

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	2 September 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 4 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 met five of its nine Welfare Targets for the 2024/25 racing season and has substantively achieved another one.
- d) **Note** GRNZ rehomed a record number of greyhounds in the 2024/25 season (697).
- e) **Note** the serious injury rate remains comparable with earlier seasons.
- f) **Agree** the RIB will continue to report quarterly in the 2025/26 racing season with the next report for Quarter 1 (up to 31 October 2025). **Yes / No**
- g) **Agree** the format of future RIB reports will follow the approach described below. **Yes / No**
- h) **Agree** this briefing is shared with the Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare). **Yes / No**
- i) **Agree** this briefing is shared with Greyhound Racing New Zealand. **Yes / No**
- j) **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**

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1. This report provides a briefing on the Greyhound Review Work Programme primarily relating to Quarter 4 (May – July) of the 2024/25 racing season and includes analysis of 2024/25 season data.
2. On 10 December 2024, the Government announced its intention to close the greyhound racing industry by 1 August 2026. This report follows the format established after the announcement (Quarter 2 2024/25), with a focus on rehoming, traceability, euthanasias / deaths, and racing injuries.
3. GRNZ has advanced several animal welfare initiatives during the quarter, including updates to the Safe Return to Racing Policy, introduction of the Return to Racing Fitness Best Practice Guidelines, and implementation of the Sudden Death Policy. Rule changes introduced on 1 August 2025 further strengthen animal welfare protections and align practices with the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Rules.
4. A record 697 adoptions were completed during the 2024/25 season. Although the rehoming waitlist has eased, lengthy adoption timeframes remain.
5. The average time from deregistration to adoption decreased from 381 days at the end of the 2023/24 season to 306 days at the end of the 2024/25 season for greyhounds rehomed through the Great Mates (GM) programme.
6. Verification undertaken by the RIB demonstrated controls in relation to rehoming and euthanasia/death records are operating effectively and continue to achieve their intended purpose.
7. At the end of the 2024/25 season, the greyhound population stood at 2322. Although the number of greyhounds entering the industry has slowed considerably since the closure announcement, within Quarter 4, two breeding females were serviced and six racing greyhounds were imported from Australia.
8. Vaccination compliance rates are similar to the 2023/24 season.
9. During Quarter 4 of the 2024/25 season, four race-related euthanasias and one post-race death were recorded. The overall number of deaths and euthanasias for the greyhound population was comparable with recent years.
10. Category D & E and Category F injury rates for the 2024/25 season remain constant and are not statistically different to the 2023/24 season.
11. The RIB conducted 91 kennel inspections during the season. Compliance was largely satisfactory, with all improvement notices addressed within required timeframes.
12. In the upcoming period, the RIB will continue to monitor GRNZ's performance, with sample-based audits to assess compliance with rehoming and euthanasia/death controls, and continue its review of the adequacy and effectiveness of welfare measures.

## **Background**

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### **Purpose**

13. This briefing provides an update on the Greyhound Review Work Programme and GRNZ's Welfare Targets for the 2024/25 season. It focuses on Quarter 4 (May - July) of the 2024/25 racing season with additional updates on subsequent activity where relevant.

### **Background**

14. On 13 February 2024, the RIB received direction that the current level of monitoring and quarterly reporting should continue until further notice.
15. This is the tenth 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
  - 3 June 2025.
16. On 10 December 2024, the Government announced plans to end greyhound racing in New Zealand by 1 August 2026.
17. Following this announcement, the RIB refined its monitoring approach to prioritise five key focus areas, which it believes have the most significant animal welfare implications.
18. The key focus areas are:
  - rehoming
  - licenced person and greyhound registrations
  - population management
  - euthanasia / death
  - injuries.
19. The RIB will continue to monitor the remaining ten performance areas which will be reported on by exception.
20. A dashboard, summarising the status of controls and measures for each of the 15 focus areas, is provided in Appendix 1.

## Key Focus Areas

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### Key Focus Area 1: Rehoming

#### *Adequacy of controls*

21. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and consistent with expected standards.
22. GRNZ signalled a review of the Rehoming Policy (updated December 2024) but, after assessing the current environment, determined it remains fit for purpose and will not be amended. The RIB considers this reasonable, and both organisations will continue to monitor the policy's effectiveness as the industry moves toward closure.

#### *Compliance with controls*

23. Following verification of rehoming data provided by GRNZ, the RIB considers adherence with established controls to be adequate.
24. In July 2025, the RIB audited a random sample of records for greyhounds rehomed in Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season to verify compliance with rules, standards, policy, and operational procedures.
25. GRNZ provided documentation for all requested records with compliance reported at a high level and processes generally operating effectively.

