

Executive Summary

The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (the Commission) publishes quarterly reports of injuries, whelping and naming data, and retirement, death and euthanasia figures of greyhounds in Queensland's racing industry. The Commission's Animal Welfare and Veterinary Services Unit prepare these reports from OzChase data, on-track race day veterinarians' reports and race day Stewards' reports.

Injury data

Greyhounds injured at Queensland race meetings receive immediate veterinary examination and treatment.

On-track veterinarians, greyhound owners or trainers, or Stewards may request veterinary examinations for any reason.

Injuries and incidents are included in the published and publicly available Stewards' reports for each race meeting.

Injured greyhounds receive mandatory "stand-down" periods that ensure that they cannot be nominated to race for a minimum period, to allow for injury recovery.

The causes of injuries in racing greyhounds are complex and varied. Injuries are generally due to one, or a combination of the following factors:

- Greyhound fitness, conformation, nutrition and development, race preparation and previous injuries.
- Track design and surface.
- Race distance, incidents and collisions, and the number of greyhounds in a race.

Injury severity categories

Injuries vary from minor incidents that require no stand-down period or treatment to severe injuries that result in the death or euthanasia of the greyhound. Injuries are categorised by type, severity and mandatory stand-down periods. Injury rates are standardised as injuries per 1,000 starts.

Every greyhound is counted each time it races in the reporting period to standardise injuries per 1,000 starts.

If a greyhound sustains injuries that fall into multiple categories, only the most severe injury is included.

For the purposes of this report, and for comparison, the current and previous reporting injury ratings are aligned as follows:

Previous Injury Rating 2017/2018 and 2018/2019	New Injury Rating from 2019/2020
Minor (i)	Category A (G)
Minor (ii)	Category B (G)
Medium	Category C (G)
Major	Category D (G)
	Category D (F)
Catastrophic	Category E (F)

From 1 July 2019, the national classification of injury categories for greyhounds has been standardised as per the tables below.

Table 1. Greyhound injury categories with expected incapacitation periods with definitions.

Category	Incapacitation Period	Definition
Category A	Nil	Injuries given no stand down period by the officiating veterinarian, which are typically incidental findings such as skin abrasions and are expected to not need any additional time off prior to racing. It excludes greyhounds examined and found not to be injured (no apparent injury / no anomaly detected).
Category B	3 to 10 days	Injuries given a stand down period of 3-10 days by the officiating veterinarian, which are typically mild muscle soreness or other minor injuries that are generally expected to recover within a short time period prior to being able to race again.
Category C	14 to 21 days	Injuries given a stand down period of 14-21 days by the officiating veterinarian, which are typically lacerations, joint sprains, or muscle injuries (Grade 2), or other forms of soreness and are generally expected to recover within that time period prior to being able to race again.
Category D	28 to 90 days	Injuries given a stand down period 28-90 days by the officiating veterinarian, which are typically more significant muscle tears, bone fractures or other injuries that require a greater amount of treatment and recovery. These injuries may or may not race again depending on severity, prognosis and treatment.
Category E	Deceased/ Euthanised	Any greyhound that died during a race or was euthanased by the officiating veterinarian due to the catastrophic nature of the injury sustained.

Table 2. Greyhound injury categories classified by severity with definitions.

Category	Severity	Definition
Category F (F)	Serious	Includes all Category E incidents as well as those within Category D that are deemed to be of a particularly serious nature. The following are included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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; • any other 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.
Category G (G)	Non-Serious	Includes any injury in Categories A to C and those in Category D that do not fit the definition of a Serious injury (i.e. Category F)

Whelping and naming data

Greyhounds are generally named for racing at between 12 and 18 months of age, creating a time lag between whelping and naming.

Retirement, death and euthanasia data

Greyhound retirements are self-reported by owners and the data are reliant on information being provided by owners and in the appropriate format. Reports of retirements from OzChase may vary slightly over time for the same data set due to late lodgement of retirement notifications and/or edits to data or categories to correct errors. The data are extracted at a single point in time for the purposes of reporting.