

Race Injury Review Panel

Terms of Reference

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the Commission) has established a Race Injury Review Panel (the Panel) to provide a mechanism for the systematic review of serious and catastrophic injuries to greyhounds racing on NSW tracks.

The fundamental purpose of the Panel is to better understand the underlying causes of racing injuries and to develop and implement preventative measures that will reduce the rate and severity of injuries to racing greyhounds.

All catastrophic injuries that result in the euthanasia of a greyhound on welfare grounds and any sudden deaths occurring at race meetings will be subject to a detailed case by case review by the Panel. In addition, the Panel will analyse a sample of all serious injuries (categorised as Major II injuries¹).

The Panel will identify and analyse all contributing factors to each case before it. These factors are broadly training-related, race-related, track-related or greyhound-related. Casual factors can include (but are not limited to):

- Race factors, such as collisions and falls
- The greyhound's racing history, including frequency of racing, its prior experience and performance
- Breeding and genetics
- Training influences
- Previous injuries
- The conditions of the track at the time of the incident
- Environmental influences

¹ Major II injuries include all long bone fractures and serious racing injuries which are career ending and potentially life threatening, were it not for further veterinary intervention, which may include surgery.

At the conclusion of each review the Panel will develop and release findings as to the likely contributing factors to the injury and identify and make recommendations on prevention strategies or other actions aimed at reducing the occurrence of these injuries. The Panel will also use its collective expertise and any external advice it obtains, to make considered judgements as to the likely causes. Due to the multiple factors that may have contributed to the injuries, the Panel may not, in all cases, be able to form a definitive view as to the likely cause/s.

The findings of each review will be provided to the greyhound's owner/s and/or trainer, Commission staff, GRNSW, greyhound racing clubs and any other party considered relevant.

Representation

The Panel is chaired by the Commission's Chief Veterinary Officer and includes:

- The Commission's Chief Steward
- A member of the Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee and/or other independent expert
- Nominated representative/s from GRNSW
- Any such expertise as the Chair deems appropriate.

Reporting

The Panel will also make public each quarter the findings of its deliberations.