#### *Measurement*

26. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2024/25 season:
  - 344 greyhounds on the Great Mates rehoming programme waiting list against a target of 275
  - 697 greyhounds were adopted, exceeding the target of 650.
27. A total of 697 greyhounds were adopted in the 2024/25 season, the highest number per season on record and 7% above the target of 650 adoptions. Data from greyhounds adopted since the 2020/21 season is presented in Table 1.

*Table 1: Comparison of number of adoptions across the last five seasons.*

Season	Number of adoptions
2024/25	697
2023/24	673
2022/23	481
2021/22	577
2020/21	665

28. The Great Mates (GM) rehoming waitlist currently stands at 344, compared to 336 at the end of 2023/24 season. The waitlist peaked at 477 following the announcement of the industry closure but has since decreased.
29. The average number of days from deregistration to adoption has reduced from 381 days at the end of the 2023/24 season to 306 days at the end of the 2024/25

season. It is important to note that this dataset excludes greyhounds that were privately rehomed, retained by a licenced person (LP), or rehomed through the Rehabilitate to Rehome (RTR) programme.

30. As at 1 August 2025, GRNZ reported there were 615 greyhounds awaiting adoption; a decrease from the 662 greyhounds reported at the start of the 2024/25 season:
  - 174 at GM rehoming/Rehabilitate to Rehome kennels
  - 97 with other rehoming agencies/foster carers
  - 344 on the rehoming waiting list with LPs.
31. Although the greyhounds awaiting adoption has declined to 615, this figure does not reflect the full extent of the rehoming challenge. With industry closure approaching, most of the remaining greyhounds in the industry will need to be rehomed. This underscores the importance of sustained efforts to grow capacity and demand.
32. Despite ongoing efforts, adoption demand remains below supply, as indicated by the rehoming waitlist (344 at 31 July 2025) and adoption timeframes (average 306 days).
33. In the 2024/25 season, 176 community events were attended by GRNZ and its adoption partners to promote the adoption of greyhounds. Engaging with the community through these events continues to be a valuable means of increasing adoption demand. As noted in the 3 June 2025 briefing, the number of community events attended has not been tracked in the past so comparisons cannot be made.

#### *Work programme*

34. Two flights, exporting a total of 23 greyhounds to the United States, took place during Quarter 4. The USA adoption programme commenced in April 2024, with 102 greyhounds exported in the 2023/24 season. In 2024/25, 116 greyhounds were exported.
35. Exports to the USA are set to resume in September 2025, following a pause over the New Zealand winter to avoid greyhounds arriving in the US in high temperatures.

## **Key Focus Area 2: Licenced Person and Greyhound Registrations**

#### *Adequacy of controls*

36. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and align with or exceed industry norms.
37. On 1 August 2025, breeding controls were strengthened with the introduction of a rule prohibiting surgical artificial insemination in favour of the less invasive transcervical method. The RIB supports the early implementation of this rule, originally scheduled for 1 January 2026.
38. In June 2025, GRNZ commenced its relicensing process for the 2025/26 season, applying streamlined requirements that included automatic renewal of certain licence categories and adjusting education obligations for LPs.

39. GRNZ removed the continuing professional development requirements for breeding-related licence holders (for relicensing). Given the almost total cessation of breeding activity, the RIB considers this change to be acceptable.

#### *Compliance with controls*

40. The RIB acknowledges the level of adherence with established controls to be satisfactory at this time.
41. In June 2025, a breeding female requiring approval was serviced, the first since the closure notice. GRNZ had advised that breeding exemption applications would not be approved, but approval was granted in this case.
42. During licence renewals, GRNZ issued LPs with lists of greyhounds recorded in their care for traceability verification. A low response rate meant traceability could not be meaningfully assessed as intended. GRNZ's traceability framework relies on their check-in process, but the RIB notes this does not provide full traceability and believes there are opportunities to strengthen arrangements.
43. The RIB kennel inspections assess LPs' traceability compliance. 2243 greyhounds were scanned at 91 kennels in 2024/25.
44. Traceability compliance was found to be largely satisfactory. Seven traceability improvement notices were issued to trainers. All improvement notices were corrected within the required timeframe (i.e. records were correctly updated).

#### *Measurement*

45. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2024/25 season:
- 99.9% of racing greyhounds were subject to a check-in within the last six months, against a target of 100%
  - 99.7% of non-racing greyhounds were subject to a check-in within the last year, achieving the target of 98%.
46. The RIB is of the view the Welfare Targets have been substantively achieved.
47. The RIB acknowledges GRNZ's performance against the Welfare Target, which provides a "proof of life" check. The RIB continues to encourage GRNZ to adopt a more comprehensive approach to traceability and ensure compliance with all controls, particularly those relating to the LP's accurate recording of a greyhound's location.
48. Vaccination compliance for racing greyhounds remains high at the end of the 2024/25 season (99.3%) and is comparable to the 2023/24 season (98.8%). Comparative data for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons is presented below (Table 2).

