the 2022/23 racing season compared to 2021/22.
49. GRNZ is supportive of the increase in post-race veterinary examinations, maintaining more injuries may be identified which could prevent further injuries.

Injury research projects

50. GRNZ is contributing injury data to an epidemiological study of greyhound injuries being conducted by Greyhounds Australasia. The aim of the project is to improve the welfare of racing greyhounds by:
 - a. assessing the incidence and severity of specific serious injury types, and
 - b. undertaking risk factor analysis for the injury types.
51. GRNZ has also contracted the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to develop an AI-led injury risk factor predictive model, using GRNZ injury data and injury risk factors already identified. The aim is to predict when the risk of sustaining an injury is high for an individual greyhound.

Deaths / euthanasia

52. Race day and non-race day death and euthanasia rates continue to decline (Figure 1), with a total of 96 greyhounds euthanised and 58 deaths in 2022/23 season, compared to 157 euthanised and 79 deaths in 2021/22 racing seasons.¹

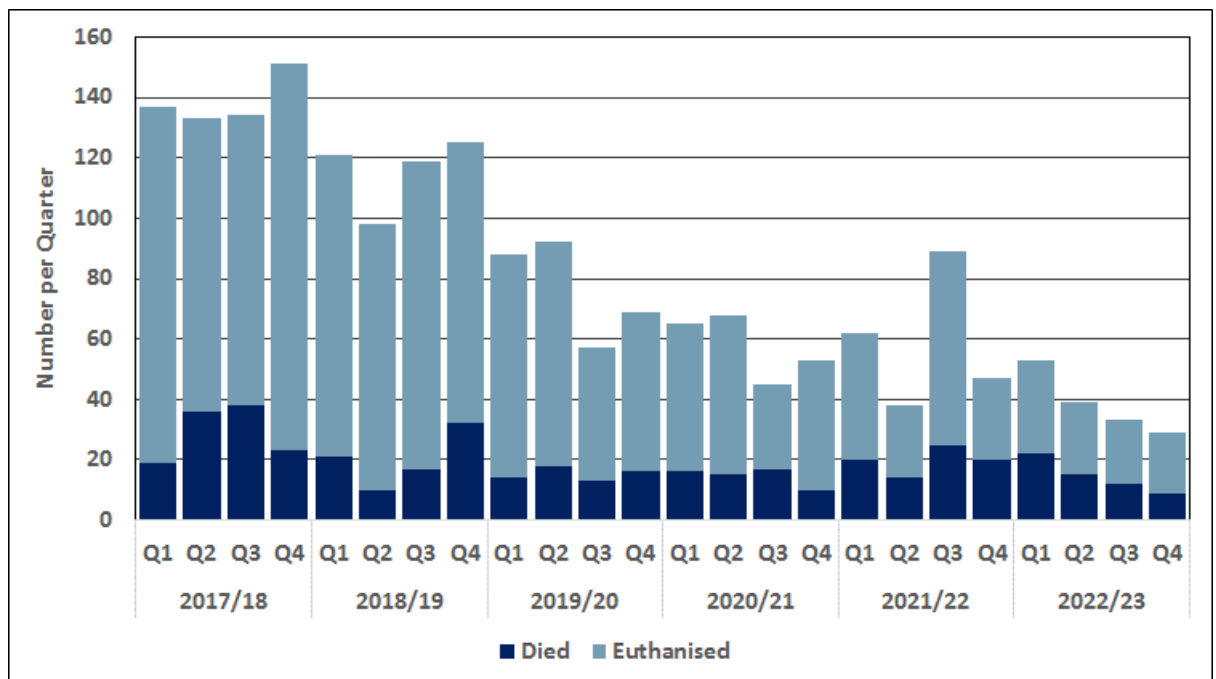


Figure 1: Total euthanasia and death rates by quarter, across racing seasons from 2017/18 until 2022/23.

¹ Data as at 31 July 2023.

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53. Declining rates of race day euthanasia can be largely attributed to the Rehabilitate to Rehoming (RtR) programme.

GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy

54. The GRNZ euthanasia policy, implemented on 10 November 2022, stipulates licenced persons must provide GRNZ with 14 days' notice of the intent to euthanase a greyhound and demonstrate the particular circumstances meet the criteria. The exception is where there is a critical animal welfare decision to be made, based on veterinary advice.
55. GRNZ's KPI for the 2022/23 racing season for zero euthanasia outside of the new euthanasia policy was not achieved as three greyhounds were euthanased without seeking prior GRNZ approval. On further investigation, GRNZ concluded there were justifiable grounds for euthanasia, with two being due to aggression and one 12-year-old pet.

Table 4: GRNZ's performance against its euthanasia KPI.

KPI description	KPI Target	2022/23 Actual
No (zero) euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy.	0	3

56. In these cases, GRNZ reminded the licenced persons of their obligations under the policy. Where there are concerns about compliance with the policy GRNZ will refer these to the RIB for investigation.
57. Three other cases that may fall outside of the Policy are currently under investigation.
58. Since the policy was implemented, GRNZ advised it has received two notifications of intent to euthanase a greyhound and both were approved.
59. The RIB and GRNZ will continue to monitor compliance with the euthanasia policy.

Track standards

60. It is encouraging to see GRNZ's progress in this area and the commitment to implementing a number of significant initiatives. This includes implementing its Racing Safety Strategic Action Plan, a track management programme, along with standards and responsibilities for achieving and maintaining track consistency.
61. Other areas of progress discussed below include PBDs, remediation and upgrading track infrastructure, GRNZ's Track Diagnostic Programme and straight tracks.

Preferred Box Draws (PBDs)

62. Since July 2023, PBDs were extended to all sprint races at Palmerston North and Cambridge, and since August all sprint races, excluding feature races at Addington and Ascot Park. Due to the expansion of PBD races over the 2022/23 season and subsequent changes in August 2023, more than 50% of all races are now PBD. Refer Table 2 for GRNZ's performance against its injury KPIs, including PBDs.

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63. Further analysis is being conducted to determine the relationship between injuries and interference / greyhound collisions during PBD races. The Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC) reviewed initial analysis at its August meeting.

Remediation and upgrading of tracks

64. Since the extended lure arms were installed in 2022, various issues have resulted in race meetings being abandoned at the Cambridge, Auckland and Palmerston North tracks. Cambridge track was closed in February 2023 and reopened on 3 August 2023 after a new lure was installed and the running rail refurbished.
65. GRNZ has installed a SafeChase lure, used in Australia, at the Cambridge track and intends to install these lures across all tracks over the next 12 to 18 months.
66. Safety rails help to minimise the risk of greyhounds being pushed over the lure rail during a race. GRNZ plans to install new safety rails at the Auckland track by November 2023 and ensure all tracks are fully enclosed with either a safety rail and/or a fence over the next 12 months.

GRNZ's Track Diagnostic Programme

67. Phases I and II of GRNZ's Track Diagnostics Programme are complete. From the start of this racing season all tracks were benchmarked against diagnostic parameters and KPIs including water content, firmness, surface grade and sand composition.
68. RIB stewards received training from GRNZ's Racing Safety and Infrastructure Manager on the use of new diagnostic equipment.
69. The equipment is being used at all tracks, with GRNZ intending to undertake ongoing revision and assessment of the benchmark data.
70. GRNZ is engaged with clubs to upskill track managers and drive consistency when it comes to track preparation. Oversight options are being considered.
71. Phase III is scheduled to start earlier than planned and includes the introduction of a revised track grading system and installation of weather stations for additional data to assist with managing water application.

Straight tracks

72. Racing is expected to start at the Whanganui straight track in October 2023, following delays in construction.
73. The straight track has a grass surface, which requires different management strategies and procedures. Track staff will be trained in the required skills.
74. GRNZ is exploring options for building a straight track in the South Island. Recommendations will be provided to the GRNZ Board in October 2023.

Rehoming

75. GRNZ has shown a continued commitment to rehoming through the level of funding to its rehoming programme. Initiatives include adding to rehoming kennel capacity, completing an independent review of the current rehoming operating model and establishing a new Welfare Strategy and Operations Manager role.
76. Adoption rates have steadily declined over the 2022/23 racing season and the waiting list is growing, a concern shared by GRNZ.

