

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF RACING			
<b>Priority</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent	<input type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine
<b>Title</b>	2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme - Racing Integrity Board update		
<b>Date</b>	19 December 2023	<b>Ref</b>	N/A

### Recommendations

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

- a) **Note** the RIB has assessed Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ) progress against the 15 focus areas used to monitor the work programme, as adequate or good, with no focus areas assessed as slow.
- b) **Note** the status of the RIB's December 2022 final report recommendations.
- c) **Note** GRNZ has amended its key performance indicators (KPIs) for the next three racing seasons and added two new KPIs.
- d) **Note** GRNZ's performance against its KPIs for the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season.
- e) **Note** GRNZ's efforts to improve demand for adoptions.
- f) **Agree** the RIB will continue to report quarterly on the agreed work programme. **Yes / No**
- g) **Agree** this briefing is shared with the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare). **Yes / No**
- h) **Agree** this briefing is shared with GRNZ. **Yes / No**
- i) **Agree** this briefing is published on the RIB's website. **Yes / No**

### Minister's comments and signature

..... / / 2023

Hon Minister for Racing

## **BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER FOR RACING**

### **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. In September 2021, the then Minister for Racing requested the Racing Integrity Board (RIB) work across a 15-month period to conduct ongoing, independent oversight of the greyhound industry in respect to the issues raised in the 2021 Robertson Review.
  3. On 12 December 2022, the RIB submitted its Greyhound Review Final Report to then Minister for Racing, Minister McAnulty, on GRNZ's progress across 15 focus areas. The report included 78 recommendations.
  4. In accordance with Minister McAnulty's letter of expectation on 26 January 2023, the RIB has continued to work with GRNZ on the work programme until a final decision was made by Cabinet.
  5. GRNZ received the RIB's final report in May 2023.
  6. Following a second letter from Minister McAnulty to the RIB on 12 June 2023, the RIB has continued to monitor GRNZ's progress at a level consistent with that undertaken in late 2021 and 2022.
  7. This is the third Minister's briefing provided on the Greyhound Review programme (refer to briefings 14 April and 14 September 2023) since the RIB's final report. This briefing provides an update on GRNZ's progress against the 15 focus areas, the RIB's 78 recommendations and GRNZ's 2023/24 KPIs.
  8. In the RIB's final report, GRNZ's progress against recommendations in the Hansen (2017) and Robertson (2021) reviews was assessed in two ways, as at 30 November 2022:
    - overall progress against the plan for each of the 15 focus areas (slow, adequate or good)
    - the status of each recommendation in the change management cycle (plan, implement, embed, evaluate or close).
  9. For this briefing, the RIB and GRNZ both completed an assessment of progress against the focus areas. The RIB also assessed the status of each recommendation in the December 2022 final report. The assessments in this briefing are as at 30 October 2023.
  10. The RIB will continue to monitor GRNZ's progress against the 2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme until any changes to expectations are set by the new Minister for Racing.
- #### **2023 Greyhound Review Work Programme**
11. GRNZ developed a programme plan for the period July 2023 to January 2024.
  12. Progress against the plan is being monitored through joint fortnightly meetings. GRNZ and RIB Chief Executives also meet on alternate fortnights, as do the programme leads.

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### Focus area progress assessment

13. In the October 2023 assessment of the 15 focus areas, eight are considered to have made good progress and seven are adequate (Table 1). This largely aligns with GRNZ's assessment. Refer Appendix One.
14. In this assessment, there are no focus areas assessed with slow progress compared with five in November 2022.

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

Focus Area	Scope	Oct 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 & 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.	Good
Stakeholder engagement	By understanding stakeholders' engagement needs and with an unflinching commitment to transparency (of information), improve trust and confidence in the greyhound racing industry.	Good

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### Status of recommendations

15. Analysis of the recommendations in various earlier reviews highlighted concerns that GRNZ had not fully implemented or embedded changes to address report recommendations and there had been regression in some areas.
16. For this reason, the RIB included an assessment of the status of each recommendation in its December 2022 final report. The assessment involved reviewing the extent to which the work on each recommendation had been planned, implemented, embedded, or evaluated. Only once these steps have been completed was an item considered closed.
17. The RIB has undertaken a similar assessment of the status of the 78 recommendations in the final report. The recommendations included initiatives from the 2022 work programme to be continued in 2023 and new initiatives.
18. Of the 78 recommendations, 3 were for the RIB. Of the remaining 75, as at the end of October the RIB has assessed the status as:
  - 15 (20%) in planning
  - 27 (36%) in implementation
  - 26 (35%) in embedding or evaluation
  - 7 (9%) in closing.
19. Due to the scale of work involved, it was not expected all recommendations would be addressed in one year.
20. During 2023, GRNZ has delivered a range of significant changes, including:
  - progressing implementation of the injury reduction strategy
  - implementing and embedding a racing safety strategy and plan
  - implementing and embedding new rules of racing
  - implementing and embedding new welfare standards
  - implementing the removal of ear branding
  - embedding the euthanasia policy
  - implementing compulsory licenced person education as part of relicensing.
21. GRNZ has also prioritised scoping, analysis and planning improvements to their IT systems. While much of this work is not yet in implementation, it also represents a significant commitment.
22. GRNZ is to be acknowledged for the five additional roles added over the last year and a further two expected before the end of the year. The addition of new roles has been a key factor in enabling the level of progress outlined above.
23. GRNZ has also assumed responsibility for some track staff, with this work continuing.
24. The RIB acknowledges the December 2022 final report reflected the position at the time. Should monitoring continue, it would be appropriate for the RIB and GRNZ to continue the review of recommendations to reflect progress and emerging issues as a basis for developing a 2024 work plan.