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

Population group	31 July 24	31 July 25
Pre-racing	97.5%	97.2%
Racing	98.8%	99.3%
Retired in industry <sup>1</sup>	91.1%	90.9%

### **Key Focus Area 3: Population Management**

#### *Measurement*

49. At the start of the 2024/25 season the greyhound population consisted of 3000 greyhounds and by the end of Quarter 4 this had reduced to 2322.
50. During this season, 256 greyhounds entered<sup>2</sup> the industry, and 934 greyhounds exited<sup>3</sup> the industry.
51. Although the number of greyhounds entering the industry continues to decline, two breeding services were registered and six racing greyhounds were imported from Australia within Quarter 4 of the 2024/25 season.
52. The greatest reduction in population has been observed in pre-racing greyhounds with numbers declining from 903 to 472 (48%) since the start of the 2024/25 season. This is largely due to breeding activity having almost ceased since the closure announcement.
53. The on-going long-term decline in the racing population<sup>4</sup> continues with an 11% decrease reported across the 2024/25 season (1162 to 1039 greyhounds).

### **Key Focus Area 4: Euthanasia / Death**

#### *Adequacy of controls*

54. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and align with or exceed industry norms.
55. The RIB has suggested GRNZ considers enhancing controls by aligning with some overseas jurisdictions regarding the notification timeframe for a greyhound's death.
56. GRNZ has strengthened controls with the implementation of the Sudden Death Policy on 1 May 2025. The policy establishes procedures for managing and investigating the unexpected death of a greyhound, ensuring consistent handling, necropsy examination, and improved documentation.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Greyhounds enter the industry when they are born or imported into New Zealand.

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

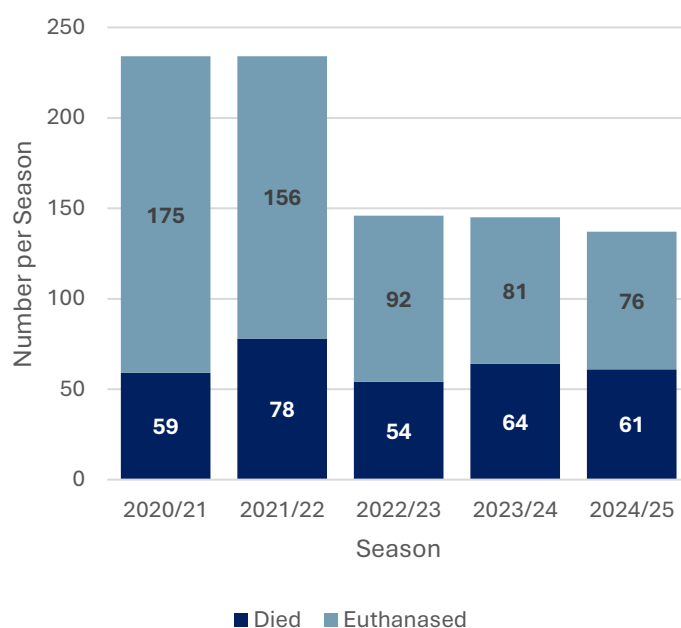
<sup>4</sup> Racing population refers to the cohort of registered greyhounds that have had at least one official race start and remain eligible to race (i.e. excludes deregistered and deceased greyhounds).

### *Compliance with controls*

57. After verifying data provided by GRNZ, the RIB considers adherence with established controls for euthanasia and death reporting to be generally satisfactory.
58. In July 2025, the RIB completed a review of a random sample of records for greyhounds that died or were euthanased in Quarter 3 of the 2024/25 season. The purpose was to confirm documentation had been received in compliance with established controls.
59. GRNZ provided documentation for all requested records with compliance reported at a high level and processes generally operating effectively.

### *Measurement*

60. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2024/25 season:
  - No greyhounds (0%) were euthanased in breach of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy that GRNZ is aware of, achieving the target (< 2% of total euthanasias).
61. During Quarter 4, there were four race-related euthanasias and one greyhound died following racing.
62. In the 2024/25 season, a total of 16 (0.47 per 1000 starters) race-related fatalities occurred; comprising 11 euthanasias and five deaths. There is no statistically significant difference from the prior year (13 in 2023/24; 0.36 per 1000 starters).
63. There were 137 greyhounds euthanased or which died in the 2024/25 season which is comparable with previous seasons. The five-year summary data is presented in the Figure 1. Reason for euthanasia or death in 2024/25 season is presented in Appendix 2.



