

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF RACING			
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Routine		
Title	Greyhound Review Work Programme - Racing Integrity Board quarterly update		
Date	3 June 2025	Ref	N/A

Recommendations

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

- a) **Note** the RIB's key focus areas of the Greyhound Review Work Programme in this report for Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 racing season.
- b) **Note** Greyhound Racing New Zealand's (GRNZ) progress against the five key focus areas of the Greyhound Review Work Programme.
- c) **Note** GRNZ's performance against its Welfare Targets for the third quarter of the 2024/25 racing season.
- d) **Note** the adoption demand for greyhounds does not match existing supply and more pressure will likely be put on the system as more greyhounds retire ahead of the closure of the industry.
- e) **Agree** the RIB will continue to report quarterly in the 2024/25 racing season with the next report for Quarter 4 (up to 31 July 2025). **Yes / No**
- f) **Agree** this briefing is shared with the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare). **Yes / No**
- g) **Agree** this briefing is shared with Greyhound Racing New Zealand. **Yes / No**
- h) **Agree** this briefing is published on the RIB's website. **Yes / No**

Minister's comments and signature

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Hon Minister for Racing

Greyhound Review Work Programme – Racing Integrity Board quarterly update

Executive Summary

1. This report provides a briefing on the Greyhound Review Work Programme, relating to Quarter 3 (February – April) of the 2024/25 racing season.
2. On 10 December 2024, the Government announced its intention to close the greyhound racing industry by 1 August 2026. Since the announcement, the RIB has adjusted the Greyhound Review work programme to focus on priority matters.
3. This report will follow the format introduced in the report of 27 February 2025, with a key focus on rehoming, traceability, euthanasias / deaths, and injuries.
4. GRNZ has continued to advance its animal welfare initiatives and strengthen controls over the past quarter. It is also exploring data-led initiatives aimed at enhancing performance in key focus areas.
5. Current demand for greyhound adoptions does not match existing supply, as evidenced by a persistent number of greyhounds on the Great Mates (GM) rehoming waiting list (425 as at 30 April 2025) and lengthy rehoming timeframes (average 344 days). In the absence of a significant change, this imbalance is likely to worsen as the number of retirements increase ahead of industry closure.
6. In May 2025, the RIB undertook verification of a sample of rehoming records. GRNZ provided all requested documents, demonstrating improved compliance compared to the previous review in November 2024.
7. Traceability and population management systems have been updated and the online, interactive greyhound dashboard is now available to all Licenced Persons (LPs). This tool provides access to useful information, including the greyhound's most recent location, the last check-in date, and vaccination status.
8. In the next quarter, GRNZ will place greater emphasis on traceability by requiring LPs to confirm all greyhounds in their care as part of the licensing process. GRNZ is also increasing its focus on greyhound check-ins over this period.
9. Vaccination compliance rates for racing dogs is high, but are lower for pre-racing and retired greyhounds, which is consistent with the observations in the last quarterly report. GRNZ has been active in efforts to improve compliance with vaccination requirements. A new automated email reminder will be sent to LPs each month in the coming period.
10. Breeding has effectively ceased with no services registered since December 2024. The greyhound population continues to steadily decline and one trainer exported 80 greyhounds to Australia this quarter.
11. Changes to the Euthanasia Policy were introduced on 1 May 2025, incorporating references to the Racing Industry (Unlawful Destruction of Specified Greyhounds) Amendment Bill and clarifying provisions to mitigate the risk of non-compliant euthanasia. The RIB has reviewed the amendments and considers them unlikely to present any material risk to compliance.

12. During this quarter, there have been four race day deaths. Of these, two were sudden deaths following racing, one died after a satisfactory trial, and one died while recovering from surgery for a serious racing injury.
13. GRNZ continues to work on welfare policy framework and has made minor adjustments to the Safe Return to Racing Policy and the Hypoxia and Cramping Policy. The RIB is reviewing the amended policies and will provide feedback to GRNZ. The revised policies are set to be implemented on 1 July 2025.
14. GRNZ continues to implement measures to help reduce racing injuries. While recent quarterly statistics indicate a reduction in Category D and F injuries, these improvements are yet to be reflected in the 12-month rolling mean injury rates, which will adjust in due time.
15. The 12-month rolling means for Category D and F injuries, reported at the end of Quarter 3, remain largely unchanged and are not statistically different from the prior 12-month period. These injury rates remain comparable with Australian jurisdictions.
16. While the RIB acknowledges GRNZ's ongoing efforts to reduce injuries, it considers that the evaluation of programming and policy changes should be supported by rigorous statistical analysis to ensure evidence-based decision-making.
17. Across the 81 kennel inspections conducted since the start of the 2024/25 season, traceability compliance was found to be largely satisfactory, with seven improvement notices issued for instances of non-compliance - all of which were addressed within the required timeframe.
18. In May 2025, GRNZ applied to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the Government's decision to ban greyhound racing from 31 July 2026.
19. The RIB's focus over Quarter 4 is to continue monitoring GRNZ's performance and to undertake verification work relating to population management, rehoming, and euthanasia / deaths.

Background

Purpose

20. This briefing provides an update on the Greyhound Review Work Programme and GRNZ's Welfare Targets for the 2024/25 season. This briefing covers Quarter 3 (February - April) of the 2024/25 racing season and provides an update on subsequent activity as appropriate.