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77. GRNZ is developing a Rehoming Strategy and Plan, which should focus efforts on critical areas.
78. Although GRNZ has committed to bring new people in, it is early days, and as yet there is little evidence of improved outcomes.
79. This focus area will remain under RIB review, with a progress downgrade possible.

Rehoming KPI targets

80. GRNZ set KPIs for rehoming to ensure retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion and to increase rehoming kennel capacity.

Table 5: GRNZ's performance against its rehoming KPIs.

KPI description	KPI Target	2022/23 Actual
All retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion.	85% within 90 days	76% within 90 days
Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of:	150	208

81. GRNZ and the RIB are not in agreement with the methodology used to calculate the number of greyhounds on the waiting list.
82. The way this data is currently reported by GRNZ only accounts for greyhounds adopted during the 2022/23 season and how long they were awaiting entry into the Great Mates rehoming programme.
83. The RIB's view is that measurement for this KPI should also include:
 - a. wait time to enter the Great Mates programme, for greyhounds in Great Mates awaiting adoption
 - b. wait time for all greyhounds at licenced kennels awaiting entry into the Great Mates programme.
84. Based on GRNZ's measurement approach, the target of 85% having access to the Great Mates programme within 90 days for the 2022/23 season was not achieved, with 76% of adopted greyhounds being entered into the programme within 90 days.
85. GRNZ has indicated an intent to revise its rehoming KPI measures and move towards monitoring adoption rates. The RIB would support a KPI for adoptions, but only in addition to the current measure of time to enter Great Mates, given wait time at licenced kennels is a key area of risk for the industry.
86. GRNZ reached its target to increase kennel capacity to 150 greyhounds in the 2022/23 season within the first quarter. Current capacity of approximately 208 greyhounds already exceeds the capacity target of 200 for the 2024/25 racing season.

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Greyhound adoptions and the rehoming waiting list

87. Greyhound adoptions declined by 18% in the 2022/23 racing season (470 adoptions) compared to 2021/22 (577 adoptions). This is an ongoing challenge for GRNZ and its adoption partners.
88. The number of greyhounds on the adoption waiting list, both awaiting entry into Great Mates and those within the Great Mates kennels, has continued to increase. The RIB and GRNZ will work to agree measurement of the waiting list and present this in the November Minister's report.
89. The RIB considers the number of greyhounds on the waiting list to enter Great Mates, and the time taken to gain access, are important measures. Non-racing greyhounds in a licenced person's kennel for an extended time may present increased welfare risk.
90. In March 2023, the GRNZ Board supported in principle, greyhounds on the Great Mates rehoming waiting list being able to continue racing, with a view that this will extend the racing life of healthy greyhounds, provide exercise and enrichment, and increase visibility of greyhounds awaiting rehoming.
91. GRNZ is developing qualifying criteria to ensure animal welfare is not compromised. The RIB will monitor progress with this initiative and any consequences for greyhound welfare and/or reducing waiting list numbers.
92. The concern is greyhounds awaiting adoption are assessed as being at the end of their racing careers. If GRNZ implements this initiative, it is critical stringent criteria is set with rigorous nomination checking and monitoring procedures, including pre and post-race veterinarian examinations to ensure these greyhounds remain fit for racing.

RtR programme data capture

93. Short comings in GRNZ's data capture and reporting for the RtR programme have made it difficult to assess the programme and animal welfare outcomes in the mid to long term.
94. GRNZ recently implemented a new system for RtR data capture and reporting.

Participant and greyhound registrations

Audit of registration practices

95. In May 2023, GRNZ commissioned an independent review of internal processes. Delivery of the report is expected to be presented to the GRNZ Board in September, following which it will be provided to the RIB.

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Traceability

96. GRNZ's 2022/23 traceability KPI target of knowing where registered greyhounds are domiciled was not met (Table 5).

Table 6: GRNZ's performance against its traceability KPI.