*Figure 1: Number of euthanasias and deaths in the greyhound population by racing season from 2020/21 to 2024/25.*



## Key Focus Area 5: Injuries

### *Adequacy of controls*

64. The RIB considers GRNZ's controls are substantively adequate and in some circumstances are more comprehensive than other greyhound jurisdictions.
65. GRNZ's injury related controls were strengthened during Quarter 4 of the 2024/25 season with the Return to Racing Fitness Best Practice Guidelines published on 1 May 2025. The guidelines support the Safe Return to Racing Policy by outlining recommended training, recovery and risk management practices to support greyhounds return to training and racing safely.
66. The Safe Return to Racing Policy, first introduced in August 2024 as an injury mitigation control, was updated on 1 July 2025 to clarify requirements and reference the new Return to Racing Fitness Best Practice Guidelines.
67. The Cramping and Hypoxia Policy, which has been in effect since April 2020, was enhanced on 1 July 2025 to clarify and expand the scope of the policy. The policy now better aligns with the rules and establishes a more structured response for greyhounds who experience these medical conditions.
68. GRNZ has revised its reporting framework so Category D and Category E injuries are aggregated. This reflects that both categories capture serious injuries, with outcomes differing by treatment decisions depending on whether a greyhound is rehabilitated or euthanased. The change reduces variability, strengthens comparability with historical injury data, and aligns reporting with practices in other jurisdictions. The change will improve the reliability of injury trend analysis.

### *Compliance with controls*

69. After completing verification of GRNZ information, the RIB considers the level of adherence with established controls is satisfactory at this time.
70. 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*

71. GRNZ's Welfare Target results for the 2024/25 season:
  - Category D<sup>5</sup> & E<sup>6</sup> injuries – 7.46 per 1000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 6.32
  - Category F<sup>7</sup> injuries – 3.32 per 1000 starters across the previous 12-months (rolling mean), against a target of 2.14
  - 275 races on straight tracks against a target of 260

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<sup>5</sup> Injuries with stand downs of 22 days or more.

<sup>6</sup> Deceased or euthanased due to race-related injuries.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

- 76% of total races conducted as preferred box draw (PBD) against a target of 65%.
72. Category D & E and Category F injury rates in 2024/25 were comparable to recent seasons (Table 3). Analysis shows the differences are not statistically significant when compared with 2023/24. A graphical representation of these injury rates is provided in Appendix 3.

*Table 3: Comparison of injury rates (per 1000 starters) across the last five seasons.*

Season	Category D & E per 1000 starts	Category F per 1000 starts
2024/25	7.46	3.32
2023/24	6.57	2.83
2022/23	6.33	2.00
2021/22	6.67	2.06
2020/21	7.02	2.44

73. The table below, comparing GRNZ injury data to other jurisdictions, has been updated with GRNZ's 2024/25 end of season results. GRNZ's injury rates against comparative Australian data continue to suggest the results are within industry norms (Table 4).

*Table 4: Comparative injury data.*

Jurisdiction	Category D & E per 1000 starts	Category F per 1000 starts
GRNZ <sup>8</sup>	7.46	3.32
GRV <sup>9</sup>	5.70	2.46
GWIC <sup>10</sup>	9.25	3.47
RWWA <sup>11</sup>	6.66	3.44
Tasracing <sup>12</sup>	3.40	1.74
QRIC <sup>13</sup>	4.03	3.36

74. In addition to the injuries detected post-race by the on-track veterinarian, trainers are obliged to report race-related injuries detected in the days following a race meeting. Throughout the 2024/25 season, trainers reported nine injuries that were subsequently given a stand down period meeting the Category D and/or

<sup>8</sup> Data from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025

<sup>9</sup> Greyhound Racing Victoria. Data from 2023/24 Annual Report covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

<sup>10</sup> Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (New South Wales). Data from 2023/24 Annual Report covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

<sup>11</sup> Racing and Wagering Western Australia. Data from 2023/24 Annual Report covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

<sup>12</sup> Tasracing (Tasmania). Data from 2023/24 Annual Report covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

<sup>13</sup> Queensland Racing Integrity Commission. Data from Greyhound breeding, race injury and retirement quarterly reports covering 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Category F injury definitions. Note that these are not included in the race day injury rates reported.

75. GRNZ continues to investigate causal factors for serious racing injuries. At the end of the quarter, the RIB identified 18 race meetings with outlier Category D & E and/or Category F injury rates. This analysis was provided to GRNZ for discussion at the Serious Injury Review Committee (SIRC).