Background

21. On 13 February 2024, the RIB received direction that the current level of monitoring and quarterly reporting should continue until further notice.
22. This is the ninth Ministerial briefing provided on the Greyhound Review programme, since the RIB submitted its final report on 12 December 2022. Subsequent briefings were provided by the RIB on:
 - 14 April 2023
 - 14 September 2023
 - 19 December 2023
 - 11 April 2024
 - 28 May 2024
 - 10 September 2024
 - 29 November 2024
 - 27 February 2025.
23. In the 10 September 2024 briefing, the RIB introduced a revised approach to the Greyhound Review monitoring.
24. On 10 December 2024, the Government announced plans to end greyhound racing in New Zealand by 1 August 2026.
25. Following this announcement, the RIB refined its monitoring approach to prioritise the five key focus areas which it believes have the most significant animal welfare implications.
26. The key focus areas are:
 - rehoming
 - licenced person and greyhound registrations
 - population management
 - euthanasia / death
 - injuries.
27. The RIB will continue to monitor the remaining ten focus areas which will be reported on by exception.
28. A dashboard, summarising the status of controls and measures for each of the 15 focus areas, is provided in Appendix 1.

Key Focus Areas

Key Focus Area 1: Rehoming

Adequacy of controls

29. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and appropriately aligned with expected standards.
30. GRNZ is currently reviewing the Rehoming Policy and associated rules to ensure they remain effective and aligned with best practice. The RIB will review GRNZ's suggested amendments when they become available.
31. Given the closure announcement, GRNZ has recognised the need to reexamine their rehoming arrangements. The RIB believes this should give consideration to rehoming processes, programmes, policies, reporting, and transparency.
32. During the previous quarter, the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) established a Rehoming Working Group, comprising key stakeholders including GRNZ. The RIB is not a member of the Working Group. The RIB understands that the Working Group met on 27 March 2025 and have continued to engage throughout the period.

Compliance with controls

33. After verifying data provided by GRNZ, the RIB considers the level of adherence with established controls to be satisfactory at this time.
34. In May 2025, the RIB requested a sample of 15 records for greyhounds rehomed during Quarters 1 and 2 of the 2024/25 season to verify compliance with rules, standards, policy, and operational procedures.
35. GRNZ provided all requested information and verification work identified improved compliance compared to the previous audit in November 2024. The RIB notes there are further opportunities for GRNZ to enhance their internal processes and management of records.
36. Monitoring compliance with rehoming controls will continue to be a priority for the RIB in the coming period.

Measurement

37. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season:
 - 425 greyhounds on the waiting list against a target of 275
 - 530 greyhounds adopted since the start of the season, with a season target of 650.
38. Following the announcement of the industry closure, there was an increase to the number of greyhounds added to the Great Mates (GM) rehoming waitlist. At the end of Quarter 1 of the 2024/25 season, the waitlist comprised 349 greyhounds. By the end of Quarter 2, there were 443 greyhounds on the waitlist and 425 recorded at the end of Quarter 3.
39. These figures highlight an ongoing imbalance, with the number of greyhounds requiring rehoming consistently exceeding consumer demand, a trend that was evident even prior to the industry closure announcement.

40. Adoptions at the end of Quarter 3 (530) are tracking ahead of the same period in the 2023/24 season (452) and the 2022/23 season (362). The improved adoption rate this year may be partly attributed to the USA rehoming programme, which was not in place during the same period in previous seasons.
41. As at 1 May 2025, GRNZ reported there were 690 greyhounds awaiting adoption; an increase from the 662 greyhounds on 1 August 2024:
 - 190 at GM rehoming/Rehabilitate to Rehome kennels
 - 75 with other rehoming agencies/foster carers
 - 425 on the rehoming waiting list with Licenced Persons (LPs).
42. Data from greyhounds rehomed through the GM programme is presented in Table 1. As at the end of Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season, the average time from deregistration to adoption was 344 days, consistent with the 341 days reported at the end of Quarter 2. While this reflects an improvement compared to the same period in the 2023/24 season, it marks an increase from the 2022/23 season. It is important to note that this dataset excludes greyhounds that were privately rehomed, retained by a LP, or rehomed through the Rehabilitate to Rehome (RTR) programme.

Table 1: Average number of days from deregistration to adoption at Quarter 3 in the 2022/23 to 2024/25 seasons.

Quarter 3 of Season	Average days from deregistration to adoption
2024/25	344
2023/24	419
2022/23	190

43. GRNZ and its adoption partners continue to collaborate on rehoming initiatives, including attending 132 community events this season (YTD). The number of events was not tracked in previous seasons.
44. GRNZ's attempt to scale up consumer demand for greyhound adoptions is being constrained by persistently soft demand and ongoing household economic pressures. These challenges are expected to limit its ability to reduce the rehoming waiting list and shorten adoption timeframes.

Work programme

45. 30 greyhounds were exported to the USA during the reporting period. Two additional export flights were scheduled for May. USA rehoming initiatives are impacted by variable demand and competition from other international jurisdictions. GRNZ continues to plan for the remaining five scheduled export flights, with the number of greyhounds to be rehomed contingent on adoption demand within the USA.
46. Given the extended waiting list and impending industry closure, GRNZ is assessing the merits of providing financial support to LPs while greyhounds are on the waiting list. In addition, GRNZ is analysing costs of various rehoming

scenarios to ensure it has sufficient resources to meet growing pressures across the rehoming landscape.

