

Greyhound Breeding, Race Injury and Retirement

Quarterly Report (Q3)

January 2023-March 2023



**QUEENSLAND RACING
INTEGRITY COMMISSION**

Engagement | Education | Enforcement

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1. Overview

This is a report for the quarterly period from January to March 2023 (Q3). The data in this report are derived from the *OzChase* system, and on-track veterinarian and race-day Stewards' reports. It is produced by the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (the Commission) to document the following:

1. Greyhound pups whelped and named in Queensland, as reported by owners and recorded by the Commission.
2. Greyhound injuries and deaths of racing greyhounds that have occurred at Queensland TAB and non-TAB race meetings. The race-related injury data are sourced from on-track veterinarians' and stewards' reports, and *OzChase* system reports. Race-related injury data does not include injuries that occurred in trials.
3. Greyhound deaths and retirement notifications as reported by Queensland licensees to the Commission and held in *OzChase*.

Reports of whelped, named, and retired greyhounds may vary over time for the same reporting period due to the timing of notification lodgement. To standardise these, they are recorded as at a particular date.

This quarterly report provides all stakeholders, including greyhound racing participants and the community with a summary of greyhound racing and registration.

2. Greyhound pups born (whelped) and named from January to March 2023

During the period January to March 2023, there were 288 live greyhound pups born (whelped) (Table 1) and 301 greyhounds named (Table 2) in Queensland. Greyhounds are generally named for racing at between 12 and 18 months of age, creating a delay between whelping and naming.

Table 1. Greyhound pups born (whelped) during the period January to March 2023.

Month	Greyhounds whelped
January 2023	88
February 2023	66
March 2023	134
Q3 Total	288

Table 2. Greyhounds named during the period January to March 2023

Month	Greyhounds named
January 2023	73
February 2023	129
March 2023	99
Q3 Total	301

3. Injury Categories

3.1. Injury Severity Classification

Greyhounds injured or involved in incidents at Queensland race meetings are examined by on-track veterinarians. These incidents and actions are reported to the Commission and included in the stewards' reports for each race meeting. Injuries vary from very minor incidents with no treatment or incapacitation (stand down) period required to severe injuries that result in the death or require euthanasia of a greyhound. Mandatory stand down periods allow for injury recovery before a greyhound is permitted to race again.

Race-related injury data does not include injuries that occurred in trials.

Injuries are recorded as per on-track veterinarian and race-day Stewards' reports, stored in the *OzChase* system. Injury signs and severity that were altered following further veterinary diagnosis is not available in *OzChase* and therefore not included in the results.

4. Total reported injuries to racing greyhounds from January to March 2023

Injury rates are standardised as injuries per 1000 starters. Every greyhound is counted each time it races in the reporting period to standardise injuries per 1000 starters. As the rate of injury is expressed per 1000 starters, injuries sustained by non-starters (e.g., injuries sustained during trialling or prior to boxing) are not included.

During the period January to March 2023, there were 161 greyhound race meetings held at Queensland venues. At these race meetings, 2318 unique greyhounds started.

Table 3. Total greyhound racing injuries and severity at Queensland race meetings from January to March 2023. Number of starters =13,031.

Injury category	Incapacitation period (stand down)	Number of Incidents	Incidents per 1000 Starts
Category AG	Nil	14	1.07
Category BG	3 to 10 days	257	19.72
Category CG	14 to 21 days	128	9.82
Category DG	28 to 59 days	52	3.99
Category DF	60+ days	30	2.30
Category EF	Deceased or Euthanised	3	0.23
Total A-E		484	37.14
Total F (Serious)		33	2.53
Total G (Non-serious)		451	34.61

4.1. Reported greyhound racing-related deaths from January to March 2023

Racing fatalities are defined as deaths that occur because of injuries and/or incidents during or immediately following a race. These include injuries that resulted in the euthanasia of greyhounds at a race meeting. The data does not include euthanasia that may occur after race meetings when further diagnostic advice or treatment is sought¹.

Table 4. Greyhounds euthanised or deceased at Queensland race meetings from January to March 2023. Injuries are as described in the on-track veterinarians' and/or stewards' reports².