#### *Work programme*

76. GRNZ continues to explore opportunities to reduce serious injuries and to monitor the impact of initiatives implemented in the 2024/25 season.
77. In 2025, GRNZ implemented several safety initiatives, including reduced field sizes in sprint races, the introduction of double arm lures (also referred to as twin tail lures) and increased use of the Whanganui straight track. While data is limited with these recent changes, GRNZ believes these measures are having a positive impact.
78. GRNZ is monitoring the racing calendar against the available greyhound population and is considering whether further age or racing frequency restrictions are required to manage injury risks.
79. Sprint races were restricted to seven starters from 30 January 2025 and GRNZ is considering extending this restriction to all distances on circle tracks. GRNZ believes that smaller fields, particularly with box one being left vacant, have lower injury rates, although no statistical analysis has been completed.
80. Since its introduction in Quarter 3, the double arm lure has been extended to four racetracks, with installation at the remaining tracks expected within Quarter 1 of the 2025/26 season. The lure is designed to disperse the racing field by offering two points of pursuit, thereby reducing collisions. GRNZ and the RIB will monitor any effect on injury rates when sufficient data is available.
81. In the 2024/25 season, GRNZ introduced a number of injury reduction initiatives and remains committed to monitoring their impact. The RIB continues to encourage GRNZ to apply robust statistical analysis when implementing changes to policy, programming, and regulatory controls.
82. The SIRC met three times in the 2024/25 season: in August, October, and March. The committee was established to review all serious injuries and fatalities associated with a race day. GRNZ has scheduled the next meeting for September 2025.

### **Other Focus Areas**

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#### *Standards, Rules and Policies*

83. GRNZ introduced a raft of rule changes on 1 August 2025 which were consulted on during the reporting period. The changes primarily clarify existing provisions and improve alignment with the Greyhounds Australasia (GA) Rules, while also strengthening animal welfare protections.
84. The most significant amendments extend detection times for meloxicam under prohibited substance rules, ban surgical artificial insemination, restrict racing of

pregnant greyhounds, and introduce new reporting obligations for seizures and collapses.

85. Additional measures formalise previous welfare-related changes (including bans on barking muzzles and ear-branding), update the list of prohibited and exempted substances, and strengthen requirements for notification of surgical or infectious conditions.
86. GRNZ has issued guidance for veterinarians and LPs to support compliance.
87. Further rule changes, in particular those relating to the powers and functions of the RIB stewards, are currently undergoing industry consultation. The amendments update definitions, clarify governance and investigation powers, and strengthen the RIB's ability to perform its regulatory functions. Any changes are scheduled to be implemented in October 2025.
88. A proposed rule change to increase the minimum number of days between races or official trials from two to three was not supported by industry. While the change was intended to address risks associated with repeated high-intensity exercise, the lack of available data prevented meaningful analysis being carried out to support its implementation.

#### *Track Standards*

89. During Quarter 4 of the 2024/25 season, of the 109 scheduled race meetings, one full meeting (1%) and one partial meeting (1%) were abandoned due to concerns with the track surface, and three partial meetings (3%) were abandoned due to issues with track equipment (data excludes meetings abandoned solely due to weather events).
90. GRNZ has worked with senior track staff to ensure track preparation and maintenance works align with forecasts and seasonal conditions.
91. GRNZ continues to focus on the retention and placement of experienced track staff to ensure tracks are appropriately prepared and maintained.
92. Track diagnostic results remain consistent and continue to meet the established benchmarks.
93. A new race distance has been introduced at Addington Raceway following a track survey and trials undertaken in July 2025. The new distance, 681 metres, has mobile starting boxes and a condition restricting each race to a maximum of six starters. The RIB will monitor performance factors related to the new distance.
94. The racing calendar for the 2025/26 season has been published. With the exception of the Central Districts region, the calendar follows traditional meeting date patterns. In the Central Districts, the straight track has been incorporated at an average frequency of three meetings every four weeks.

#### *Inform and educate the industry*

95. All LPs applying for a training licence are required to complete continuous professional development modules as a condition of relicensing. Modules were completed by all trainers renewing their licence for 2025/26, achieving the Welfare Target of 100%.
96. GRNZ continues to disseminate welfare-based information to participants.

### *GRNZ information systems*

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

### *Governance*

98. There are no significant matters to report this period.

### *Kennel standards*

99. 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.

100. A total of 91 kennel inspections were conducted in the 2024/25 season with 2243 greyhounds scanned.

101. Non-compliances have been reported at a low level and typically require a minimal response by the LP to achieve compliance.

102. All instances of non-compliance identified during inspections were resolved within required timeframes.

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

103. No investigations or matters to report this period.

### *Information management*

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

### *GRNZ / RIB engagement*

105. 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*

106. GRNZ is preparing a season-end welfare report for the Minister and stakeholders.

107. GRNZ's focus has been on communication and increasing engagement with LPs, providing regular updates on the industry closure.