47. The RIB encourages GRNZ to develop sophisticated models of understanding consumer demand, implement evidence-based marketing strategies, and work collaboratively with the relevant parties to improve rehoming demand in New Zealand.
48. GRNZ advises that its staff are fielding more enquires in relation to rehoming. It is reasonable to expect that increased pressure will come to bear on the rehoming arrangements in anticipation of industry shutdown.
49. GRNZ is undertaking a review of rehoming agencies' roles and funding.
50. There were 673 greyhound adoptions in the 2023/24 season and GRNZ expects to rehome 650 by the end of the 2024/25 season. Given that historic rehoming rates have averaged around 600 per year over the past four seasons, a multi-year strategy will likely be required to rehome all greyhounds, with over 2500 currently remaining in the industry.
51. Current demand for greyhound adoptions does not match existing supply, as evidenced by a persistent number of greyhounds on the Great Mates (GM) rehoming waiting list (425 at 30 April 2025) and lengthy rehoming timeframes (average 344 days). In the absence of a significant change, this imbalance is likely to worsen as the number of retirements increase ahead of industry closure.

Key Focus Area 2: Licenced Person and Greyhound Registrations

Adequacy of controls

52. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and align with or exceed industry norms.
53. In February 2025, GRNZ launched an online, interactive traceability dashboard and map for LPs. This tool enables LPs to view the location of their greyhound's last check-in.
54. The traceability dashboard also allows LPs to view the vaccination status of their greyhounds.

Compliance with controls

55. The RIB acknowledges the level of adherence with established controls to be satisfactory at this time.
56. GRNZ has signalled its intent to prioritise traceability during the upcoming re-licensing period. As part of this, a greyhound reconciliation process will be conducted alongside annual re-licensing for the 2025/26 racing season, to ensure the accuracy and completeness of traceability records.
57. In an ongoing effort to maintain accurate traceability records, GRNZ's Population Analyst has been contacting LPs to confirm their greyhounds remain at the registered property.
58. The RIB kennel inspections play an important role in supporting compliance with traceability requirements. However, there remains a clear need for GRNZ to

enhance its internal verification processes to ensure greater accountability and consistency. This expectation has been clearly communicated to GRNZ.

59. Across the 81 kennel inspections since the start of the 2024/25 season, traceability compliance was found to be largely satisfactory, with seven improvement notices issued in response to non-compliance and all were completed within the required timeframe.

Measurement

60. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season:
 - 99.5% of racing greyhounds had a check-in within the last six months, against a target of 100%
 - 96.2% of non-racing greyhounds had a check-in within the last year, against a target of 98%.
61. The RIB is of the view the Welfare Targets have been substantively achieved this quarter.
62. Comparatively, 99% of racing greyhounds and 97.5% of non-racing greyhounds had check-ins completed at end of Quarter 3 in the 2023/24 season.
63. Vaccination compliance rates for racing greyhounds are high at the end of Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season (98.2%). Vaccination rates for pre-racing and retired in industry greyhounds are similar to those reported at the end of Quarter 2 of the 2024/25 season and show room for further improvement (Table 2).

Table 2: Percentage of greyhounds up to date with required vaccinations.

Population group	31 Jan 25	30 Apr 25
Pre-racing	92.3%	93.2%
Racing	98.9%	98.2%
Retired in industry ¹	80.0%	76.0%

Work programme

64. Noting the sub-optimal vaccination rates among pre-racing and retired in industry greyhounds, GRNZ is engaging with LPs to understand barriers to compliance and explore how it can effectively facilitate improved adherence.
65. In February 2025, GRNZ implemented an initiative to improve vaccination compliance. Trainers now receive a system generated email reminder on the first day of each month, helping to prompt timely action.
66. Beginning in May 2025, each issue of GRNZ's newsletter sent to all participants will include a reminder to LPs to keep their greyhound's location details up to date.

¹ Retired in industry includes breeding males, breeding females, greyhounds kept as pets by LPs, greyhounds on the GM rehoming programme waiting list and greyhounds in the GM rehoming programme.

Key Focus Area 3: Population Management

Measurement

67. At the start of the 2024/25 season the greyhound population consisted of 3000 greyhounds and by the end of Quarter 3 this had reduced to 2506.
68. A total of 230 greyhounds entered² the industry, and 724 greyhounds exited³ the industry since the start of the 2024/25 season.
69. No further breeding has taken place within Quarter 3 with the last two services registered in December 2024, shortly after the announcement of the industry closure.
70. Between the closure announcement and the end of Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season, 343 greyhounds were deregistered and placed on the GM rehoming waiting list.
71. With breeding having ceased, the pre-racing population has declined 13% in the previous quarter; from 731 greyhounds at the end of Quarter 2 to 634 at end of Quarter 3.
72. At the end of Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season, the racing population⁴ declined 8% from 1077 greyhounds to 987. This attrition rate is consistent with the 7% decrease in Quarter 2 but is higher than the 1% decrease in Quarter 1. As noted in the 27 February 2025 briefing, this reflects an on-going long-term decline in the racing population.

