

1 March 2024

Notice to LPs: Proposed Changes to GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards 2.31 and 2.33

Why is GRNZ changing these Welfare Standards?

The RIB concluded the first round of greyhound facilities audits against the new Standards in late 2023. Concerned LPs had reached out to GRNZ requesting a 'common sense' approach to application of these Standards, which should continue to cater for the highest animal welfare outcomes and allow LPs to conduct their racing ventures without unnecessary regulatory burden.

GRNZ has discussed and obtained the approval of the Animal Health and Welfare Committee (AHWC) to make changes to the GRNZ Greyhound Welfare Standards. The GRNZ Board approved the changes as proposed, at its February meeting.

GRNZ hereby provides 20 days' notice of these changes to the industry, as required under the Constitution. We invite feedback from LPs and stakeholders.

Which standards are changing?

1. Redraft Standard **2.31** to remove the reference to 'all solid surfaces' being required to be impervious.

This aims to achieve the required outcomes for cleaning, hygiene and disinfection that allow LPs to still maintain wooden sleeping areas for greyhounds and facilitate more practical and achievable audit outcomes, i.e. no requirement to paint ceilings and walls in greyhound sleeping areas, which arguably do not improve greyhound welfare. It is essential that high standards of hygiene in kennels are maintained to ensure no disease or health risks for greyhounds, while not unnecessarily increasing regulatory burden on LPs.

Previous Standard 2.31: *All solid surfaces of greyhound enclosures must be impervious (prevent liquids from being absorbed) or painted, to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.*

Proposed New Standard 2.31: *All solid surfaces in greyhound enclosures must be able to be easily cleaned and disinfected, and maintained in a clean, dry, and hygienic condition.*



2. Redraft Standard **2.33** to remove the requirement for weekly routine cleaning to be done with a hospital grade disinfectant and allow the use of commercially (supermarket) available detergent-disinfectants. Add a requirement to use hospital/veterinary grade disinfectants when there is a reportable disease outbreak at a facility.

Previous Standard 2.33: *Kennels and runs must be disinfected using hospital or veterinary grade disinfectants, at least once a week (or more often as required) and:*

- a. prior to the introduction of a new greyhound;*
- b. prior to whelping;*
- c. upon the removal of puppies.*

Proposed New Standard 2.33: *Kennels and runs must be disinfected using a combination detergent/disinfectant product, at least once a week (or more often as required) and:*

- a. prior to the introduction of a new greyhound;*
- b. prior to whelping;*
- c. upon the removal of puppies.*

In the event of a suspected or confirmed reportable disease outbreak at a kennel, a virucidal veterinary, or hospital grade disinfectant must be used on all affected kennel areas.

Add Advisory Note:

“Disinfectant use: After removing all solid wastes, and rinsing, the kennel areas should be washed with detergent-disinfectant combination diluted according to the manufacturer’s directions in warm or hot water. The kennel areas should be scrubbed (using a stiff-bristled broom or cleaning brush) before being thoroughly rinsed with clean water. Take care to avoid pine-based detergents if there are cats on the property, as these detergents can be toxic to cats”.

Where can I provide comments if I disagree with these changes?

LPs who disagree with, or wish to provide feedback on these proposed Welfare Standards changes can do so by:

- Emailing welfare@grnz.co.nz
- Calling GRNZ