108. No other significant stakeholder matters are noted in this period.

## **GRNZ 2025/26 Welfare Targets**

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109. GRNZ published its 2025/26 Welfare Targets in the FY26 to FY28 Statement of Intent (SOI) in July 2025 (Appendix 4). The Welfare Targets remain largely unchanged from those approved by the GRNZ Board in November 2024.

110. The one change is a reduction in the total number of races on the straight track, where the target has reduced from 300 to 260. However, with a revised racing calendar being implemented, GRNZ is confident the number will exceed this.

111. The RIB is of the view the targets are appropriately focused on areas to enhance welfare outcomes and GRNZ has taken a conservative approach based on last season's performance.

### **Next Steps**

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112. The RIB will continue to work with GRNZ to monitor progress against the 15 focus areas of the Greyhound Review programme.
113. The RIB acknowledges the operating environment for the greyhound racing industry is evolving as the sector moves toward closure. Accordingly, the RIB proposes future reports adopt a more targeted focus on the key welfare matters most relevant to this transitional period.
114. It is envisaged the primary areas of attention will continue to include injuries, rehoming, traceability, and deaths or euthanasia. Although governance and broader performance assessments of GRNZ have been addressed in previous reports, these matters are expected to hold less significance as the industry winds down.
115. The RIB proposes to provide the Minister with more concise, focused updates which deliver a focus on welfare-related issues and the implications arising from industry closure. This approach ensures that reporting remains responsive to the changing context while maintaining transparency and scrutiny.
116. The RIB's proposed priorities over the next period include:
- a. monitoring welfare-related issues and the implications arising from industry closure
  - b. undertaking a sample-based audit of compliance with rehoming and euthanasia rules
  - c. reporting on performance against GRNZ's 2025/26 Welfare Targets.

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## 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
<b>Key focus areas</b>	1. Rehoming	✓	✓	Compliance with controls adequate	✓	✓	Record number of adoptions in a season Reduction in average time from deregistration to adoption
	2. Licenced persons and greyhound registrations	✓	✓	Breeding controls enhanced	✓	☐	High compliance with vaccination requirements Achieved Welfare Target
	3. Population management	✓	N/A	-	N/A	✓	Two breeding females serviced and six racing greyhounds imported within quarter
	4. Euthanasias and deaths	✓	✓	Controls strengthened with new Policy	✓	✓	Achieved Welfare Target
	5. Injuries	✓	✓	New controls implemented	✓	✓	Injury rates similar to 2023/24 season and in line with industry benchmarks
<b>Other focus areas</b>	6. Standards, rules and policies	✓	N/A	Package of rule changes implemented	N/A	N/A	-
	7. Track standards	✓	N/A	-	✓	N/A	-
	8. Inform and educate the industry	✓	✓	-	✓	☐	Achieved Welfare Target
	9. GRNZ information systems	✓	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	-
	10. Governance	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	No SIRC meeting within quarter
	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	-	✓	✓	RIB continues to review and verify data as necessary
	14. GRNZ / RIB engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	Constructive and regular engagement with RIB
	15. Stakeholder engagement	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	GRNZ provides regular updates on closure matters to LPs

## 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: Greyhound euthanasias and deaths reported by LPs between 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025.**

<b>Cause</b>	<b>Number</b>
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to injury	13
Medical euthanasia not at racetrack certified by a registered veterinarian due to illness	41
Euthanasia at race meeting due to injury or medical condition	8
Euthanasia after race meeting due to injury sustained during racing	3
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	9
<b>Total euthanasias</b>	<b>76</b>
Deceased due to accident and/or injury	10 <sup>14</sup>
Deceased due to illness	39
Deceased due to natural or unknown causes	6
Sudden death due to, or associated with, a race	6
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>137</b>

<sup>14</sup> Includes one greyhound that died on race day from post operative complications following surgery after sustaining a serious racing injury.