KPI description	KPI Target	2022/23 Actual
GRNZ knows where all registered greyhounds are domiciled.		
Racing greyhound	100%	92% (601)
Non-racing greyhounds	85%	71% (728)

97. To measure this KPI in 2022/23, GRNZ used information from greyhounds scanned during kennel audits.
98. The RIB has previously advised GRNZ that information from kennel audits has limitations as it is only a measure of whether a greyhound's location matches GRNZ records at a single point in time.
99. As the intent of the KPI is to ensure all registered greyhounds in the population are accounted for, information from kennel audits needs to be supplemented with other verification activities.
100. In July, GRNZ and the RIB attended a seminar in Sydney to learn more about the New South Wales Greyhound Welfare Integrity Commissions (GWICs) eTrac system. This software includes traceability functionality.
101. The GRNZ Board has approved, in principle, implementation of this system subject to due diligence. A decision is expected in November 2023, with project planning underway.

Vaccinations

102. GRNZ has been actively monitoring vaccination rates and contacting licenced persons, which has improved levels of compliance.
103. On 1 February 2023, a new rule was implemented where retired greyhounds kept as pets by licenced persons are covered by the welfare standards, and therefore required to have up to date vaccinations. GRNZ is providing a vaccination subsidy for these greyhounds to help increase compliance with this requirement.
104. Current vaccination levels for pre-racing, racing and breeding greyhounds are above 95% compliant.
105. GRNZ has identified issues with the data capture for retired greyhounds that remain in the industry and is working to rectify this, to gain an accurate understanding of vaccination levels for this population.

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Standards, rules and policies

Rules of Racing changes

106. GRNZ implemented new Rules of Racing on 1 February 2023.
107. Since then, GRNZ has been engaging with the RIB on Tranche 2 of the rule changes, including clarification of RIB powers of entry to a licenced persons property and seizure of items of evidential value.
108. While some of the powers under discussion have application across the broader industry, GRNZ and the RIB have agreed to advance these rules as they relate to greyhound racing

GRNZ technology

109. A data cleanse was completed early in 2023, with further validation work highlighting additional anomalies. The Population Analyst will continue to monitor the accuracy of this data, with the intention to complete an annual data check.
110. Aside from business-as-usual system enhancements, the key focus currently is on undertaking due diligence on the eTrac (traceability) system and upgrading their web interface.
111. A new system has recently been implemented to support the RtR programme.

Inform and educate the industry

112. As a condition of licensing for the 2023/24 season, GRNZ introduced a requirement that all trainers and breeders must complete newly developed online animal welfare education modules and pass an assessment. This is the first of its kind in Australasia.
113. GRNZ has discussed this initiative with the NZ equine codes who are considering its application in their environments.
114. A total of 207 trainers and breeders participated in the new assessment, and were subsequently relicensed. The 3 who did not participate were not relicensed.

Table 7: GRNZ's performance against its education KPI.

KPI description	KPI Target	2022/23 Actual
Registered persons participate in GRNZ continuous professional development and animal welfare training as a condition of their licence renewal.	100%	100%

115. GRNZ has recently added two new licencing assessments for handlers and owner/trainers.
116. GRNZ is reviewing the content and implementation of the education program to determine possible improvements for the next re-licensing period.
117. All Great Mates staff completed the socialisation training provided by K9 Fundamentals. This module will be adapted for licenced persons.
118. Animal Welfare Regional Workshops are scheduled for September 2023 for licenced persons to attend in Auckland, Whanganui, Invercargill and Christchurch. Topics will include an industry update from the GRNZ CE, welfare

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standards, track safety, participant wellbeing and a racing update. RIB staff will attend each workshop.

Kennel standards

119. Significant changes to the welfare standards, initially scheduled for 2022, were implemented on 1 May 2023. The RIB adjusted the kennel audit programme for the first half of 2023, initially focusing audits on parts of the standards that would not substantively change. The partial audits included basic veterinary health checks, recording all greyhounds present and checks of vaccination records and treatment records.
120. After implementation of the new standards on 1 May, GRNZ requested the RIB place audits against the new standards on hold until licenced person education was completed by the end of July.
121. There were 71 kennel audits, incorporating 65 partial and 6 full audits conducted between January and 31 July 2023, with 1,376 greyhounds assessed. All kennels partially audited in the first half of 2023 will be re-visited in the second half of 2023 to assess compliance against the full range of the new standards.
122. During the 2023 audits, there has been some improvement in the results from basic veterinary health checks.
 - a. 28 out of 67 (41.8%) audits issued improvement notices for dental issues, compared to 65 out of 129 (50.4%) in 2022
 - b. 3 out of 67 (4.5%) audits issues improvement notices for injuries/health issues that required treatment, compared to 19 out of 129 (14.7%) in 2022.
123. Once all kennels are assessed against the new standards, a more fulsome comparison of compliance rates will be possible.