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### **GRNZ's revised KPIs**

25. In the September 2023 briefing, the RIB updated the Minister on GRNZ's performance against its eight KPIs set for the 2022/23 racing season.
26. In GRNZ's FY2024 to FY2026 Statement of Intent, it signalled an intention to review KPIs during the 2023/24 season.
27. On 25 October 2023, following consultation with the RIB, GRNZ's Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) and Racing Committee, the GRNZ Board approved amendments to KPIs.
28. GRNZ has responded to data insights by revising some projected targets and adding two new KPIs. These changes are discussed in the relevant sections of this briefing.

### **Population Management Model**

29. The need for a population management model was raised in successive reviews of the greyhound industry. A concept was developed by the RIB and endorsed by GRNZ in early 2022.
30. The purpose of the model is to account for all phases of the lifecycle (birth, pre-racing, racing, adoption, injury and death) and capacity factors such as rehoming facilities and adoption to determine whether supply and demand are aligned.
31. A working model was developed within the current limitations of GRNZ databases. It is based on actual industry activity over the past four seasons and forecasts for the next five seasons.
32. The RIB has completed the population management model data upload and analysis for the 2022/23 racing season and for the first quarter of the 2023/24 season.
33. The updated model and insights were presented to GRNZ on 20 November 2023. Insights show how different levels of breeding impact on the number of racing greyhounds and rehoming demand, including the level of adoptions required to reduce the rehoming waiting list.
34. GRNZ consider the reasons breeding levels have declined recently may include uncertainty about the future of the industry, complying with higher welfare standards, longer waiting times for rehoming putting pressure on licenced persons' kennel capacity, and current economic pressures.
35. GRNZ has indicated it is open to encouraging increased breeding, however an increase in adoption levels is required before any significant initiatives are introduced.
36. GRNZ intends to schedule population model presentations at its Board and Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) meetings in February 2024, to share the model and insights.

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### Injuries

37. Injuries have been a key area of focus for GRNZ with a wide range of data analysis and insights being used to inform new initiatives.
38. Injuries are categorised by the period of time a greyhound is stood down from racing to allow recovery, as assessed by a race day veterinarian.
39. In September, GRNZ reported a 9.8% reduction against a 10% KPI target for injuries incurring a stand down of 22 days or more for the 2022/23 racing season. The result was recalculated from further information about an injury, with performance amended to 10.2% which means the KPI was achieved.

### *Changes to injury related KPIs*

40. GRNZ's revised injury KPI targets are presented in Appendix two.
41. The way GRNZ reports on injuries has evolved throughout the review period. It is now more consistent with the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) injury classifications, with 22 days and more stand downs a particular focus in New Zealand.
42. In October 2023, GRNZ made the following amendments to injury KPIs:
  - a) Reduced the 2024/25 target for Category D injuries incurring standdowns of 22 days or more (22+ days) from a 20% reduction to 17.5% against the 2020/21 baseline season.
  - b) Introduced a new 2023/24 KPI to reduce Category F injuries incurring 43 days or more standdown or death<sup>1</sup> by 15% from the baseline season. This was in response to concerns more serious injuries had not declined.
  - c) Reduced the target for the number of races on straight tracks from 390 to 150 for the 2023/24 racing season, and from 702 to 300 for the 2024/25 racing season.
  - d) Increased the target for races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBDs) from 35% to 60% for 2023/24, and 40% to 65% for the 2024/25 racing season.

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<sup>1</sup> Catastrophic and Major 2 injuries (43-90 day stand down). Injuries that apply under Category F: death or euthanasia on-track; any skull or spine fracture or paralysis (partial or complete); any long bone fracture (i.e. humerus, radius/ulna, femur or tibia); a hock fracture/dislocation where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; metacarpal/metatarsal fracture where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; any other joint injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; a skin injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days; a soft tissue injury (including muscle injury) where the stand-down period is 90 days.

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### *Performance against GRNZ's injury KPI targets for quarter one, 2023/24*

43. GRNZ has continued a strong focus on reducing race day injuries and it is encouraging to see injury rates have reduced during the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season.
44. For this quarter, Category D (22+ days) injuries are 19.2% lower than GRNZ's 2020/21 benchmark, which is ahead of the 15% target.
45. GRNZ has assessed its performance against the Category F injuries KPI as 15.1% lower than the benchmark, against a target of 15% (Table 2). Given this is a new KPI, the RIB is in the process of verifying GRNZ's assessment of the benchmark for the 2020/21 season.