Injury	Count
Right foreleg fracture (radius/ulna/scapula)	1
Right hindleg fracture (hock)	1
Left hindleg fracture (hock)	1
Total	3

¹ These are captured through deceased/retirement reporting.

² Decisions regarding euthanasia are made based on the diagnosis and opinion of the on-track vet at the time of the incident.

5. Reported injuries by racetrack

Table 5. Number of greyhound race starters and all injuries at Queensland race meetings from January to March 2023.

Venue	Surface	Starters	Total number of injury incidents	Total injury incidents per 1000 starters	Total number of deceased or euthanised	Deceased or euthanised per 1000 starters
Albion Park	Sand	3827	144	37.63	0	0.00
Bundaberg*	Grass	379	40	105.54	1	2.64
Capalaba	Grass	1353	42	31.04	0	0.00
Ipswich	Sand	4366	190	43.52	1	0.23
Rockhampton	Sand	1245	39	31.33	0	0.00
Townsville	Sand	1861	29	15.58	1	0.54
Totals		13031	484	37.14	3	0.23

*Track recently reopened after 3 months off line as it was refurbished. Abnormally high injury rates were seen this quarter as the dogs improved fitness after the long spell and became familiar with the new track

6. Greyhounds reported as retired, deceased, or euthanised during January to March 2023

Greyhounds that are retired from racing, rehomed, or euthanised are recorded in the OzChase database. These notifications are self-reported by owners to the Commission. The last registered owner of the greyhound must submit a notification of retirement, death or euthanasia as specified by Greyhounds Australasia Rule 22.

Caveats

- Reports of retirements from *OzChase* may vary over time for the same data set due to late lodgement of retirement notifications. To standardise these, they are taken from OzChase records at the midpoint of each following month.
- Data from the Commission's Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP) are included; however, euthanasia data from other adoption programs and agencies are not available.
- Data for greyhounds retired to adoption programs other than the GAP are currently not available unless provided by owners in the greyhound's retirement notification.
- The category of "surrendered to other agency" does not refer to dedicated adoption or rehoming agencies and includes universities and veterinary practices. Euthanasia and adoption data from these agencies are not currently available.

Table 6. Greyhound mortality notifications from January to March 2023, as reported to the Commission by owners. The data in this section is categorised based on the information provided to the Commission by participants. Reports were sourced from *OzChase* on 4 May 2023.

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Deceased accidental causes	4	3	1	8
Deceased due to injury	0	1	1	2
Deceased illness or age	2	0	4	6
Deceased natural causes	1	2	1	4
Euthanised/deceased at track due to injury	1	1	1	3
Euthanised due to illness or age	10	9	8	27
Euthanised due to injury	16	10	9	35
Euthanised due to not suitable for racing	0	1	1	2
Euthanised due to not suitable for rehoming	14	24	13	51
Euthanised by GAP - health and/or behavioural issues	2	7 ³	1	10
Total deceased or euthanised	50	58	40	148

Table 7. Greyhound retirement notifications from January to March 2023 as reported to the Commission by owners.

Category	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total
Retired for breeding	2	1	0	3
Retired to owner	8	18	18	44
Retired to trainer	6	3	6	15
Retired as a pet to a 3 rd party	20	21	38	79
Retired to GAP	33	27	34	94
Retired to other adoption programs	15	17	16	48
Surrendered to other agency	0	14	11	25
Exported	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total retired	84	101	123	308

The Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP)

The GAP is part of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and is dedicated to finding suitable homes for retired greyhounds. The GAP team works with the racing industry to guide participants in preparing their racing greyhounds for retirement. Every greyhound in the program is health checked and behaviourally assessed, de-sexed, wormed and vaccinated. The program aims to help transition greyhounds from racing to pet life.

If you, or anyone you know, has space in their life for a retired racer, visit www.gapqld.com.au to find out how you can foster or adopt one of these beautiful animals.

For more information on this report, contact QRIC's External Affairs team via communication@qric.qld.gov.au.

³ All seven dogs were assessed by the GAP's behaviour management specialist and determined to have high prey drive towards humans or small to medium-sized dogs. Euthanasia decisions were approved by the GAP Operations Manager and a QRIC Veterinary Officer.