Key Focus Area 4: Euthanasia / Death

Adequacy of controls

73. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and align with or exceed industry norms. However, the RIB has identified opportunities to improve controls and has recommended enhancements to GRNZ (see below).
74. Specifically, the Rules on reporting a death do not provide a clear notification timeframe and lack a requirement for a standardised death certificate. The RIB has encouraged GRNZ to strengthen these controls and align with industry best practice.
75. In the previous quarter, GRNZ further revised the Euthanasia Policy with the updated version being implemented on 1 April 2025. While the policy's core requirements and intent remain unchanged, updates were made to reference new legislation enacted on 10 December 2024 and to clarify provisions aimed at reducing the risk of non-compliant euthanasia. The RIB does not consider the amendments present any material risk of non-compliance or introduce any deficiencies which could undermine the policy's intent.

² Greyhounds enter the industry when they are born or imported into New Zealand.

³ Greyhounds exit the industry when they die, are euthanased, exported or rehomed outside the industry.

⁴ Racing population refers to the cohort of registered greyhounds that have had at least one official race start and remain eligible to race (i.e. excludes deregistered and deceased greyhounds).

76. GRNZ is proposing changes to the Euthanasia Certificate to make it more concise and ensure it reflects the updated policy. The RIB will review GRNZ's suggested amendments when available.
77. Following consultation, the Sudden Death Policy was implemented on 1 May 2025. The policy outlines the procedures to be followed in the event of a greyhound's sudden death, whether during a race or trial at a GRNZ operated racetrack, or in any other circumstances where GRNZ deems a necropsy is warranted.

Compliance with controls

78. After verifying data provided by GRNZ, the RIB considers the level of adherence with established controls to be satisfactory at this time.
79. In May 2025, the RIB completed a review of a sample of 13 euthanasia and death documents from Quarters 1 and 2 of the 2024/25 season. The purpose of the review was to verify GRNZ had received the completed documentation in compliance with the controls.
80. The RIB observed improved compliance with controls compared to previous reviews (August 2023 and May 2024), in particular the availability of records for all greyhounds as requested. GRNZ's increased efforts to ensure documentation was both received and accurate were evident.
81. The RIB will continue to monitor compliance with euthanasia / death controls in the upcoming quarter.

Measurement

82. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season:
 - No greyhounds (0%) were euthanased in breach of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy that GRNZ is aware of, which is within the target range of < 2% of total euthanasias.
83. During Quarter 3, four greyhounds died on race day. Of these, two died following racing, one died following a satisfactory trial, and one died after surgery following a serious racing injury.
84. Within the greyhound-in-industry population, there were 14 greyhounds euthanased and 10 died during Quarter 3, contributing to the 51 euthanasias and 52 deaths in the 2024/25 season to date (Table 3). The RIB notes this is comparable with the same period in the 2023/24 season, where 57 euthanasias and 47 deaths were reported.

Table 3: Greyhound euthanasias and deaths reported by LPs between 1 August 2024 and 30 April 2025.

Cause	Number
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to injury	7
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to illness	29
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury	5
Euthanasia after race meeting due to injury sustained during racing	2
Euthanasia after registered veterinarian certified the greyhound was behaviourally unsuitable for rehoming or a known risk to people	2
Medical euthanasia certified by a registered veterinarian due to age	6
Total euthanasias	51
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	10 ⁵
Deceased due to illness	32
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	6
Sudden death at race meeting	4
Total deaths	52
TOTAL	103

85. The number of euthanasias and deaths remains historically low during Quarter 3 and is comparable with recent quarters (Figure 1).

⁵ Includes one greyhound which died on race day from post operative complications following surgery after sustaining a serious racing injury.

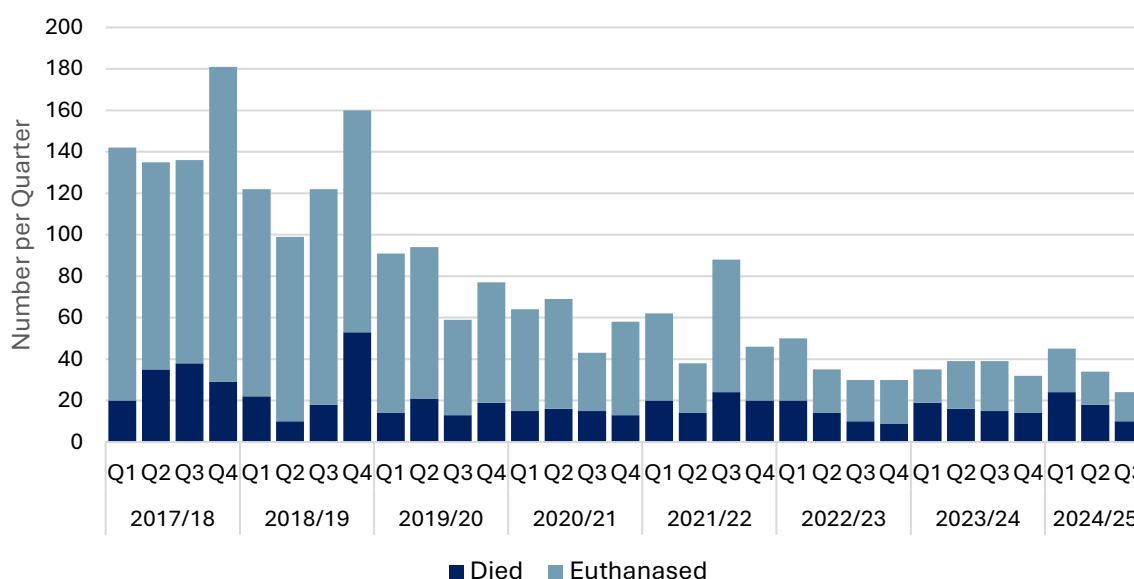


Figure 1: Number of euthanasias and deaths by quarter, across racing seasons from 2017/18 to Quarter 3 2024/25.