*Table 2: GRNZ's performance against its injury KPIs for the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season.*

KPI Description	2023/24 KPI Target	Actual (Quarter 1)
Reduce the number of Category D injuries as per GA classifications (22+ days). Measured as rate per 1000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 7.02.	15% reduction  5.97 per 1000 starters	19.2% reduction  5.67 per 1000 starters
Reduce the number of Category F injuries as per GA classifications (43+ days). Measured as rate per 1000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 2.40.	15% reduction  2.04 per 1000 starters	15.1% reduction  2.07 per 1000 starters
Number of races on straight tracks.	150	0
Percentage of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBDs).	60%	65%

**Note:** This data has not been statistically analysed, however descriptive data has been used as the basis for this reporting.

46. There have been no races on straight tracks this quarter, with trials scheduled to commence at the Whanganui straight track in January 2024. GRNZ has been of the view it is more important to ensure the track is safe to commence racing, rather than hold to a target implementation date. GRNZ's Racing Safety and Infrastructure Manager has advised the track surface requires more work as the growing season for the grass surface was delayed due to poor weather.
47. GRNZ is on target to achieve its KPI to conduct 60% of races using PBDs.
48. The Addington track has been identified as requiring significant refurbishment. Injury rates at this track will continue to be closely monitored by the RIB throughout the second quarter.

### *GRNZ's Return to Racing Fitness Policy*

49. GRNZ has drafted a Return to Racing Fitness policy informed by data insights. This was presented to the Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC), the Racing Committee and the GRNZ Board between August and October.
50. 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

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greyhounds with a stand down of 42 days or more, and those not raced for 6 months or more.

51. 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.
52. A further meeting to progress this is scheduled with the Racing Committee in December.
53. GRNZ has undertaken to progress this as a matter of priority.
54. It is the RIB's view there remains further opportunity to refine the policy to address a wider range of risks factors identified through data insights.

### *Non-race day injuries*

55. The reporting on non-race day injuries is an industry challenge.
56. A new online reporting process for licenced persons to report serious non-race day injuries will be considered by the GRNZ Board in December 2023.
57. There is currently some follow up with licenced persons if a greyhound has not raced for 90 days or more. GRNZ intends to formalise this process.
58. The RIB is responsible for veterinarians on race day and is committed to working with the industry to ensure proper veterinary care is available at formalised trial days.
59. Canine first aid training will be provided to licenced persons and club staff to ensure a qualified first aider is present at all trial days. GRNZ is engaging an external provider to conduct the training, which will be scheduled for early 2024. All clubs will be provided first aid kits by this time.

### *Injury research projects*

60. GRNZ is contributing injury data to an epidemiological study being conducted by Greyhounds Australasia (GA). The aim of the project is to assess the incidence and severity of serious injuries and risk factors. The project is expected to be completed by August 2024.
61. GRNZ is collaborating with the New South Wales Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) on a project aimed at gaining insights into how different management practices contribute to the risk of injuries. GWIC designed a survey and started interviewing licenced persons with the highest and lowest injury rates to understand more about their training, nutrition and supplement regimes.
62. The same interviews will be conducted in New Zealand with the intention to develop a mentoring programme for those identified as high risk in early 2024.
63. The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) has previously undertaken greyhound injury research, including initial development of an AI-led injury risk factor predictive model. Preliminary results from this work confirmed older greyhounds are at a higher risk of injury.
64. UTS is no longer undertaking greyhound research and therefore no further work on the AI project will be undertaken.



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### Deaths / euthanasia

65. Race day and non-race day death and euthanasia rates continue to decline (Figure 1), with a total of 100<sup>2</sup> greyhounds euthanased and 58 deaths in the 2022/23 season, compared to 157 euthanased and 79 deaths in 2021/22 racing seasons.
66. During the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season, 9 greyhounds were euthanased and 16 died. This includes one greyhound euthanased on race day.