Investigate and adjudicate on animal welfare breaches

124. The RIB has undertaken investigations into methamphetamine positives in greyhounds, inadequate pain relief and dogs presented for rehoming in poor condition.
125. GRNZ has also referred a case of potential non-compliance with its euthanasia policy.
126. All matters either remain under investigation or are with adjudicative panels for hearing.

RIB data verification / analysis

127. The RIB continues to verify GRNZ's data and analysis, including KPI assessments.
128. Further injury analysis has also been completed, with a focus on the relationship between layoffs and future injuries.

Governance

129. The Animal Health and Welfare Committee met on 15 August 2023. GRNZ provided the committee with several updates including the 2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme Plan, progress against KPIs and an update on the Injury Reduction Strategy and the Racing Safety Strategic Action Plan.

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130. Initial results from a GRNZ funded Massey University social research project into licenced persons opinions and perspectives and how they conceptualise their role in managing greyhounds was also presented.
131. The committee will consider a draft annual plan outlining its work priorities for the next year at its October meeting.
132. The Serious Injury Review Committee met on 17 August 2023. The focus was on reviewing serious injuries that occurred between 1 June and 10 August 2023 to identify key risks, including age and the time to return to racing. The committee was also provided with initial analysis on the relationship between injuries incurred and interference/collisions during PBD races for consideration.

GRNZ and RIB engagement

133. GRNZ and the RIB agreed an approach to ongoing monitoring with fortnightly programme meetings, which focus on a deep dive for up to 5 of the focus areas.
134. The Programme Managers meet on the alternate weeks, as do the Chief Executives.
135. The new approach, in place since June 2023, appears to be working effectively.

Stakeholder engagement

136. GRNZ is supporting a social science research project into the role greyhound people play in the lives of racing greyhounds in New Zealand. This may provide insights that inform future engagement.
137. GRNZ indicated it has increased Ministerial engagement to reinforce its commitment to animal welfare.

Next steps

138. The RIB will continue to work with GRNZ to monitor progress against the work programme, with the following priorities for the next period:
 - a. GRNZ updating the population management model to the end of the 2022/23 racing season and determining implications of findings.
 - b. Implementation of its Return to Racing Fitness Policy and guidelines.
 - c. GRNZ's rehoming strategy and plan, along with continuing to implement initiatives to help promote greyhound adoptions.
139. The RIB will report back in November 2023 with the third quarterly progress report on the greyhound review work programme since the final report.

First contact	Mike Clement, Chief Executive Racing Integrity Board	021 846569
Second contact	Nick Ydgren, Director Animal Welfare Racing Integrity Board	021 964120

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER FOR RACING

Appendix One: RIB and GRNZ’s assessments of progress against the 15 focus areas for the six-month period to June 2023.

Improved RIB rating	Rating declined one step	Rating declined 2 steps
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Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment – Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - Jun 2023	GRNZ Assessment - Jun 2023
Population management	Implement a model that accurately forecasts the number of greyhounds required to meet the needs of the industry and ensure the number of greyhounds bred and / or imported does not exceed those requirements	Good	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
Injuries	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise injuries to greyhounds.	Slow	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
Euthanasia / deaths	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise unnecessary euthanasia.	Good	Good	Good
Track standards	Improve track safety to lower rates of death and injury.	Slow	Good	Good
Rehoming	By ensuring supply and demand aligns with capacity and adoption of socialisation standards, greyhounds will be successfully rehomed.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
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
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
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
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
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

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER FOR RACING

Focus Area	Scope	RIB Assessment – Dec 2022	RIB Assessment - Jun 2023	GRNZ Assessment - Jun 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
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 noncompliance	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
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
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 license to operate.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate, with ongoing improvement
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