Key Focus Area 5: Injuries

Adequacy of controls

86. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and in some circumstances are more comprehensive than other greyhound jurisdictions.
87. The pre-race veterinary report, which provides enhanced insights on greyhounds considered at higher risk of injury to on-track veterinarians and stewards, was successfully introduced at all race meetings and incorporated as business-as-usual during Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season, strengthening GRNZ's injury related controls.
88. Consultation on the Return to Racing Fitness Best Practice Guidelines has concluded with the guidelines published on 1 May 2025. Designed to support the Safe Return to Racing Policy, they provide LPs with practical guidance to help safely return greyhounds to training and racing following a significant rest period, thereby minimising the risk of serious injury.
89. GRNZ has reviewed both the 'Safe Return to Racing Policy' and the 'Hypoxia and Cramping Policy'. The proposed changes have been submitted to the Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) for feedback prior to industry consultation and are set to be implemented on 1 July 2025.

Compliance with controls

90. After completing verification of GRNZ information, the RIB considers the level of adherence with established controls is satisfactory at this time.
91. The Safe Return to Racing Policy is being enforced and all greyhounds racing have run in accordance with provisions of the policy this quarter.

Measurement

92. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season:
- Category D⁶ injuries – 7.18 per 1000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 6.32
 - Category F⁷ injuries – 3.33 per 1000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 2.14
 - 182 races on straight tracks towards a target of 260 for the season
 - 76% of total races conducted as preferred box draw (PBD) against a target of 65%.
93. The rate of serious injuries (Categories D and F) was lower during Quarter 3 compared with the previous two quarters. This reduction has not yet impacted the 12-month rolling mean injury rate. Statistically, there is no significant difference in the Category D or Category F injury rates for the most recent 12-month period compared to the 12-months prior. A graphical representation of Category D and Category F injuries is provided in Appendix 2.
94. As reported in the 27 February 2025 briefing, GRNZ's Category D and F injury rates remain comparative with Australian jurisdictions (Appendix 2).
95. GRNZ continues to investigate causal factors for serious racing injuries. The RIB identified 22 race meetings with outlier⁸ Category D and/or Category F injury rates over the last quarter. The Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC) discuss and analyse all serious injuries, and the results are used to inform injury reduction initiatives.

Work programme

96. GRNZ continues to explore opportunities to reduce serious injuries and has progressed a number of initiatives over the current quarter.
97. The SIRC met on 31 March 2025 to review all Category F racing injuries and assess any potential emerging patterns. This was the committee's first meeting since October 2024.
98. Injury analysis and mitigation strategies have been targeted towards the most common injury types, as identified in a large-scale epidemiological study commissioned by Greyhounds Australasia (GA). Drawing on data from both Australia and New Zealand, the study has informed GRNZ's approach to prioritising injury prevention efforts.
99. The double arm lure (also referred to as twin tail lure) is a recent innovation designed to create a safer racing environment for greyhounds. This type of lure has been operational at Addington and Manukau Raceways during Quarter 3.

⁶ Injuries with stand downs of 22 days or more.

⁷ Catastrophic and injuries with a 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.

⁸ An outlier, in statistical terms, refers to a data point that significantly deviates from the majority of other observations in the dataset.

This initiative is intended to disperse greyhounds as they pursue two lures, with the aim of reducing collisions on-track and at the lure following a race. GRNZ and the RIB will monitor and report on injury rates when sufficient data is available.

100. Effective from 30 January 2025, GRNZ has limited sprint races to a maximum of seven starters, based on preliminary observational data suggesting a correlation between smaller field sizes and lower rates of serious injury. While the success of this initiative will depend on the availability of sufficient data and statistical analysis of findings, GRNZ has reported early reductions in both injury rates and the rate of falls across all injury categories.
101. GRNZ is adopting a more targeted approach to injury reduction by focusing on trainers with elevated injury rates. One trainer, identified as having a higher rate of hock fractures, is working with their veterinarian to implement a tailored injury prevention plan, supported by independent expertise funded by GRNZ. Additionally, other trainers with higher serious injury rates have been contacted and have begun developing management plans in collaboration with GRNZ. These efforts by GRNZ are proactive and to be commended.
102. Preliminary analysis by GRNZ suggests gender-specific races have a lower number of injuries. GRNZ intends to undertake further analysis to explore the impact of gender on injuries and is considering the feasibility of implementing gender specific races.
103. Preferred Box Draw (PBD) races have been extended to all sprint races, including feature races.
104. An automated email advising LPs of greyhounds that have not had a race start or trial in 53 days has been initiated by GRNZ. Alongside targeting traceability of racing greyhounds, the purpose is to remind trainers of their obligations under the Safe Return to Racing Policy.
105. GRNZ is exploring other injury reduction initiatives, including an upper limit on racing age, limiting the number of races at a meeting and better utilising the Whanganui straight track.
106. While GRNZ has implemented a number of new initiatives and committed to monitoring their impact on injury rates, the RIB continues to encourage GRNZ to conduct robust statistical analysis when implementing changes to policy, programming, and regulatory controls.