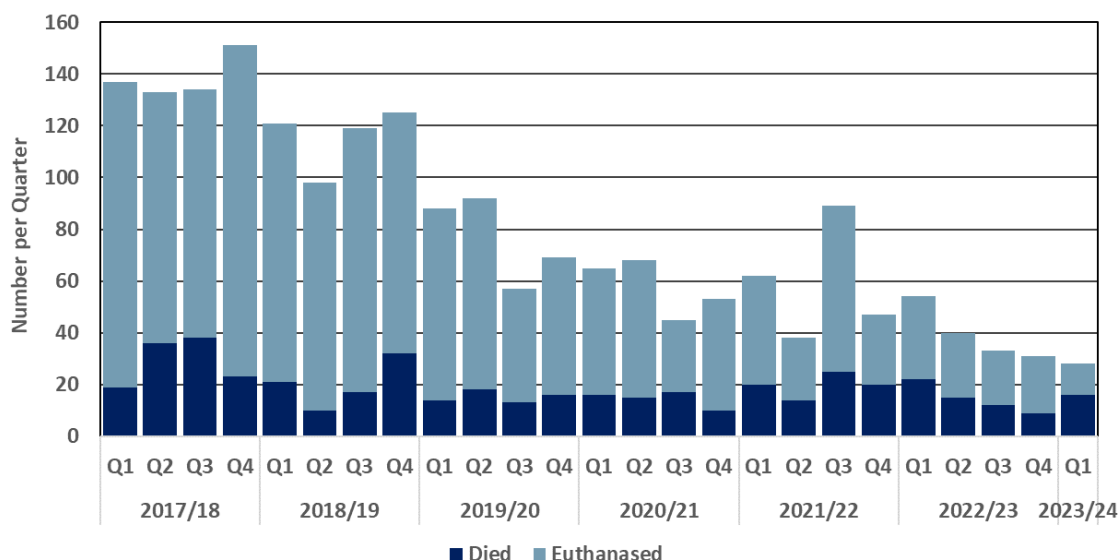


Figure 1: Total euthanasia and death rates by quarter, across racing seasons from 2017/18 until 2023/24.

67. The Rehabilitate to Rehoming (RtR) programme, which funds treatment, surgery, rehabilitation and rehoming of greyhounds that sustain serious injuries on race day contributes to declining rates of race day euthanasias.

### Changes to GRNZ's Euthanasia KPI

68. The GRNZ euthanasia policy, implemented on 10 November 2022, stipulates licenced persons must provide GRNZ with 14 days' notice of intent to euthanase a greyhound. The exception is where a critical animal welfare decision needs to be made, based on veterinary advice.
69. GRNZ amended the euthanasia KPI for the 2023/24 racing season from zero euthanasias outside of the policy to <4% of the total number of euthanasias. GRNZ considered zero euthanasia outside of the policy was an unrealistic target.
70. GRNZ intend to reduce the target to <2% by 2024/25 as the policy will have been in place for over two years and licenced persons should be thoroughly familiar with the requirements by then.

<sup>2</sup> Updated since the September Minister's briefing from 96 to 100.

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### *Performance against GRNZ's euthanasia KPI target for quarter one, 2023/24*

71. In the first quarter of this racing season, GRNZ reported there have been no euthanasias outside of the policy requirements (Table 3).

*Table 3: GRNZ's performance against its euthanasia KPI for the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season.*

KPI description	2023/24 KPI Target	Actual (Quarter 1)
Euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy	<4% of total euthanasias	0%

### **Track standards**

72. Good progress continues to be made on a number of track safety initiatives.
73. GRNZ is finalising its track minimum standards guidelines. These will be provided to the RIB in mid-December 2023.
74. Some track staff, previously employed by individual clubs, now report to GRNZ, bringing responsibility for track maintenance and standards at these tracks under GRNZ's control.

### *Preferred Box Draws (PBDs)*

75. Since August 2023, GRNZ has extended the use of PBDs to all sprint races, excluding feature races, with more than 64% of all races now being PBD (Table 2, page 7).
76. Expanding the use of PBDs has continued to deliver positive results in reducing interference (or collisions), which often result in falls and injuries during a race.

### *Remediation and upgrading of tracks*

77. Following concerns about track conditions and safety at Addington, the track was closed on 26 September 2023 for further investigation and remediation. The track re-opened on 17 October 2023. The RIB will continue to closely monitor injury rates throughout the second quarter.
78. The number of race meetings at the Addington track has been reduced from four to three per week, likely to continue until the end of the 2023/24 racing season. Additional races are scheduled at the Invercargill track.
79. Options for a second track in Canterbury are being explored, with the intention of reducing the pressure on the Addington track. Options will be considered further by the Board in December 2023 and a meeting is scheduled on 12 December to update stakeholders.
80. GRNZ continues to progress track maintenance initiatives including installation of a safer lure system at the Cambridge and Palmerston North tracks and safety rails at the round Whanganui track, and will install safety rails at the Auckland track early next year. GRNZ plans to ensure all tracks are fully enclosed with either a safety rail and/or a fence by December 2024.

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### *GRNZ's Track Diagnostic Programme*

81. GRNZ continues to progress its Track Diagnostics Programme with new diagnostic equipment being used to monitor water content, firmness, surface grade and sand composition at all tracks against benchmark data.
82. Phase 3 of the programme has commenced and will include installation of weather stations at all tracks to commence in late December 2023. This will provide additional data to assist with managing water application.

### **Rehoming**

83. GRNZ has shown a continued commitment to rehoming through the level of funding to its rehoming programme and employing a new Welfare Strategy and Operations Manager. The new manager is bringing greater focus to the rehoming programme, in particular adoption initiatives.
84. Greyhound adoption rates steadily declined over the 2022/23 racing season and the waiting list for greyhounds entering the programme increased.
85. GRNZ plans to develop a Rehoming Business Plan and Marketing Strategy, which should help further focus efforts on critical areas.
86. GRNZ has also worked with adoption partners and Great Mates rehoming facilities to gain agreement they are subject to the greyhound welfare standards and kennel audits.
87. Another area of focus will be to review the methodology for greyhound behaviour assessments to ensure these are updated to reflect current knowledge. GRNZ is engaging an external provider to commence a review in January 2024.