### Appendix 3: Graphical representation of Category D & E and Category F injury rates.

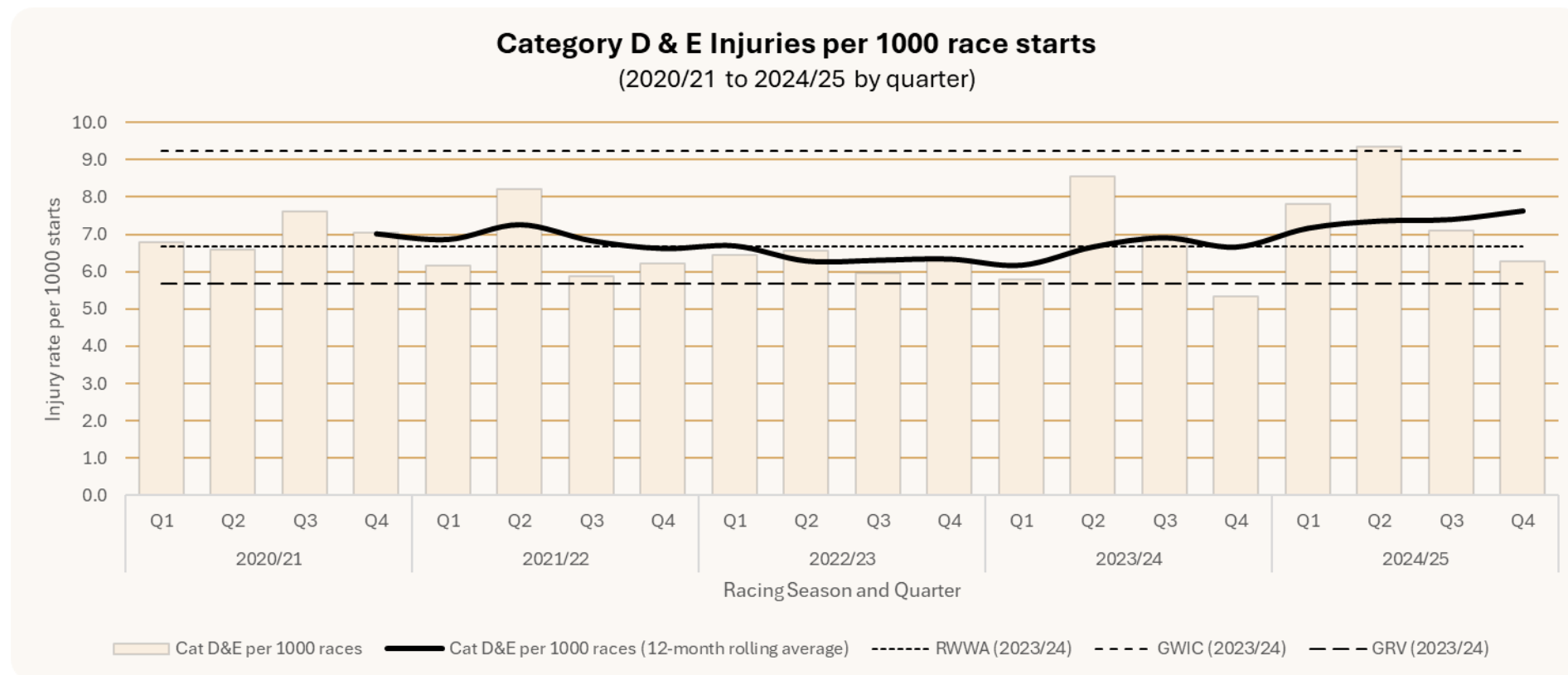
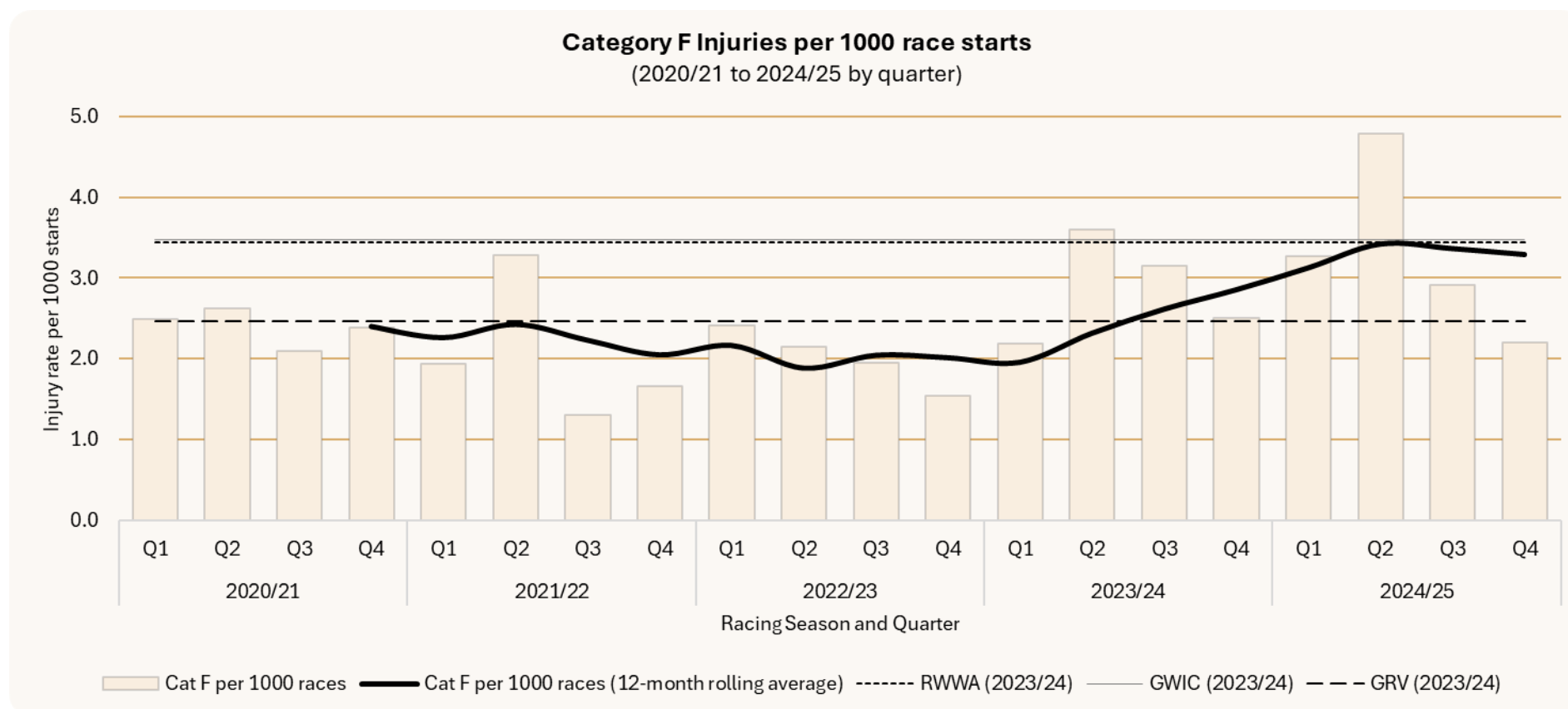