Other Focus Areas

Standards, Rules and Policies

107. In light of the industry closure announcement, GRNZ has been reviewing controls, including rules, standards and policies, to ensure they remain relevant and appropriate during the transition period.
108. At the 2 April 2025 GRNZ Board meeting, GRNZ proposed three amendments to their Rules of Racing, which were subsequently consulted on in April:
 - The minimum number of days between races or official trials will increase from two to three days. This adjustment reflects observations regarding the

potential risks linked to repeated high-speed exercise and aims to better support greyhound recovery

- A revision allowing Clubs to request GRNZ select their racing fields
- An enhancement to the grading guidelines when a race is split by gender.

109. GRNZ is strengthening and aligning its prohibited substances rules more closely with Greyhounds Australasia (GA) to support integrity and welfare outcomes.

Track Standards

110. During Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season, one race out of the 1187 was declared a “no race” due to mechanical failure of the lure.

111. Track surface diagnostics, taken before and during each race meeting, indicate racetracks are being maintained to a high standard and presented consistently. The diagnostics are reviewed by GRNZ’s National Racing Safety & Infrastructure Manager, who also has oversight of some Australian tracks.

112. GRNZ has raised concerns about its ability to retain track staff over the coming year and is working to ensure it has appropriately trained and skilled personnel available to prepare and maintain all tracks.

113. New *Steriline* starting boxes have been installed at Cambridge Raceway and have been in use since mid-May.

114. Within the current quarter, Manawatu, Cambridge, and Manukau Raceways have undergone scheduled renovations.

115. GRNZ has signalled intent to increase racing on the Whanganui straight track and has proposed a schedule with a slight uplift for the upcoming racing season.

Inform and educate the industry

116. GRNZ continues to disseminate welfare-based information to participants.

117. The mandatory education programme is scheduled to again occur at relicensing during the coming quarter.

118. There are no other significant updates to report this period.

GRNZ information systems

119. Progress continues and there are no significant changes to report this period.

Governance

120. On 26 May 2025, GRNZ announced it had applied to the High Court for a Judicial Review of the Government’s decision to ban greyhound racing from 31 July 2026.

121. In light of the industry closure announcement, GRNZ considers the previous governance workplan to be outdated.

122. There are no other significant changes to report this period.

Kennel standards

123. The RIB introduced a new kennel inspection process this season, which focuses on welfare in areas including animal husbandry, facility safety, animal condition, traceability, and personnel.
124. A total of 81 kennel inspections have been conducted between the start of the 2024/25 season and 30 April 2025; with 2311 greyhounds having been scanned.
125. Instances of non-compliance have been reported at a low level and typically require a minimal response by the LP to achieve compliance.
126. All instances of non-compliance identified during inspections were resolved within required timeframes.

Investigate and adjudicate on animal welfare related breaches

127. The RIB investigated the death of a greyhound puppy. No charges were laid but the trainer was reminded of their obligations under the GRNZ Welfare Standards, which require greyhounds are checked at least twice daily.

Information management

128. The RIB continues to review and verify GRNZ data and insights associated with key welfare metrics.

GRNZ / RIB engagement

129. The RIB and GRNZ continue to engage as required, both formally and informally, on activities including any issues raised through the industry review.

Stakeholder engagement

130. GRNZ prepares a quarterly report for the Minister for Racing, including information on progress against their Welfare Targets which is published on the GRNZ website.
131. The RIB is aware GRNZ has been engaging with the MAC and its Rehoming Working Party.

Next Steps

132. The RIB will continue to work with GRNZ to monitor progress against the 15 focus areas of the Greyhound Review programme.
133. The RIB will continually review its monitoring and reporting programme to ensure it prioritises reporting on the most relevant issues in the evolving environment.
134. The RIB's proposed priorities over the next period include:
 - a. monitoring GRNZ's revised approach to compliance and measurement reporting
 - b. monitoring GRNZ's reported compliance with traceability controls reported at relicensing
 - c. undertaking a sample-based audit of compliance with rehoming and euthanasia rules

d. reporting on performance against GRNZ's 2024/25 Welfare Targets.

First contact	Eliot Forbes, Chief Executive Racing Integrity Board	027 3549711
Second contact	Nick Ydgren, Executive Manager, Racing Operations and Welfare Racing Integrity Board	021 964120

Appendix 1: Dashboard - status of controls and measures for the 15 Greyhound Review focus areas.

Performance Criteria		Controls			Measurements		
		Adequacy	Compliance	Notes	Performance	Validation	Assessment
Key focus areas	1. Rehoming	✓	✓	Controls under review	✓	✓	Despite increased adoptions wait list remains long Verification demonstrated improved compliance
	2. Licenced persons and greyhound registrations	✓	✓	In line with other jurisdictions	✓	☐	Vaccination compliance for racing greyhounds is high. Pre-racing and retired compliance should be improved
	3. Population management	✓	N/A	-	N/A	✓	No greyhounds bred this quarter Population size steadily reducing
	4. Euthanasias and deaths	✓	✓	Opportunity to improve controls	✓	✓	No euthanasia outside policy for season to date
	5. Injuries	✓	✓	Prioritising injury prevention initiatives	✓	✓	Injury rates similar to previous 12-month period and in line with other jurisdictions
Other focus areas	6. Standards, rules and policies	✓	N/A	Rule and Policy amendments pending	N/A	N/A	Prioritising changes given current circumstances
	7. Track standards	✓	N/A	-	✓	N/A	-
	8. Inform and educate the industry	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	-
	9. GRNZ information systems	✓	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
	10. Governance	✓	✓	Governance committees established	✓	✓	Committees met as intended
	11. Kennel standards	✓	✓	Standards in place	✓	✓	High level of compliance at RIB kennel inspections
	12. Investigate / adjudicate on animal welfare breaches	✓	✓	RIB responsibility	N/A	N/A	-
	13. Information management	✓	N/A	Updates reprioritised after announcement	✓	✓	RIB continues to review and verify data as necessary
	14. GRNZ / RIB engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	Constructive and regular engagement with RIB
	15. Stakeholder engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	GRNZ provides quarterly public reports and annual accountability documents