### *Changes to GRNZ's rehoming KPI targets*

88. In October, GRNZ made the following amendments to rehoming KPIs:
  - a. Introduced a new KPI to increase greyhound adoptions with a target of 525 for the 2023/24 racing season.
  - b. Amended its 2023/24 racing season target for greyhounds having access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion from 90% within 60 days to 70% within 90 days. GRNZ consider this target is more realistic given the economic environment.

### *Performance against GRNZ's rehoming KPI targets for quarter one, 2023/24*

89. The number of greyhounds on the waiting list, both awaiting entry into the Great Mates rehoming programme and those within the Great Mates kennels, continues to increase.
90. On 31 October 2023, of all greyhounds on the Great Mates wait list, 42% entered a facility within 90 days or less, against a target of 70% (Table 4).
91. A total of 125 greyhounds were adopted in the first quarter of this season, including 28 privately rehomed or kept as a pet by a licenced person.
92. GRNZ has continued to increase capacity at rehoming kennels.

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*Table 4: GRNZ's performance against its rehoming KPIs for the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season.*

KPI description	2023/24 KPI Target	Actual (Quarter 1)
Retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion (as measured by the percentage of greyhounds on the waiting list for less than 90 days at the end of the month being reported on).	70% within 90 days	42% within 90 days
Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of:	210	208
Increase greyhound adoptions.	525	125

### *New GRNZ initiatives to increase adoption rates and reduce waiting times*

93. GRNZ has been working on a range of initiatives to increase adoptions including increasing visibility of greyhounds by attending more community events. Although early days, this appears to be delivering some initial improvement.
94. In March 2023, the GRNZ Board supported in principle, greyhounds on the Great Mates rehoming waiting list being able to continue racing.
95. GRNZ has developed qualifying criteria to ensure animal welfare is not compromised and this will be considered by the Racing Committee in December.
96. Data insights have identified age as an injury risk factor. If GRNZ implements this initiative, it is critical stringent criteria are set with rigorous nomination checking, monitoring procedures and outcomes.

### *Review of private rehoming*

97. GRNZ's adoption numbers include greyhounds privately rehomed or kept as a pet by licenced persons.
98. Privately rehomed greyhounds are desexed and given a veterinary dental and health check prior to adoption.
99. A qualified behaviourist is developing a behavioural assessment check list for licenced persons to use prior to the greyhound being adopted. This will be submitted to GRNZ as part of a declaration process confirming suitability for adoption.

### *Rehabilitation to Rehome(RtR) programme data capture*

100. The RtR programme was established in January 2021. Short comings in GRNZ's data capture and reporting for the RtR programme have made it difficult to assess the success of the programme and animal welfare outcomes.
101. A new system to capture RtR data is being trialled along with the option of expanding GRNZ systems to cover some additional reporting requirements.
102. From January 2022 through to October 2023, GRNZ reported 91 greyhounds were successfully rehabilitated and adopted, and seven were euthanased. As at October 2023, there were 75 greyhounds in the programme.

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### **Participant and greyhound registrations**

#### *GRNZ processes*

103. In response to operational process issues identified during the 2022 Greyhound Review, the RIB recommended GRNZ commission an independent review.
104. In May 2023, GRNZ commissioned an independent review and a report was completed in August 2023. GRNZ intend to address recommendations from the review mainly through its current IT project, Access to Web.
105. While the review did not fully address the RIB's recommendation, GRNZ intends to reengineer processes through the Access to Web project, which should achieve the same outcome.

#### *GRNZ's Breeding Exemption Policy*

106. GRNZ has drafted a new Breeding Exemption Policy outlining the approval criteria for an exemption from compliance with breeding rules, and to allow RtR greyhounds to be used for breeding following rehabilitation.
107. This policy will be considered by the AHWC at its December meeting.

#### *Changes to GRNZ's traceability KPI target*

108. GRNZ has amended its traceability KPI target for the 2023/24 racing season to require that 100% of racing greyhounds and 95% of non-racing greyhounds are subject to at least an annual independent 'check in'.
109. Check ins include any independent microchip scan confirming the identity of a greyhound, such as those conducted on race day, during kennel audits, or during veterinary visits for vaccinations and breeding.
110. There is further work to document the traceability approach, including managing non-compliance.

#### *Vaccinations*

111. GRNZ has continued to focus on improving vaccination levels, including regular follow ups with licenced persons where vaccinations have lapsed.
112. Vaccination levels for all greyhound populations have improved, with 95% of pre-racing greyhounds, and 100% of racing and breeding greyhounds now vaccinated.
113. The main gap remaining is for retired greyhounds (not including those retired for breeding). The requirement for vaccination of this retired population only came into effect with the new rules on 1 February 2023.
114. As of 31 October 2023, GRNZ reported 63% of retired greyhounds were vaccinated. This is an improvement from 25% in May 2023.