Figure A: Category D & E injury incidence rates between Quarter 1 2020/21 and Quarter 4 2024/25 with reference to RWWA<sup>15</sup>, GRV<sup>16</sup>, and GWIC<sup>17</sup> Category D & E injury rates.

<sup>15</sup> Racing and Wagering Western Australia Category D & E injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 6.66 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

<sup>16</sup> Greyhound Racing Victoria Category D & E injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 5.70 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.

<sup>17</sup> Greyhounds Welfare & Integrity Commission (New South Wales) Category D & E injury rate for the 2023/24 racing season was reported as 9.25 per 1000 race starts in the 2023/24 Annual Report.



**Figure B: Category F injury incidence rates between Quarter 1 2020/21 and Quarter 4 2024/25 with reference to RWWA<sup>18</sup>, GRV<sup>19</sup>, and GWIC<sup>20</sup> Category F injury rates.**

<sup>18</sup> 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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.

#### Appendix 4: GRNZ 2025/26 Welfare Targets.

	Category	Description	2025/26 Target
1	Euthanasia	Euthanasias outside of GRNZ's Euthanasia Policy	<2% of total euthanasias
2	Race Injuries	Reduce the number of Category D+E injuries as per GA classifications (22+ days). Measured as rate per 1,000 starters against a 2020/21 benchmark of 7.02	12.5% reduction (6.14 per 1,000 starters)
3	Serious Race Injuries	Reduce the number of Category F injuries as per GA classifications (43+ days or fatality). Measured as rate per 1,000 starters against a 2020/21 benchmark of 2.25	7.5% reduction (2.08 per 1,000 starters)
4	Race Injuries	Number of races on straight tracks	260
5	Race Injuries	Percent of total races conducted as Preferred Box Draws (PBD)	70%
6	Education	Registered persons participate in GRNZ continuous professional development and animal welfare training as a condition of their licence renewal	100%
7	Traceability	All greyhounds within the industry are subject to at least an annual independent "check-in"	Racing dogs 100% Non racing 99%
8	Rehoming	Retired greyhounds have access to enter the Great Mates rehoming programme in a timely fashion (as measured by a reduction in the number of dogs on the GM waiting list)	225
9	Rehoming	Increase greyhound adoptions	675

## **Abbreviations / acronyms**

Cat. D Injury	Category D injuries are injuries with stand downs of 22 days or more.
Cat. E Injury	Category E injuries are race-related fatalities including deaths and euthanasias due to injuries sustained during racing.
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.
GA	Greyhounds Australasia
GM	Great Mates (GRNZ's rehoming scheme)
GRNZ	Greyhound Racing New Zealand
LP	Licenced Person
PBD	Preferred Box Draw
RIB	Racing Integrity Board
Rules	GRNZ's Rules of Racing
SIRC	Serious Injury Review Committee
SOI	Statement of Intent