Legend



Adequacy = the RIB considers GRNZ's rules, policies and standards are substantively adequate and align or exceed industry norms.



Adequacy = the RIB considers GRNZ's rules, policies and standards are substantively inadequate or fail to meet industry norms.



Compliance = the RIB considers GRNZ is substantively complying with its own rules, policies and standards.



Compliance = the RIB considers GRNZ is substantively failing to comply with its own rules, policies and standards.



Performance = the RIB considers GRNZ's performance measurements align with Welfare Targets, industry norms or acceptable practice.



Performance = the RIB considers GRNZ's performance measurements consistently fail to meet with Welfare Targets, industry norms or acceptable practice.



Validation = where the RIB has undertaken validation of GRNZ's reported performance metrics.



Validation = where the RIB has not undertaken its own validation, but instead relied on GRNZ's performance metrics.

Note: The RIB will not be validating all of GRNZ's reported performance metrics every quarter, but will select samples for validation.

Appendix 2: Graphical representation of Category D and Category F injury rates.

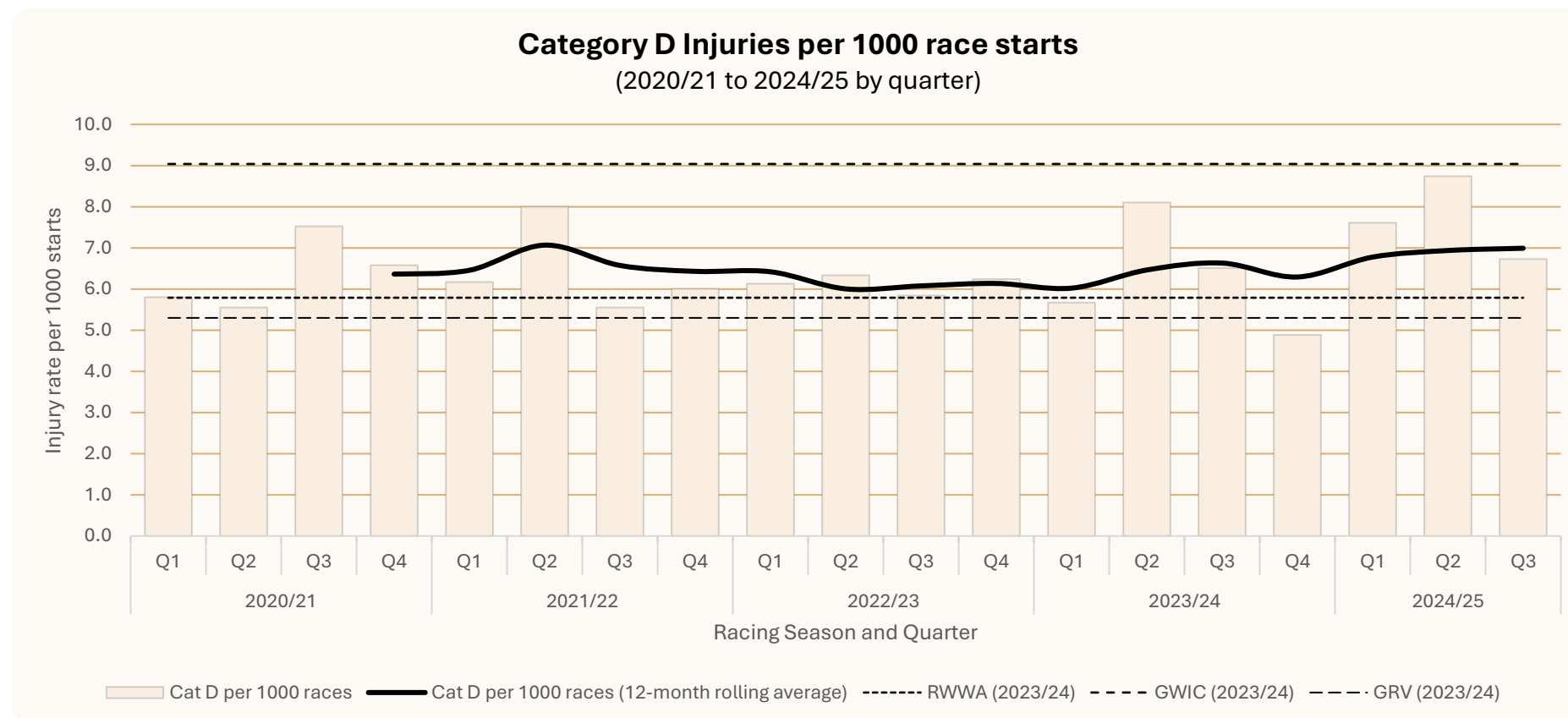


Figure A: Category D injury incidence rates between Quarter 1 2020/21 and Quarter 3 2024/25 with reference to RWWA⁹, GRV¹⁰, and GWIC¹¹ Category D injury rates.