#### *Ear branding*

115. On 1 February 2023, a new rule removing the requirement for ear branding of greyhounds came into effect. GRNZ has led Australasia in removing ear branding.
116. From June 2024, the first greyhounds without an ear brand will be an eligible age to race. The RIB is working with GRNZ to develop any changes needed to allow

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RIB stewards to either scratch or accept greyhounds that present with a failed microchip reading on race day.

### **Standards, rules and policies**

#### *Rules of Racing changes*

117. GRNZ implemented new Rules of Racing on 1 February 2023.
118. Since then, GRNZ has been engaging with the RIB on Tranche 2 of the rule changes, including clarification of the RIB's powers of investigation.
119. Tranche 2 changes were initially to be implemented in mid-2023, but are now planned for 2024.

### **GRNZ Information Systems**

120. GRNZ has made good progress on planning for the Access to Web project with the following objectives:
  - a. migrating the data and applications that are currently in an Access database to a web interface
  - b. reengineering processes and workflow of functions in the race day and on track applications
  - c. reducing risk associated with using Access 2007 for database functionality
  - d. ensuring GRNZ has a modern platform that will support business needs in the future.
121. As part of this project, processes are being re-engineered and paper-based forms are being digitised, enabling licenced persons to manage administrative requirements online.

### **Inform and educate the industry**

122. GRNZ has engaged an external provider to convert training for rehoming staff to online modules, with the aim of providing a better understanding of basic canine behaviour and training.
123. The modules include understanding greyhound specific behaviours that can be difficult to interpret or predict and understanding greyhound body language, as well as the importance of ensuring consistency and reliability during greyhound behavioural assessments.
124. GRNZ's plans to modify the socialisation modules, developed for rehoming staff, for licenced persons. GRNZ intends to include socialisation as part of the compulsory re-licencing education in 2024.
125. The RIB continues to encourage GRNZ to develop a broader education plan to support continuous learning across the industry.

### **Kennel standards**

126. The kennel audit programme is progressing through its second round of audits for all kennels.
127. GRNZ's new Welfare Standards were implemented on 1 May 2023. Consequently, the second round of audits were split into partial and full

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audits. The partial audits in the first half of 2023 focused on compliance with standards that would be unchanged when the new standards were in place.

128. Between January and November 2023, 124 partial and full audits were completed, with 1,869 greyhounds assessed, with 109 audit reports issued to date.
129. During the 2023 audits, there has been improved compliance with basic veterinary health as defined in the GRNZ Welfare Standards, compared to 2022 (Table 5).

*Table 5. The percentage of compliant kennels determined at kennel audits conducted in 2022, compared to November 2023.*

Basic greyhound health checks	2022 audits Compliant	2023 audits Compliant
Injuries/illness detected that required treatment	85%	95%
Body condition either too low or high	91%	90%
Dental issues	50%	55%
Treatment record issues	12%	75%

130. By early 2024, all kennels partially audited in the first half of 2023 will be re-visited.

### **Investigate and adjudicate on animal welfare breaches**

131. There has been improved communication with GRNZ in referring issues of non-compliance to the RIB for investigation.
132. There have been three welfare prosecutions during the first quarter of the 2023/24 racing season:
  - One licenced person was disqualified for 6 months for failing to provide adequate pain relief to a greyhound.
  - The same licenced person as noted above, was also disqualified for 12 months for a greyhound in their care presenting positive for methamphetamine.
  - A second licenced person was disqualified for 3 years for the same methamphetamine positive.
133. The methamphetamine positive is considered to have arisen as a result of contamination of the greyhound with a handler who had self-medicated with methamphetamine.
134. An investigation, mentioned in the September 2023 briefing, continues. This involves a case of potential non-compliance with GRNZ's euthanasia policy.

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### **RIB data verification / analysis**

135. The RIB continues to verify GRNZ's data and analysis, including GRNZ's performance against KPI reporting.
136. The RIB's data insights lead also verifies euthanasias/deaths and rehoming data for quarterly reporting and continues to support the Serious Injury Review Committee's (SIRC) injury analysis.

### **Governance**

137. The RIB is of the view the role of the Racing Committee, in relation to animal welfare decisions has at times been unclear. Some initiatives approved by the SIRC and / or the AHWC have not gained full support from the Racing Committee. In order to improve engagement GRNZ is considering including a member of the Racing Committee in SIRC meetings.

#### *Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC)*

138. The AHWC met on 17 October 2023. The Chair, Dr Allen Bryce, presented a revised draft work plan for 2023/24, following feedback from the committee at the August meeting.
139. The RIB has since provided feedback on the draft work plan, following which the AHWC will consider further opportunities to identify and support existing and new initiatives.
140. Updates against the KPIs and the work plan are provided by the CEO at every AHWC meeting, as well as population statistics, impacts of the injury reduction strategy and rehoming initiatives.

#### *Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC)*

141. The SIRC met on 9 October 2023. The focus continues to be on reviewing serious injuries and key risks, including age and the time to return to racing.
142. Updates were provided on GRNZ's progress to implement the Return to Racing Fitness Policy and impacts of the new weight variation rules and PBD racing on reducing injuries.
143. The Tracks and Infrastructure Manager also provided an update on remediation work being undertaken at the Addington track.
144. The idea of expanding the committee membership to include a member of the GRNZ Racing Committee was discussed. This will be considered further with the intention of improving industry consultation and education.