⁹ Racing and Wagering Western Australia Category D injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 5.79 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

¹⁰ Greyhound Racing Victoria Category D injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 5.30 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

¹¹ Greyhounds Welfare Integrity Commission (New South Wales) Category D injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 9.04 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

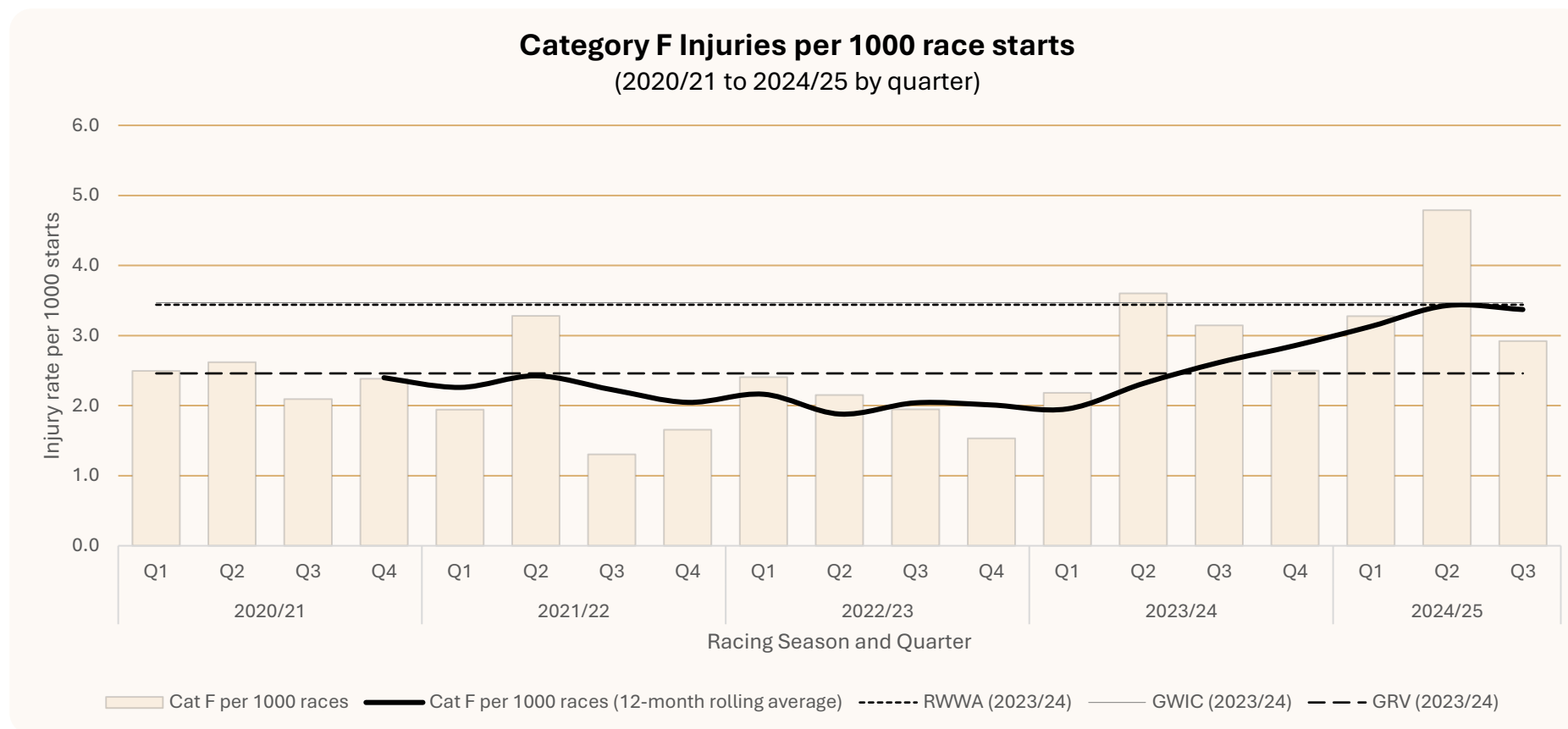


Figure B: Category F injury incidence rates between Quarter 1 2020/21 and Quarter 3 2024/25 with reference to RWWA¹², GRV¹³, and GWIC¹⁴ Category F injury rates.

¹² Racing and Wagering Western Australia Category F injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 3.44 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

¹³ Greyhound Racing Victoria Category F injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 2.46 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

¹⁴ Greyhounds Welfare Integrity Commission (New South Wales) Category F injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 3.47 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

Abbreviations / acronyms

Cat. D Injury	Category D injuries are injuries with stand downs of 22 days or more.
Cat. F Injury	Catastrophic and injuries with a 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.
GM	Great Mates (GRNZ's rehoming scheme)
GRNZ	Greyhound Racing New Zealand
LP	Licensed Person
MAC	The Ministerial Advisory Committee
PBD	Preferred Box Draw
RIB	Racing Integrity Board
RTR	Rehabilitate to Rehome programme
Rules	GRNZ's Rules of Racing
SIRC	Serious Injury Review Committee