### **GRNZ and RIB engagement**

145. The RIB has continued its monitoring role in line with the previous Minister for Racing's expectations and will continue to do so until the RIB is briefed by the new Minister.

### **Stakeholder engagement**

146. GRNZ's engagement and reporting with stakeholders continues, with a noticeable improvement over the duration of the review.
147. GRNZ has drafted a stakeholder engagement and communications plan and intends to publish this December 2023.



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### Next steps

148. The RIB will continue to work with GRNZ to monitor progress against the work programme until further instructions from the new Minister.
149. The RIB's priorities over the next period include monitoring:
- Implementation of the Return to Racing Fitness Policy and guidelines.
  - GRNZ's progress to develop a rehoming business plan and marketing strategy
  - Outcomes arising from initiatives to help promote greyhound adoptions.
  - Progress to introduce Tranche 2 of GRNZ rule changes.
  - Compliance with rules and welfare standards through kennel audits.

<b>First contact</b>	Mike Clement, Chief Executive Racing Integrity Board	021 846569
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**Appendix one: RIB and GRNZ’s assessments of progress against the 15 focus areas as at 31 October 2023.**

Improved RIB rating

Focus Area	Scope	RIB assessment			GRNZ assessment Oct 2023
		Dec 2022	Jun 2023	Oct 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	Adequate
Injuries	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise injuries to greyhounds.	Slow	Adequate	Adequate	Good
Euthanasia / deaths	By understanding and mitigating risk factors, minimise unnecessary euthanasia.	Good	Good	Good	Good
Track standards	Improve track safety to lower rates of death and injury.	Slow	Good	Good	Good
Rehoming	By ensuring supply and demand aligns with capacity and adoption of socialisation standards, greyhounds will be successfully rehomed.	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
LPs 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	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.	Slow	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate
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	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	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	Good	Good	Good

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Focus Area	Scope	RIB assessment			GRNZ assessment Oct 2023
		Dec 2022	Jun 2023	Oct 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	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	Good
Information management	GRNZ holds accurate, accessible information on greyhounds from whelping to retirement, that the public has confidence in.	Good	Good	Good	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	Adequate	Good	Good
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	Good

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### Appendix two: GRNZ KPIs – Animal Welfare 2023/24 - performance for quarter one, up to 31 October 2023/24.

	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
<p><b>Background: GRNZ has implemented a Policy to ensure any euthanasia of registered greyhounds is carried out in line with GRNZ’s Euthanasia Policy.</b></p>						
1	Euthanasia	Euthanasias outside of GRNZ’s Euthanasia Policy	<b>0%</b>	<4% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias	<2% of total euthanasias
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 1: KPI adjusted from a target of zero which was considered unrealistic. Having as a percentage of total euthanasias aligns with other KPIs and is considered more meaningful, relevant and achievable. The improvement in 2024/25 is on the basis that the Policy will have been in place for 2 years and LP’s should be fully cognisant of its requirements. <b>In the first three months of the season, no unapproved euthanasia has been noted.</b></i></p>						
<p><b>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.</b></p>						
2	Injuries	Reduce the number of Category D injuries as per GA classifications (22+ days). Measured as rate per 1000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 7.02	<b>5.67 per 1,000 starters = 19.2% reduction (6.30 in 2022/23)</b>	15% reduction 5.97 per 1000 starters	17.5% reduction 5.79 per 1000 starters	20% reduction 5.62 per 1000 starters
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 2: In line with 202/23. The target for 2024/25 has been reduced from 20.0% to 17.5% as this is considered more realistic. GRNZ initiatives are expected to see this reduction plateau at an anticipated reduction of 20% in terms of how much reduction can be achieved - with NZ already operating at a lower rate to Australia. <b>Encouraging start to season with this injury rate down despite issues with Addington track in the period.</b></i></p>						

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	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
3	Serious Injuries	Reduce the number of Category F injuries as per GA classifications Measured as rate per 1000 starters against a 2020/21 Benchmark of 2.44	<b>2.07 per 1000 starters (15.1%)</b>	15% reduction 2.04 per 1000 starters	17.5% reduction 1.98 per 1000 starters	20% reduction 1.92 per 1000 starters

*GA's "Category F" is designed to remove inter-seasonal quantitative issues by qualitatively listing the types of injuries that apply:*

- > death or euthanasia on-track;*
- > any skull or spine fracture or paralysis (partial or complete);*
- > any long bone fracture (i.e. humerus, radius/ulna, femur or tibia);*
- > a hock fracture/dislocation where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days;*
- > metacarpal/metatarsal fracture where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days;*
- > any other joint injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days;*
- > a skin injury where the stand-down period is 60 or 90 days;*
- > a soft tissue injury (including muscle injury) where the stand-down period is 90 days.*

***There were 102 such injuries in the Benchmark year (some were only given 28 day stand downs) at a rate of 2.44 per 1,000 starters. Up to October 31 2023 there have been 19 such injuries (the two 60 day broken/dislocated toes don't count) - a rate of 2.07. For comparative purposes, for the 2022/23 Season there were 76 Category F injuries, at a rate of 2.08.***

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	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
4	Injuries	Number of races on straight tracks	0	150	300	600
<p><i>Commentary on proposed amendments to welfare KPI 4: Targets for the next three years have been adjusted to reflect: Wanganui straight track being operational in the second half of the 2023/24 racing season and a new straight track being introduced in the South Island for the 2025/26 season.</i></p> <p><b>Wanganui straight track to commence racing early 2024.</b></p>						
5	Injuries	Percent of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBD)	65%	60%	65%	70%
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 5: From 1 August 2023 all sprint races (excluding features) have been agreed by the GRNZ Board to be PBD. Accordingly the target percentages for the next three years have been adjusted upwards to reflect this and the realistic level of PBD races expected to be held.</i></p> <p><b>Up to 31 Oct 2023 807 out of 1251 races were PBD.</b></p>						
<p><b>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.</b></p>						
6	Education	Registered persons participate in GRNZ continuous professional development & animal welfare training as a condition of their licence renewal	100%	100%	100%	100%
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 6: As a condition of licensing, all LPs are required to undertake this training. This was successfully introduced in 2023 and will be modified to address training needs in future years.</i></p> <p><b>This KPI will be addressed as a condition of relicensing in 2024 as was done for 2023.</b></p>						

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	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
<p><b>Background: An increased focus will be placed on GRNZ systems on knowing the status and location of registered greyhounds (up to adoption).</b></p>						
7	Traceability	All greyhounds within the industry are subject to at least an annual independent “check in”	<b>Racing Dogs N/A</b> <b>Non-Racing N/A</b>	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 95%	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 100%	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 100%
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 7: With the pending transition to eTrac or similar, GRNZ is to apply the traceability provisions consistent with GWIC where all dogs within the industry are subject to a minimum annual “check in” (twice for racing dogs) to confirm their identity and status. Check ins will include every independent scan to confirm identity and include: racing, vaccinations, breeding and RIB kennel audits. Given this programme will commence in this form in early 2024, in year 1 a target slightly less for non-racing dogs is provided (95%) while the programme is fully embedded over the calendar year.</i></p> <p><b>The target for 2023/24 is based on the full year. The IT team are currently confirming a process and reviewing options to report on this each month, in line with the above check in requirements. This will commence in December. As a result actual numbers for the first three months are unavailable. With racing dogs checking in prior to each race, and vaccinations being deemed a check in, the actual % in this area will be very high.</b></p>						

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	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
<p><b>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.</b></p>						
8	Rehoming	Retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion (As measured by the percentage of greyhounds on the waiting list for less than 90 days at the end of the month being reported on)	<b>42% within 90 days</b>	70% within 90 days	80% within 90 days	90% within 90 days
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 8: This KPI has been adjusted to reflect revised and more realistic targets given the ongoing economic challenges impacting on adoption levels. Rehoming is a key focus for GRNZ over the next three years, with additional resources applied to improve adoption demand which will improve waiting list timelines. The description for this KPI has also been amended to clarify how this item will be calculated.</i></p> <p><b>The actual rate for the first three months of the season reflects the longer waiting times as adoption rates have declined. Recent movement in the adoption levels in the last two months has seen some positive movement in this area, with further improvement expected across the year.</b></p>						
9	Rehoming	Increase GRNZ supported rehoming kennel capacity to a total of	<b>208</b>	210	215	220
<p><i>Commentary on amendment to welfare KPI 9: The targets for the next three years have been adjusted upwards given GRNZ met its three year target in 2022/23. Minor increases are proposed over the next three years, reflecting greater priority being afforded to adoption levels and reducing waiting list times rather than just extending kennel capacity for dogs awaiting adoption.</i></p> <p><b>Great Mates kennel capacity is being maintained at a level consistent with 2022/23 - with emphasis being given to rehoming and improving throughput rather than just increasing capacity awaiting adoption.</b></p>						



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	Category	Description	2023/24 YTD to 31 Oct 2023 Actual	2023/24 Target	2024/25 Target	2025/26 Target
10	Rehoming	Increase greyhound adoptions	125	525	575	600
<p><i>Commentary on welfare KPI 10: Waiting lists for Great Mates are symptomatic of adoption levels. With the ongoing challenges for all dog breeds in the current economic climate with adoption levels, a key focus for GRNZ over the next three years is working closely with adoption agencies and LP's to improve demand and the levels of greyhound adoptions. Having a KPI directly addressing this reflects the emphasis GRNZ is giving to improving performance in this area despite the challenges of the current situation. Adoptions also include greyhounds privately rehomed by industry participants.</i></p> <p><b><i>For the first three months of the season, adoption results have been: Industry/Private Rehoming 28, Adoption Agencies 97 - with monthly results of 38, 45 and 42. With increased activity with public events and the exploration of new adoption initiatives (eg USA) it is expected that adoption rates will increase over the season and achieve an actual result closer to the annual target.</i></b></p>						